



Yours

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester

December 2024/ January 2025



The United Church, Jewry St, Winchester, SO23 8RZ 01962 849559

Registered Charity no. 1135083

Website: ucw.org.uk

Minister

Revd Tim Searle
(day off Friday)

Email address:

minister@ucw.org.uk

Worship

Lead

Pat Fry

Pastoral

Lead

Jane Lawson

Bereavement

Sandy Foster

Flowers Distribution

Lesley Worrall

Finance

Treasurer

Janet Messer

Donations and Gift Aid

David Worrall

Payments & Expenses

Steve Barber

Administration

Church Secretary

Steve Barber

admin@ucw.org.uk

Asst Secretary

Dorothy Lusmore

Facilities Manager

James Daniel

01962 849559

facilities@ucw.org.uk

Mission

Lead

Jo Pellatt

mission@ucw.org.uk

Youth Worker

Sam Barnes

sambarnesyouthworker@gmail.com

MHA Communities

Hannah Shave

01962 890995

Winchester (formerly LAH)

Magazine Editor

yours@ucw.org.uk

Tim's Letter – Stop, Look, and Listen: a Call to 'Hush the Noise'

As a child of the late seventies, I grew up to road safety adverts featuring the Green Cross Man. Remember him? And what were his three words of advice that accompanied every appearance? STOP! LOOK! And LISTEN! The message was simple: if you want to stay safe when crossing the road, you need to stop what you're doing and take note of the world around you. The adverts portrayed scenarios where people put themselves at risk, such as friends too busy chatting to check the road first, or someone preoccupied with retrieving a football running out into the path of a car. Fortunately for them, the Green Cross Man was there to intervene. Sadly, many people both then and since, fell victim to such accidents. As he said at the end of the videos, somewhat soberly, 'Always use the Green Cross Code, because I won't be there when you cross the road.'

As a result of that campaign, those three words are imprinted on my mind, making me (I hope) a safer person when out and about. But how often do I apply the same wisdom to my spiritual life? As Advent dawns once again, and the headlong rush to Christmas begins, will I stop, look, and listen to prepare myself for the return of Jesus? That's the message behind this year's Advent material from the Methodist Church. Entitled 'Hush the Noise', the idea is to turn down the volume on all those things that so often crowd into our minds at this time of the year. Instead, it challenges us to be more aware of Christ breaking into our world afresh. We are called to 'stop' ourselves from barrelling into Christmas unthinking, to 'look' for our deeper spiritual needs and the lived needs of others, and to 'listen' for the prophetic Word of Christ speaking to us.

This year, as we enjoy opportunities for fellowship and thankfulness, let us also be disciplined and mindful enough to

find the time to stop and hush the noise. In doing so, may we attune all our senses to that deeper walk with Christ, and a longing to see our world transformed by God's love and grace:

*'O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!'*

With my heartfelt good wishes to you all this Advent, Christmas, and New Year.

In Christ,
Tim

Fun fact: David Prowse, who played the Green Cross Man, was the actor beneath the costume of Darth Vader in the original Star Wars films, voiced by the late, great James Earl Jones!

P.S. If you want to look at the 'Hush the Noise' resources yourself, follow this link: bit.ly/4hTS3IT

... and remember Pat's note about house groups from November's *Yours*. We're starting the Advent series one week early so that groups have enough time to cover the material if they want to. If you're not part of a house group, why not talk to one of our house group leaders about joining?

Tim Clifford (St Cross) – Monday afternoons
Dorothy Lusmore (South Wonston) – Tuesday evenings
Jane Lawson (Teg Down) – Tuesday evenings
Tom Belshaw (Abbotts Barton) – Thursday afternoons

Editorial

This month's front cover is by Amy Crocker. It feels like a Christmas gift to us from her. Thank you Amy!

Yvonne Alderson writes about Mirehouse in the Lakes, with links to a poet friend of The United Church.

Howard and Rosie Mellor bring news of the Methodist International Church in Hong Kong, a vibrant community of faith that they have helped nurture over the years.

