

The magazine of  
Fareham United Reformed Church

# The Messenger



# Prayer suggestions for April 2021

**To Ponder:** Luke chapters 22, 23 and 24

*When they came to the place called the Skull they crucified Him..... Jesus said 'Father forgive them they do not know what they are doing'*

**Pray every week for...** Our Elders, Church Officers and Rev. Tim Clark (Interim Moderator) as they seek the way forward for Fareham URC and care for the congregation and remember those planning and leading worship each week.

## **1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

Give thanks for our new Elders, Sue and David

1<sup>st</sup> Maundy Thursday Service

2<sup>nd</sup> Christians together in Fareham virtual Good Friday Walk

Mission Aviation Fellowship that new opportunities will open up to serve those in most need

## **4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Give thanks Jesus Christ our Lord gave His life to set us free

4<sup>th</sup> The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed Alleluia!!!

7<sup>th</sup> Bible Study gathering

Ask the Lord for patience as we wait for God to bring restoration

## **11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April**

Give thanks for those who have made lives easier during the pandemic

Pray for all those who are worried about having their vaccination

Pray for exhausted NHS staff

Pray for children and young people

who are suffering with mental health problems

## **18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April**

Give thanks all signs of Spring and new beginnings

Pray for Care Homes as they open for visitors after months of no visiting

Pray for young people especially those unsure about their futures

Pray for charities that they may be able to maintain and expand their work

## **25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April**

Give thanks for your friends, neighbours and family

Pray for all who are homeless or living as refugees far from home

Pray for the people of places around the world where war has devastated lives

## **To ponder and use as a prayer:**

'Intensive prayer is intensive care' - Geoffrey Hill, professor and poet

## Reflection for Easter

For many years I have worked from home for at least part of the week and since March last year I, like many others, have worked from home every day. Also like many I take advantage of the lack of a commute to go for a walk before I start work. This helps prepare for the day ahead but, as a consequence, it also makes one very aware of the changing year. No more so than now.

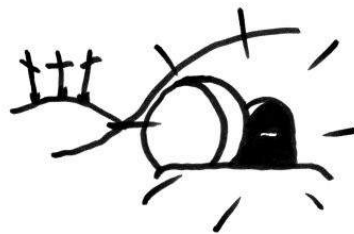
As the first day of meteorological spring has just passed it is noticeable that the new shoots and buds are popping up everywhere and the birds are finding their voices for the dawn chorus again. This morning, as I walked one of my lockdown routes that passes Fareham library and Civic Centre, a song thrush was singing for all its worth high in a tree above. It was so loud and clear in its announcement of the start of a new day.

In the garden too, there have already been snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils which give an indication that winter is drawing to a close. Now there is a tinge of green to the bushes and trees, the tulip leaves are

already clearly visible and, in our garden, the rhubarb is sprouting so fast that it is almost possible to watch it grow before my eyes!

Spring never fails to arrive – sometimes it might be late or there might be cold snaps along the way but you can be sure that nothing will stop it and that gives us hope.

Just as spring gives us hope of better weather and longer days, Easter time gives us hope as Christians. In the darkest days of winter, Jesus' birth brings a light to the darkness. The days then pass slowly until we reach the period of Lent and Holy Week.



We all know that spring will come; as Christians we know that God gave us his only son to ensure that all will have eternal life. We know that Jesus died to free us from sin and when he

rises from the grave on Easter Sunday that there is confirmation of our

***... to unawakened earth***

***The trumpet of a prophecy! O, Wind,***

***If winter comes, can Spring be far behind?***

belief.

After almost exactly a year of death and troubles in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the vaccination programme has given us hope of a better future where we will once again be able to meet our family and friends, hold them close and look forward with joy and anticipation.

Shelley wrote in his Ode to the West Wind

Spring follows winter as sure as day follows night.

In John's gospel chapter 20 he tells us that Mary went to the tomb and found it empty but, later, in the garden she had the chance to meet Jesus. We too can meet the risen Lord in our own hearts at Easter. Spring and resurrection are here for all.

Let us rejoice and be glad in this knowledge.

