

April 2019

# *The Messenger*

The magazine of Fareham United Reformed Church

**“Sharing Jesus’ love with the world today”**



**Easter Sunday 21 April**

**8.15am Easter Morning Communion**

**9am Easter Breakfast**

**10.30am Easter Day Praise**

## April

### Vestibule Rota

- 7 - Shirley Fawcett & Ann Arthur
- 14 - Rosie & Jeff Smith
- 21 - Dora Lewis & Rachel Swallow
- 28 - Bronwyn Mason & Naomi Zumpe

### Flower Ministry

- 7 - Brian & Brenda Davey
- 14 - Margaret Henderson
- 21 - Helen Collins
- 28 - Molly Freeman

### Lectionary Readings for April

- 7 - Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
- 14 - Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56
- 21 - Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; 1Corinthians 15:19-26
- 28 - Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8

## EASTER BREAKFAST

**Sunday 21 April - 9am**

Come and share a continental breakfast with friends and families and celebrate the Risen Lord!

Followed by Family Worship at 10.30am

£3.50 adult

£1 child

**Get your tickets  
from Liz Dunning**

## From the Minister: No easy hope

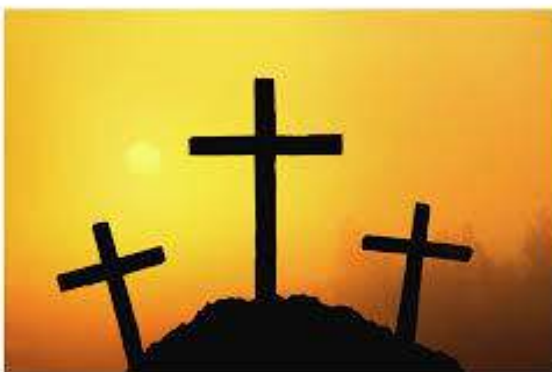
Dear Friends,

As I look from my window I am privileged to see a variety of birds, from the tiny wren to the huge carrion crow, feeding, or otherwise “working” the garden as it shoots forth its strong Spring growth. The scene suggests “All’s right with the world”.

But moving to the kitchen and reading the paper or listening to the headlines, another picture emerges. Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi inundated by Cyclone Idai. Air crashes where safety software was sold as an optional extra leaving pilots of planes without it desperately thumbing through manuals to find a way of stopping the plane plunging itself earthwards. Christchurch mourning the Muslim victims of a crazed right-wing murderer. And Brexit uncertainty hanging like a cloud over all. “Momentous March”, of my last month’s letter, has given way to Anxious April. Here are counterbalances to my idyllic, Springtime garden scene.

And so, albeit late this year, comes Easter. And its message is that there is always hope because of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. This is a living hope, never extinguished, never battered into submission, never taken away even in the light of world events, our sinfulness or the sinfulness of others. But it is not an “easy” hope.

After all, Christ did not return saying “Hey presto! Look. Here I am, back and perfect, Persil-white and unscathed”. Rather, he returned to his frightened followers and showed them his nail-scarred hands and feet, and his spear-gashed side. He had experienced the evil of the world, and triumphed over it. There was no Easter Day without Holy Week.



A faith based on these events will not be defeated by disasters, be they natural or man-made, will recognise loss and sympathise, will be galvanized to repair and to renew, to comfort and to shore up the grieving, as long as it takes those most deeply affected to sense that life is worth living again.

God so loved the world that he gave us Jesus, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, without hope, but have eternal life: life in company with God now and forever. He calls us to share that gift of love, sacrificially, with our neighbours near and far, that through our loving they may see the wounded, risen Jesus, and find hope enough to put one foot in front of the other. And, believe this, possibly find a life-founding faith of their own.

Yours, a fellow pilgrim through Holy Week to Easter,

*Paul*

## **Worship Group**

On Sunday 26th May the worship group will be leading the morning service. The theme for the service is peace. We would like to include contributions from the congregation.

You can do this in two ways. First, your thoughts or quotes about peace, which could be included in the service. These can be anonymous if you prefer. Please put them in the marked box which will be in the vestibule each Sunday throughout April, or email them to [farehamurcnotices@btinternet.com](mailto:farehamurcnotices@btinternet.com).

We would also like items which represent peace to you. These can be placed on a table in the front of the church to form a display and focus for the service.

Thank you

*The Worship Group*

## Noticeboard

*To all at the  
United Reformed Church.  
Thank you for the  
card, flowers and  
get well wishes  
Kindest Regards  
Brenda Crowley*



Edwin would like to sincerely thank everyone for their cards, kind thoughts and prayers received on the unexpected death of his brother in Germany. So comforting to have the arms of the church family around you.

