



Yours

June 2025

Magazine of
The United Church



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

Registered Charity no. 1135083

Website: ucw.org.uk

Minister

Email address:

Revd Tim Searle

minister@ucw.org.uk

(day off Fri)

07811 104240

Worship

Lead

Pat Fry

Pastoral

Lead

Jane Lawson

Bereavement

Sandy Foster

Flowers Distribution

Lesley Worrall

Property

Lead

Martin Ramsey

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

Safeguarding

Co-ordinator

Tim James

07925 691260

Deputy Co-ordinator

Christine Cook

01962 884510

MHA Communities

Hannah Shave

Winchester (formerly LAH)

Tim's Letter: Green Shoots

The Easter hymn 'Now the green blade rises' is filled with the language of rebirth. It pictures buried grain fighting to emerge from the dark, cold, hard earth of death. At its heart is the person of Jesus, whose own trial through death is the hope on which all rebirth is founded.

The image of the green blade reminded me of the phrase 'green shoots'. Though it's a phrase that has been repeatedly tarnished by governments eager to declare economic growth in a downturn, I'd like to claim it back in a spiritual context. And I want to ask, in this season of Easter, how prepared we are to seek out and nurture the green shoots emerging in our own lives?

Jesus was all about green shoots, and he found them in the unlikeliest of places; in the wounded, the traumatised, the rejected; even in the wake of death itself. He intentionally sought them out, spiritually placing his hands around their hearts as a gardener might tenderly cup a fragile seedling. And if we want to be like Jesus, we must be intentional in seeking out these green shoots too.

Green shoots, in the spiritual sense, are rarely found in neat rows of nicely tilled earth. They grow in the rubble of our sin, our past choices, our vulnerability and nakedness. There, they too push through dark, cold, hard earth. And it is to these shoots in those places that we must attend, finding them, caring for them, sometimes even extracting them from the devastation, though rarely without risk.

Where is the devastation in our own lives, our relationships, our health, our homes, our families, our faith? What green shoots might be growing out of grief-stricken hearts, lost dreams, broken promises and pain-soaked lives? Will we attend to them, though the work is hard? Will we right what was wronged, heal what was damaged, honour that which was torn asunder?

Jesus' path was not an easy one. And if we choose to follow him then neither will ours. If we want to heal the relationships that we in part have broken, then we must find the green shoots in the rubble and cherish them, willing them back to life. If we want to heal the Church which we in part have divided then we must learn to honour the other, seeking unity not discord. If we want to heal the world that we in part have harmed, then we must change, returning to a relationship of respect and mutuality with the earth. And if we want to heal the darkness within us, then we must trust God to do that which we cannot do by ourselves.

... fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green!

In Christ,

Tim

Editorial

Last month we read about a quiet revival in the church in this country. At Pentecost we think of the global church and the growth of the church. This month's cover is a vibrant celebration of Pentecost from Thailand and is controversial, as you will read on pages 8–10. Your reactions to it will be welcome at yours@ucw.org.uk. We have more local reflections on Pentecost too.

Catholics worldwide are mourning the loss of Pope Francis and welcoming Pope Leo. See reactions to this on pages 21 and 26.

If you've ever been on an open top bus, you will share Chris Young's enjoyment on pages 18–20. Rosemary MacMullen's trip to the Mediterranean reaches Tangiers.

Tony Wood review's Roger Owens' piano recital. It was a great

success. Don't miss out on the next two concerts—see page 15!

The FA Cup final features in News of the Wider Church to keep football fans happy and we hope that page 28 will make you smile.

Many thanks to all our contributors. Please think of sending something in yourself.

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

News of the United Church Family

We hold Chris and Penny Roles and family in our prayers, following Chris's recent diagnosis.

We think of Ted Rushmoor, who has been in hospital for a few weeks.



Exam season is now well underway. As ever, the sun came out to welcome the start of a period of study! Our best wishes to all taking exams at this time.

We celebrate with Howard and Rosie Mellor who welcomed a new addition to the family in April. A grandson, Oliver, born to Tom and Kate.

Several of our church family are coping with illness or in hospital or awaiting test results or surgery. We remember all those known to us in our prayers.

Please do let me know if you would like me to include anything in this space in future editions of Yours. You can email me on pastoral@ucw.org.uk.

