



Yours

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester

September 2025



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Tim's Letter: Prayer

How do you feel about 'prayer'? What emotion do you experience when you hear that word? Is it a word that excites you or makes you fearful? Is it something you want to do, or something you feel you ought to? Do you see yourself as a prayer, or as someone who leaves the praying to others? No judgement is implied either way. Why? Because prayer is complicated.

Prayer is complicated because it's about communication. And because everyone communicates differently, everyone prays differently. Remembering this when we talk about prayer, and when we experience prayer together, is vital. It's a subject that evokes different feelings and memories for us all and is contingent on our own communication style and personality. This shouldn't deter us from the conversation, but it should inform us on how we conduct it.

As a church, making sure there are opportunities for people to pray in varied ways is paramount. We already do corporate prayer in worship well, including experimenting with greater congregational participation as part of this. And I've had the privilege of experiencing prayer at our house groups where their members can pray intentionally into different issues and concerns. But we need to do more. Can we provide more prayer spaces in church with greater opportunities for people to request prayer? Can we do more with our chapel space to promote prayerful living? And can we encourage each other to meet more often **just** to pray?

Prayer is complicated and different for everyone, so it's important that our response to it reflects that. There can be no 'one size fits all'. Let's think boldly about this as a church so that everyone has the chance to engage prayerfully with their faith.

In Christ,
Tim

New Prayer Corner

Building on the above, we're delighted to announce that there is a new prayer corner at the back of church to provide an additional way we can engage with prayer. The new nest of tables for it was purchased with a donation from Jill Cook's family. Jill was a great believer in prayer, and in the use of art and poetry as part of it. We hope to rotate some different prayer resources on the table, some of which Jill left the church. Please use this space and share your ideas on how it can be developed.

In Christ, Tim

See page 12 for a helpful prayer contributed by Margaret Axford (Ed.)

Editorial

Two accomplished paintings of the Square feature in this month's *Yours*. The colourful view on our cover is by our own Helen McTiffin and Ian and Marjory Monro have sent in a photo of Alan Trussler's alternative perspective, given to them as a gift from the church. (see pages 7–8).

We have reflections on prayer and deepening our relationship with Christ, and a book review. We read about September services and of lots of other exciting events happening over the coming weeks. Don't miss out on the concert series which manages to raise funds for our new piano, involve the wider community and give us all enjoyment, all at the same time! (See page 27).

Thank you to all our contributors.

**Yours Team—Bob Lord, Dorothy Lusmore and
SophieArmstrong**

News of the United Church Family

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death on 29 July of our dear friend John Hillier. Several generations of John's family, including parents and grandparents, were closely associated with this church and John was a lifelong member. He contributed a great deal over many years and is very much missed by us all.

John's steadfast faith and support of this church community was shown in a range of formal roles to which he freely contributed knowledge and experience, including as a deacon (Winchester



Congregational Church) and

then as an elder. I recall too working with him on a group selecting a new church manse. The manse garden was of course an important factor for John! He, together with Val, also actively supported and enjoyed the many less formal areas of church life – John and Val feature in so many happy photographs of church events, especially whilst walking and talking with church friends and sharing enjoyment of the countryside. Sunday teatime services in mid-summer at the Hillier Arboretum and imposing Christmas trees, generously provided for the church sanctuary, have been facilitated by John and Val and enjoyed by many of us over the years. For all of this and much more, and not least for your kindness John, thank you!

We send our love, thoughts and prayers to all the Hillier family, to Val, Pepe, Andrew, Martin and James, to Val and John's grandchildren and to John's surviving siblings, Robert and Elizabeth.

We remember in our prayers Gill and John Steele, on the death of Gill's mother, Audrey Forster, on 26 July. Audrey spent her

final weeks in a care home, prior to which she had been cared for at home by Gill and John.

Some of us joined Penny, Ollie, Sam and Miranda and many of their family and friends on 28 July in a service of thanksgiving for Chris' life at Hinde Street Methodist Church, London. We continue to hold the Roles family in our prayers.

Our love and congratulations to Jo Perrett, who celebrates her 100th birthday on 10 September! Jo is a very longstanding member of this church family and we are so very pleased that she continues to contribute, including in joining us in our worship each Sunday.