We have inspiring stories of Ukrainian friends from Meet and Greet and reflections on past anniversaries from Chris Young.

Pat Fry writes about services in January as we look forward to the Advent series.

Wishing you all a Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

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

News of the United Church Family

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Mildred Taub on 5 November. Mildred was a long-standing church member, and her late husband, Matt was very supportive of her involvement with the church. Mildred helped with the Christmas Project and was a member of the Fulflood house group. In her younger days she was a Tiller Girl!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Matt's son Nick and with Mildred's live in carer, Lavinia.

Mildred's funeral will take place at UCW on Monday 9 December at 12.30 pm.



Our thoughts and prayers are with Elaine John, whose son, Andrew, died suddenly and unexpectedly in November.

Tony Wood celebrated his 80th birthday on 25 November. Congratulations Tony and many happy returns!

We look forward to welcoming back some of the younger members of our church community after their first term away, pursuing various courses.

Please do let me know if you would like me to include anything in future editions of Yours.

Jane Lawson, Pastoral lead

A Visit to Minister in Hong Kong



This autumn we had the privilege of returning to the Methodist International Church Hong Kong (MIC) for five weeks. MIC is a vibrant multi-ethnic and multi-lingual church in the heart of Wanchai on Hong Kong Island. It began as a church offering ministry to Sailors and Soldiers based there in 1851, though it was some years before the first 'English Methodist Church' was built in 1893.

The present church building, on the original site, now has 24 floors, all Methodist Church. A basement

sanctuary and youth space, an entrance floor and 22 floors up with a Sky Chapel at the top. The floors house the MIC Church, Methodist Social Services, the Conference Office and four floors of accommodation for pastoral staff.

It was good to send a greeting from the congregations on what was World Communion Sunday, as they meet together to celebrate. The church is made up of nine congregations worshipping in four languages, Tagalog, Ilocano, Putonghua and English. The Filipino congregations are also conversant in English and so English speakers are only translated for the Putonghua Fellowship.

We were there at the invitation of the present Senior Pastor, Revd Eden Fletcher and it was a joy and a privilege to join this team and serve the church for a season. They kept us busy. Howard preached each Sunday and led seminars on Wesleyan theology. Rosie spoke at a Women's Prayer Breakfast and we both listened to staff and supported the work. Howard also edited a book about the history of Methodism in Hong Kong called, *Streams of Faith*. Now where have I heard that title before!!

In the midst of all this we did get time off! Walks over the islands and swimming in almost deserted coves. Meeting up with friends, old and new, was really good and mostly over a meal. MIC is a party church so there were a few of those!

Hong Kong 2024

Is more subdued than we recall it in 2011-2019. There are less international voices heard in the streets, markets and restaurants with many more mainland Chinese workers and families in Hong Kong. Increasingly the special nature of Hong Kong is diminished by policies from Beijing and is subsumed into the



Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. This is a 'megapolis' consisting of nine cities and two special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macau). Altogether they have a population of over 86million people so Hong Kong, with around 7.4 million residents, is dwarfed in both size and importance.

Church leaders are reticent to speak out on civil and social matters for fear of being arrested under the recent National Security Law. That Law established four particular crimes of secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign organisations; any open speech, verbal promotion or intention of Hong Kong's secession from China is considered a crime as well. Minor infringements such as wearing a T-Shirt with a 'Free



Hong Kong' slogan would lead to an immediate arrest. As I write this 45 people have been sentenced this week for infringements of this law.

There is a huge wealth gap in Hong Kong. Figures released recently show that in the first quarter of 2024 the poorest 10% of the population earned only HK\$1,600 pcm (£160), whilst the wealthiest 10% earned HK\$131,000 pcm (£13,100). The total wealth of the richest 0.001% of the HK population accounts for more than half of the city's income.

In the face of these concerns and political pressure, MIC is flourishing under the leadership of Revd Eden Fletcher. He has a big team, 23 persons most full time! Issues of funding, time tabling and HR are always present, but in the midst of all this there is an optimism, faith and vision among the staff which communicates itself to the congregations.

