

The magazine of
Fareham United Reformed Church

The Messenger



Harvest 2020

Reflection: Harvest

Welcome to our Harvest Messenger! It has become commonplace to mention that over the last 70 years or so, the whole concept of gathering and celebrating the harvest has gradually lost much of its resonance and relevance for most of our population; and it's not at all hard to pinpoint some reasons why: only 1.5% of the UK workforce is employed in agriculture; an astonishing 80% of food consumed in Britain is imported; and in normal times the full range of produce that we may wish to purchase and consume is available consistently throughout the entire year. As far as food is concerned, we have pretty much lost our awareness of the cycle



of the seasons and the cycle of sowing and reaping.

Except that just maybe, 2020 is the year in which we began to rediscover it all again. As the Covid lockdown in March confronted us and panic buying ensued, we started to run out of some everyday goods. Seeking activities to do at home, people began buying more flour to bake their own cakes and bread (some of us had always been baking our own!) until flour became hard to get and often ran out too.

There were stories of people contacting heritage windmills in an effort to buy craft flour, such quests hopefully reviving any blunted consciousness of where this taken-for-granted food actually came from and how it was produced. At the same time, we were bringing seedtime – and hopefully harvest – into our back gardens and window boxes as sales of seed for cultivation rose to 6 times higher than the same period last year.

As traffic disappeared from our roads

and blissful silence fell, those people fortunate enough to live in the right locations could rediscover the countryside in a big way. We could actually hear the birds singing, breathe the fresh air, and walk or cycle without danger. And in an uncertain and stressful world, it was balm for our souls; - a little taste of paradise as we briefly escaped from our lockdown-ness. Psychologists continue to remind us that spending time with nature heals our minds as well as our bodies.

“...spending time with nature heals our minds as well as our bodies.”

On 6th August this year, the BBC reported, “There has been a surge of interest in moving to the country due to city dwellers' priorities changing during the coronavirus lockdown, estate agents have said. Across the UK, inquiries about buying a home in

a village jumped by 126% in June and July compared with the same period last year.....” An aspiration fulfillable by the privileged few, but increasingly understood and shared by many.

Yes, it seems that 2020 was the time we perhaps indeed renewed our appreciation and acknowledged our need of quiet open spaces, of a slower lifestyle, and of the abundant beauty of the countryside and God’s creation. The continual cycle of the seasons, growth and regrowth - a tangible reminder of the abiding presence of God Himself - reassures us that life goes on; and as we sing again of the warmth to swell the grain, the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain, let us do so with voices of fresh insight and future hope.

God bless you my friends,

Stephen Wilkins

A Harvest Prayer



By faith
I gaze up to the heavens,
and know
within its vastness
that this is your creation
planned and effected within eternity

By faith
I pluck an ear of corn,
and know
within its symmetry
lies the chemistry of life,
the potential of creation within my hand

By faith
I listen for your voice,
and know
the whisper that I hear
breathed a world into existence,
yet listens to the prayer within my soul

By faith
I strive to do your will,
and know
the door that I approach
may lead me to shadows,
where my role is to become your light

By faith
I cling to your word,
and know
the strength that I receive,
has its source within the love,
that is at the centre of all things

Sunday Worship

At the time of publication, the church is planned to reopen for Sunday Morning Worship on Sunday 6 September. Under Government guidelines, strict social distancing measures will be in place, including a one-way entry and exit, a limited number of seats in the sanctuary and no singing will be allowed. At the same time, we will continue to worship together at 10.45am via Zoom video call or telephone call. It is likely that some or all of the service will be screened via Zoom. As the capacity of the church is limited it is essential that places are booked by calling **07745 790338**

To join the Zoom service in your own home, follow the instructions that are sent each week in the weekly bulletin; these can also be obtained from Fiona Corless. Everyone is welcome. Planned services are as follows.

It must be noted that the arrangements for provision of worship within the church building and/or Zoom may be subject to change. Please refer to the weekly bulletin for precise details.