Jane Lawson, Pastoral Lead

22 June: Treasures from John's Gospel: Light and Love

By the time you read this we will be well through our deep dive into John's Gospel, and you will be very aware that we have had to omit many much loved passages.

So for 22 June we are offering you the opportunity to suggest a story or a reading that means a lot to you that we did not include, or to share with us thoughts that have arisen from the series.

Perhaps there is a hymn or a poem relevant to its message that we could include. Perhaps there is a question you would like to ask the preachers; if so please give us plenty of notice so we can try to find an answer.

Perhaps you would like to speak in the service. Some of you may want to discuss this in your house group.

Please contact us with your ideas no later than Friday 13 June (I will be preaching elsewhere on 15 June) so the F.W.E. team can begin to put it together early the next week.

Email: worship@ucw.org.uk or speak to Pat Fry, Margaret Axford, Tom Belshaw or Tim Clifford.

Pat Fry, Worship Lead

Pentecost

The following are some notes prepared by URC Minister, Revd Cara Heafey to help us reflect on Pentecost. They are based on Romans 8:22-27 and Acts 2:1-21 (Ed.)

It may not get the same billing as Christmas or Easter, but Pentecost is an important time in the Church year. It's a time when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples, as described in the reading from Acts 2. Many consider this event to be the birth of the Christian church.

What I love about the Pentecost story is the radical inclusion. The gift of the Holy Spirit is poured out lavishly and indiscriminately. Everyone is able to join in. They get to hear the Good News in language they understand and can relate to.

In both the Acts and Romans readings we hear of the Holy Spirit facilitating communication and making relationship possible, even where differences had seemed insurmountable. The Spirit overcomes division and fragmentation – much needed in a divided and fragmented world (and church!). Where have you seen the Spirit at work in your setting?

Sometimes the story of Pentecost, with its vibrancy, colour and promise, feels removed from our own experience of church. In the URC many churches are closing and congregations aging. It can be hard to feel hopeful about the future. The Pentecost readings contain seeds of hope for local communities.

The community of believers at the end of Acts 1 have experienced a 'double bereavement' – Jesus' death, then his ascension to heaven. They may have been feeling fearful, abandoned, disappointed, confused. This is the situation into which the Holy Spirit comes, fulfilling Jesus' assurance that we will not be alone.

The 'groaning' in Romans 8 v 22 is easy to relate to! Again, we are assured of the Spirit's help. I cherish the idea – well supported by other passages of Scripture (see Exodus 2:23–24; Judges 2:18; Psalms 12:5 and 38:9) – that groaning is an effective form of prayer!

Let us allow the joyful expansiveness of the Acts 2 story to broaden our perspective. We are part of something much bigger. A world-wide family of Christians. Dysfunctional but beloved. Beautiful in our diversity. Woven together by the wild, uncontainable, and always surprising Spirit of God.

We believe in a living God,
a God who has not stopped speaking,
who bends the arc of history towards justice.

We believe in a living God.
We believe in God-with-us,
brother in our suffering and victim of our brokenness,
who breathed peace upon his friends,
and promised we will never be alone.

We believe in God with us.
We believe in the Spirit of God, who dwells within and dances
between us.
Healing divisions. Defying expectations.
Igniting creativity and love.
We believe in the Spirit of God

This Month's Front Cover

Sawai Chinnawong (Thai, 1959–), *Pentecost*, 1997. Acrylic on canvas.

Although many artists have depicted this event, Chinnawong does so in surprising ways. He situates the Pentecost event within the traditions of Buddhist painting. The bright red and gold colours, along with the triple-peaked blue sawtooth *sinthao* line at the top of the image, identify a holy space. In Thai painting it is common to see the Buddha seated in the centre of this space, often with his head surrounded by a stylised flame

similar to the one filling the centre of *Pentecost*. But where one might expect to find the singular figure of Buddha, instead one sees a community organised around a massive holy fire that is repeated in the small tongues of fire burning above each of the disciples' heads. The Holy Spirit fills the space and the disciples, burning intensely but not as a consuming fire.

Paintings of this subject traditionally associate the tongues of fire with the tops of the disciples' heads. Chinnawong borrows this convention but seems to emphasise that the outpouring of the Spirit is filling the disciples, enlivening their minds and their bodies. They gesture and 'speak' (speech is conveyed in painting by bodily motion more than by open mouths) with a joy that is striking in its individuality and its commonality: their speech is an array of colourful patterns and gestures all vitalised and unified by the Spirit.