***Hallelujah, Christ is Risen Indeed!***

*Michael Noble*



**Christians Together in Fareham**  
invite you to join us in a zoom service

**Walk of Witness for Good Friday**

10.15am for 10.30am start

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021

Join via this [Link](#)

**Zoom ID:** 889 2020 6924

**Passcode:** Friday

**Contact:** [secretary@farehamchristians.org.uk](mailto:secretary@farehamchristians.org.uk)

'Crucifixion' by Graham Sutherland, 1946, © Tate.

# Diary

Thursday	1 April	6.45 for 7pm	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> Service led by Rev Tim Clarke
Friday	2 April	10.15 for 10.30am	<i>Good Friday</i> Walk of Witness Service
Sunday	4 April	10.30 for 10.45am	<i>Easter Day</i> Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Mrs Ruth Dewis with Rev Brenda Russell
Sunday	11 April	10.30 for 10.45am	Morning worship led by Mr David Childs
Sunday	18 April	10.30 for 10.45am	Morning worship led by Rev Brenda Russell
Sunday	25 April	10.30 for 10.45am	Morning worship led by Mr Jeremy Hicks
Sunday	2 May	10.30 for 10.45am	Morning worship led by Mr David Childs
		5.45 for 6pm	Evening service led by the Worship Group
Sunday	9 May	10.30 for 10.45am	<i>Christian Aid Sunday</i> Morning worship led by Mrs Chris Aherne
Sunday	16 May	10.30 for 10.45am	Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Stephen Wilkins
Sunday	23 May	10.30 for 10.45am	Morning worship led by Mrs Sue Brown
Sunday	30 May	10.30 for 10.45am	Morning worship led by Mr Jeremy Hicks

# Noticeboard



*Congratulations to  
Dennis and Bronwyn Mason  
who have recently  
celebrated their Diamond  
Wedding Anniversary!*

Dennis and Bronwyn would like to thank everyone for their lovely cards and messages.



## Sunday Morning Worship

Service details are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Please see Weekly Bulletin for details.

Under current Government regulations allow, the church building is closed. The service will be broadcast online via Zoom and can be accessed via a PC or tablet or by telephone. Full details are listed in the Weekly Bulletin.

Messenger Dates		
Issue	Publication Date	Deadline for articles
Pentecost	16 May	30 April 2021
Summer	1 July	18 June 2021
Harvest	1 Sept	22 August 2021



TRAIIDCRAFT

Spring 2021

TRAIIDCRAFTSHOP.CO.UK



# Traidcraft News

For all of us, this past year has been very different, and for many it has been difficult, at least at times. But please take a few minutes to think about the artisans and farmers who receive support from Traidcraft. For the vast majority, there has been no National Health Service to treat them if they fell ill, no government offering financial assistance with ideas such as furlough schemes and they will have to wait many months before being offered a covid vaccination.

The goods normally kept on our stall are still readily available, and I can arrange for them to be delivered to your front door. So, when purchasing your food, please do not forget about Traidcraft.

Traidcraft have released a new Spring catalogue. I do have a few, so if you would like to take a look, please let me know. You can always go onto their website, if that is easier for you. Just make a note of the five digit code which identifies the item, and let me have your list.

One item that did catch my eye is made from recycled glass and reclaimed wood. Because of the way it is made by the artisans in Bali, each item is unique – an opportunity to own or give a one-off present.

I hope to receive many more orders soon!

*Leslie Brown*



# Tenants of the King

Three groups from CTIF member churches came together via Zoom over the first 4 weeks of Lent to study Tenants of the King - a study guide produced by Operation Noah, an ecumenical Christian charity, based in the UK, that campaigns exclusively on climate change.

“As Christians today, it is easy to feel confused about our proper relationship with creation. While scripture reassures us that *the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it*, news headlines often paint a chaotic picture, characterised by climate breakdown, disappearing wildlife, water shortage and overpopulation. How can we reconcile these contrasting pictures of creation? Can they be reconciled at all? How can we live today as responsible stewards of God’s world?”

Reading scripture, we looked at creation and our place within in it, and most importantly what we can do to protect it. The task may seem huge, but each small part we can play will make a difference.

