

The magazine of
Fareham United Reformed Church

The Messenger



Summer 2021

A Reflection for Summer

“Summer suns are glowing over land and sea...”

(hymn by William Walsham How 1871)

“to everything there is a season....” *(Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

Welcome to our Summer Messenger!

The season of Summer is mentioned specifically only about a dozen times in our Bibles, but we should in any case be wary of taking imagery that belongs to the dry and often harsh season of the Bible lands, and seeking to apply it to “the pleasant summer sun” of our temperate European experience. Despite the impression that might be gleaned from our modern Westernised Bible translations, Israel (like many places in the world) largely experiences only two seasons, with the ancient Israelites dividing the year into “the days of sun” (May to late October) and “the days of rain” (November to May). The idea of there being *four* seasons arrived centuries later from Greek and Roman influence.

Whatever the perception of Summer in the Old Testament, here in the UK it has generally been regarded as a season to be welcomed and celebrated - and for Christians as a time to give thanks to God for his heavenly warmth upon our faces and the beauty and abundance around us. The human response to the

seasons has long been of interest to scientists, with writers like the Harvard neuropsychiatrist John Sharp, author of ‘The Emotional Calendar,’ postulating that our adult experience of Summer may be conditioned by our own childhood holiday memories, perhaps of a carefree and over-idealised content.

Other scientists have used MRI to look closely at human brain activity itself. The New Scientist, and Scientific American, each reported in February 2016 on research at the University of Liege in Belgium that showed a consistent seasonal pattern among its volunteer subjects: brain activity peaked in the summer on attention tasks and in the autumn on memory tasks.

There are also findings that may be of particular interest to artists and photographers: in August 2015 the Live Science website reported upon research at the University of York, that suggested our colour perception changes with the seasons. Even under consistent and strictly controlled lighting, people perceived



Humans perceive yellow differently in Summer compared to Winter, research at York University has discovered.

the colour pure yellow as markedly different in June compared to January.

It seems as though humans as a species interact more intimately and respond more deeply to the changing seasons than we may be conscious of or care to admit. We take pride in our outward sophistication and in our civilization, yet just beneath the surface we are as subservient as ever to the programming in our brains to respond to seasonality.

As I write these words, the Prime Minister is announcing a four-week postponement of the so-called “freedom day” – 21st June – the day originally planned for the possible lifting of the remaining England Covid 19 restrictions. This delay has drawn a predictably mixed response that includes disappointment. Fun seekers may have to reconcile themselves to a summer that falls

short of their hopes, whilst at the same time people concentrate even more on maintaining livelihoods and a roof over their heads.

It is entirely right that our prayers should be focussed on the plight of billions around the world afflicted cruelly by this disastrous pandemic. But neither should we neglect the everyday precious things we are still inclined to take for granted. Let us make time to thank God for the warmth of the sun; for the rain which makes things grow; for the woods and fields; the sea and the sky; for the flowers and the animals; for all of his abundant blessings.

I hope that each one of you is able to make the most of our ongoing Summer.

God bless you my friends,
Stephen Wilkins

Sunday Worship

Sunday 4 July	Climate Sunday Morning Worship led by the Worship Group
Sunday 11 July	Morning Worship led by the Sailors Society
Sunday 18 July	Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Nicky Gilbert United churches evening service
Sunday 25 July	Morning worship led by Mr David Childs
Sunday 13 June	Morning worship led by Mr David Meatcher
Sunday 20 June	Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Nicky Gilbert United churches evening service
Sunday 27 June	Morning worship led by Mrs Jean Antcliffe
Sunday 1 August	Morning Worship led by Mrs Ruth Dewis
Sunday 8 August	Morning Worship led by Mr Jeremy Hicks
Sunday 15 August	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Tim Clarke
Sunday 22 August	Morning Worship with Fareham Methodist Church
Sunday 29 August	Morning Worship led by Mr David Childs

Services in the church will begin at 10.30am (join on Zoom from 10.15am)

Evening Services take place at 6pm on Zoom.