This is busy church! There is a regular monthly prayer meeting – small but significant. Also a weekly lunchtime service on a Wednesday. Five or six Bible study groups and people meeting to go through Disciple One and Two. In addition, there are Men's and Women's Prayer Breakfasts and lunchtime meals for young adults. MIC 101 allows people to explore faith and



Methodist core values. This autumn the Alpha course has 40 people registered with attendance weekly about 30 people plus the team to lead it.

The church has always had an outward facing ministry with ministry lunch time coffee bar at the entrance, training students with learning difficulties to be baristas. The coffee is free and workers on short lunch breaks are invited to bring their lunch. Church members welcome people, listen to their concerns and share about the work of the church.

Members from MIC started the Methodist Study Trust in 1984 which supports students with small grants to help with books, travel and equipment to aid their educational needs. Forty years on about 80 students are helped annually but this year the Foundation of the Hong Kong Club has donated HK\$500,000 so their reach will be significantly widened.

Finally

We are really grateful for the opportunity to serve again this remarkable church, to meet the staff (see picture above), engage with most of the congregations and undertake ministry as requested.

Howard and Rosie

Our Visit to Mirehouse, Keswick



Mirehouse sits beside Bassenthwaite Lake, in the shadow of Skiddaw. The substantial grounds go all the way down to the Lake and are divided into different areas with amazing trees and a bee garden. First built in 1666 the house has been occupied by members of the same family since 1802. The building has changed over the years and the ground floor is currently open to visitors. While we were there a member of the family was playing the grand piano in the Music Room, which was lovely to hear.

The house has many literary connections – including Tennyson, Wordsworth and Southey and others of the period – and many fine portraits of and by family members.

But it was the Victorian veranda adjoining the house that we specially wanted to see. Along the veranda are displayed poems – this year, poems by David Scott – yes, the Revd David Scott

who we knew as Rector of St Lawrence with St Swithun. The family at Mirehouse is clearly very fond of David.

Do go and visit Mirehouse if you get the chance.

Yvonne Alderson

Here is one of the poems:

With Miggy at Skelwith Force

This was where my father brought me,
and now in bringing you
I sense a change in scale and clarity.

Water eases from a petrol smoothness
into a broth so fierce the rocky sides
seem moving up and not the water down.

A fish falls upwards flashing black
against a bridal veil of spume
and at the edge a single harebell shivers.

All this meant danger for a father and a son,
but now, with he away and I grown out of sandals,
there's no longer any reaching up for rail or hand.

I know a different sort of peace,
something about holding the wonder
in a new-found capacity to understand.

Christmas Cards



Fewer people are sending individual cards nowadays. There will be a tray for cards addressed to the whole United Church community, and the cards will be displayed on boards in the hall.

However, if you wish to send individual cards to regular attenders at the morning service, there will be a church post box, and the cards placed on a table in the hall after morning service. Please check there for cards addressed to you. Huge thanks to David Worrall for organising this.

May we suggest you might like to make a contribution to a charity in lieu of postage costs for using these services.

On 22 December please check if any cards you put in have not been collected, as we cannot distribute them.

Pat Fry, Worship Lead

Trial of Change to Communion Practice Agreed at November's Church Meeting

At our recent Church Meeting, the Worship & Learning Enabling Group (W&L EG) briefed members on the concerns people have about the serving of communion to the congregation whilst seated. Though many of us cherish this way of receiving communion, considerable anxiety is felt by both servers and communicants about being able to practice this form safely. Though we have tried to ensure that there is enough room for servers to walk between the rows so they can distribute to everyone, the fact that our church is let out to external hirers means that we cannot guarantee that chairs will be spaced as needed when we arrive on a Sunday morning. Furthermore, we have experimented with serving each other (i.e., passing the

plate/tray down the row to one another) but some struggle with this, especially given the shape of our communion wine trays.