*Faith in Jesus Christ can and will lead us beyond our exclusive concern for the well-being of other human beings to concern for the well-being of the birds in our backyards, the fish in our rivers, and every living creature on the face of the earth.* John Wesley

*Let everyone regard himself as the steward of God in all things which he possesses. Then he will neither conduct himself dissolutely, nor corrupt by abuse those things which God requires to be preserved.* John Calvin

# A Psalm for Lent

**A Psalm for Lent** written in response to week one's study.

Praise the Lord for his creation.

Praise the Lord as we walk in the sunshine

Praise him as we walk in the rain

Praise him for the frozen ground or slippery mud beneath our feet

Praise him for the spring flowers breaking through along our path

Praise him for the power of the crashing waves on the shore

Praise him for the calming sound of the leaves in the gentle breeze

Give him the glory for what he has made.

Praise the Lord as we sit alone and long for company

Praise him as we share a smile with a passing stranger

Praise him for the comfort of a friendly phone call

Praise him for the time to reflect and consider

Praise him for the striving of Governments, scientists, doctors and key workers

Praise him for the hope of release.

Give him the glory for the time he has given us.

Let all things praise him

The waves and the trees, the sun and the rain,

The flowers and the mountains

All creatures big and small, seen and unseen, known and unknown

All creation made through him and for him

Praise him and give him the glory in every step and every action

That his creation may continue to reflect his glory for ever more.

For further information or action ideas: [www.operationnoah.org](http://www.operationnoah.org).

*Fiona Corless*

# Ruth's Strong Tower Tour

**Starting:** Monday 1 March 2021 for 40 days (36 days plus 4 Sunday rest days)

Covering 1084 miles/ 1744.2km (Land's End to John O'Groats equivalent).

**Finishing:** around Friday 9 April 2021 by the latest.

Westminster College is a Resource Centre for Learning for the United Reformed Church which offers a diverse range of online and residential courses and events to equip people for service in the Church. Current and future ministers of Word and Sacrament, lay preachers and worship leaders, Children and Youth Work Development Officers (CYDOs), Training Officers, those in pioneering roles, as well as independent students, exchange students and sabbatical guests, explore faith in an open and inclusive environment.

Westminster College has been located at the head of the iconic Cambridge 'backs' since 1899 and comprises a refurbished arts and

crafts-style interior. The heritage building requires significant maintenance, and ongoing fundraising is being planned, but the wet winter in 2020/21 has pressed the need for urgent structural repairs to be made to the College's Tower. This will cost £500,000 at a time when the financial implications of the Covid-19 pandemic are being felt by all, but responsible stewardship now will help secure the building's fabric.

I am hoping that you can help me to raise some funds to contribute to the cost of this urgent work so that others have the opportunity to experience Westminster College, as I have.

It started as a throw away comment, a fun idea for someone to do to raise money. The trouble was that idea seemed to be returned to me by God! The throw away comment kept coming back in my mind and I found myself quiet out of character asking my husband did he think I could do this. Rather than being a couch to 5km kind of person I am more like a

couch-to-couch person. I am also no slim Jim! Still a shock to me even now was that I actually found myself trying to cycle for half an hour and amazingly for me clocked up 12km. I thought this might work if I am sensible.

I feel a strange loyalty to Westminster College that runs a lot deeper than me being an ordinand there. It is its history that has drawn me in and the thought that I am one of the many who have trained for the ministry there. I sat looking up at the 2 sisters, over 3 meals a day when resident at college and wondered what they would have thought about me. I certainly do not fit the usual mould of ordinand and I certainly do not have their brains. I often thought if they had not given the land, I would not be there looking up at them and nor would those who had been there before me nor the future ordinands to follow. And now the tower of this glorious building needs strengthening. A building that was my home for my first year, that houses an amazing community of warmth and compassion, with tutors

who lovingly and continuously support my learning (I fear I am no academic!). The confirmation for me came when my husband announced that this all reminded him of some scripture on a laminated card I gave him after a service I led – it must have been 3 years ago. It was Proverbs 18:10 (New RSV)

**The name of the Lord is  
a strong tower;  
the righteous run into it  
and are safe.**

That was it then! I felt that was the poke I needed and so my Strong Tower Tour will begin on 1 March.

