



Yours

October 2025

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester



WINCHESTER.

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Tim's Letter: Have We Lost the Art of Xenia?

I've begun rereading (or in my case relistening to) Stephen Fry's *Mythos* collection – his retelling of the Greek myths. When he describes the domain of Zeus, king of the gods, it reminded me of how central the concept of xenia is in Greek mythology. Xenia is the art and love of welcome and hospitality, of 'guest-friendship', and from which, sadly, the word xenophobe is derived. From this deeply embedded standard, ancient Greek culture developed a code by which all strangers were hosted and fed, even at the tables of kings and lords, no questions asked. Be they beggar or wanderer, the law of xenia was to be upheld at all costs or suffer the wrath of the Sky-Father himself.

This hallowing of welcome is, of course, not limited to Greek culture, and you and I will no doubt have experienced it in various places across the world. I'm reminded of my trip to Zambia in 2011 when, on arrival in the compound where we were staying, we were ushered into a church member's house (although shack would be a better description) and treated to a table full of food. These well-fed, western strangers were welcomed into her home 'no questions asked' and consumed provisions that we realised left our host and her young son without.

As flags appear around the country and protests erupt outside of hotels, I'm wondering if as a nation we've lost, or at least are at risk of losing the art of xenia. The love of what it is to welcome and host no matter whether the stranger has arrived by small boat or plane. I try to be understanding of the issues realising that many born here are genuinely feeling the pinch of depleted resources and stretched infrastructure. But the fact is that those coming here to flee persecution and starvation elsewhere are not responsible for our country's economic situation, and that a fraction of the budget is spent on them compared to health, welfare, education and defence.

Despite this growing tension, up and down the land I hear stories of churches, including ours, challenging this response of fear. We have flung wide our doors giving our time, talents and treasure to ensure there are places of welcome and sanctuary in every community. Jesus said, 'I call you servants no longer, but friends' and he did so to highlight the equality of all in the eyes of God. He sat with sinners and tax-collectors, the outcasts of his society, because they were so often rejected and demeaned by the religious authorities of his day. Every time we do the same as he did, without fear or favour, we proclaim the glory of our just and equal God who welcomes all at the table of the King.

In Christ,
Tim

Editorial

This week's view of the Deanery and the Cathedral Tower was drawn by Ann Bulley. The vaulted porch of the Deanery dates to the 13th century. What a beautiful mixture of styles Ann has captured.

Alison Wood invites us to discover another beautiful building on pages 11–12 – a jewel of a church, 10 minutes away by car, to visit on a sunny day. Rosemary MacMullen travelled a little further to explore the gardens and glasshouses of Wisley – another delight – see pages 13–14.

Jo Pellatt recommends a book on sustainability and Chris Young encourages us to be inspired by a young organist in Salisbury. If you feel you are always busy and stressed, Chine Macdonald's article on pages 19–20 may be of some help.

Thank you to all our contributors.

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

News of the United Church Family

We continue to hold in our prayers Val Hillier and all the family, following John's death on 29 July. The United Church was filled on 21 August for a Service of Thanksgiving for John's life. The service reflected on John's many qualities, including his love of and devotion to his family and the kindness expressed to many others.



Our thanks to Jo and to the Perrett family for hosting a celebration birthday tea on Jo's 100th birthday. A very happy occasion!

Our good wishes go with Rosie Blackburn as she begins a course in Leeds at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance just as *Yours* goes to press, and to Angus Armstrong starting a PhD at Cambridge. We think too of all those returning to university courses this month and to those making a new start at school or college.

Several of our church family are coping with illness or ill health, some undergoing treatment and rehabilitation. Others awaiting tests. We remember *all* those known to us in our prayers.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all those living in sheltered housing or care and nursing homes and who are unable to join us in person.

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

Communion Service Survey

A big thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts with me, as we considered the best way forward after our trial period of always receiving at the front. There were a wide range of views expressed.