6 September Mrs Ruth Dewis

13 September Revd Brenda Russell with the Healing Group

20 September Revd Nicky Gilbert. Worship including Holy Communion

27 September Harvest Celebration led by Mrs Sue Brown with the
Worship Group

4 October Mr David Childs

11 October Church Anniversary
Worship led by Revd Tim Searle

18 October Revd Wendy White. Worship including Holy Communion

25 October Mr Jeremy Hicks

BST Ends - Clocks go back 1 hour.

Notices and News

A message from Paul and Susan Bedford

Our greetings to the Fareham congregation. We think of you often and not least on our six day cycling trip round Suffolk. It was very hot but cycling was better than walking . Thank you to the church for their kind retirement gift that led us to Cycling Breaks.

Christ's love and peace be with you all in these strange times and also the innovative inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

I must now turn my attention to crafting a short open air service for next Sunday on the estate where we attend church as we feel we still cannot meet indoors

Paul



Christian Aid Quiz 2020

As with so many things this year, Covid-19 is preventing us from running our ever-popular annual quiz and supper night. Don't be too down-hearted though, we have come up with an alternative... a **'do it yourself' quiz.**

Request a pack from caquiz@thehickses.org.uk and enjoy the quiz as many times as you like with your family and friends raising money for Christian Aid while you do so.

Full details are on the flyer and in the weekly bulletin.

Any queries contact Rachel Hicks 01329 312895

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Mike Homer, the local organiser for the Royal British Legion, is very sad to announce that the normal activities for the Poppy Appeal in 2020 have been cancelled.



If you want to buy a poppy, the best way is to visit the Poppy Shop online at <https://www.poppyshop.org.uk/>. Please note that this is the only official, authorised place to get your poppy - there are other, unauthorised vendors who may not be genuine and should be avoided.

Synod Area Gatherings

September Area Gatherings will be “Mission Synod Gatherings: in the new normal and beyond”

Church is different now, but what could we be doing now? What should we be doing in the future? If you want to have discussions with others, then why not attend our Synod gatherings? Not bound by geographical area, but by theme. Zoom in and join the discussion! Each evening will have a different angle to the theme, with input by a speaker and then some questions to get us thinking...

Please feel free to zoom in for just one session or all four!

Evenings will start with us logging in at 6:30pm for a 6:45 start and they will last about an hour. The zoom code for all sessions is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89208115894?pwd=dmM4d1RLTytLSHZkcGMrM2RsSUYyQT09>

Date	Topic	Speaker
Monday 14 th	Staying Christian as we work with non-church connections	Adam Dyer
Wednesday 16 th	Listening to our community and praying with them	Linda Rayner
Monday 21 st	Where could be and what language could we use?	Nick Stanyon
Wednesday 23 rd	Mission to a changed society	Graham Adams

Prayer suggestions for September 2020

To Ponder: Colossians c1 v15-20

“The Son is the image of the invisible God’

Pray every week for.....

Our Elders and Church Officers as they seek the way forward for Fareham URC and care for the congregation

1st – 6th September

Give thanks for all those working to prepare for people returning to church buildings

Pray for teachers, parents, pupils, students and schools with new challenges

Pray for those living alone who feel very lonely

7th -12th September

Give thanks that the doors of church buildings are reopening.

Pray for those successful in their education and preparing to move on to higher education

Pray for those who have lost jobs or are facing financial difficulties due to Covid 19

13th – 19th September

Give thanks for all who work hard to grow, prepare and supply all we need

Pray for farmers and their harvests all over the world

Pray for families in Syria, Yemen, South Sudan and Lebanon



20th – 26th September

Give thanks for those who have shown, are showing care and will continue to support for those in need due to the pandemic

Pray for Charities with reduced funds

Pray for the American Elections and all facing difficult times and decisions in that country

27th – 30th September

Give thanks for all who serve in all the emergency services

Pray for any facing medical tests, waiting for results or facing treatments

Pray for people of Beirut and other places where life is difficult

Reflect on these words from Locks Heath Church website

‘It is important that we move ahead soaked in prayer, rooted in scripture, passionate for the gospel and committed to one another in love’ (Source the Evangelical Alliance)

Memories of Fareham URC

In October we celebrate the anniversary of the founding of Fareham URC which stood in West Street (now the Slug & Lettuce). Madeleine Brand and her brother Andrew Cooke have compiled their memories of the old church along with some



photographs. The second part will be included in the next issue of the Messenger. Thank you to them both for these recollections which will be remembered by some readers and give a fascinating insight into the history of the church for those who only know the current building.