Full details and updates in the Weekly Bulletin.

Back to Church!

The elders are delighted to announce that from Sunday 27 June, Morning Worship will once again take place in the church building. The service will start at **10.30am**.

The service will also be available on Zoom - you can join Zoom from 10.15am and the details will be available in the Weekly Bulletin.

We are very grateful to Michael Noble, Ian Corless and David Childs who have worked very hard over a number of weeks to get the technology working. Please be patient while any glitches continue to be resolved.

In the first instance there will be no requirement to book, but this facility may be re-introduced if numbers become close to capacity. However

we continue to pray that Covid infections and hospitalisations reduce so that the Government relax restrictions as suggested on 19 July.

We need to keep a record of people in the building to support NHS Track and Trace. If you have a smartphone, check in with your NHS Covid App and scan the QR code displayed at the entrance. If you do not have a smartphone, you can give your name and contact number to one of the stewards.

We are looking forward to seeing you!



Messenger Dates		
Issue	Publication Date	Deadline for articles
Harvest	1 Sept	22 August 2021
Autumn	16 Oct	11 October
Christmas	1 Dec	20 November



At the turn of the tide He is there!!

We have all been through a difficult time with the pandemic, with lock downs and many restrictions, and maybe we have struggled and felt lonely needing to struggle on our own....

I hope that maybe truths in the words from a hymn or from scripture have helped you through brought reassurance, hope and help.

The last couple of months have been especially difficult for me but several songs/hymns and words from scripture have helped me, especially words from a beautiful hymn/song written by Estelle White which I learnt at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre on my first visit in 1994, and which has been a favourite since then and so I'm quoting some of the words below.

'O, the love of my Lord is the essence of all that I love here on earth.

All the beauty I see he has given to me, and the giving is gentle as silence.

At the turn of the tide He is there at my side and his touch is as gentle as silence'

Jesus touching our lives in some way might be contact from someone who encouraged or helped, or a feeling of being particularly loved or valued

or it may even be words drifting into our minds which remind us of God.

Maybe we don't always recognise these as gifts from our faithful Lord, who assured us He will never leave us or forsake us.... who is there quietly by our side...

Perhaps we need to be more open to this possibility?

Can I suggest we don't miss these times or take them for granted but give thanks to the Lord for His generous care which comes in many different ways and sometimes as gentle as silence.

Brenda Russell

Are there any words or hymns or verses from Scripture that have helped you through difficult times? Do send them to the editor@farehamurc.org.uk so we can share them in The Messenger.

Prayers for July

To Ponder:

'Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' Psalm 91

Pray every week for..... Our Elders, Church Officers and Rev Tim Clark as they seek the way forward for Fareham URC and care for the congregation and remember all those who are leading worship including the virtual choir.

1st – 3rd Give thanks that God is our refuge and strength.

Pray for new ministers and CRCW's finishing college and starting in new posts and for their ordinations. Pray for all those who are waiting for appointments or treatments

4th - 10th Give thanks that God's love continues forever

For the General Assembly 9th-12th July

Pray that people suffering from Covid and all who care for them That the G7 leaders will follow through with their promises on climate and providing vaccines for all Remember all people living in Israel that peace may come and reign.

11th – 17th Give thanks for times of rest and relaxation wherever these are taken

Pray for politicians and decision makers local and national

Pray for children and young people leaving schools and colleges moving towards new beginnings.

18th – 24th Give thanks for our friends in Christians Together in Fareham Pray for those whose faith has been challenged over the past year, asking God to steady their feet and renew their hope in Him.

Pray for fair sharing with the poorer parts of the world of vaccines, food etc

25th - 31st Give thanks for friends and family who care, encourage, laugh and cry with you

Pray for hundreds of children living in refugee camps in Uganda and South Sudan, where MAF has programmes. Pray for tutors, teachers and students preparing for a new term.



Eco-church: Climate Sunday 4 July

2021 has been hailed by many as an important year for climate action. As I write, the G7 summit is taking place with action to protect the planet on the agenda. In November COP26, the United Nations climate change summit will be held in Glasgow.