Chinnawong's painting leads us to reflect and reconsider the implications of this outpouring as it relates to the global dynamics of Christian thought and practice. It is the Holy Spirit that propels Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth, and it is through the Spirit that people encounter God existentially and historically. Christian theology also ought to have such a starting point and acknowledge that it is the Holy Spirit that makes our encounters with God possible. Renewal movements realign traditional theological approaches by bringing the person and work of the Spirit into the foreground and reminding us that the Son and the Father come into focus through the Spirit.

Sawai Chinnawong is an ethnic Mon who was born in Burma and raised in Thailand in a Theravada Buddhist home. After losing both parents he moved to Bangkok to live with two older sisters. He decided to study art, and during his time as a student he became deeply curious about a Christian community located near his house. At age 23 he was baptised into the Christian church. For more than two decades he has devoted his artistic

practice to painting biblical (or theological) images, while acknowledging and embracing his own cultural context. As Chinnawong says:

'I believe Jesus Christ is present in every culture, and I have chosen to celebrate his presence in our lives through Thai traditional cultural forms . . . My belief is that Jesus did not choose just one people to hear his Word but chose to make his home in every human heart. And just as his Word may be spoken in every language, so the visual message can be shared in the beauty of the many styles of artistry around the world.'

Chinnawong's work and beliefs have been controversial. The pastor who baptised him, for example, told Chinnawong that his artwork was 'Buddhist' and that he must reconsider his entire approach to painting now that he was a Christian. Chinnawong responded by abandoning painting to attend seminary at the McGilvary Faculty of Theology at Payap University in Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. In this period of his life, the language of Christian belief was incompatible with the modes of visual meaning that he knew – or at least all those that were indigenously Thai. This changed in 1984 when he attended a series of lectures on the history of Christian art by Nalini Jayasuriya, a Sri Lankan Christian artist and professor who focused on Asian examples of Christian art. The lectures stimulated Chinnawong's imagination, launched him back into his artistic practice, and persuaded him that he must live into the gospel as a Thai artist.

This article can be found www.christiancentury.org

Pentecost

Jesus

who, One with the Father,
sends the fullness of Holy Spirit
to be *Pneuma*, breath of life,
and *Parakletos*, whispering advice and wisdom
to prompt and guide,
to strengthen lest we fall.

Come Holy Spirit,
shape us in your love,
enable us by your power,
equip us with your grace.

Form the character of Christ within us,
establish the ministry of Christ through us,
that with dynamic kindness
lives may be transformed,
creation and community renewed,
to be something beautiful for God.

G. Howard Mellor

Highlights of a Holiday in Spain and North Africa: 4

Final Holiday Excursion in Tangier

Morocco promised a scenic drive along the coast of Tangier to Cape Spartel. This is a promontory about 1,000 feet above sea level at the entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar. In 1864 Sultan Muhammad IV built a lighthouse at the end of a cliff which stands sentinel over the meeting of seas. After taking in the panoramic views we visited the maritime museum and strolled through the peaceful garden before reboarding our bus.



The 60 minute drive to Artistic Asilah was rather depressing as our driver told us what a dire situation his country was in with the lack of rain leading to farmers giving up. The many partly built houses showed how money had run out. Tourism is now a vital source of income for Asilah, a vibrant town rich in art and culture.

It was well worth the long drive to get to this lovely old town



with cobbled streets and alleyways. Brightly coloured doors with beautiful art on walls and magnificent rugs hanging down caught my eye. Only the odd inhabitant could be seen. Either it was siesta time or only stall owners and traders showed themselves. I followed Sally, a

fellow shipmate, down into a cellar, which was a bakery where the old oven was in use. It was very dark and you had to stand bent over to watch the baker in this poky place. It took us back

in time. Fantastically woven garments in a myriad of colours tempted us into tiny shops and Sally took so long choosing I decided to walk on back to the promenade and breathe in the salt air.

Rejoining the guide who was to lead us to the Al Khaima hotel for a Moroccan tea and pastries, I became aware we were one short. Where was Sally? The guide went back to find her but as there were so many different alleyways it was possibly going to take time. There was talk of having to miss out the Tea but we were all desperate for a cuppa. Luckily after fifteen minutes Sally reappeared seemingly unaware of her lateness.

A good cup of mint tea and delicious pastries soothed the few ruffled feathers and helped to restore us all. It had been a long day.