On Easter Sunday 1950 Madeleine was christened in what was then the Fareham Congregational Church in West Street, Fareham. The following Easter Sunday, Andrew was christened and so began our long association with the people and the buildings.

The buildings that existed at the time, were the church which remains, plus a school room which in effect was a large Conservatory built onto the side of the church building towards the back. You reached the entrance down a passageway to the left of the church as you faced it in West Street. The

right-hand wall of the schoolroom was the left wall of the church which housed the Lecture Room under the organ with the vestry and a small kitchen beyond. The two buildings were connected at the bottom of the steps leading to the organ.

Sunday School was at 3.00pm and Andrew and Madeleine went as soon as they were old enough. The first class was with Mrs Hackett, a lovely lady, who marrying later in life, had no children of her own but loved looking after other people's children and talking to them about Jesus. It was held in the Lecture



Room. There were two lovely pictures in the room. One showed Jesus carrying home the lost sheep and the other was Jesus sat, surrounded by children with one on his knee. Against one wall was a bookcase in which there were little books (covered match boxes) each with the name of a book in the bible so that we could see what it contained. All of this had been made by Mr and Mrs Hackett. There was a Cradle roll on the wall showing all the children christened in the church.

The adults had services at 11.00am and 6.30pm. Mr and Mrs Hackett lived in Catisfield and did not drive,

so they caught the bus into Fareham for the morning service, bringing their lunch and tea with them, returning home after the evening service. Many members of the church were tradespeople in the town. Obviously someone had a strawberry farm and someone else was connected to Soothills, because for several years each child in the Sunday School was given hot-cross buns at Easter, a small punnet of strawberries in June and iced buns at the Christmas party. The Sunday School also gave us a Christmas present especially chosen for each of us by Mr and Mrs Hackett. At the end of the Sunday School Year there

was prize giving (based on attendance) when we were presented with a book, again especially chosen for us by Mr and Mrs Hackett. There were enough children in the Sunday School to hire a coach and take them on an outing in the summer school holidays.

Andrew and Madelene did not always go on the outing, but do remember attending once on a trip to the Southampton Sports Centre which had an outdoor pool and also a trip to Chessington Zoo, when it was just a zoo and not a theme park.

As we grew, we moved into the main schoolroom. After an assembly on the ground floor with an opening hymn, prayer, and notices, we divided into our classes which were held in the cubicles in the galleries above. The girls progressed into Miss Hayward's Class or Mr Worsley's class for the boys. Madeleine finished in Miss Robottom's class and Andrew with Mr Hackett. Each year we studied for Scripture examinations. The Sunday School also collected money for the John Williams Missionary



ships. We both remember a penny (old coinage) trail that was launched at one time, to collect for these ships. Somewhere there is an old picture of Madeleine putting a penny on the trail. I think because it was her year to present a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Dyke, Councillor and Magistrate, who would have opened the event.

Notice the formality. That was the way it was in those days. So, when in 1957 the church embarked on Widecombe Fair in the school room, it was an event to remember. The school room was decorated with flowers and stalls to look like a fun fair. There were different activities in all the booths upstairs in the hall. We remember a hoola-hoop contest in one. Helpers all wore country bonnets. In the evening there was a

concert with the participants all in costumes. The ladies did a play, "April Showers", but the men sang the song "Uncle Tom Cobbley and All". They were all dressed as country yokels and some really played the part very well. I still remember the shock of seeing these people who were always so formal in their suits on Sunday's, playing the fool, singing this song in country brogue with everybody joining in the chorus.