Therefore, the W&L EG proposed that we have a trial of us coming forward for communion only, with a review and final decision to be made at our June 2025 Church Meeting. Church members, whilst registering sadness that we were struggling to make the serving of communion to people in their seats workable, recognised the worry that this issue was causing, and the barrier it introduced to full participation in communion. As a result, the trial was unanimously agreed and will start from December 2024.

Special Services in January

We are reverting to the Methodist tradition of holding the Covenant Service on the first Sunday in January. This year that falls on 5 January, Epiphany. Covenant Service originated in England in 17th Century, and was further developed by John Wesley. It is an opportunity to focus on our dependence on the Spirit of God, and to re-affirm our Christian commitment together as a church community.

Two weeks later, on 19 January, churches in the city will observe the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. Our 9 am communion will follow its normal pattern and will be led by Revd Adrian Bulley; our preacher at 10.30 will come from another church in the city, details yet to be confirmed. There is no evening Churches Together event that day as it was found to be wiser to move this to later in the year when the weather hopefully would be better.

January is often a quiet month, so we hope you will find these two special occasions for worship uplifting.

Worship Enabling Group

Star-Gazing—A Reflection by Malcolm Guite

One advantage of these longer and darker nights is that we have more time to gaze at the stars. When the psalmist wrote that ‘the heavens declare the glory of the Lord’, he would of course have seen them in their true glory, undimmed by the garish loom of city and streetlights.

But sometimes, if we are deep in the countryside we can have that experience, and then we see the Milky Way not as a faint blur, but as a beautiful luminous path across the Heavens.

That’s how the poet George Herbert saw it, looking up, in that pre-industrial darkness, from his Parish in Bemerton, and perhaps that’s what led him in to call prayer itself ‘The Milky Way’.

We may not see as much with the naked eye as our ancestors did, but we have instead the almost miraculous images of the stars taken from space, above the blur of our atmosphere in absolute clarity. I tried in a sonnet to tease out what Herbert might have meant by calling prayer ‘the Milky Way’, but also included in my poem the wonderful images from the Hubble Space Telescope!

The Milky Way

It’s always there, but when our lights are low,
Or altogether out, we see it shine;
Only when things are darkest here below
Do we discern its soft pearlescent sheen,
Gracefully traced across the midnight sky,
In whose light Herbert saw the path of prayer.
Though pale and milky to the naked eye,
The view from Hubble, far above the air,
Shows us a star-field rich with many colours
‘Patines of bright gold’ and blue and red,
Abundance of a hundred billion stars

Whose centre lies in Sagittarius,
Darting their glory, like the myriad
Of saints and angels who all pray for us.

From Malcolm Guite's collection *After Prayer*.

(Used with permission)

This reflection is one of a series written for St Paul's Cathedral. Anyone interested in signing up to their email newsletter can easily do so at www.stpauls.co.uk/mailling-list

The Role of Court Chaplain

I have been asked to give a short description of the role of Court Chaplain.

Based in Winchester Crown Court, the Chaplain is there for everyone. Defendants and families, staff and visiting Barristers and Experts.

It is not a religious role unless we are asked to pray with someone.

Please ask me for more information if you are interested.

Chris Trimmings

Ukrainian Volunteers in Winchester: Lala and Galya

If you see a beautiful and slender female walking with bags and packages slung over her shoulders, you can be positive that she is Lala Smaglova.

As a leader, Lala volunteers with two choirs, for children and adults. But it is difficult to call her a leader. This word and the context in which we use it imply strictness and other unpleasant traits. Not so with Lala.

These are her 'weapons and tools': love and tenderness, a desire



to help and encourage, a fear of offending or pushing away, an openness to new ideas, and the readiness to try anything new and unconventional.

Who is Lala Smaglova? Lala is an ethnic folk singer.

In Ukraine, she was a soloist in the Dudu Band, which was established in 2019 and is famous for its multicultural team. The band is described on the Internet as ‘a bold mix of musical styles of different ethnic groups: Ukrainian and Georgian’. Lala was part of this fantastic and gifted team and experiment.

Since the invasion started, the band has toured Ukraine with concerts several times. All the money raised goes to good causes.