I was very apprehensive to say the least and I have no idea of what will happen or how much I will raise but I do know that God will be in it and alongside me – his name is MY strong tower. I would really appreciate your support.

Thank you.

*Ruth Dewis*



# Synod Report March 2021

I was pleased to attend a virtual Wessex Synod meeting on Saturday 13 March 2021. The papers are available for you to see on the Wessex Synod website; here are some high lights.

The theme of the day was taken from the “Heroes and Villains” youth work material from the URC.

The Moderator welcomed us all; about 150 people were there on their computers.

At the beginning of the day, we congratulated 4 ministers who were ordained 50 years ago and remembered Revd Frank Cochrane and Revd Graham Long who died recently.

The Synod Executive Report involved a vote to welcome new people to the long list of appointments in the Synod and to nominate the members going to General Assembly this year. Revd Sarah Hall is the new convener of the South East Area Pastoral committee.

Revd Lucy Brierley, minister at Woking URC, was nominated to be Moderator of General Assembly in 2022.

The Ministries and Learning committee report included thanks to Rev Cliff Bembridge for his work as convener of the committee.

The Silence & Retreats group reported that there are many and varied online resources on offer and the links to them are in the report on the synod website.

After a coffee break, the Ministry & Mission fund report highlighted special thanks to all the church treasurers who have worked so hard to keep up with the expenses during the last year. This has enabled the Synod to pay all the M&M needed by the URC with only a little help from the Wessex Trust fund.

The Synod Youth Executive reported good attendance at their on-line meetings as no one has had to travel. Elders and children’s church leaders should think carefully about re launching children’s activities in church as we re-open our buildings, this is an opportunity to try something new.

After lunch we watched presentations to encourage us to have a “Climate Change Sunday” before the international meetings in

Glasgow. There are is variety of material videos, talks and pictures available and words and poems written by young people in our Synod to use in worship and in newsletters.

There are 29 churches like ours registered as ECO Churches and the Synod is working towards being an ECO Synod. In small groups we were able to talk about our own church projects and personal experience of recycling and converting to climate friendly heating.

In the closing worship we thought about Moses hero and villain.

*Kathryn Childs*

**PLEASE ADD TO YOUR SHOPPING LIST**

**Tinned beef (minced, casserole, chilli con carne, Irish stew)**  
**Tinned chicken**  
**Ham/Spam**  
**Tinned carrots**  
**Tinned sweetcorn**  
**Tinned tuna**  
**Deodorants (men and women)**  
**Chocolate bars**  
**Washing powder/liquid**

Thank you

**FAREHAM AND GOSPORT BASICS BANK**  
*Local people supporting local people*



# URC Wessex Synod Safeguarding Training

## Safeguarding is Everybody's Business

The URC is endeavouring to ensure that "Safeguarding is Everybody's Business" in all of our churches, and as such has tailored a Safeguarding Training Programme with the knowledge and skills we all require to fulfil our protective role. We are fortunate to have the training offered on Zoom over three sessions of one and a half hours, so we do not even have to leave the comfort of our own homes.

### **Booking is essential and places are limited.**

The training requires to be updated every three years, or more frequently if we have a direct role with children or adults at risk.

### **Safeguarding Training on Mondays in May 2021, 4pm – 5.30pm**

*Session 1 – 10 May*

*Session 2 – 17 May*

*Session 3 – 24 May*

### **Safeguarding Training on Thursdays, 7pm – 8.30pm**

*Session 1 – 24 June*

*Session 2 – 1 July*

*Session 3 – 8 July*

**To enable Synod to allocate the right breakout group, please indicate whether you are**

- a children's and youth worker
- a worker with adults at risk
- or in church leadership (Safeguarding Officer, Elder)

If you are wearing more than one hat, then please rank them into your priorities for the training. You might like to consider which one you are less experienced in, or which one you have more questions about

**Please book with Ruth Heine, Development Team Administrator**

email:[development@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:development@urcwessex.org.uk)

Tel: 023 8067 4513

*Jane Dowdell*

## **God's Garden by Alice Robson age 7 (Salisbury URC)**

This is God's garden; he wants us to care.  
He also has asked, 'Could we manage to share?'  
God's words plant a seed in our mind  
And he really wants us to try and be kind.