Here are the figures: Total replies 44

Happy both ways 19

Strongly prefer going forward 11

Mildly prefer going forward 5

Strongly prefer seated 7

Mildly prefer seated 2

Reading through your detailed responses, I realised how important this is. What impressed me most was, that whatever our preferences, and whatever the practical problems that need to be overcome, we had very similar priorities.

These views were expressed by many of you.

- Communion at the United Church is deeply valued.
- We need time for personal prayer and reflection.
- We want the celebrant to facilitate a deep sense of reverent worship in an orderly way.
- We value a sense of togetherness.

Where we differ is how these concerns can best be met, but there was, for most, a willingness to use each way sometimes, and respect our two traditions. But to achieve this we need to address some practical problems, and we need more volunteers to act as communion stewards.

A fuller paper will be available for the church meeting on 28 September.

Pat Fry for Fellowship and Worship Enabling Group

Less



Are you overwhelmed by the range of choice that confronts you when you pop out for groceries or even just for a coffee?

Are you frustrated by the throwaway attitude that appears to have been cultivated as the norm?

Have you had enough of the constant messaging that you deserve something newer, faster, better and that you deserve it NOW?

Or perhaps you are simply a *Great British Sewing Bee* fan!

If so then perhaps you would enjoy reading *Less* by Patrick Grant. I (along with many other eager listeners) had this book introduced to me by the author in a marquee in a field in Northamptonshire as part of Greenbelt Festival this August. During a conversation with the Greenbelt host Patrick spoke to us of his background, his path to Savile Row and becoming the host of *Sewing Bee* before developing his theme and speaking passionately about sustainability, particularly as it relates to the fashion industry, and relating how he came to establish his Community Clothing brand. He pulled no punches when calling out various companies and I suspect I was not the only one who felt a little uncomfortable as I name-checked items in my wardrobe (mitigated slightly by the knowledge that most of those items have been worn for years and not discarded within a 'season'). He spoke with enthusiasm about the joy to be had from long owned items that have a history and a story or that have been crafted and gifted with love.

At time of writing, I am only part way through the book; it is quite chunky and good value for money, but I am finding it informative and thought provoking. The book goes through the history of

consumerism, consumption and Capitalism and discusses the quality of goods in relation to this. It is split into sections on 'Want', 'Quality', and 'Work' and I look forward to reaching the last part of the book which is 'Less' in anticipation that it might give me hope of a more positive sustainable society to come. I already feel glimmers of this hope in the rise of Repair Cafés, resale platforms, the popularity of charity shops, and of social media sites devoted to passing on and reducing waste.

Jo Pellatt

Winchester Churches Christmas Project 2025

Winchester Churches Christmas Project has a remarkable history of over 30 years now, helping people in the Winchester area at Christmas. We cannot emphasise enough how different this project is to many other schemes. It is *not* a 'one size fits all' offering as each case is 'tailor made.' Families can choose for themselves what would help them most. This can be amazingly diverse: perhaps some exciting stuff like Christmas food and presents or a special treat; or it could be something much more prosaic such as the payment of a worrying bill.

It may be only October but the Project needs to start early! As I have said before, each year we launch the Project with three big unknowns – the number of people referred to us, how many volunteers will come forward and how much money will be available. It really is a big leap of faith and your prayers for the Project would be very welcome.

Last Christmas we were pleased to help a total of 117 people. Some families could not quite believe that anyone would take the time and trouble – that they really mattered. More detail appeared in the February edition of *Yours*. Our help comes with absolutely no strings attached – we demonstrate our Christian faith and witness in our help and care for those we visit.

Last year, our dedicated volunteers came from 13 different Winchester churches. A truly ecumenical mix and they are absolutely key to the Project. As usual, we will be contacting volunteers from previous years directly to ask if they are able to help again this year. However, we always welcome new volunteers (who would be paired with someone experienced). For more information, please contact me via email deanacre@talktalk.net. We do need to know volunteer numbers by **Sunday 2 November**, please.

Our funding relies totally on support from congregations and individuals. We know that life is getting even more challenging each year and we would be extremely grateful for donations. We fund our volunteers upfront, so *early* donations are particularly welcome.