In Winchester, Lala accepted the challenge of becoming the Ukrainian women’s choir leader, bringing together voices from different backgrounds, united by a shared love for music and their homeland.

Later, she started a children’s choir. Each week, she gathers a diverse group of children, sharing her passion for singing and the rich traditions of Ukrainian music. She lets children choose the songs to their liking. Together, they discover the stories behind each song in addition to its lyrics, strengthening their ties to their motherland's heritage.



She is tolerant of others and demanding of herself. Never criticising, always applauding. And this raises confusion in addition to being unexpected. After the concert, we want to talk about what went well and what didn't. However, it turns out that everyone was wonderful and that everything went well! And it works; we feel uplifted and enjoy being part of Lala's team.

Together, we sing traditional Ukrainian folk songs and modern pieces, infusing every performance with our passion and resilience.

Galya, Lala's Mum

Cooking is her passion and expertise. At every Ukrainian gathering or event, amazing and delicious food appears out of nowhere with a wave of a magic wand. A beautiful table with Ukrainian delicacies is arranged in the blink of an eye without anyone having to ask or place an order. Eventually, everyone is happy.

She embraces many with her love and attention. She never expects to be praised. Always quiet and modest. Additionally,



Galya is a herbalist and knows many ways to help without medicine. If you get sick, Galya shows up with her herbs and something else that has no name. And you already feel much better. What helped? The herbs or Galya with her care?

They both pour their hearts and energy into what they are doing – organising community events, showcasing the talent of their choirs and raising funds for those affected by the conflict back home. The concerts became a celebration of culture, where generations came together, sharing stories and memories through the

universal language of music.

While their roots are in Ukraine, their hearts are open to the world, creating melodies that would resonate far beyond borders.

Volunteering can take various forms.

We send donations or personal funds to support defenders in Ukraine or assist individuals or organisations in need during these challenging times. However, there are other meaningful ways to contribute as well. For instance, we can showcase Ukraine's incredible music and cuisine abroad, stage a performance or write a poem. While this may seem small and insignificant, it holds great value and impact.

Elena Popova



Vintage Fun

All welcome!



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday 9th December

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.



Persistence Pays Off!



Max Mykhailichenko is a skilled Blacksmith whose family are very much a part of the church's community who meet together on a Saturday morning. He, and his wife Tetiana, had a dream of setting up a business here in the local area and after many, many months of navigating the

complexities of necessary administration, pursuing grant applications in the hope of getting much needed support, and frustrations over securing premises that business is now up and running. Zen Forge is a real testament to their drive to succeed and find a positive after leaving their home in Ukraine.

Do take a look at their website to learn more about them and their vision; you may find something that takes your fancy!

www.zenforge.uk

Jo Pellatt ,Mission Lead

Looking Back over 250 Years

This year we have as a congregation been remembering 1974 as a result of 2024 being the 50th anniversary of the church in the form that we now enjoy.

For those of us old enough to remember 50 years ago, understandably this has perhaps focused our minds in part on those years, an emphasis I shared last month.

This month I offer a somewhat wider perspective while still having the 'rhythm of years' as a regulator to our thoughts.

What of 100 and 200 years before 1974?

As this is outside of living memory, we will focus on a national perspective. We will scan about 5 years either side of the year 74 in each century.

Looking at the period 1771 to 1779 we land on quite a turbulent period. The Boston Tea Party (1773) may bring recollections of school history, being good or bad memories; however, for Britain mainly bad, as it led on to further developments, being armed resistance in 1775 and war, with the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Forward a century and we are situated in very different times; Britain is seen as being at one of her most influential times in the mid- to late-Victorian period. Mr Gladstone and Mr Disraeli are figures who, arguably, after the Queen herself, most personify the period. This is apposite for in 1874 there was an election which brought about change from Mr Gladstone to Mr Disraeli.

Many observations could be made, but one, which few would contest, is that it would be hard to identify two concurrent party leaders who manifested such contrasts. Perhaps if one was to try and pitch a couple from the lifetimes of older readers it might be Mr Foot and Mrs Thatcher.