There were notices on the inside doors at the front of the church which said that you were not allowed to enter if the bible was being read or the congregation were praying. We children rarely joined the adult service in the morning, but when we did, we were to be seen and not heard, all except the Sunday School Anniversary when we were put on display. We had to sing or play an instrument, read the bible, or recite a poem. We went to the morning Harvest Festival service too, as we took along our produce to add to

the display at the front of the church. The rostrum under the pulpit was built up with wooden boxes, so that when covered by a white sheet, provided shelves on which to display platters of apples and other fruit and vegetables, either side of the harvest loaf. There were lots of vases of flowers too and the smell as you walked into church that morning was wonderful. Madeleine always thought it was special that a glass of water and, in those days, a lump of coal, was added to the display.



Ministry & Mission Fund

‘THANK YOU’ for your unique and vital contribution to the life of the United Reformed Church, and for the work of the kingdom which we are able to do together in God’s name

We are living through an extraordinary and challenging time – a very anxious time for everyone; a difficult time for many; and a time of suffering and loss for some. Yet, the main purpose of this letter is to say ‘thank you’ to each of you for all that you have done for the Church in the past; for all that you continue to do even in these difficult times; and for what you will do in the future.

As we are treasurers, you will not be surprised that the focus of this letter is on finance. But we recognise that finance is only a means to the end which is our doing of God’s work together.

‘Thank you’ for your giving to your local church. Financially, this giving is the lifeblood of your own church and of the whole United Reformed Church across England, Scotland and Wales. It is this personal giving that enables your local church

treasurer to pay your church’s bills. Typically, the largest of those ‘bills’ is the contribution your local church pays to the URC Ministry and Mission Fund. This Fund meets the central costs of the United Reformed Church. The total budget is around £20 million and is approved each year by Mission Council. Over 80% of this money is spent on ministers and church related community workers – their training, stipends and pensions. But the other 20% also achieves an enormous amount on behalf of us all. General Assembly 2020 was severely constrained because of the Covid-19 lockdown, but the reports written for General Assembly are available on the URC website, and they paint pictures of all the work that has been done in our name over the last two years and much of that work is ongoing.

‘Thank you’ for your giving and the giving of your local church last

year. In 2019, over £19.4 million was given by local churches and synods to the Ministry and Mission Fund. The total contributions from local churches reduced very slightly but the average giving per member has, once again and remarkably, gone up by more than inflation.

“Thank you for your continued giving”

‘Thank you’ for your continued giving this year. We fully understand that circumstances this year are difficult. Most local churches have been unable to meet for over five months. We have not had the usual opportunities to make our offerings for the work of the Church. But most of the costs of the local church and of the denomination have not reduced and some have increased as a consequence of the pandemic. We are also aware that some have lost income or work this year and are therefore in great financial difficulty. But there are others on fixed incomes who are actually

better off than they might otherwise have been. So, please continue to give what you can in whatever way you can – or save it up until you can hand it over.

Any giving of ours is a response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nevertheless, it is important for us to say ‘thank you’ to each and all of you.

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter then please speak to your church treasurer, who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian and John

Ian Hardie, Treasurer of the United Reformed Church

John Piper, Deputy Treasurer



Mission Stories:

Parables of Mission in the context of Empire

Attempts are being made by the Council for World Mission (CWM) at accompanying members in naming and telling stories that can impact how their mission is being pursued. This is to be a gathering of stories when member churches, at a local or a national level, felt led to challenge powerful structures, attitudes or people. CWM is in the midst of gathering stories that touch on areas such as:

Prophetic Witness:

- Costly witness to Christ/Evangelism in the public square
- Standing with vulnerable people

Political change and transformation:

- Solidarity with indigenous people
- Harbouring refugees

Environmental Justice:

- Addressing climate change

Economic Justice:

- Churches working on creating new models of finance, Human trafficking projects

Creating a more inclusive and welcoming community:

- Churches tackling patriarchy and prejudice
- Creating inclusive communities through women in ministry, engaging respectfully with issues of human sexuality and diversity etc
- Honouring the gifts and leadership of people of all abilities
- Giving platform to the radical voice of young people