If you would like to give by bank transfer, our **new** bank account is **'Winchester Churches Christmas Project.'** Sort code **62-28-74.** Account number **00000000.** Reference **7210056868.** For those who wish to give by cheque or cash, there will be donation envelopes and boxes available in church from early October. Please make cheques payable to 'Winchester Churches Christmas Project.' If you can, please gift aid your donation by letting us know that and providing your name and address.

Thank you to everyone for your prayerful and practical support.

**Helen McTiffin (Joint Co-ordinator of the Project with
Janet Stewart)**

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 Recital Series 2025

Sat 4 October Hampshire Young Musicians Concert 7.30 pm

A concert of music for the United Church, provided by Amelie and Jacob and their Peter Symonds College friends.

Sat 18 October Organ Recital by Gerard Brooks 7.30 pm



Gerard is the Organist and Director of Music at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. His recordings have won five star reviews. He has played at many prestigious venues in the UK and around the world, including the Royal Albert Hall, Royal

Festival Hall and Moscow Conservatoire. He has also worked with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Southbank Sinfonia, and BBC Concert Orchestra.

See Gerard's concert programme at ucw.org.uk/gerard-brooks/

Wed 19 November Piano Recital by Mimi Raleigh 7.30 pm

Mimi is currently an undergraduate pianist at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and is providing a recital in her home town of Winchester.

More information and booking at ucw.org.uk/upcoming-events/

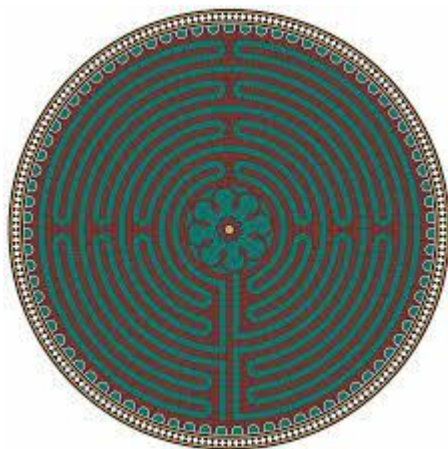
Hymns and Pimm's

St Mary's Church in Itchen Stoke is not a typical English country church. Standing above the B3047, which runs through the Itchen Valley from Winchester to Alresford, its design was inspired by the Parisian church of Sainte Chapelle, the chapel of French kings. It is now under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust which describes it as a 'dazzling and colourful Victorian jewel of a church'. They recommend trying to visit on a sunny day because you will then be rewarded by a kaleidoscope of colour from the stained glass. This is sensible advice, especially as the church has no lighting.



We live 200 yards from St Mary's and were delighted when an invitation plopped through our letter box recently inviting us to 'Hymns and Pimm's'. We were indeed welcomed with a glass of Pimm's by the Rector, Revd Heather Brearey. This was a lovely opportunity to chat with neighbours before the singing commenced. Heather gave a brief introduction to each hymn, and our singing was accompanied by George on the flugelhorn – an instrument closely related to the trumpet.

During the break halfway through (to give George a rest) we were able to look at some of the church's features. As well as the beautiful windows, the church has a labyrinth. Five metres in diameter, it fills the floor of the apse with brown and green tiles and is a scale replica of the labyrinth in Chartres Cathedral. There is a memorial to the men of Itchen Stoke who gave their lives in the Great War. Charles Grainger, who was killed in July 1917, lived in our house and his mother Lucy's initials are engraved in the brickwork next to the back door.



There are other interesting historic features, but you may like to visit and find out for yourself. The church is open every day. You can park on Water Lane which is opposite the church. The parking area is at the bottom of the lane after a house called The Shallows. From there you can also walk along the river to The Bush Inn – a beautiful stroll which only takes about 10 minutes.

Or, let me know you're coming and you will be very welcome to park here and have a cup of tea.