This was a perfect trip to end with. I had never imagined I would visit Morocco and am so glad I had this opportunity.

I always think this is my last cruise but who knows?

Rosemary MacMullen

Church Camp

Church Camp this year is from 4 to 6 July. All are welcome to come along for a relaxing weekend camping and enjoying each other's company in the beautiful New Forest. We will be camping at Foxlease Park in Lyndhurst. Day/evening visitors also very welcome, we would love to see you there.

Spare camping kit available if you wish to join in but don't have the kit, pick up from Brockenhurst station, or lifts from Winchester also available..

Please contact me at melanie@grigorian.co.uk for more information and to let me know you would like to come.

Piano Recital Review

Approximately one hundred people attended the piano recital by Roger Owens on Saturday 10 May. They were served a musical treat and comments after the recital were very complimentary both to Roger's playing, and to our church as a concert venue. One lady said 'what a joyous occasion it was'.

The varied programme covered a span of 200 years, ranging from Scarlatti to Rachmaninov. The programme started with two classical sonatas by Scarlatti and Beethoven, the latter showing the influence of Mozart. The music then moved into romantic mode with pieces by Debussy, Rachmaninov, Liszt and Chopin. At the end of the recital Roger gave three encores, ending with 'Träumerei' by Schumann, after which you could hear a pin drop.

The music by Debussy was 'Pour le piano', I think a piece being deliberately chosen as a fitting tribute to our piano, which required amazing virtuosity. Debussy was fascinated by the sounds of musical cultures around the world, particularly the Javanese gamelan, which he heard at the Paris Exhibition of 1889. As a composer, he was expert in painting pictures in sounds.

Roger showed just what sounds could be produced by our piano from the sonorous bass to the whispering treble. This music was certainly an inspiration. If the playing of our piano can produce joy in the playing of it, of whatever standard, and whatever age, then it will have been well worth its acquisition.

Our next piano recital takes on music in a different vein, a jazz improvisatory recital by Robert Carter on 12 July. This I think will be very intriguing. I hope you can come along and hear another take on piano music.

Tony Wood

Listen to Tony, along with Jane Lawson, being interviewed on the Winchester radio website winchester.radio/winchester-now/ (look for episode 128). (Ed)

Upcoming Concerts

Robert Carter (Jazz Recital) Saturday 12 July 7.30 pm



Robert's influences are wide-ranging ... among them are Olivier Messiaen, Robert Schumann, South African township music, Glenn Gould, Ornette Coleman, Cecil Taylor.

Gerard Brooks (Piano and Organ) 18 October 7.30 pm

Gerard is Director of Music at Methodist Central Hall. He played regularly for BBC Radio 4's 'Daily Service' and *Songs of Praise*, and toured with the All Souls Orchestra, playing in many concert halls, including the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Moscow Conservatoire.



More details on both concerts and booking will be available at ucw.org.uk/concerts/

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.

United Church Winchester combining with Winchester Hat Fair, 5 July, 2025

'The People's Piano'

The United Church has secured a place within this year's *Winchester Hat Fair* programme of events. Taking part in this day of community activities will support promoting our new piano as a 'People's Piano'. We aim to create a welcoming place for all. We hope that the new piano will help us in that endeavour.

This will be a great opportunity to bring people from the community into our building. It will be a fun occasion for anyone who loves to play the piano (but may not often get the chance to play on a Boston Steinway) to come and have a go!

In September, to coincide with Winchester Open Weekend, we hope some of those people who joined us on the 5th of July might agree to help us put on a concert to help raise funds for the piano.

So please do come along and join the fun on Saturday 5 July between 10am and 3pm! Have a go on the piano or just enjoy listening to others. Enjoy a coffee/tea and a piece of cake whilst you are with us. Everyone is welcome, whether young, old or somewhere in between and whatever kind of music you like to play or listen to. Please tell your friends, especially those who would like to come to play the piano.

Jane Lawson, Rosie and Howard Mellor and Andrea Berriman are making headway in organising this event. Our thanks to Martin Hillier, who has offered to help us make the space inside the sanctuary look great for the day! We need your help too to make this fun and to make it a success.

We hope as many church members as possible will help on the day.

We would particularly welcome support in ...