Interfaith Work:

- Working in partnerships with people of other faiths or none

Healing and Reconciliation work:

From work with HIV+ people to work on peace-building or ethnic/
communal tensions

Theological and biblical reflection can also be added to the historical
narrative and possible ways these mission stories mirror biblical parables.
In this way, CWM hopes to:

- underline the prophetic mission to which we are all called
- find stories that can give us hope and inspiration in our current
struggles
- give thanks for the witnesses who show us the way

David Childs

*Make me a tree, Lord,
Sturdy,
Deep rooted,
Useful,
Support
to those in need,
Shelter
to those who are weary,
Fruit
for those who hunger.
Make me a tree, Lord,
Sturdy,
Deep rooted,
Useful.*



Locksheath Congregational Church & Hall

In the last issue I asked if anyone knew the story behind this postcard.

I am very grateful to Jean Goddard and Angela Carter for their memories; as a teenager, Jean went to a party there and Angela's son was christened in the church. Thank you also to David Meatcher who has provided his recollection of the building which I hope you will find interesting. Judith James has also sent me a scanned copy of the complicated history of the church which is too long to print here, but I will be happy to pass it on.

Moira Noble



The Post Card picture shows Volunteers laying the foundations for the Congregational Church Hall being built at right angles to the Congregational Church which is just visible on the corner of the post card. The Church was opened in 1903 (according to the Hampshire Congregational Year Book 1972).

The Hall was used extensively for Sunday School work which included the annual Bible exam which many will recall as the annual presentations were made in Fareham Congregational Church (and covered all Fareham, Western Wards and Gosport Churches)

The Hall extended across the rear of

the Church and this accommodated the Kitchen, Ladies and Gents Toilets, and a room where the Choir assembled, and which also was used as a meeting room for Minister and Elders.

At the far end of the Hall was a stage where concerts were held, giving Members the opportunity to show off their talents on special occasions like Harvest Supper and Sunday School Tea parties!!

In front of the Hall was a large green area which allowed for the occasional open-air event.

At the outbreak of the Second World War the Hall was used as a classroom to accommodate first year school children as the school on the corner of Abshot Road could not hold all the early years children. (some things just do not change!!)

Teaching at that time was a newly qualified teacher by the name of Miss Edwards who was to become Church Secretary for many years at Warsash Congregational Church.

My parents attended this Church and most Sundays we attended morning and evening service and Sunday school in the afternoon.

In later years I have many happy memories of time with the Youth Fellowship and visiting many of the Congregational Churches for gatherings of young people

The Church and Hall continued in use until 1981 when the Locks Heath Free Church (now Waypoint) further along Hunts Pond Road.

Today three houses stand on the site and only the entrance pillars remain as evidence that the Church and Hall once occupied this area.

David Meatcher

Sarisbury Green URC

Basics Bank

Because so many of their volunteers were in the 'vulnerable' category, the work of the Fareham and Gosport Basics Bank has been taken over by [Acts of Kindness](#) (AoK). The need continues, but home-made goods are only accepted by prior arrangement. An AOK poster giving details of needs is on the Zoom connection attachment. Groceries and toiletries can be dropped off at the following locations:

The Rising Sun Pub, 74 Shore Road, Warsash SO31 9FT
Sarisbury Green Community Centre SO31 7AA
Razor Sharp Barbers, 106 Miller Drive, Fareham PO16 7LN
8 Victoria Square, Lee on the Solent PO13 9NF (leave in porch)
Lisa, 51 Rattigan Gardens, Whiteley PO15 7EB
Helen, 145 Charden Road, Gosport PO13 0EE
Jonathan, 6 Barlow Close, Stubbington PO14 3SL
60 Westland Drive, Lee on the Solent PO13 8GJ (box on doorstep, knock after you have dropped)
17 Kimpton Close, Lee on the Solent PO13 8JY
20 Shetland Rise, Whiteley PO15 7JP

Alternatively, AoK will collect from you: please text Robbie 07766 363066 (Titchfield and Western Wards), Jonathan 07722 202248 (Stubbington) or Emma 07539 241354 (all other areas).