Alison Wood

RHS Garden Wisley

'Do you fancy a Garden Outing? I'll pick you up outside the library at 9.15.' I asked no questions and rushed to get there on time. Three hours later we arrived at Wisley and found we had to go to Parking number 5. I lost count of the cars in the previous 4 car parks. My heart sank! I had imagined a pleasant hour or two strolling round some pretty garden but here we were anticipating hordes of people queuing not only for loos, coffee and a seat but thronging the pathways. I had no idea where I was headed on this surprise birthday outing and this was my first outing to the RHS Garden. If I had had time I would have gone onto Google and read that it was one of the World's Great Gardens packed with horticultural inspiration. An incredible 240 acres!

To my relief there were little hideaway wooden seats among the trees, so we were able to draw breath with a cappuccino to sip before starting on our exploration. The beautiful tree-lined entrance drew us into the peace of this place with the prospect of strolling over the sweeping lawns of Seven Acres ahead. It was another world and surprisingly people seemed to keep out of our way. The Glasshouse was full of colourful and huge plants and The Exotic Garden full of radiant blooms. Thrilling!



A sandwich lunch break, then onwards and upwards through the peaceful woodland of Battleship Hill where a huge horse's head sculpture draws the eye. We walked round a lake with dark big fish gliding along before coming back down. One of the lovely aspects of this heavenly place is everywhere the sound of water. Waterfalls, streams and ponds murmur in your ear. Small flowers springing from the ground all over so naturally. Cleverly cut trees shaped into a more formal pattern

made a contrast. I haven't listed names of flowers and plants as there was so much to take in and when we finished at the display tent it was a riotous show of rainbow hues with breathtaking prize-



winning arrangements. We realised we had been walking for over 5 hours with very little sit-downs and still had a way to go before reaching the car. Back in the world of streams of cars, lorries and coaches I thought whatever I do I must never lose the sense of utter peace and harmony Wisley Garden imbued me with. A spiritual experience I will hope stays with me.



Rosemary MacMullen

Community as a Superpower – A Ukrainian Reflection

In the UK, the concept of community is a foundational part of life — a network of mutual support, shared values, and local action. People gather naturally around schools, churches, clubs, and neighbourhood initiatives. **Community is both a structure and a spirit — a space where people give, receive, and belong.**

In Ukraine, however, this idea is relatively new — and **hard-won.**

For decades, under Soviet control, Ukrainian society lived in the shadow of fear, surveillance, and control. Individual initiative was **discouraged, (more than that, punished)**, trust in institutions eroded, and the idea of working together was often manipulated for propaganda. Corruption, bribery, and the ever-present threat of persecution **created a culture where people learned to cope alone. To survive — not to unite.**



It was challenging to wear Ukrainian costume at the time. This photo was taken as pro-Russian forces were strong in Mariupol.

Community was something we longed for, not something we knew how to build.

Only in recent years, especially after the Revolution of Dignity in 2014, did we begin to discover its power. **Volunteering emerged** — spontaneous, courageous, and grassroots. **Ukrainians started to help one another:** delivering supplies, supporting the displaced, and defending democracy through acts of care and resistance. **We were learning, step by step, how to stand together.**

Then, in 2022, the full-scale invasion of Ukraine **accelerated that transformation.**

From cities under fire to villages under siege, Ukrainians formed **community kitchens, shelters, mobile schools, logistics hubs, and creative collectives.** In the darkest of times, we discovered our brightest strength: people showing up for each other, not because they had to, but because they chose to. **Community, once foreign, became vital — a means of survival and hope.**

Now, in exile or refuge, **we continue to grow.**

Living in the UK, **we see the beauty and effectiveness of community in action.**

British communities inspire us with their strength, their organisation, and their constancy. And in return, we bring with us something just as precious: **the fresh memory of how transformative it is to stand together.**

We no longer see community as something distant or unfamiliar. **We now believe — and know — that community can be a superpower.**

A power that grows each time we act not just for ourselves, but for each other.

P.S. I delivered this speech at the University of Winchester for Refugee Week 2025.