John and Pat Lander celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary recently. Congratulations and our good wishes for many more happy years!

Our congratulations too to those who have recently received exam results. For Rosie Blackburn and Matthew Crocker, hard work has been rewarded at A level and GCSE respectively.

Several of our church family continue to cope with illness or are awaiting test results or surgery or undergoing rehabilitation following 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

Jo Perrett's 100th Birthday Celebration

Jo Perrett welcomes members of the congregation to her house at 5 Park Avenue, Winchester, on Wednesday 10 September between 2 and 4 pm for a cup of tea/coffee and cake. This is for the purpose of sharing the celebration of her 100th birthday that day.

Sue Howatt (Jo's daughter)

News from Ian and Marjory Monro

Dear friends and church 'family'

We write from deepest Devon to thank you all for the totally unexpected gifts with which we were presented on our last Sunday in Jewry St United Church.

We were expecting perhaps a short resumé of our long association with you all and the many who have gone before us. Many, many whom we grew to admire and respect and felt very fortunate to know. We were always aware that we were by no means the longest serving church members but half a century plus covers a lot of ground and a lot of memories.

Our life within the church and the activities with which we engaged were very important to us. House group friends know how greatly we valued the hours spent together and the list could go on and on. Our many years 'in catering' were also very enjoyable in so many ways.

Our thanks are owed to you all for embracing us and making us feel so comfortable with our life among you.

But we were overwhelmed to be given, totally unexpectedly, something concrete to take away as a permanent reminder of those treasured years. We are sorry we didn't tear the paper off immediately but they were, it transpired, very securely wrapped so just as well.

We feel we should instead have been giving you our thanks for what life among you has meant to us! However, you may like to know that you gave us a delightful watercolour of The Square in Winchester and a tea towel of the Cathedral round which so much of Marjory's teaching years revolved, plus a new publication about Winchester College also of interest as both our boys were Wykehamists.

With a view to writing this letter of thanks, we took photos of your gifts, before packing started, to be included in this article.

Currently our possessions are in storage but we should be into our new house soon although still currently enjoying life with our younger son and his wife at in Didworthy on the south edge of Dartmoor National Park.

For those venturing west there is an open invitation to drop in on South Brent, half way between Exeter and Plymouth. Its main shopping street is Church Street. Email yours@ucw.org.uk for our address. Once again many thanks for that wonderful half century among you and affectionate greetings from Devon.

Ian and Marjory



Link to Hope Shoe Box Appeal

Once again, we are supporting this worthwhile project of sending shoe boxes to Eastern European countries, including the Ukraine.

Donation of goods and money are welcomed as well as filled shoe boxes.



Leaflets are now available in the church. Please can **all filled shoe boxes be in by the end of October.**

Our thanks to all those who have been busy making various articles throughout the year.

A team of about 6 or 7 people will be needed for sorting and filling boxes during October and for getting the boxes ready for dispatch in November.

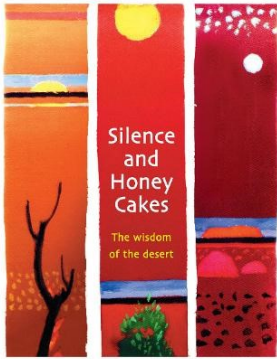
If you have any queries, please contact either Yvonne North or Lesley Worrall.

Thanks, in anticipation, Lesley and Yvonne.



Silence and Honey Cakes

Rowan Williams



This is the intriguing title of a short book by Rowan Williams a few of us have been studying. It poses the question 'Can the church today learn anything from the teachings of the fourth century Desert Fathers and Mothers?' Not an easy read, quite obscure in places, but it contains some vivid stories and pearls of wisdom.

I am writing this the day after Howard talked to us about how the Nicene Creed came to be written in AD 325. As

Christianity had spread and then became the official religion of the Roman Empire, the church was very different from the early church described in the Acts of the Apostles, when it had mainly consisted of small groups, often meeting in secret for fear of persecution. By the fourth century some people felt that the church had become too easy, too comfortable, and so set out to live a simple austere life in the desert to rediscover deeper Christian truth. Some lived in total isolation, some in small communities. As in Egypt the desert is not far from the fertile Nile Valley, these remarkable people soon became something of a tourist attraction.