In the lead up to COP26, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland launched an ecumenical initiative encouraging local churches to hold a Climate Sunday service before September 2021, as a starting point for action and advocacy ahead of the COP.

Fareham URC has chosen 4 July as the date for our climate focussed service: an opportunity to take stock, discern the next step on our Eco journey, make a long-term commitment to giving it priority and to join with other churches in our call for change.

As well as exploring the theological basis of creation care and action on climate, we will look at the practical actions that we can take, both together and as individuals.

Recycle

Our recycling initiative was prompted by completing our Eco Church questionnaire and was one of the commitments we made which resulted in our Bronze Award. The six recycling boxes are now ready and waiting to be filled! We can collect:

- ◆ plastic milk bottle tops
- ◆ clean aluminium foil



- ◆ toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes
- ◆ biscuit, cake and cracker wrappers, crisp packets (including multipack wrappers), popcorn, nuts, pretzel packets
- ◆ washing up liquid caps, cleaning spray triggers
- ◆ toiletries/cosmetic product packaging (e.g. tubes, lids, roll-on, sun lotion, hair care)

Speak up

The Climate Sunday initiative churches, including the URC, are encouraging us as a church and as individuals to read and sign [The](#)



[Climate Coalition's 'The Time Is Now' declaration](#) telling politicians that we want a cleaner, greener, fairer future at the heart of plans to rebuild a strong economy. The church signature has a box to say what actions the local church is committing to, which would include things like our Eco Church initiative. If you would like to sign as an individual, more information and the petition can be found at the link above.

Bin Twinning

Kathryn Childs will explain [Tearfund's bin-twinning project](#) during the service - see her article on page17. Both individuals and organisations can twin their bins and a retiring collection at the end of the service on



4 July will raise funds with the aim of twinning both our church bins. If you are not in church on that date, the collection will also be available in the following weeks.

Sue Wilkins

Traidcraft - helping you reduce pollution.

Did you know that domestic pollution causes more damage to the environment than industrial pollution?

A lot of this comes from the detergents we flush down our drains.

The Bio D range that we sell via TRADCRAFT can make a big impact on that. When it comes to ethical ratings, Bio D is top of the class, well known commercial brands are all at the bottom.

Bio-D is an independent, family-owned, ethical company based in the UK (Hull). They're committed to promoting the use of hypoallergenic, eco-friendly detergents that have a minimum impact on the planet, both in use and in the process of manufacturing. In fact, they produce the UK's only 100% hypoallergenic range of household detergents.

They use natural ingredients and, where possible, all raw materials are plant based and obtained from renewable sources. On their website you'll find every product they sell

with an ingredient breakdown. Bio-D are strictly cruelty free and vegan. They're subject to scrutiny and approval by The Vegan Society, Naturewatch Trust, Cruelty Free International and The World Wildlife Foundation, so they're very, very accountable.

We can provide:
Washing-up liquid (£2.40); Laundry liquid (£5.65); Fabric conditioner (£2.85); Sanitising handwash (£4.30).



You can find more detail at traidcraftshop.co.uk

Available from the church Traidcraft stall (when open) or delivered to your door!

Contact Leslie Brown to order.

Twin your bin

Here in Fareham the bin lorry comes every week and takes our rubbish to be recycled or disposed of safely. Although we see some litter on the streets, on the whole rubbish in our country is a thing that we don't worry about.

In some countries in the world there are no bins emptied each week, no recycling centres, just vast heaps of rubbish. As a result, there is pollution, disease and rotting mess. Two billion people don't have their rubbish collected.

We can help with this by giving to a Tearfund charity which, like our Toilet twinning project a few years ago, twins our bins with another place where partners are setting up small enterprises to collect and recycle waste, and encouraging local people to sign up for these services. They're also raising awareness about the impact of waste on health and the environment, and encouraging people to reduce their plastic use. They're lobbying governments and multinational companies to help reduce the amount of waste being



produced in the first place.