Jesus was sent to help us all out.  
We can help all God's creatures if we speak out.  
The slow, graceful sloth and the striped bumblebee  
Their home is this planet, just like you and me.

The world is so beautiful - don't you agree?  
His creation is amazing, as far as the eye can see.  
But some mean people and uncaring countries  
Have ruined the forests by chopping down trees.

The fish in the ocean have their place too.  
But to keep their home healthy, it's over to you.  
The cheetah goes whizzzz and the cow goes moo,  
But to keep them alive, it's over to you.

The elegant, grey dolphins and majestic blue whales  
Are being replaced by our waste, our plastic betrayals.  
As I look out my window, every day,  
Mini- sun daffodils shine as I pray.  
Nature is wonderful – even small bugs!  
From crimson-topped ladybirds to slithering slugs.  
So recycle your waste! Compost old food!  
Make yours an eco-church and get everyone in the mood!

We are God's stewards; we're supposed to share.  
He made us to protect the Earth, he made us to care.  
The Earth belongs to God, and everything in it.  
Our environment is fragile, so please look after it!

# Christians Together in Fareham: Chair's Report

This last year has been a strange and often frightening time for many people. The pandemic has thrown all our normal certainties upside down and many of us have had to prioritise our lives in a quite a different way. Christians Together is no exception, and we managed the transfer to Zoom meetings very well.

We managed one last face to face meeting just before we all got put into lockdown last March when many of us met up for the World Day of Prayer Service held in the Community Church on 6 March. This was an excellent service with some powerful personal testimony from Chris Lube, a former bodyguard to Nelson Mandela. Little did we know as we enjoyed the worship, prayer and fellowship, that this was to be the last time we would be meeting like this - Oh happy days!!

As the year progressed so did our ability to keep in touch with each other and ensure that we were all aware of what was going on in our different churches. Many activities were "paused" as people worked out what they could and could not do on the internet. The good news was that as time went on more churches started to find ways of communicating with their congregations, through Zoom, pre-recorded services or live streaming

on Facebook. For others it has been more difficult to maintain the communication especially for people who had problems with digital connectivity. As summer progressed and the weather got better some churches cautiously started to open their doors again and hold some services face to face. But the good thing was that most continued to do both online and face to face which has meant that far more people than ever before have been able to engage with the church of their choice wherever that may be.

Whilst we did have to cancel our Summer holiday club and CMA Connect was unable to operate, many other activities were continued in a different format. The Christian Aid annual quiz could not be held but was made available for people to use in their own homes and many people did, sending donations in afterwards. Fareham Good Neighbours transferred their personal visiting to telephone calls and Love and Cherish provided marriage preparation over Zoom. The Community Church and The Catholic church both held Alpha courses online. Jeremy and Rachel wrote to all the Care Homes in Fareham on behalf of us all expressing support for what they do and saying how much we

wished to be of use to them if this were possible. Overall, churches and groups have been really innovative in their efforts to keep in touch and this must surely be seen as the silver lining to the dark cloud of the Pandemic.

As the year progressed, we began to hope that things might be better by Christmas only to have all our hopes dashed by the “second wave”. So, more plans were put on hold, particularly the events that we would normally have organised around Christmas such as the community Christingles. People became immensely inventive when it came to ways of trying to keep some things going. The annual Christmas Day Lunch morphed into a personal doorstep visit and the presentation of a Christmas hamper containing lots of Christmas goodies as well as a lunch! All our churches offered a variety of different types of service over Christmas and worked very hard to ensure that the churches were safe to visit.

The third national lock down started on Boxing Day and as is still going on. A bright light in the gloom of January for us in Fareham was our first online Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service which was attended by well over 100 people and was a great success.