The story goes that a visitor came to visit Abba Arsenius at the church at Scetis, but Arsenius was living alone, much further into the desert. So, a Brother from Scetis guided the visitor. When they arrived and sat down Arsenius remained silent. After some time, he still remained silent; the Brother who had shown the way got up to leave, but the visitor was not at ease in the silence, and asked the Brother to take him to see another famous Desert Father, Abba Moses. Abba Moses received them warmly and they talked together. (Incidentally Moses had been a highwayman before his conversion!) Afterwards the guide was

puzzled. These two holy men were so different, who was right? He then had a vision of two boats – in one was Arsenius, sitting with the Holy Spirit, both in total silence, and in the other, Moses and a group of angels enjoying eating honey cakes. Each was right in their own way; we need to respect different giftings and callings.

Does this story have relevance for us today?

Pat Fry

Reminders from Fellowship and Worship Enabling Group

We have several special services in September: on 7 September we welcome the URC Moderator Michael Hopkins to lead Holy Communion, on 21 September there is a special Green Week service, led by Tim, and on 28 September we have Harvest Festival followed by church meeting with lunch



Revd Michael Hopkins

Please let me have your views on both the practicalities of the Communion service, and on the layout of the church in good time before church meeting.

Pat Fry

A Prayer

This is a prayer that was passed to me by a member of the small group in Twyford who have continued to meet together for fellowship, Bible Study and prayer, following the closure of the Methodist chapel last year. The prayer was written by Mary Stewart.

Keep us, O Lord, from pettiness: let us be large in thought, in word and deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face without self pity and prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgement and always generous.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straight forward and unafraid.

Let us take time for all things: make us calm, serene and gentle.

Grant that we may realise that it is little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all;

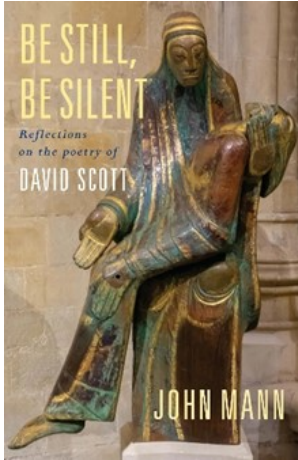
And, O LORD GOD, let us not forget to be kind.

Margaret Axford

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.

Book Review

***Be Still, Be Silent* by John Mann**



The Revd David Scott was a priest-poet in the tradition of George Herbert and one of the finest poets of his generation. *A Quiet Gathering*, his first book of poems, was published by Bloodaxe Books in 1984, and won him the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize in 1986. His second collection, *Playing for England* (1989), was a Poetry Book Society recommendation.

David was rector of St Lawrence with St Swithun-upon-Kingsgate for nearly 20 years until his retirement because of ill health in 2010.

Known by his parishioners as a kind-hearted and gentle soul, his memory will live on through his poetry. In this new book, *Be Still, Be Silent*, John Mann gives an inviting introduction to David's poetry and theology. With an introduction by Malcolm Guite and the full text of the first David Scott lecture, given by Mark Oakley, this book is a celebration of David's legacy.

His words continue to inspire, offering moments of grace and reflection.

John Mann is a former Dean of Belfast Cathedral who also served as a priest in the dioceses of Winchester and Salisbury. His book is to be officially launched at St Lawrence Church on the afternoon of 10 October.

Dorothy Lusmore

Southampton University Pianists and Singers

The postgraduate pianists and singers are coming to the United Church on Wednesday 3 September at 7.30 pm to provide a recital of piano music and song. They will be led by David Owen Norris of BBC Proms fame. This promises to be a late summer feast of music, ranging from Chopin to Mussorgsky with some lesser known musical compositions.

The students will be giving of their time and talents without charge, and so we are hoping that they will be well supported. It is likely to showcase some exceptional performers. Please do come if you can to support our piano funding effort, and enjoy a fascinating concert.