- staffing the coffee bar and in making cakes or biscuits to sell. This will help us raise funds for the piano.
- If you are a talented musician, you might like to come to help identify people who come in who we could invite to take part in the concert in September.
- Alternatively, you might feel you could offer an hour to welcome people at the front door.
- If you are creative, you might like to make a fundraising target installation which invites people to donate to the cost of the piano. This could perhaps be presented in the shape of a piano keyboard displayed vertically. (Other ideas welcome!)

Please speak to Jane, Rosie, Howard and Andrea if you can help in any way.

Thank you!

Jane Lawson



Oh I do Like to be Beside the Seaside

Especially when on an Open Top Bus – or Two

It might be a simple, relatively inexpensive activity but one of the things I like to do each summer is to take a seaside open top bus ride.

Happily, in southern England we have some good examples to choose from, two of which can be combined to form a long day excursion to enjoy the views, open air and to let someone else do the driving.

The open top bus which runs from the King's Statue in Weymouth to the Lighthouse at the southernmost point on the Isle of Portland has much to offer the passenger, partly due to the nature of the variable terrain.

There are panoramic views to be enjoyed from the moment the bus climbs the 'island' at the north end while the final destination offers a seaside environment in marked contrast to the promenade at the King's Statue in Weymouth, but which, nevertheless, still offers good



walking opportunities on relatively flat terrain albeit in less cultivated conditions. After your walk, The Lobster Pot Café offers everything from a drink to a full meal in the quintessential maritime environment.

This then forms the 'basic' open top return bus ride, taking the train to Weymouth, the King's Statue bus stop being just a short walk from the station or, alternatively, driving yourself to Weymouth.

For those who are up for a longer day it is possible to commence your open top bus journey at Bournemouth Station, taking the Purbeck Breezer number 50 to Swanage then, (at

Swanage Bus Station (adjacent to Swanage 'Heritage' Railway Station), change into the Jurassic Breezer 30 Swanage to Weymouth (not open top) bus service, thus giving you a long day, three bus 'inter urban' bus journey each way. If you want a compromise to this long day, consider returning from Weymouth to Bournemouth on the train, such a choice will shorten the day by hours.



The Bournemouth to Swanage service offers its own novelty, for example, that of being on the top deck of an open top bus while riding on the ferry across the entrance to Poole Harbour.

Some Further Tips

Obviously good weather is a requirement; I favour the Met Office website searching 'Portland'. I suggest that in addition to 'precipitation' you also focus (sorry) on 'visibility' looking for 'Very Good', or, preferably, 'Excellent', as the forecast for visibility.

Be aware that when the bus leaves Weymouth and heads across the narrow strip of land that joins Portland to the mainland that the bus often speeds up and, along with the very exposed nature of this part of the journey, it is thus a potential 'hat removing' environment – preferably by you, rather than the wind, and hence over the side of the bus and under the wheel of the lorry following.

These bus services are 'seasonal' with the best service offered during the school holidays; but do, as an added precaution, check the timings before you travel.

In addition to the bus companies websites, I favour an all-

embracing website called 'Bus Times'; e.g.: bit.ly/3GT4MgN.

In addition to the timetable, there are maps, relevant 'street view' foci on bus stops – I find that useful in situations where there are multiple stops in places I am not familiar with. There is also live bus tracking, this can be reassuring, especially when waiting at remote rural stops; I was recently waiting for a 'one a day bus' at such a stop.



This will not happen on every trip, but the novelty of Weymouth Town Bridge lifting impedes our progress, temporarily; well, lest anyone wishes to imitate James Bond (or rather Roger Moore's stunt man on The Man With A Golden Gun) which, on this occasion at least, did not happen.

Chris Young

News of the Wider Church



Pope Leo XIV appealed to the world's major powers for 'no more war' in his first Sunday message to crowds in St Peter's Square since his election as pontiff. The new Pope, elected on 8 May, called for an 'authentic and lasting peace' in Ukraine, a ceasefire in Gaza, and the release of all Israeli

hostages held by militant group Hamas. Speaking in Italian, Leo also welcomed the recent fragile ceasefire between India and Pakistan, and said he was praying to God to grant the world the 'miracle of peace'.

Pope Leo XIV's election as the 267th pontiff has drawn attention from Christian leaders around the world, many of whom have echoed calls for unity and peace in the Church and wider society. The Pope's early remarks have highlighted the importance of reconciliation and collaboration across Christian traditions.