Ukrainian
Community in
Winchester on
Independence
Day 2025

Elena Popova

The Salisbury Organist – Ben Maton

The acquisition of our new grand piano generated in me a renewed interest in music, an interest that has been there since first benefiting from serious music teaching while attending secondary school.

My 'intelligent' internet feed recently latched onto this listing:

'Ben Maton – The Salisbury Organist':
www.youtube.com/@SalisburyOrganist



Set in Wiltshire and the adjoining counties, programmes typically focus on an aspect of organ music by way of a musician, a hymn or on a property of the organ itself.

There are many programmes to choose from.

As a sample I list below three programmes that have seemed

particularly significant to me, complete with some further 'at a glance' information.

- 1) 'THINE BE THE GLORY – played during a Thunderstorm', set in Belchalwell, Dorset, featuring, Handel, Ravel, the reed organ in the church, a folding umbrella, Dorset views and scenery, the role of gargoyles and other aspects of church architecture and influences on Englishness.
- 2) 'My Story: from Self-Taught Musician to CHURCH ORGANIST', set in Hale, Hampshire, located next to the River Avon where I have been known to fish, featuring Ben's slightly 'unconventional' entry into the music profession, a basic tour of the organ centred on Bach and the role of the hands and feet.
- 3) 'Vaughan Williams' GREATEST HYMNS from the village of his birth', set in Down Ampney, Gloucestershire, featuring Vaughan Williams, 'Come Down O Love Divine', the tunes Down Ampney and Forest Green, *The English Hymnal*, the organ builders and restoration and a focus on organ stops and pedal board, snowdrops, RVW's father, vicar of Down Ampney, the church and its isolation and the RAF connection. I visited the church recently for an organ recital.

YouTube Hyper Links:

THINE BE THE GLORY- played during a Thunderstorm!:

bit.ly/3JZVcKQ

My Story: from Self-Taught Musician to CHURCH ORGANIST!:

bit.ly/3lOjN1w

Vaughan Williams' GREATEST HYMNS...from the village of his

Birth!: bit.ly/46hkSKI

Chris Young

Productivity is not a Fruit of the Spirit

God invites us to rhythms of rest and reliance on him, not endless to-do lists, says Chine McDonald

I recently returned from two weeks of annual leave. It was like a circuit breaker – a much-needed interruption in a life that had become an endless stream of to-do lists and being ‘always-on’.

‘I don’t know how you do it all,’ people often say to me. And the truth is, I don’t. My brain is constantly filled with all the tasks I haven’t done. Despite getting up at 5 am each day, I recently met someone who gets up at 3 am – and briefly considered whether that might be the solution to my problems.

Then I realised I needed to get a grip.

Everyone I know is busy and exhausted. And as AI tools become increasingly commonplace at work, I fear they give us the false perception that we are creating space for ourselves – when all we are doing is creating more space to fill with more things.

I have tried many different productivity methods in my working life: the Getting Things Done (GTD) method, the Bullet Journaling system, the Pomodoro technique, task triaging on an urgent-important matrix. Each time I start these new methods, I think: *This is the one that will change my life.*

The Church *should* be better at this than the secular world. But we, too, are succumbing to the hustle culture that drives people to see their value in their productivity. And it’s not good for us. Studies of US pastors show that 75 per cent report being extremely or highly stressed, 90 per cent work 55–75 hours a week, and 90 per cent feel fatigued and worn out.

Deep down, we know we cannot do it all.

All of this makes for a frantic, rather than peace-filled life. As John Mark Comer writes in *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* (Hodder & Stoughton): ‘Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day.’

Because hurry, busyness and productivity are not fruits of the Spirit. We were made for more.

In Theos' recent report *More: The problem with productivity*, we interviewed Sister Catherine, who spent part of her career in finance and the third sector before becoming a nun. She said that rather than thinking in terms of *productivity*, we should think in terms of *fruitfulness*.