And so here we are again for our AGM and I want to take this opportunity to

thank you all for the creativity and commitment you have shown as we have tried to keep the Christ light burning and the flame of Christian unity alive in Fareham through this last year. I want to pay a special tribute to Jeremy who is standing down after completing his term of 3 years as our Secretary. We are going to miss him hugely, but I am pleased to say he is still staying on as our web master and I hope we will continue to see him at meetings.

Thank you also to Liz Dunning who continues in her role as our Treasurer for one more year. Liz does so much more for Christians Together than just the Treasurer role and we owe her our thanks for all she has done this year.

CTiF is a lively and energetic group of committed Christians who through their work try to show Gods love to our community and to live out these words from St Paul -

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit, we were all baptised into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one spirit.*

God bless you all and keep you safe in these difficult times.

*Lucy Docherty Feb 2021*

## Christians Together in Fareham - Rejoice!

Dear friends

Sally and Claire are absolutely thrilled to tell you that the much longed-for letter from the Home Office arrived on Aamir and Sana's doormat at lunchtime today with the news that they have been granted refugee status and leave to remain in this country.



This is amazing news and we praise and thank God for the Home Office decision and that justice has been enacted for this family.

There will be a time for more news and further update but today we celebrate with Aamir, Sana, Alisha, Anaiah and Amalia that the hard season of waiting is over and they are now free from fear and are able to build a life for themselves in this country.

We will never be able to thank you all enough for all of your support over the last 4 years or so. Your prayers, encouragement, financial contributions and support for this family have enabled them to pursue their case and they are now able to live in peace and with hope for the future.

Our hearts are truly full of gratitude in these moments.

Love and blessings,

*Claire and Sally*

# The Balance Sheet of Life

*Shared by Carol Rogers*

The most destructive habit ..... worry  
The greatest joy ..... giving  
The greatest loss ..... loss of self-respect  
The most satisfying work ..... helping others  
The ugliest personal trait ..... selfishness  
The greatest “shot in the arm” ..... encouragement  
The greatest problem to overcome ..... fear  
The most effective sleeping pill ..... peace of mind  
The most crippling failure disease ..... excuses  
The most powerful force in life ..... love  
The most dangerous act ..... a gossip  
The world’s most powerful computer ..... the brain  
The worst thing to be without ..... hope  
The deadliest weapon ..... the tongue  
The two most power-filled words “I can”  
The greatest asset ..... faith  
The most worthless emotion ..... self-pity  
The most beautiful attire ..... smile!  
The most prized possession ..... integrity  
The most powerful channel of communication ..... prayer  
The most contagious spirit ..... enthusiasm  
Life ends ..... when you stop dreaming,  
Hope ends ..... when you stop believing  
Love ends ..... when you stop caring.  
And friendship ends ..... when you stop sharing!  
So please share this balance sheet of life.

## **Revd Frank Cochrane 22 Sep 1943 - 9 Nov 2020**

Frank was born in the West Highlands of Scotland in the small village of Kinlochleven near to Glencoe and Ben Nevis, and it was there that he courted and married his childhood sweetheart Pat in 1966.

He was a just man, honest, firm but fair and these were traits he carried through his life. His morals and ethical standards meant this was a man you could trust.

Frank left school at the age of 14 to serve an apprenticeship in the Scottish British Aluminium Co. He soon decided to spread his wings and became Police Constable Cochrane in the Kent constabulary where his son Robert was born. On transferring to the London Metropolitan Police, a second son Colin was born and Frank was selected to join the Armed Police Special Patrol Group. This became a very stressful period both physically and morally.

His career in the Police spanned 13 years, then the family headed for Gosport where Frank was employed for ten years by the local council in a variety of roles including Senior Management Services Officer.

Frank and Pat became Christians in 1980 and joined St Columba's URC in Gosport. He soon felt called as a lay preacher but realizing his walk with the Lord was all

or nothing, Frank applied for Non-stipendiary Ministry and later for Stipendiary Ministry.

He trained at Salisbury and Wells Theological College from 1986-89 and Mansfield College Oxford from 1989-90. His internship was at Buckland URC in Portsmouth and St James Psychiatric hospital. During his ministry he also completed training in the healing ministry, pastoral theology, alcohol abuse and drug addiction.