*Edwin and Jo Cutress*

The Coffee Morning in aid of the Bible Society raised over £140 - Thanks to all who baked, served and bought. We had a fun morning!



### **Messy Church at Fareham URC**

On Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, we will be looking at the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. If you haven't been before, we would love to have you join us – whatever age you are!

10 am – Fun activities

11 am – Celebration

11.15 am – Food and chat

*Thank you if you have already donated towards the cost of producing the Messenger. If you haven't already done so, please put your contribution in an envelope and drop it into the offertory bag There are 10 issues per year - one each month except August and January (double issue in July and December!) A suggested donation is £5 but please give what you can afford.*

*Moira Noble*

### **The Gondoliers in Concert with Narration.**



**SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019**

**at 7.30pm**

Fareham Methodist Church,

# Welcome to our Holy Week and Easter Services



*Sunday 14*      10:30am Family Worship for Palm Sunday

*Monday 15, Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17*

7:30pm      Led reflections on a theme

*Thursday 18*      7:30pm      Maundy Thursday

Communion with contributions from the Choir

*Friday 19*      10:00am      Walk of Witness and Worship in the  
town centre

*Sunday 21*      8:15am      Easter Morning Communion

10:30am      Easter Day Praise



## PRAYER CHAIN



**It is good to be able to say that several people  
have joined the chain**

**But please don't think it is too late to join..... it would be great to extend  
and strengthen and extend the chain**

**Please contact Brenda Russell or Jean Antcliffe to ask questions and/or to  
join**

### ***Prayer chain by text***

*If you are interested in joining the prayer chain but would prefer to receive requests for prayer by text instead of a phone call, then please see Jean Antcliffe for a short form to complete with your name and mobile phone number. The information will be stored in a password protected text messaging service. The list will only be used for the sending of requests for prayer. You will not be required to pass on the request to anyone else.*

### **Holy Week prayers**

This year the prayers in Holy Week will be at 7.30pm in the lounge or in the Sanctuary. They will be for about 30-45 mins, following the lectionary readings. Everyone is welcome to come, the leaders this year are;

Mon 15 April	Ian Corless
Tuesday 16 April	Michael Noble
Wednesday 17 April	Meryl Moore

### **Prayers after the service**

On two Sundays a month, members of the Healing Ministry Team will be available at the front of the Sanctuary at the end of the morning service to pray with anyone who would like personal prayer. Thank you to the congregation who leave the Sanctuary quietly while this ministry takes place.

Prayer Ministry will take place on 14 and 28 April.

## Traidcraft News:

At the last December Church Meeting, it was agreed that we should donate the profits from our Traidcraft stall in 2018 to Traidcraft Exchange.

Here is a recent letter from Esther Stevenson, CEO Traidcraft Exchange -

“I wanted to say thank you for your kind and generous response to our urgent appeal at Christmas and to update you on the impact your donations are already having.

Last year, like you, we were very concerned about how producer groups would be affected by what was happening at Traidcraft plc. We hoped you would help, and we’re happy to report that your donations are already making a difference.

How your donations are helping - Our team have been working alongside the twelve most affected producer groups, helping them to formulate new plans for a future without sales to Traidcraft plc. We’ve been offering individually tailored support to each group, building on our years of expertise working with farmers and artisans across some of the world’s poorest communities.

This work is a little out of the ordinary for us – the producer groups affected by Traidcraft plc’s downsizing are larger-scale fair trade businesses. However, the majority of the people Traidcraft Exchange supports through our development projects may never be in a position to export overseas, but struggle to make a basic living.

That’s why your donations are also helping support our core projects, reaching the most vulnerable and exploited through trade across the world.

Thanks to your support, five of the worst affected producer groups (Gospel House, Saidpur, Prokritee, Noah’s Ark and CORR Jute works) were able to showcase their products to new buyers at a European trade show in February.

My colleague Kate met the producers at 6am at a bustling conference centre in Frankfurt, Germany, where tradespeople and artisans were gathered to display their goods, and representatives from buyers across the globe were looking to make orders, build contacts, and find new products.

Shiran from Gospel House spoke to Kate about their hopes and plans: “I’d like to thank all the people who have supported us – they have seen the vision and seen how it works. We are thankful Gospel House is in the hearts of so many



people. We've had an order of 1500 small wooden emergency vehicles, which although small, is still positive."