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



Calling all Flower Lovers

There are two teams within the flower ministry in the United Church. The first is a small band of members who help on a rota to provide flowers for the Sanctuary on Sundays. It doesn't have to be an elaborate creation. A vase of flowers is most welcome and much more ecologically acceptable for the environment. We could certainly do with some more helpers on this rota please.

The second is the flower dismantling team who then take the flowers to members of the church who are unwell or in need of a pastoral visit. This ministry is so much appreciated and continues week by week – usually on a Monday morning. At present we have five people on this rota, but it would be much easier if we could call on one or two extra so that we do not have as many turns in a quarter and to cover for people who are unable to carry out the commitment for any unforeseen reason.

The third aspect of the Flower Ministry is the Flower Fund. A big thankyou to those Members who have donated to this fund for a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a relative over the past year and to those who donate to the fund on a regular basis.

Donations to the United Church Flower Fund can be made regularly per Standing Order or by Single Donations by cheque or Bank Transfer to the same account to which offertory payments are made.

Please contact me if there is a way, however small, that you can assist these faithful teams.

Lesley Worrall
01962 882269

Denominational Conferences 2025

The **Methodist Conference** met in Telford at the end of June and welcomed the new President of the Conference, Revd Richard Andrew, Chair of the Darlington District. Also welcomed were the Vice President, Mr Matt Forsyth, a local preacher from the Northampton District, and 21 new presbyters and 3 deacons who were ordained in local churches around Telford. See a video made by the President and Vice President 'Our Story, Our Song' at bit.ly/45xMQCm

Among issues discussed at the Conference:

1. The Methodist Forces Board report asked the church to consider how to increase support for military chaplains as the global security situation gives serious cause for concern.
2. Delegates were invited to highlight the number of humanitarian laws being broken in Gaza. Conference voted to endorse a World Council of Churches statement which appeals for an end to the suffering of the people of Gaza and the West Bank.
3. Conference agreed that 'The Methodist Worship Book' should be revised so as to equip the church with new and relevant worship resources.

The **United Reformed Church General Assembly** met at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire in July, and were welcomed by the Assembly Moderator 2025/6, Revd Tim Meadows. Also welcomed were ecumenical guests from the UK and from partner churches around the world.

Among issues discussed at Assembly:

1. Assembly received an updated version of the Safeguarding Training Framework.
2. As at the Methodist Conference, Assembly expressed support for the WCC statement on the Middle East.

3. Assembly agreed the process for the establishment of 13 new 'pioneering' posts to grow new Christian initiatives.
4. Further progress was reported on the major Church Life Review which is being prepared at the moment.

Further details of both conferences can be found on the two denominational websites, www.methodist.org.uk/ and urc.org.uk/

Graham Rolfe

Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
True God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the
Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was
incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world
to come.*

This year marks 1,700 years since the first formulation of the Nicene Creed. The Creed defines the basic tenets of the Christian faith. It is a foundational text in Christian theology and liturgy, serving as a unifying symbol of faith for all mainstream denominations, Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox, therefore the only ecumenical statement of faith.

The Gospels do not clearly explain the nature of Jesus – was he God or man or both? And what is his relationship to the Holy Spirit? The Creed clearly mentions the Holy Spirit but what does it mean? In reading Paul's letters, we can discover further explanation and understanding and some development of belief but again all may be discussed and taught differently.

Emperor Constantine ascribed much of his political success to the Christian God, even claiming to have won a battle because of a divinely sourced vision he had received beforehand. He played a major role in spreading Christianity. In 313 he made the persecution of Christians illegal and, although other religions continued to be followed, he actively promoted Christianity by financially supporting the church's activities – he built several significant churches as a way to encourage growth. His largest contribution to the faith was probably by summoning the Councils of Arles (314) and Nicaea (325), which guided church doctrine for centuries afterwards but he wasn't baptised until right before his death in 337.