Mention of such names brings us nicely to the 1970s. The 1974 period is often seen as rum in the popular memory; a year that was to commence a period seen as the last gasp of 'consensus politics' the post-war consensus period sometimes represented by the word 'Butskellism', a word derived by the combination of Butler and Gaitskell being two post-war Chancellors of the Exchequer from opposing parties.

1974 delivered two elections, both narrowly 'won' by Harold Wilson and the Labour Party.

If we were to look for a silver lining to 1974 we might consider the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act which is still on the

statute book and made good the limitations of the likes of the Factories Act 1961 and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963, which, by definition, limited their H&S focus to certain areas.

Casting our mind back to the events of the 18th century, it is fascinating for some, including myself, to speculate on the counterfactual.

What if William Pitt the Elder, the First Earl of Chatham, had enjoyed better health and 'stability'; what if he had set in motion a closer relationship between Britain and the USA, ongoing into the 19th century.

No First World War? Thus, Hitler remains a civilian selling his paintings, albeit with a session of 'putting the world to rights' when you visit his small gallery; his customers' response being 'you should think of standing for the local council'.

The customer? A Mr W. Churchill, a backbench MP who most people in the UK have not heard of. The Year? 1943. Oh yes. Mr Chamberlain, having won the 1940 election is experiencing some difficulty with trying to get health care on to more of a national footing while Mr Butler is hoping to pass a major piece of education legislation in 1944 trying to make good some of the sentiment expressed in the 1918 Fisher Act which has not, in the 1940s, been achieved.

Of course, mind games such as this play to a deeper current for the Christian believer. The age-old question of the Providence of God v. the Freewill of humans.

This question, arguably, plays all the stronger in a democracy where all are encouraged to participate; participating to a degree unimaginable in the 18th century and only just developing in the period following Second Reform Act in 1867.

Thus, back to the 1970s to 2024–5. One quarter of the way through the 21st century! It is of course (at the time of writing)

not an easy time with more than one commentator highlighting the parallels with the late 19th century.

It is for each to prayerfully consider their response and engagement to the circumstances they find themselves in.

Chris Young

News of the Wider Church

John Smyth abuse: MP Polly Billington says the Freedom of Information laws should apply to the Church of England. She made the appeal following the release of the Makin Review, an independent investigation into the abuse committed by John Smyth, now recognised as one of the Church of England's most prolific abusers.

Currently, the Church of England is exempt from the UK's FOI Act 2000 as it is classified as a 'non-public authority' under the Act. Although the Church of England is the established church in England with the monarch as its Supreme Governor, it remains a religious institution rather than a government body or public authority, making it legally independent in terms of governance and administration. The state's role is largely ceremonial or symbolic, without direct control over the Church's internal matters.

Smyth died aged 77 in Cape Town in 2018 while under investigation by Hampshire Police. Victims of John Smyth's abuse have called for more resignations from Senior clergy members.



United Reformed Church response to the resignation of Justin Welby as Archbishop of Canterbury:

The resignation of Justin Welby, in response to failures in safeguarding during his time as Archbishop of Canterbury, signals that

responsibility for the safety of individuals extends to the highest authority.

It is also a salutary reminder of the need for constant vigilance in maintaining and improving safeguarding at every level of all institutions. We recognise that no one individual can be responsible for the creation of a safe culture within any organisation. That must be a shared responsibility.

At this painful time, our thoughts and prayers are first and foremost with survivors and all whose lives have been permanently impacted by heinous abuse, inadequate responses to disclosures of abuse and institutional failings.

The United Reformed Church deeply values its relationship with the Church of England and is acutely aware of the challenges faced by all institutions in protecting and caring for all those that we seek to serve. We are mindful that this will be a difficult period of transition for the Church of England and the Anglican Communion.

In this time of upheaval, we are praying for healing and grace for all those affected, especially those who carry the scars of abuse facilitated by institutional failures. We pray that from this moment will grow opportunities for renewal and a safer Church.

We pray for wisdom, honesty and diligence now and in the days ahead.