'Clearing your inbox is productive but isn't necessarily fruitful,' she says. 'Fruitfulness is something generative, not just productive or accumulative. Productivity relies on a narrow understanding of the human person and an anxiety about tangible results, which doesn't allow for the generative.'

Secular thinkers are waking up to truths that the Christian tradition has long championed. As the poet Tricia Hersey writes: 'Rest is resistance.' Drawing on biblical ideas of Sabbath, her Nap Ministry is a direct challenge to capitalist systems that treat people as machines and trap so many of us in this constant loop of doing rather than being.

Deep down, we know we cannot do it all. Oliver Burkeman's book *Four Thousand Weeks* (Vintage) is named after the number of weeks in the average lifetime. In it, Burkeman reminds us that 'the day will never arrive when you finally have everything under control'. This echoes an ancient biblical truth: we are finite beings, invited not into endless productivity but into rhythm, rest and reliance on God.

As a new term begins, and I am pulled again towards finding my worth in busyness, may I be reminded of God's grace and exhale in the freedom of that.

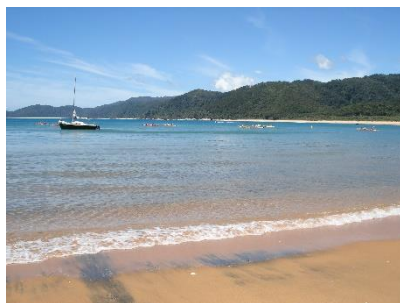


Chine McDonald from [Premier Christianity](#).

Thoughts from the Sea

I have just enjoyed participating in Methodist Women in Britain quiet day reflecting on The Sea. There's a prayer in a book I often use that begins 'Lord, we sometimes experience you like the sea'. That was my starting point as I tried to put my thoughts into a poem. Sometimes God seems mind-blowingly powerful; sometimes we experience a deep sense of peace, and sometimes it's as if the tide has gone out, too far for us to see. I started trying to follow a formal repeating pattern, but I struggled to find words to express the ideas within my self-imposed rigid pattern. Maybe there's a message in that!

Sea, how I fear but love you,
immense beyond my knowing.
Calm beauty of turquoise shades
sparkling in sunlight.
Gentle rhythm as rippling waves
softly ebb and flow
bringing peace to my restless mind.



Sea, how I love yet fear you,
immense beyond my knowing.
Fierce fury of crashing waves
Storm-whipped and surging
thunderously pounding the shore,
relentless power
leaving me overwhelmed, afraid.

God, how we love but fear you
immense beyond our knowing.
Awesome God of Sinaia,
judge of all the earth.
Christ confronts hypocrisy
highlighting our sin,,
making us humble and ashamed.

God, how we fear yet love you.
immense beyond our knowing.
Saviour, you make us welcome,
accept and forgive.
As we come in our weakness,
restoring Spirit
offers us all transforming hope.

God, how we lose sight of you
Distant beyond our knowing.
As the sea at lowest tide,
is far out of reach;
yet we know the tide will turn
come swiftly up the beach,
Trust we will know God near again.



The sea that we both love and fear
immense beyond our knowing
Speaks eternal truth of God,
Immense beyond our knowing.
So we come in awe and love,
to the Holy One
mysterious yet approachable,
as the Gospel tells,
here to find both challenge and peace.

Pat Fry

News of the Wider Church



'Don't Crucify Creation'. On 13 September climate protesters at cathedrals called on the Church of England to be more prophetic in speaking out about environmental issues.

Members of Christian Climate Action hung banners from the tower of Bath Abbey and the roof of Winchester Cathedral. At York Minster and Westminster Abbey,

they held banners inside the building, while, at Durham Cathedral, they displayed one on the cloister lawn. On Sunday 14 September prayer vigils were held at 14 other churches across the country.