You can choose where your bin is twinned and when you give; you receive a sticker for your bin so that the people who see your bin know that you are helping people in Africa and Asia to live a safer and healthier life. £45 pays for one bin to be twinned and £95 pays for a gift bundle to twin 3 bins. There will be a collection at church for donations towards the cost of twinning the church bins and you can go to the website [Bin Twinning](#) if you would like to twin your own bin.

Kathryn Childs



The first of the Stepwise Streams

Faith Filled Life

is starting in Wessex Synod

The first session of the group will be held on

Monday 13 September 2021

7pm–9pm on Zoom

Please book your place before 15 August

Email: development@urcwessex.org.uk

For further information: please contact

kevin.dudman@scottishcollege.org

Stepwise

About Stepwise

If you are keen to reflect on, and develop your Christian faith, ready to be stimulated and challenged, and want to make a difference in your own life and the lives of others, then Stepwise is what you're looking for.

Stepwise is shaped around your strengths and needs, in the context of your own community and church. It emphasises the importance of learning from your daily life – wherever you are and whoever God might be calling you to be.

The Stepwise programme “Faith-filled Life “is made up of six key themes:

Why Stepwise? Why now? An introduction to Faith-filled Life

Who am I? Exploring identity and faith

Where do I fit? How faith shapes our daily life

What journey am I on? Our walk with God

How do I deal with challenges? Building confidence for facing life challenges

Which way now? Looking back and looking forward

Faith-filled Life normally takes about three months to complete depending on how frequently the local group sessions take place and whether the group takes more than one session to work through each theme.

Between the group meetings you will also create a reflective journal and meet with a mentor.

Who is Faith-filled Life for?

Faith-filled Life is for anyone who wants to develop and grow in their Christian faith and discipleship. It provides a foundation for exploring more deeply the call to discipleship in the 21st century.

To find out more search “URCStepwise” to access the URC website.

What's Next Papa?

“This resurrection life you receive from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It’s adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike

“What’s next, Papa?” *Romans 8 vv 15-17. The Message.*

What’s Next Papa? Or as the Good News Bible records, “and by the Spirit’s Power we cry out to God, Father! My Father!”

At a time when the whole world seemed topsy turvy and all our comfort blankets of busy-ness and activity ground to a halt with ever increasing grim Covid statistics on each news channel, Wessex Synod advertised a Faith Filled programme on Zoom, the first ever on-line introductory course to Stepwise, the URC follow-on programme from Walking the Way.

Could this programme be an answer to prayer? Could this advert be God at work? God utilising the new medium of Zoom together with the enforced downtime to develop and grow our Christian faith and discipleship to face the inevitable challenges ahead? A key tenet of the programme promised to be reflection on the previous week and asking, “Where did I see God at work

this week?”

The Faith Filled Life programme also promised to explore our identity and faith; to reflect on how faith shapes our daily lives, to review our journey with God, while building spiritual confidence to face life’s many challenges. The programme did not disappoint. The facilitators rose to the challenge on Zoom of gelling ten diverse individuals, all with different aspirations and life experiences into a coherent on-line group. We may never ever meet one another face to face, yet strong bonds of Christian fellowship were forged over the weeks.

An integral component of the course, was selecting or making a notebook memorable to us, where we would have pleasure and joy journaling our observations, messages and reflections during the course and so make the connections and hear the spirit at work. I have always journaled, so this exercise was an



additional joy for me. My first entry in my notebook, used with his permission was a copy of a slide shown by Stephen Wilkins in morning worship around this time – the slide of John Wesley’s words, “Do all the good you can as long as ever you can”. This encapsulated my feelings as I started the course, my main aim being to study the voice of God within Scripture to do good. I had no aspirations at the outset, other than this private study of Scripture but, as the course progressed, we were enabled to lead and share devotions and prayers with the group in the supportive environment of Christian love and caring, studying from the many versions of Holy Scripture.

One closing prayer, in which I hoped to encapsulate the sense of community by photographing

seagulls clustered together on a shingle spit at Stokes Bay, may have been a little obscure, but the experience of creating and writing the prayer was significant to me .