THE FOODBANK

WAYS YOU CAN HELP IN 2020



FIND OUT
WHAT IS
NEEDED



PICK UP EXTRA
ITEMS WHEN
YOU SHOP



THEY DO A
GREAT JOB AT
THE FOODBANK



GOSSIP
POSITIVELY

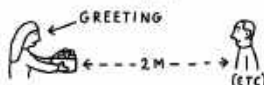


DONATE
MONEY



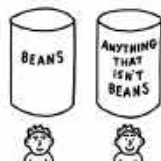
FUNRAISE

MIGHT
HAVE
TO BE
ONLINE
NOW



VOLUNTEER
(REALLY IMPORTANT AS
MANY VOLUNTEERS OVER 65
AND NOW SELF-ISOLATING)

WHY IS THE
NEED FOR
FOODBANKS
INCREASING?



[BUT
CHECK
LOCALLY]



ASK PEOPLE FOR
FOODBANK DONATIONS
RATHER THAN PRESENTS



LIKE THE
SOCIAL MEDIA
PAGE



ASK AWKWARD
QUESTIONS

CartoonChurch.com

The Rev Derek Nuttall MBE (1937-2020)

Derek Nuttall was a minister in the United Reformed Church who was a pioneer of bereavement counselling in the aftermath of the Aberfan disaster in 1966 which killed 144 people including 116 school children. At the time he was working as a minister in Falkirk. He had a reputation for being skilled at dealing with those trying to cope with the loss of loved ones. He knew how to console and listen. The church sent for him.

He was appointed minister in Aberfan and spent 7 years living there trying to help heal the many broken families, developing ways for the community to come together. His guiding principle was that every individual should be free to express themselves in their own way; there was no right way to deal with grief. Nuttall offered support, he didn't tell people how to behave. He encouraged them to talk: conversation was far better than bottling up emotions.

His work at Aberfan led him to work

with Cruse, the bereavement charity, and he became recognised as a trusted voice on bereavement., advising the government in times of crisis. He was appointed MBE in 1990 on his retirement from Cruse and returned to URC ministries in Windsor, Heathfield and Uckfield.

It is rare for ministers of a small church like the URC to be recognised nationally. His obituary was published in the Times. His life and work was certainly worth celebrating, and we can take inspiration from a man who, when asked a few years ago whether there was anything else he still wanted to do with his life, replied simply, "I have been fortunate to have achieved far more in my life than I ever thought possible."

Thank you to Cliff Bembridge for bringing Derek's story to our attention.

Chaplaincies

Portsmouth - Queen Alexandra Hospital

- Chaplaincy Office: 023 9228 6408
- In emergency call the Duty Chaplain (via the main switchboard), 023 9228 6000.
- For non-urgent requests, that can wait until the next working day, 023 9228 6408.

Winchester - Royal Hampshire County Hospital

- Phone: 01962 863535
 - Bleep: 3173
 - Leave a message: 01962 824906
- Email: chaplaincy@hhft.nhs.uk

Southampton General Hospital

- 023 8120 8517 (24 hours answer machine)
- chaplaincy@uhs.nhs.uk
- For urgent visits in hospital, ask a member of staff to refer as soon as possible.

Messenger Dates		
Issue	Publication Date	Deadline for articles
Autumn	November	18 October 2020
Advent	December	22 November 2020
Lent	February	24 January 2021
Easter	April	21 March 2021



Fareham United Reformed Church

18 Osborn Road, Fareham, Hants PO16 7DG
Tel 01329 221465 (Answerphone)

To reserve a seat at Sunday morning worship
call 07745 790338
www.farehamurc.org.uk

Church Secretary	Fiona Corless	secretary@farehamurc.org.uk
Treasurer	Graham James	treasurer@farehamurc.org.uk
Magazine Editor	Moira Noble	editor@farehamurc.org.uk
Weekly notices		farehamurcnotices@btinternet.com



*'Sharing Jesus' love
with the world today'*