A statement from the **United Reformed Church** reads: 'The United Reformed Church joins with His Holiness in the call to peace and in the sacred endeavour to build bridges of compassion and justice.'

Methodist Church statement says: 'The Methodist Church welcomes Pope Leo XIV's election, and we offer our prayers for his papacy. Methodist people cherish our place in the worldwide church, and our relationships with the Roman Catholic Church at local, national and international levels. We look forward to ever more opportunities to share with our Catholic siblings in the mission of the Church. We pray that all church leaders listen to the voices of the poor and the oppressed, and speak out for justice, as we share God's love.'

Assisted Dying: The Bishop of London has called the government's impact assessment of the Assisted Dying Bill a 'chilling read', warning it highlights the risks faced by vulnerable groups. The report, released late in early May as local election results came in, estimates nearly 800 assisted deaths could occur in the first year if the law is passed in England and Wales. It also outlines annual running costs of up to £13.6 million for a commissioner and expert panels, and projects major savings in care and benefits spending.

Rt Revd Sarah Mullally said: 'The impact assessment ... makes for chilling reading as it highlights particular groups who would be put at risk ... including those who are subject to health inequalities, and those vulnerable to domestic abuse. It also sets out the financial savings of introducing an assisted dying service, through reduction in care costs, palliative and end of life care costs and state-provided benefits.'

She concluded: 'Each human life is immeasurably more valuable than the money that may be saved ... We must oppose any change in the law that puts the vulnerable at risk rather than working to improve access to desperately needed palliative care.'

See April Yours to see John Lander's comments on this as well as the positions of the Methodist Church and the URC. (Ed)

Comedian Milton Jones has been diagnosed with prostate



cancer. The 60-year-old comic, who is known for his sharp one-liners and appearing on BBC's *Mock the Week* is a Christian. He has been forced to cancel his upcoming tour and in a statement he said his cancer was 'treatable' but that he would need time to recover from the

surgery and wasn't up performing his UK tour. Writing on Instagram he said 'I'm so sorry about this, but I need to announce the cancellation of several dates from my ongoing Ha!Milton live tour. Abnormal service will resume as soon as possible and I'm looking forward to being back out on the road again soon – though probably not on a bike! Milton x'

In his own style of comedy he has said that God can 'take' a joke, but he avoids targeting vulnerable people in his sets. He says that his Christian values and his witness to faith are by his lifestyle and his interactions with others, particularly colleagues and those in his profession. 'If you say nice words but you're a pig during the week, that will come out.'

He has produced two books about Christianity and life in church. *10 Second Sermons* and *Even More Concise 10 Second Sermons*.

'Repentance is like an antibiotic. You have to take it every day until you finish the course' Milton Jones

New findings support the Bible account of King Josiah's death at Mediggo. Archaeologists have uncovered new evidence that aligns with the biblical description of the Battle of Megiddo, which led to the death of King Josiah of Judah. This pivotal battle is recorded in both 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, with Josiah's death marking a significant moment in Israel's history.

The king, known for his devotion to the Lord and efforts to rid Israel of idolatry, is also noted as an ancestor of Jesus in the New Testament. The biblical account details how Pharaoh Necho of Egypt, *en route* to fight at Charchemish, was confronted by Josiah, despite Necho's warnings not to engage. Josiah, undeterred, faced



the Egyptian army at Megiddo, where he was fatally struck by an archer's arrow. His death is marked as a tragic end to his reign, with 2 Kings 23:25 praising his zeal: 'Surely there was not holden such a Passover ... nor in all the days of the kings of Judah.'

Recent archaeological findings have provided physical evidence that supports the existence of an Egyptian presence during this time, as reported by **The Christian Post**. Pottery fragments found at the site, including both Egyptian and Greek pottery, suggest the Egyptians' influence and their employment of Greek mercenaries. These findings add weight to the historical accuracy of the biblical narrative.

Eberechi Eze scored the winning goal for Crystal Palace in this year's FA Cup final. He also plays for the England national team. He has publicly expressed his Christian faith as a source of



strength and inspiration. He regularly acknowledges God in his career, citing faith as a way to regulate his emotions and put things in perspective. Eze has also spoken about the importance of faith in navigating challenges and maintaining a positive outlook, even in the face of setbacks.

Eze's Christian faith is a significant part of his life. He has stated that his faith helps him find peace of mind and allows him to realign his focus when faced with intense pressure. He also expresses gratitude to God for the opportunities he has been given in his football career. Eze's faith is seen as a guiding force, helping him to navigate the ups and downs of his professional life and to remain grounded in his beliefs.