We were also introduced to the Spider Web diagram to plot our progress over the course in the key tenets of discipleship, Prayer, Bible Study, Worship, Leadership, Pastoral Care, Expressing Faith, Mission and What way next? I found my diagram lopsided towards knowledge and skills I would not have anticipated, surprising me somewhat.

As well as the on-line facilitators, we were supported locally during the course by a self-selected mentor from our home churches. I was spoilt for choice of suitable mentors in Fareham URC, but I chose a “no nonsense” person whom I knew would be supportive, but who would also spiritually challenge.

And challenge he certainly did. Reflecting on the Spider Diagram for the last time, he asked, “What’s next Jane?”

Perhaps the question we both should be asking, “What next, Papa?”

Jane Dowdell

Thank you Father God for Stepwise.

Thank you that your Word tells us that you have given us everything we need for life and Godliness. Help us to remind ourselves of this truth and embrace what you are calling us to do.

We choose within Stepwise to keep feeding ourselves on your Scripture and to be open to what you have to say to us personally through your Word.

We thank you for the gifts and talents that you have given to each of us, even the gifts we have yet to discover.

Help us, please, to be diligent about developing and using those gifts rather than allowing them to remain dormant.

We thank that you that we can be confident that you are at work in us, even during those days when we are in the midst of struggles and pain.

We thank you Father God that you put us in communities.

Help us, please, to be aware of who you want us to reach out to today in that community, church, neighbourhood, by Zoom or in Stepwise.

We know that you will equip us and empower us to do those things that you have called us to do and so we look to you for Energy, Grace and Wisdom.

Help us please, to be truly your Grateful Servants.

Amen

Adapted from prayer Claire Musters, Womanalive. Photo Jane Dowdell



Bishops Waltham United Free Church



Open Day, Sunday 18th July

Family friendly morning worship

Lunch - jkt spuds with variety of fillings

Afternoon tea

Children's activities

Community singing

We celebrate being able to meet together once again for worship, mums and toddlers, coffee mornings, tabletop sales, exhibitions, and welcoming various hire groups.

Family morning worship - 10:30-11:30am

Lunch - 1:00-2:00pm

Toddler's half hour - 2:30-3:00pm

Afternoon - children's activities, coffee, cakes
and a chat

Afternoon tea - 5:00-6:00pm

Evening - Community hymn singing 6:30-7:30pm

Everyone is welcome - come and go as you please.

Contact Jenny for more details and to book lunch or afternoon tea:
0797 352 9415

All free - donations welcome

Christians Together in Fareham

At a recent meeting of CTiF we considered a proposal that member churches might wish to demonstrate the concern of the Christian community for those in our borough who have been affected by the pandemic by launching a “Fareham Churches Emergency Fund”.

As we all know, the Covid pandemic has had a dramatic impact on the fortunes of thousands of people. Here in Fareham, foodbanks have been busier than ever, and Citizens Advice is particularly concerned that rent arrears and debt will be a major problem once lockdown protection measures are lifted.

However, the lockdowns have also resulted in many people saving money that they were no longer able to spend – a phenomenon known as the “Matthew effect” from the Gospel of Matthew 25:29 “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken

away.” (or, in plain English “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer”).

The members of CTiF were grateful to the PCC of Holy Trinity & St Columba (HT&SC) who had launched a Covid emergency fund earlier this year and who have offered to open up the fund to other churches and to

re-badge it under the new name “Fareham Churches Emergency Fund” which explains its ecumenical nature.

The HT&SC Covid Emergency Fund has already raised over £11,000, half of which has been donated through Fareham Citizens Advice (FCA) for

distribution to individual cases who FCA indicate are facing the most urgent housing problems - especially rent arrears and debt. By using Citizens Advice as an agent, the church is relieved of the responsibility of deciding who, amongst many deserving candidates, should receive a grant. The other half of this fund is being used to

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make grants to agencies elsewhere in the UK, but it is proposed that CTiF should restrict its funding to local cases, distributed through Citizens Advice.