From the windy rooftop of Winchester Cathedral, Karen Grattage, a mother of one and a churchwarden in the diocese of Bath & Wells, said: 'I don't want to be here: this isn't what I thought I would ever have to do. This is a plea to the Church of England to use its position, its authority, its influence to really speak out and make a difference. The politicians aren't listening. Big business doesn't care; they put profit ahead of people. So we are really calling on the Church.' The protests followed the publication of a document, [Stop Crucifying Creation](#) ([News, 2 September](#)), which was sent to Church of England clergy over the previous fortnight, urging the Church to 'find its courage to speak out more clearly against the forces that are driving us towards deadly climate collapse' and 'to cease doing harm to the planet through its own activities and to return to its radical roots'.

Responses from the churches that had been targeted were mixed. Some, such as [St Paul's Cathedral](#), confiscated leaflets given to visitors on their way in, whereas others were reported to have been 'welcoming'.

At Winchester Cathedral, one of the protesters, James Grote, who also took to the roof on Saturday, was invited to speak from the front at the Sunday morning service. In his introduction, the Very Revd Roland Riem, the interim Dean, told the congregation that the group had 'spent a very uncomfortable time on the roof, showing us their commitment to this cause'. He said: 'Let us be very mindful that in the Christian tradition there is an uncomfortable prophetic element and we must take heed of that.'

From The Church Times

Usain Bolt, who is known as the greatest Catholic athlete in the world, says he travels with his Bible and is still encouraged to go to church by his mother. The 39-year-old has made no secret of his faith over the years. He was raised as a Seventh Day Adventist in Jamaica, but converted to Catholicism, taking the middle name Saint Leo in honour of an early Pope. One of his twin sons is also named Saint Leo.



Throughout his career, which saw him labelled as 'the fastest man in the world', Bolt was regularly seen making the sign of the Cross and pointing heavenward before races. He also wears a Miraculous Medal which is worn by the faithful as a symbol of protection and safeguarding. Speaking to *The Times* for a feature entitled 'What I've Learnt', Bolt said: 'I travel with my Bible. I still read it. I grew up as a Christian. It's very important in my life. My mum still goes to church and still encourages me to go...I'm pretty blessed. I was given the time by God to run and compete.'

Bolt who retired in 2017, holds eight Olympic gold medals, as well as the world record in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay.



World Athletics warns GB over Azu's '100% Jesus' head band. World Athletics has said it will 'remind' Great Britain of its rules on religious and political slogans after sprinter Jeremiah Azu wore a headband reading '100% Jesus' during the World

Championships in Tokyo.

The 24-year-old wore the headband as he finished fourth in the men's 100m semi-final on 13 September

King Charles became the first British monarch in some four



centuries to attend a Roman Catholic funeral last month when he joined members of his family for a requiem mass for the Duchess of Kent, the wife of a cousin of the late Queen Elizabeth. The duchess, Katharine Worsley, who joined the royal family when she married Prince Edward, the

Duke of Kent, in 1961, died on 4 September, aged 92.

Best remembered for her close association with the Wimbledon tennis tournament, where from 1969 she helped to hand out the trophies, she was also known for converting to Roman Catholicism in 1994, becoming the first British royal to do so since King Charles II, who turned to the faith on his deathbed in 1658. 'The funeral will be of great historical significance,' Catherine Pepinster, former editor of the Catholic weekly review, *The Tablet*, told the *Sunday Times*. 'This is a huge step forward in ecumenical relations.'

Charles has for many years stated that he wishes to protect all faiths, and he and his wife Camilla were among the last official visitors to see Pope Francis before his death in April.

Hope thrives at the 2025 Greenbelt festival



The United Reformed Church partnered with food poverty charity Trussell at the Greenbelt Festival, at

Boughton House, Kettering, over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Greenbelt is a culturally and politically engaged festival with a committed Christian faith and worldview. The venue included talks, worship and debates alongside yoURCafé, serving food rescued from going to landfill by the brilliant team at Refuse, Chester le Street, and at Lodge Road Community Church, Birmingham, and lots of teas, coffees and cakes.