Pope Francis

As we reflect on the passing of Pope Francis we hold on to his persistent call to peace, which remains loud and clear:

'To make peace, one needs courage, far more than to wage war. It takes courage to say yes to encounter and no to confrontation; yes to dialogue and no to violence; yes to negotiation and no to hostility; yes to honouring agreements and no to provocation; yes to sincerity and no to duplicity. For all this, great courage and strength of soul are required.'

– Pope Francis

We remember him as a Pope of peace, with his final public address echoing his countless appeals for world leaders to lay down their arms and turn to dialogue instead.

The above was shared in a communication from the 'Difference' programme, which is led by the *Reconciling Leaders Network* difference.rln.global/about/. It is a registered charity 'committed to mobilising a generation to live out their calling as peacemakers and reconcilers, for a just and flourishing society'.

Jane Lawson



Two Prominent Local Anglicans Move on

The Very Revd Catherine Ogle has left her post of Dean of Winchester Cathedral. She will be remembered for the warmth



of her welcome to those coming to worship in the Cathedral.

She said: 'I hope that my legacy will be that the Cathedral continues to offer a warm welcome and grow in its connections with ever more people from all backgrounds. The Cathedral belongs to us all and is here for everyone, to nurture hearts, minds and spirits and help us to connect with one another and with God.'

She preached a few years ago at the United Church for the Week of

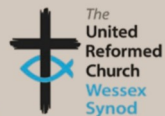
Prayer for Christian Unity. I remember her reflecting on the diversity of opportunities for worship and witness in the city, and how this was a great strength.

The Rt Revd David Williams, former Bishop of Basingstoke, has become Bishop of Truro, replacing the current Bishop of Winchester. Like Catherine Ogle he valued the shared witness of churches in the city and was Chairman of Churches Together in Winchester when he was Vicar of Christ Church.



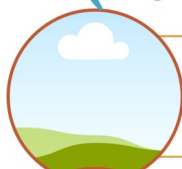
Bob Lord

WESSEX SYNOD'S



6TH SEPTEMBER 2025 10AM - 4PM
HIGH CROSS CHURCH - CAMBERLEY

EXPLORE INSPIRE EXPERIENCE INVIGORATE ENERGISE *Resourcing churches*



GUEST SPEAKER

TBC



GUEST CHOIR

TBC

REFRESHMENTS AND A COOKED LUNCH IS INCLUDED.



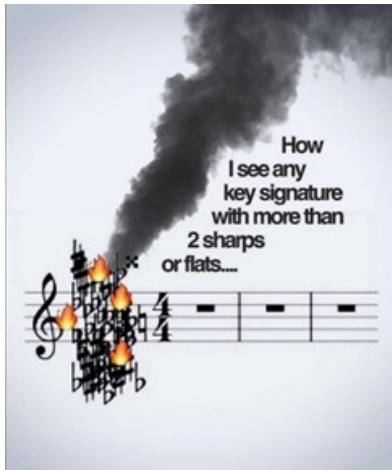
Discover our range of topics and speakers.
Something for everyone, every church, and for you.

Workshops: 'MyTime' Young Carers Awareness | Truth be Told Story Telling | Godly Play Introduction | Grant Funding Support |

Stands: 'MyTime' Young Carers Award | Dementia Friendly Church | Truth be Told Story Telling | Youthscape | Schools Pastors | Time for God | Children's Ministry Essentials |

URCWESSEX.ORG.UK

Comedy Corner



4000 years later and we're back to the same language.



The deadline for July/August *Yours* is **Monday 9 June**. All contributions welcome. Send to yours@ucw.org.uk.





Vintage Fun

All welcome!



Cream Tea

Monday 9th June

2 - 4 pm

At the

United Church

Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RZ

Vintage Fun is a monthly afternoon of friendship over a cup of tea. Each afternoon will offer a variety of activities, with tea and cake.

Caraway



Services for June 2025

In-person and live-streamed

1 JUNE

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

8 JUNE PENTECOST

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Pat Fry

15 JUNE TRINITY

9.30 am **Holy Communion** Revd Tim Searle

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

22 JUNE

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Bible Month Service

29 JUNE

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

HC: Holy Communion

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

YouTube: tinyurl.com/ucw-services