Constantine called the Council at Nicaea to resolve various teachings and disputes in the church, particularly the widespread adoption of Arianism – a teaching that said Jesus was created by God and not equal to Him. This threatened to create widespread tension and upheaval. Bishops were called

together from throughout the Roman Empire to discuss and clarify Christian teachings. Following the formulation of the Nicene Creed, alternative teachings, particularly Arianism were defined as heresy. The Nicene Creed of 325 explicitly affirms the Father as the 'one God' and as the 'Almighty,' and Jesus Christ as 'the Son of God,' as 'begotten of the Father,' and therefore as 'consubstantial with the Father,' meaning, 'of the same substance' as the Father; 'very God of very God'. The Creed of 325 is not clear about the Holy Spirit but the 381 revision at Constantinople speaks of the Holy Spirit as worshipped and glorified together with the Father and the Son, clearly showing that God is Trinity. The role of the Church was also clarified.



Constantine the Great accompanied by the bishops of the First Council of Nicaea (325), holding the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed of 381

God the Father maker and creator of all and to whom we pray.

God the Son shared our human life, identifies with us, and through whose death, resurrection and ascension we are given access to salvation through grace.

God the Holy Spirit guides, teaches and comforts us, works through us giving power and energy to follow Jesus' teachings.

The Church a unity of Christ's followers where we encourage and help each other, worship God together and work to build a just community, affirming the unity and continuity of the Christian Church throughout history.

Dorothy Lusmore

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The following is one of a series of reflections for URC Daily Devotions by URC Minister Revd John Matthews (Ed.)

Colossians 2:6-8

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.

Reflection

How central is God to the lives we live as Christians? From his prison cell on 30 April 1944 Bonhoeffer wrote 'I should like to speak of God not at the boundaries but at the centre, not in weakness but in strength' A month later he expressed this more strongly when saying, 'God...must be recognised at the centre of life, not when we are at the end of our resources; it is his will to be recognised in life, and not only when death comes; in health and vigour, and not only in suffering; in our activities and not only in sin. The ground for this lies in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. He is the centre of life...'

How do we ensure that Christ really is central to our lives and not simply one element amongst many? How do we sustain and deepen our relationship with Christ amidst all the demands on our time and our energy? How do we even remember Christ day by day? (In a book on prayer, Simon Tugwell wrote, 'Forgetfulness is the root of all evil. In our relationship with God, one of the main problems is that half the time we just forget about it.') To maintain and deepen our relationships with other people takes time and effort, but we only take the time and make the effort if we really want to deepen them. Do we really want to deepen our relationship with God through Christ? If we

do, are we willing to take the time and make the effort? And, if we are, how do we do it?

Prayer

Gracious God,
we thank you for revealing yourself
most clearly and completely in Jesus Christ.
Increase our desire to deepen our relationship
with you through him
and help us to find ways of doing this,
for our own good and the good of other people. Amen.

The Revd John Matthews is a retired Baptist minister and member of Wellingborough URC from [*URC Daily Devotions*](#)

See a discussion between Andreas Loewe and Paula Gooder on the enduring legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on the 80th anniversary of this death at www.stpauls.co.uk/resources/bonhoeffer-and-discipleship-following-jesus-today



News of the Wider Church



Christian businessman Gary Grant, founder of UK's biggest toy chain The Entertainer, together with his wife Catherine and their sons, is handing over ownership of his business to the 1,900 staff who

helped build it. Gary and Catherine Grant opened the first shop in 1981 when he was 23. After nearly five decades in retail and 33 years as a committed Christian, Grant has transferred 100 per cent of the company's shares into an Employee Ownership Trust (EOT). This means the business will now be run for the benefit of its staff. As the company makes profits those profits can now be distributed between the outgoing shareholders and the staff, who will eventually share in the company's profits through tax-free bonuses.



Grant's Christian faith has influenced major business decisions over the years, including a refusal to open on Sundays and careful consideration of what products to sell. 'If our faith is about the way we live our lives, it is not about what we do on a Sunday. It is how we live for the whole seven days,' he said. 'How can we, as Christians, in a relevant way, be salt and light in the workplace?' He points to 1 Samuel 2:30, which says: 'Those who honour me, I will honour', as a guiding principle. It is estimated that he lost approximately 2.5 million pounds of business by not opening on Christmas Eve.