The three-day festival included a communion service attended by thousands which reminded us that hope is something we need to keep choosing and practising, and to celebrate the strength of Jesus' resurrection and the power of God's promises. *From Reform magazine.*

Some highlights of Greenbelt his year included:



Liz Carr (*Silent Witness, Good Omens, Loki, disability campaigner*)

Liz is an actress and comedian, she spoke about growing up with disability, her love of acting and the campaign against the assisted dying Bill

Patrick Grant on sustainable fashion, getting rid of plastic, and the 'throw away' culture (see [page 7](#))





Adjoa Andoh (RSC, *Bridgerton*). Adjoa is a classical actress and a Lay Minister in the Church of England. She spoke about growing up as the only black person in a middle England village, parenting a transgender child, her career, and her faith.

Jeremy Corbyn being 'grilled' in the Methodist bar (Hope and Anchor, dry). A very candid discussion ranging from antisemitism in politics to a nameless party, planting potatoes, and allotments.



Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, speaking about her long fight against anti-female discrimination and prejudice, and introducing her autobiography *The Girl from Montego Bay*.

Poets from the Gaza Poets Society writing and performing about their experiences.



Communion Service 'Hope in the Making' led by the first woman to be ordained in the Church of England, now in trouble because of her active support of Palestine, with the full participation of children and assisted by Adjoa Andoh, the first Palestinian woman to be ordained, assisted by singers, musicians, and singers.



Christian Aid writes:

'Last month at Greenbelt festival, inspired by the Japanese art of Kintsugi – the repairing of broken pottery with gold – we constructed a giant 'pot' held together with prayers, hopes and

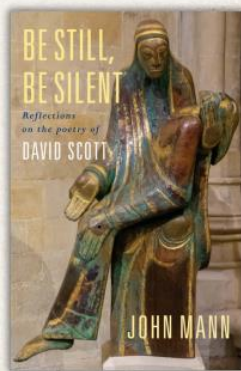
dreams for our broken world. The ethos of Kintsugi – to take something broken and make it more beautiful – is the perfect analogy for our **Restore** campaign, which seeks to challenge injustices and create a more just world. As the seasons turn, we need your prayers and messages of hope – we'll take these and create something the UK Government can't ignore.'

Dorothy Lusmore

John Mann and Canterbury Press
invite you to the launch of

Be Still, Be Silent

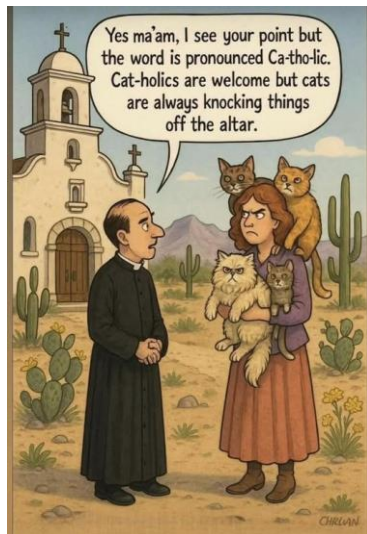
Reflections on the poetry of
David Scott



Friday 10th October 2pm

**St Lawrence Church
The Square, Winchester, SO23 9EX**

Comedy Corner



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

MHA's

Together for Tomorrow event

An inspiring event about the
difference we can make - together

Thursday
18 Sept '25
10:30-13:00

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
Jermyns Lane, Romsey, SO51 0QA

Join us for an uplifting event to explore community, care, and the difference we can make together. Hear inspiring stories, meet our team, ask questions, and discover how MHA is helping people to live well in later life locally.

- * Refreshments and warm welcome
- * Inspiring stories from across our communities and care homes
- * An opportunity to discuss the issues affecting older people

Book your place:

☎ 01332 221651

✉ careforthefuture@mha.org.uk



Vintage Fun

All welcome!



Harvest Service

Monday 13th October

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
Wed



Services for October 2025

In-person and live-streamed

5 OCTOBER

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

12 OCTOBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Tim Clifford

19 OCTOBER

9.00 am **Holy Communion** Revd Tim Searle

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

26 OCTOBER DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Tom Belshaw

HC: Holy Communion

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

YouTube: tinyurl.com/ucw-services