The Revd Dr John P Bradbury, General Secretary
Sharon Barr, Designated Safeguarding Lead



Response from the Methodist Church: In light of the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury following the Makin Review into abuses by the late John Smyth QC, the Methodist Church in Britain joins others in praying for all those affected by abuse. Survivors have been courageous in speaking of

their experience and in calling the Churches to account and we hope humbly to continue to learn from them.

We are covenant partners with the Church of England, an anniversary we marked last week. Dr Welby has done much to strengthen the partnership between our denominations and we pray for the continuation of this work and for those who will discern who should be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. We are committed to developing our shared understanding and desire for good safeguarding practice at every level of our churches.

A prayer

Loving God, we ask your forgiveness for the times when in your Church we have failed to protect vulnerable people. We pray for your healing for those who have been hurt and for those who live with guilt and regret.

We ask for your wisdom and direction as we seek to keep safe all your children, in the name of Christ. Amen.



The Dean of Winchester, the Very Revd Catherine Ogle, has announced her retirement 'for personal reasons' on 1 May 2025. It was the year, she said, of her husband's 70th birthday and consequently 'the right time for us to move into a new stage of life'.

She has been Dean since February 2017, since when she has overseen the £1-million organ restoration and the development of an Estates masterplan for the cathedral's conservation and development for the next 30 years.

'Winchester Cathedral has a great future as well as a magnificent heritage,' Dean Ogle said. 'I am enormously grateful for the adventure and companionship of the last few

years as the cathedral has faced new challenges, not least those of the Covid years, and the kindness and love that has been shared.'

After the unexpected resignation of several staff members in the summer, the Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, commissioned an independent review into the cathedral's governance. Before she retires, the Dean will lead the implementation of its recommendations.

The Vice-Dean, Canon Roly Riem, will take over as Acting Dean until a permanent successor is appointed.

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is launching a year-long campaign to invite more people to play and appreciate the organ.

The campaign, 'Play the Organ Year 2025' will feature First Encounter organ recitals, including, where possible, sessions designed for people new to the organ. 'We know that there are many organs in beautiful churches which are underused; indeed, it is often a struggle to find enough people to play them for services,' the director of the RSCM, Hugh Morris, said.



The Director of Music at Pembroke College, Cambridge, Anna Lapwood, is patron of Play the Organ Year, alongside a team of leading organists from around the UK. 'I hope that as many of us as possible take up the challenge to throw open the doors and

make 2025 the year we share this remarkable experience with a record number of people,' she said.

Free Play the Organ packs are available, containing detailed plans and resources for hands-on sessions suitable for anyone from a complete music novice to those with a little experience of



piano or other keyboard instruments.

The chief executive of the RCO, Sir Andrew Parmley, describes the organ as 'a magnificent instrument unlike any other – powerful, versatile, visceral, and enormous fun to play . . . a unique and thrilling experience. So, Play the Organ Year is a wonderful opportunity to encourage people to try the organ for themselves, and to discover what it feels like to play an instrument that literally sits at the heart of their local communities.

'Hello, I'd like to become an organ donor

The RSCM is proud to be working with our friends at the Royal College of Organists [RCO] and other organisations in supporting this initiative, and we look forward to sharing the stories as they unfold.' (From the *Church Times*)

The Church of England and the Methodist Church in Britain recommit to working together as Covenant turns 21. Anglicans and Methodists in England will be underlining the commitment to forging closer ties as they mark the 21st anniversary of an historic covenant between the two churches. The Covenant recognises how much the two churches – which separated in the 1790s, after the death of John Wesley – have in common and commits them to removing further obstacles towards unity. It has opened the way to new partnerships on the ground between local Church of England and Methodist congregations, ranging from joint worship and sharing church buildings to shared community projects and staff such as youth and family workers.

The Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist

Conference, and Carolyn Godfrey, Vice-President, said: 'It is good to reaffirm the covenant that was signed 21 years ago, and to celebrate the work and worship that happens between the Church of England and the Methodist Church locally and nationally. We welcome all that focuses on what unites us in Christ, and we pray that we can continue to build on what we learn from each other. As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward in hope to journeying together in the future.'