The chance to attend the fair and gain new orders also provided a lifeline to Saidpur Enterprises, who told us: "The design team helped us set up the stand so it looks attractive to new



buyers. We can see the outcomes directly – everyone who comes here has appreciated the designs and the set up. We've had a lot of interest.... the new designs of cards and printed washbags have been popular, and a few people have placed orders for samples of cards. We have had new buyers, but also been able to see existing buyers and so been able to showcase new designs to them. Showcasing products at a fair like this also means that people can change designs to suit their needs – for example, ordering products in different colours or sizes."

It's not just producer groups your donations are supporting. Thanks to you, we are continuing the life-changing work we do with some of the world's most vulnerable people – from those exploited in bonded labour in India, to disabled people working in rural Tanzania, to women scraping a living from gathering fruit in West Africa.

This Easter, we'll be focusing our appeal on our ground-breaking work in Southern Senegal, which I look forward to sharing with you.

In the changing political and economic landscape, we know the next few years will continue to be uncertain and challenging. We also know that around the world, many very poor people face far greater challenges every day as they continue to be excluded or exploited by trade in ways they cannot control.

Once again, thank you so much for all you've done and continue to do for Traidcraft Exchange and the people we support. You're a vital part of a movement dedicated to changing the world, and we hope you're encouraged to hear of the difference we can make together."

*Leslie Brown*

## Visiting the Mosque

The fifth consecutive 'Visit My Mosque Day' was on 3rd March. However our local Wessex Jamaat Al Mahdi Centre was open on the 2nd March and I went along with a friend. We parked in the large grounds, tied scarves round our heads, and entered through the women's entrance in one wing of the modern one-storey building. Here we were warmly welcomed and sat to remove our shoes. There were many displays in the large central room which is used for worship, and its two wings. In one wing the many children and adults enjoyed several craft activities, and women had their hands decorated at the henna station. In the main area there was a display about Islam and the environment, and a discussion corner, with a large empty table and the promise of refreshments to come. The other wing had posters and displays about beliefs and I had an interesting discussion with one lady about prayer. Some children's book were displayed, beautifully illustrated with pictures of nature, buildings and birds – but no humans, which seems strange to us of course.

Very soon we were told to collect our refreshments before the 'talk and prayer demonstration' at 3 pm. Many interesting dishes appeared and visitors tried out little chicken pies and chick-pea stews and cakes, juggling paper plates around the many other visitors. At three a young man chanted a passage from the Quran, and afterwards a young lady gave us the same reading in English. The preacher, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato, then spoke for a few minutes. This was the first time the centre had opened in this way, and he was very pleased with the number of visitors. The centre has been working with the local community and is keen to foster communications, in order to promote understanding and to overcome prejudice. After the talk there was a long call to prayer (the words were displayed on a screen) and a prayer demonstration although as the building was now very busy and noisy this was harder to see from the back. After another look round we collected our shoes to leave. It was a relief to remove the headscarf as it had been very warm indoors!

The overall impression was of some very warm and friendly people who are happy to talk about their beliefs. As it was very crowded it was quite nice that everyone was wearing socks as you didn't have to worry about heavy boots on toes!

For more information about Wessex Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat and the Al Madhi Centre see [www.almahdi.org.uk/our-community/history](http://www.almahdi.org.uk/our-community/history) . The community at the Al Madhi Centre is drawn from a wide area around Portsmouth and Southampton.

*Judith James*

## **Serenity - another version**

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God. At least not the last time I checked. And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot since, once again, I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect. It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway. Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than anyone else in the room, or that no-one knows what they're talking about except me, or that I alone have all the answers. Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you. Amen

*Printed with permission*

## Diary

Monday	1	9.30am	FFUFs
Tuesday	2	12.30pm	Lent Lunch
		7.30pm	Safeguarding Group
Wednesday	3	10am	Knitwitters
		10am	Prayershare
Friday	5	7.30pm	Choir practice
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>Passion Sunday</b>
		10.30am	Family Worship - Revd Brenda Russell
		6.00pm	Evening worship - Revd Paul Bedford
Monday	8	10am	'Messy Easter'
Tuesday	9	12.30pm	Lent Lunch
		7.15pm	Prayers before
		7.30pm	Church Meeting
Wednesday	10	10am	Knitwitters
		2pm	Healing Ministry Group - all welcome
Friday	12	2.30pm	Prayershare
		7.30pm	Choir practice
Saturday	13	8.30am	Women's Breakfast at church
		9.00am	Men's Breakfast at The Slug and Lettuce, West Street
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
		10.30am	Family Worship - Revd Paul Bedford including the baptism of Ethan Bembridge Prayer Ministry after the service
		5pm	PFZ