The Practicalities

Raising donations.

Funds can be raised in one of two ways:

Cash or cheques can be collected by individual churches and forwarded as a lump sum (with Gift Aid either at the same time, or later) to the HT&SC Treasurer who has agreed to act as the treasurer of a wider fund; or

Individuals can make donations direct to HT&SC by BACS / text

Publicity.

CTiF will produce fundraising material and notes (with BACS and text details) for inclusion in newsletters and websites of churches wishing to participate.

Management of new funds. Should other churches wish to create a Fareham Churches Emergency Fund, the HT&SC Steering Group will be expanded to include representation from CTiF.

Time limitation.

It is intended that the Emergency Fund should be time-limited, covering immediate post-pandemic needs; as such, it will close in March 2022.

What Next?

If any member churches of CTiF wish to join the scheme and help in establishing a Fareham Churches Emergency Fund, please contact the CTiF secretary, Ian Corless.

Lucy Docherty

Christians Together in Fareham

Refugee Matters

Storage Space – request for help

As you will be aware from recent communications we are now very actively pursuing the purchase of a house in order to welcome a refugee family. Over the past 18 months we have had a range of furniture & white goods donated that we have been able to find storage for thanks to kind offers from our supporters.

We have recently received an offer of more items but, unfortunately, all the currently offered storage has been utilised. We have the offer of an oven, hob and extractor hood but they have to be collected from the donor by the end of next week (25th June). If you have any space in a garage or spare bedroom that you would kindly consider making available could you please let us know. Chris Lane, Fundraising Leader : c-f.lane@outlook.com

Legal Professional – assisting with certification of documents

We have just been informed that we will need to obtain identity checks for some/all of our investors who are planning to buy a house. This house will be let to our refugee family at a reasonable rate which will play a big part in transforming their life.



We are looking for a solicitor or legal professional who would be able and willing to certify the required documents. We are hoping the work will be done for free or at a low cost as a way of helping out with our work.

If you would be willing to do this or you know of someone please contact Paul Tomlinson using paultomlinson@refugeematters.org or 07941 328278

Prayers of thanks and praise

- For the skills and dedication of the Core Team members – now joined by a new volunteer secretary. Many thanks to her, and to David for holding the fort for so long.
- We have regained our “Approval in Principle” (the previous one was ‘timed out’)
- Expressions of interest in the Ethical Trust now amount to over £345,000
- It’s been agreed we should still be looking to buy a 4 bedroom property, and the Housing Team are working on this tirelessly
- Two members of the Core Team have offered to take on vital extra roles so we can progress our Application to the next stage

Urgent prayer requests:

- We need to find and secure a suitable property asap
- We need prompt action from the Solicitors handling the setting up of our Trust

THANK YOU for supporting all our endeavours by your prayers!

Ian

Ian Corless

Secretary, Christians Together in Fareham

07940 912564

farehamchristians.org.uk



Amanda Khozi Muckwashi: Desert Island Discs

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, chief executive of Christian Aid, shared the eight tracks, book and luxury she would take with her if cast away to a desert island. The programme was aired on 4 June and is available on [BBC Sounds](#).

Amanda was born in Twickenham but at the age of 2 her family moved her and her to older brothers back to Zambia. Her father's family came from Malawi, whereas her mother's parents were from Zimbabwe. Her father was musical and a bandmaster. Sadly, he died when Amanda was two. Her mother was a widow in her twenties, pregnant with another daughter. The tradition in Malawi was for the children to go to the father's family, but her maternal grandfather arranged for Amanda and subsequently her younger sister to remain in Zambia. The boys moved away and Amanda lost touch with them until they were all adults.

Amanda's mother was a secretary, so Amanda spent a lot of time with her maternal grandparents. He told her a story of when her mother was young and they had to take shelter from the heavy tropical rain.

Apparently, when the rain stops, it becomes noticeably quiet. As they walked home, the sticks under their feet would crack and Amanda's Mum would jump. Her father said it was the trees who were talking about her, they knew who she was. It was nothing to frighten her.