He was ordained into the ministry on the 30 June 1990 in Bighthelm Church and Community Centre in Brighton. In addition to the normal pastoral requirements of ministry there were projects dealing with drug abuse, homelessness, alcohol dependency and poverty. Frank and Pat very quickly became involved, working together as a team and when he moved on after four years he was greatly missed.

His next call from 1994 to 2000 was particularly painful as the two boys elected to remain on the south coast while Frank and Pat moved to St Georges' URC in Carlisle. St George's congregation made Frank and Pat feel very much at home; they were part of a very strong Churches Together group and Frank found himself very involved in



this, leading worship throughout the town including the cathedral.

He also took on the ministry at Wigton URC and Knowe URC in Brewcastle, became Interim Moderator for Whitehaven and Workington URCs and from 1995 to 2000 was Chair of the Management Team of the Windermere Centre.

From 2000 to 2003 he was at St Andrews Church in Bournemouth during the beginning of discussions on merging with Richmond Hill URC. He was also Chaplain to Wentworth College which is affiliated to the URC, a role he loved.

From 2003 until retirement in 2008 Frank served at Totton URC/Methodist Church where he also worked with his Methodist colleagues on the local circuit. Pat has described their time together at Totton as particularly happy with a very willing and open congregation who became great friends. There were many new projects including music in worship, working with disabled children and being very involved in the local schools and community.

On his retirement Frank and Pat moved back to Lee on the Solent to be near their children's families in Worthing and Lee; they rejoined St Columba's and renewed many old friendships.

He continued to lead worship in URC and

Methodist Churches and became the "go to" minister for funerals with local funeral directors. Every bereaved family received pastoral support and each funeral service he led was made personal to the mourners.

In more recent years he moved to St Faiths C of E in Lee and was very quickly invited to join the ministry team there, leading worship, going into schools with the "Open Book" scheme and being part of the prayer and pastoral team with Pat. From 1990 to 2020, Frank celebrated thirty years of ministry which provided them both with wonderful memories of great communities, amazing experiences and above all friends.

He loved God, and often said a deep prayer life is essential, that neither Pat nor he could have survived without it. Frank believed to love the Lord and love the people that he loves, is the most important thing of all.

He was a man of great experience and big of heart. His love of God, his honesty, integrity, caring, kindness and ability to listen carried him, Pat, and his friends through life. He would be truly humbled at the hundreds of cards, good will messages and kind words the family received after his sudden and unexpected death.

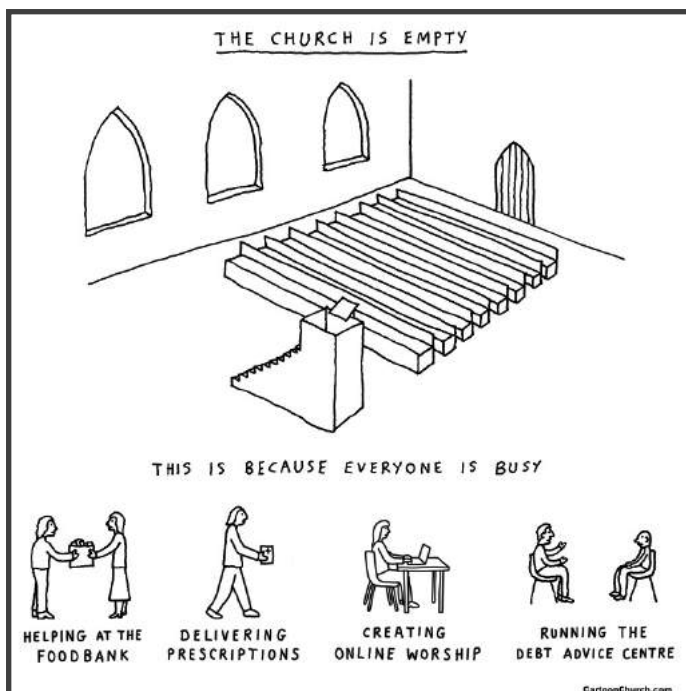
*Frank Mulholland Gosport URC*

# Fareham United Reformed Church

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