He now plans to focus more time on Restore Hope, the Buckinghamshire charity he and his wife founded 20 years ago. The organisation supports children, families and young people,

helping them overcome challenges, develop life skills and restore relationships. Its latest project is a £4m refurbishment of a former Methodist church to serve as a community hub, addressing issues such as food poverty and youth mental health. 'We want to continue to be salt and light in our community,' Grant said. 'Handing the business to our staff is one way to do that, but my mission to serve does not stop here.' Restore Hope recently received the King's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of its 250 dedicated volunteers.

Crystal Palace defender Marc Guehi took to the pitch for the F.A. Community Shield against Liverpool wearing custom blacked-out football boots inscribed with two Bible verses: Isaiah 54:17 and Exodus 14:14. The inscriptions reference passages that speak of God's protection and deliverance, with Isaiah 54:17 declaring: 'No weapon formed against you shall prosper', and Exodus 14:14 stating: 'The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.'



Women and children in Nigeria have taken to the streets after yet another attack on their Christian community left three people dead and three others critically injured on 13

August.

According to the International Society for Civil Liberties and the Rule of Law (Intersociety), 7,087 Christians have been

killed for their faith across Nigeria in 2025 alone – equivalent to 32 deaths every day. In addition, the report states that 19,100 churches have been destroyed and 1,100 Christian communities have been displaced. Henrietta Blyth, CEO of Open Doors UK, said: 'We need justice, restoration and protection for these communities. The world must wake up to this crisis.' With attacks continuing in the DRC, Nigeria and Mozambique, Christian leaders are urging international governments, especially the US, to take urgent and decisive action.

The number of countries where Christians make up more than half the population has dropped, according to a new report from the Pew Research Centre. Between 2010 and 2020, four countries, including the UK, Australia and France, lost their Christian-majority status, as more people in those countries now identify as having no religion. Christianity remained the largest religion in 120 out of 201 countries and territories as of 2020, but that's down from 124 a decade earlier.

In the UK and France, no religious group now holds a majority. Uruguay, the Netherlands and New Zealand have become majority non-religious nations. However, globally, Christians remain widely spread, making up the majority in more countries than any other faith.



In Gaza and the West bank, over 600 young people have experienced temporary relief from the horrors of war thanks to Christian children's camps. The camps provide a welcome distraction – fear is palpable amongst the children: 'It was better for them to be with us

than to be at home, because we were there as a community, we

were having fun and helping them not to be scared. But it was still a very strange experience. We would get messages from the phone network 10–15 minutes before each strike,’ a spokesman said. ‘We would gather the children in the hall, and create a party environment, or talk to them about Jesus, so that they would not have to see the rockets overhead.’ ACN also runs camps for Hebrew-speaking Catholics in Jerusalem. Each year, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem organises the camps with [Aid to the Church in Need](#) (ACN). Following plans to fully occupy Gaza City, the camps are more critical than ever.

As fighting intensifies international organisations, including **Christian Aid** and **Caritas**, made a joint statement on 13 August, decrying the restrictions placed on aid delivery to Gaza. Politicians had rejected requests from dozens of NGOs to bring in lifesaving goods, the statement said. It was signed by more than 100 organisations. Among them were also Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières, Sabeel-Kairos, Pax Christi, and Embrace the Middle East.

The Israeli Security Cabinet had voted to take over Gaza City, in a move condemned at an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on 10 August. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has defended plans to ‘take control’ of Gaza City, calling it the ‘best way’ to end the war, although this move has been condemned by several UN ambassadors at a security council meeting. The US defended Israel at the meeting, with Ambassador Dorothy Shea saying Israel’s efforts to free hostages and end the conflict were being undermined. She also dismissed genocide claims as ‘demonstrably false’ and added that the war ‘could end today if Hamas let the hostages go’.