The poster features a festive border with watercolor-style illustrations of holly leaves, red poinsettias, and mistletoe. At the top center is the Waynflete Singers logo, which consists of a red circle containing the white letters 'WS'. To the right of the logo, the text 'Waynflete Singers' is written in a red serif font.

Waynflete Singers

A Classical Christmas

Winchester Cathedral
Saturday 7th December 2024
at 7.30 pm

Beethoven: Mass in C
Bach: Wachet Auf! (*Sleepers Wake!*
***Cantata 140*)**
Carols for choir and audience

The Waynflete Singers
English Chamber Orchestra
Andrew Lumsden, conductor

Soprano: Eleanor Dennis
Mezzo Soprano: Catherine Carby
Tenor: Benjamin Hulett
Bass: Alastair Miles

Tickets: £15.00 - £50.00
Buy from Winchester Cathedral Events online
or call 01962 857275
or via www.waynfletesingers.org.uk/concerts

Registered charity no: 285107

take time together

A meditation session suitable
for everyone!

These meditations use the Ignatian practice of allowing God to speak through the Bible and they are a great way to encounter God whether you have a faith background or not.

When: **Tuesday 3rd Dec** at Winchester Baptist Church,
City Road,
or Wednesday 11th Dec at St Lawrence's
Church, The Square, Winchester SO23 9EX

Time: 4 – 5:15 pm

Please contact Alison Dolphin on **07834 540106** or
chaplain@winccc.org.uk for more details or to register
for the event.

If you are wondering what they are like,
please check out the website



Christmas Carol Concert

Thursday 12 December 2024

7:30-8:30pm

St Peter's Church, Winchester

Featuring the Adoramus Singers, conducted by John Lunt and accompanied by organist Richard McVeigh.

A mix of familiar carols and a sprinkling of newer pieces, with the opportunity for the audience to sing as well. Concert will be followed by wine and mince pies.

Every penny raised will help cover our vital running costs.

Samaritans is available 24 hours a day, every day, to provide emotional support to anyone who needs us.



Scan me to buy tickets or visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/win-sams-carols>

Limited tickets available on door



MHA Communities Updates

MHA Carol Service – Monday 16 December 2024

10.30 am–11.30 am, The United Church

Christmas Carol service open to all of the community. No need to book. Led by Revd Tim Searle.

Including performances from the MHA Communities Singing For Wellbeing group.

Tea & Coffee and mince pies available after service in main hall.

Thank you for everyone who has supported us via The United Church this year and beyond; through volunteering, donations to raffle and events or through supporting the team in the office. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to all the joy 2025 will bring.

Hannah and all the team at MHA Communities Hampshire Central



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.



COMING SOON!

Taster Sessions

5 12 19 March

**The
CHOSEN**



United Church Winchester

Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve

4pm

Light Afternoon Tea

from 3pm

All Welcome



Comedy Corner



I FINALLY KNOW WHY
THEY CALL ME A GROWN UP



I GROAN
EVERY TIME I GET UP...



The deadline for February *Yours* is
Monday 13 January. All contributions
welcome. Send to
yours@ucw.org.uk.





Services for December 2024

In-person and live-streamed

1 DECEMBER ADVENT 1

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

8 DECEMBER ADVENT 2

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Pat Fry

15 DECEMBER ADVENT 3

9.00 am **Holy Communion** Revd Tim Searle

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Tom Belshaw

22 DECEMBER ADVENT 4

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00 pm **Carols by Candlelight** Revd Tim Searle

25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

29 DECEMBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Margaret Axford

HC: Holy Communion

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





Services for January 2025

In-person and live-streamed

5 JANUARY COVENANT SERVICE

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

12 JANUARY

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Dr Lesley Ritchie

19 JANUARY

9.00 am **Holy Communion** Revd Adrian Bulley

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Churches Together

26 JANUARY

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Dr John Evans

HC: Holy Communion

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

YouTube: tinyurl.com/ucw-services