At the age of 10, Amanda's mother re-married and the family moved to Rome to be near the stepfather's job. They lived close to the Vatican. The stepfather was a widower and had 7 children from his first marriage. He and Amanda's mother went on to have two children together. So, living in a family of 11 children, Amanda learned negotiating skills if she wanted to watch her favourite cartoons. She also learned to watch and listen. She said she had a feeling of being inside but also outside. The children were baptised and confirmed in the Catholic church.

In 1987, Amanda went back to Zambia and attended Lusaka University to study Law. Her lecturers inspired her to want to know more about justice. They debated the impact of colonisation and Amanda's social instincts were aroused. Nelson Mandela visited the University and addressed the students. It was also at this time that an aunt introduced Amanda to the church of the Seventh Day Adventists and this has remained her home church.

The year 1991 saw Amanda graduate from university and start work with a Fair Trade organisation. Life became difficult in Zambia and so Amanda and her husband moved to Coventry. Apparently, she had taken her Master's degree at Warwick University. Unable to find work within the Law, Amanda re-trained as a Care Worker and learned humility.

She went on to work for VSO International, the United Nations and in 2008 became the CEO of Christian Aid. It is sad to note that

only 3% of CEO's come from black or ethnic groups. She hopes that her presence inspires other black and ethnic girls, but she says it is difficult. She wants to be part of a change in the general outlook of the world, that the white folk are the saviours of the black or ethnic groups.

Everyone deserves the right to have work so that they can feed their families, the children should be able to go to school and there should be available healthcare.

Amanda loves a nice comfy bed and does not like creepy crawlies and snakes. However, she says that "Knowing God is with me, is enough."

Maddy Brand

***"Knowing God is with me,
is enough."***

Council for World Mission



The Council for World Mission is a worldwide partnership of Christian churches. The 32 members are committed to sharing their resources of money, people, skills and insights globally to carry out God's mission locally. CWM was created in 1977 and incorporates the London Missionary Society (1795), the Commonwealth Missionary Society (1836) and the (English) Presbyterian Board of Missions (1847).

The following is extracted from the CWM [website](#)

At its Annual Members' Meeting, held electronically on 15-17 June 2021, Council for World Mission (CWM) reflected on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on peoples and countries around the world, with particular attention given to vaccine distribution. We issue this open letter out of deep concern for a more just and globally coordinated response to the pandemic, in general, and to the vaccine distribution, in particular.

CWM notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has, more than ever, exposed the inequalities within and between nations. ...

...In an agreement at the June 2021 G7 summit, hosted in the United Kingdom in June, leaders committed

to sharing at least 870 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine directly, to deliver at least half by the end of 2021. They also reaffirmed their support for the COVAX scheme as "the primary route for providing vaccines to the poorest countries." The G7 countries – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States – have so far purchased over a third of the world's vaccine supply, while making up 13% of the global population. Governments in these wealthier countries, including the UK, are already planning for the booster doses that are needed for their own populations to remain protected.

The COVAX scheme hopes to distribute enough vaccines to protect at least 20% of the population in 92 low- or medium-income countries,

starting with healthcare workers and the most vulnerable groups. Even if COVAX meets these goals, they would fall far short of the level of immunity that experts say is needed to end the pandemic. The WHO has suggested that figure is at least 70%...

...The Council for World Mission notes the words of World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, following this pledge:

Many other countries are now facing a surge in cases – and they are facing it without vaccines. We are in the race of our lives, but it’s not a fair race, and most countries have barely left the starting line. We welcome... announcements about donations of vaccines and thank leaders. But we need more, and we need them faster.

In the words of WHO, “nobody wins the race until everyone wins”.

We also note our concern regarding the necessity for multilateral development banks to urgently release funding to help countries prepare their health systems for a large-scale rollout of vaccines in the coming months. We would hope that

this release of funds does not take the form of further debt for already pressurised economies.