The UK government has announced a further £8.5 million in aid

to Gaza, via the United Nations. The UN estimates around two million Palestinians are suffering from widespread hunger. The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference call on the UK Government to recognise Palestine as an Independent State. Full Statement bit.ly/3HPB0dH



Gordon Brown has called on Chancellor Rachel Reeves to hike gambling taxes at her autumn Budget. The former Labour prime minister and chancellor told the BBC that Britain was facing a 'social crisis' with a growing need to take

children out of poverty. Mr Brown, who was Chancellor for more than a decade, is backing calls from the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) think tank to raise various gambling taxes to raise around £3.2bn extra per year. It says this would cover the cost of scrapping the two-child benefit cap, which restricts child tax credit and universal credit (UC) to the first two children in most households, and the overall benefit cap in place since 2013. Children's charities and campaign groups have called for the limits to be scrapped as part of a government child poverty strategy to be published in the autumn. In an article for **the Guardian, external**, Brown wrote: 'Gambling levies aren't the only source of revenue that could pay to alleviate child poverty. But this should be one straightforward Budget choice. The government can fulfil today's unmet needs by taxing an undertaxed sector.'

Dorothy Lusmore

United Church Recital Series 2025

Wed 3 September Southampton University Pianists and Singers 7.30 pm

David Owen Norris of BBC Proms fame brings his postgraduate students to provide a feast of music ranging from Chopin to Mussorgsky with some lesser known musical compositions.

Sat 20 September ‘Out of the Hat’ Piano Concert 7 pm

An impromptu recital given by pianists of all ages and abilities who attended our Hat Fair open day, and played our Boston Steinway piano.

Sat 4 October The Grigorians and Friends Concert 7.30pm

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.

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/.

The poster has a vibrant pink background. At the top, a string of colorful triangular bunting (yellow, blue, pink, green) hangs across the width. On the left side, there are three balloons: a purple one at the top, a yellow one in the middle, and a pink one at the bottom. Each balloon features the MHA logo, which consists of a stylized white figure of a person with arms raised, followed by the letters 'mha' in a bold, lowercase font, and the tagline 'Live later life well' in a smaller font below it. The main title 'MHA Winchester 25th Anniversary' is written in large, bold, white sans-serif font on the right side. Below this, a white rounded rectangular box contains the event details in black and pink text. The text inside the box reads: 'Join us to celebrate 25 years of MHA Winchester services' in bold black; 'Friday 3rd October 2025' in pink; '11am - 1pm' in pink; 'United Church, Winchester' in pink; 'Afternoon tea, singing performances, party games and more.' in bold black; and 'All members, volunteers and MHA supporters welcome.' in pink.

**MHA
Winchester
25th
Anniversary**

**Join us to celebrate 25 years of
MHA Winchester services**

**Friday 3rd October 2025
11am - 1pm
*United Church, Winchester***

***Afternoon tea, singing
performances, party games and
more.***

***All members, volunteers and MHA supporters
welcome.***



Autumn Updates:

Can you help?

Are you crafty and like creating? We will once again be creating Christmas bags for our members and we would like to include small hand-made gifts from the community. Any type of craft suitable. Below are some examples from 2024.



Unwanted gifts & raffle prizes

We are looking for raffle prizes for our community fundraising events, all proceeds go towards running our services across Winchester.

Volunteering Opportunities:

- Lunch Club Cooks (Fortnightly Fridays)
- Drivers for groups (Various days & groups)
- Craft table support (Fortnightly Fridays)

Find Us:

United Church, Room 2

Call Hannah on 07568612044

Email: hampshirecentral@mha.org.uk

Comedy Corner

Lords (MCC) Prayer

Our team
which art eleven
Hallowed be thy game
Our match be won
Their score be none
on turf as we score at least seven
Give us today no daily red...card
And forgive us our lost passes As we forgive those who lose
passes against us
Lead us not into retaliation
And deliver us from penalties For three is the kick off The
power and the scorer
For ever and ever
Full time
(contributed by Jen Barber)



The deadline for October *Yours* is
Monday 15 September All
contributions welcome. Send to
yours@ucw.org.uk.



Anna
Chaplaincy
for older people



Vintage Fun

All welcome!



HARVEST TIME

Monday 11th September

2 - 4 pm

at the

United Church

Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RZ

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

Caraway
Cakes



Services for September 2025

In-person and live-streamed

7 SEPTEMBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship (HC)** Revd Michael Hopkins
Moderator of the URC Wessex Synod

14 SEPTEMBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

21 SEPTEMBER GREEN WEEK

9.00 am **Holy Communion** Revd Tim Searle

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

28 SEPTEMBER HARVEST

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

followed by Church Meeting

HC: Holy Communion

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