In the light of these facts, and the continuing inequitable distribution of vaccines globally, and in line with its core values, the Council for World Mission respectfully urges the United Kingdom and other G7 nations to:

1. radically rethink their financial contribution and sharing commitments towards controlling this pandemic
 - avoiding buying more than their own populations require
 - avoiding profiteering at the expense of life
2. use the COVAX scheme, rather than distributing vaccines directly, to ensure proper process
3. where relevant, reinstate their commitment to a UN foreign aid budget target of 0.7% of GDP

Signed

Rev Lydia Neshangwe, Moderator

Rev Dr Collin Cowan, General Secretary

and Members of CWM

Finding the Time

A 145-year-old time capsule, containing ten coins and a rolled-up newspaper, has been discovered in the foundations of a URC primary school.

As reported on BBC News, the glass jar was found 'by complete accident' while workers renovated the chapel at Barrow URC Primary School in Clitheroe, Lancashire, built in 1876.

The artefact had been placed inside one of the chapel's foundation stones.

Speaking to the BBC, Head teacher Sue Taylor said the 'incredible find' had brought 'the 'history of the school alive for the children'.

'It was obvious it was a time capsule when I picked it up. I could hear the coins jangling at the bottom,' she said.

A conservation team is now examining the time capsule and will unroll the newspaper and research the coins' history.



Building work was carried out at the school in April . The demolition team lifted up the foundation stones in the chapel and found the glass jar.

During the first coronavirus lockdown some of the children buried a time capsule from 2020.

Ms Taylor said finding this capsule meant 'history has come full circle.'

The time capsule is now in the hands of Lancashire County Council's conservation team which will involve the children as much as possible in the process of conserving it. When the capsule is returned to the school it will be placed in the new main entrance which is roughly where it was planted many years ago.

(from urc.org.uk/latest-news)





Gosport URC St Columba is seeking to appoint a part time

CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER

We are looking for someone with enthusiasm and ideas to join our small friendly team of volunteers as we seek to take the love of Jesus out to young people and their families in our community.

Salary: £10k – £12k pa depending on experience

Hours: 18.5 hrs per week-(Flexible)

Closing date: Midday 9th July 2021

Interviews: Friday 23rd July 2021

For more information and an application pack please e-mail Chris at secstcolumbas.gosport@gmail.com

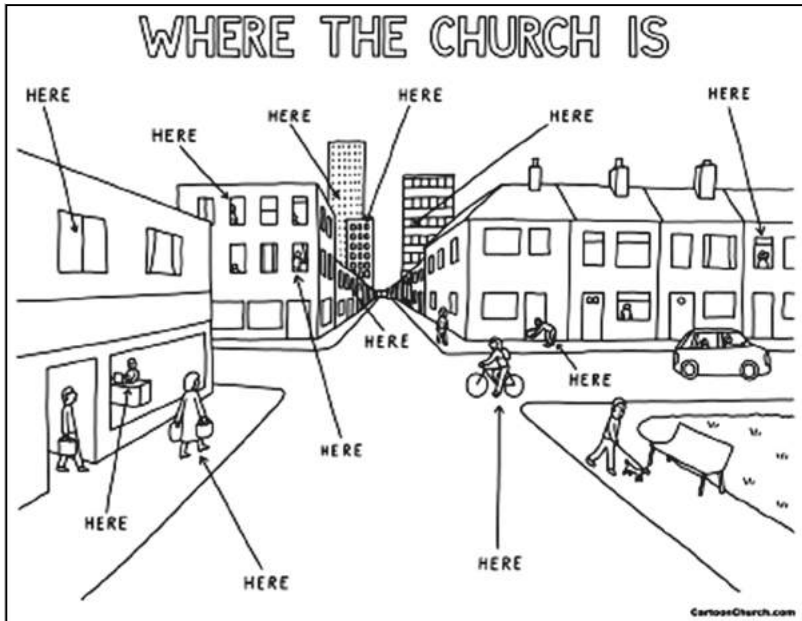
There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement for the post holder to be a committed Christian.
The post is also subject to ongoing EDBS checks and Safeguarding training.

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