*Items for the May Messenger by **Sunday 21 April** please,  
to [farehamurcnotices@btinternet.com](mailto:farehamurcnotices@btinternet.com)*

*Items may also be dropped in to the Church letter box at any time  
or handed to Moira Noble.*

Monday	15	7.30 - 8pm	Holy Week Meditation
Tuesday	16	12.30pm	Lent Lunch
		7.30 - 8pm	Holy Week Meditation Worship Group follows
Wednesday	17	10am	Knitwitters
		1.45pm	For prayer: CTiF Easter Story Trail for children at Community Church
		7.30 - 8pm	Holy Week Meditation
Thursday	18	7.30pm	Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday with contributions from the Choir
Friday	19	9.40 am	Good Friday: Depart from church - Walk of Witness, 10am at the Podium
Saturday	20	9am	Decorating the church for Easter
<b>Sunday</b>			<b>Easter Sunday</b>
	21	8.15am	Easter Communion - Revd Paul Bedford
		9am	Easter Breakfast
		10.30am	Family Worship for Easter Day Mr David Childs
		2.30pm	Easter Service at Cams Ridge Nursing Home
Wednesday	24	10am	Knitwitters
Thursday	25	2pm	Prayershare
		7.30pm	Social and Fundraising Group meeting
Friday	26		No Choir practice
<b>Sunday</b>	28	10.30am	Family Worship - Revd Sam Williams Prayer Ministry after the service
Monday	29	9.30am	FFUFs

## Twenty-five Years in Osborn Road

This month we are celebrating 25 years in this church building. Some of the congregation will remember the morning of 10 April 1994 when we held the first half of the service in the West Street church, picked up the lectern Bible and we all walked up the road singing to Osborn Road for the second half of the service. A new beginning.

*Jo and Edwin Cutress*



SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING  
FOR THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING  
SUNDAY 17th APRIL 1994

### ORDER OF SERVICE FOR MORNING FAMILY WORSHIP

Led by Reverend Alan Willcocks.

\*\*\*\*\*

Church Notices and Welcome. Mrs Hazel Hill.

Call to Worship.

HYMN: 95.

"God is love: let heaven adore Him."

Prayers of Invocation, Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer.

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2. v. 4 - 10.

Mrs Madeleine Brand.

The Church Family: Led by Reverend Terry Oakley.

Offering and Offertory Prayer.

HYMN: 518

"Father I place into your hands."

(after the singing of the hymn, the Junior Church leave for their departments).

Scripture Reading: St John 10. v. 7 - 16.

Mr Stephen Bundy.

Sermon by the Reverend Terry Oakley,

Deputy General Secretary of the United Reformed Church and Secretary of the Faith and Life Department.

HYMN: 480

"The Church is like a table."

Prayers for the Church and the World.

Led by Mrs Audrey Bolton.

HYMN: 289

"To God be the glory."

THE BLESSING.

### ORDER OF SERVICE FOR EVENING WORSHIP

Led by Reverend Alan Willcocks.

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Church Notices and Welcome. Mrs Hazel Hill.

Introit by the Church Choir: "Father we love you".

Call to Worship.

HYMN: 28

"Father in heaven."

Prayers of Invocation, Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer.

Offering and Offertory Prayer.

HYMN: 579

"Lord, Thy Church on earth is seeking."

Scripture Readings.

Old Testament: Haggi 2. v. 1 - 9

Mrs Mary Southam.

New Testament: Colossians 1. v. 3 - 14.

Mr Keith Burroughs.

Anthem by the Church Choir: "An Awakening"

Sermon by the Reverend Patrick McManus.

Minister of Hayling Island United Reformed Church and former Minister of Fareham.

HYMN: 319

"Thanks to God whose word was spoken."

Prayer of Intercession led by Mrs Jean Antcliffe.

HYMN: 603

"Lord for the years."

THE BLESSING.

Join our fellow Christians for the  
**Walk of Witness**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Gather at the Podium in West Street, Fareham at 10am**

This year, the event will take place at and around the Podium. Return to Methodist Church for Refreshments

**CTiF – Events for young people**

**THE EASTER STORY TRAIL**

**E2**

**WHEN: 17TH APRIL 2019**  
1:45-4:15pm

**WHERE: FAREHAM COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
171-173 WEST STREET, PO16 0EF

**WHAT: AN ADVENTURE THROUGH THE EASTER STORY**  
with tea provided

**WHO: CHILDREN AGED 5-11**

**IN ORDER TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL**  
[ctifholidayclub@gmail.com](mailto:ctifholidayclub@gmail.com)

**CHRISTIANS together in FAREHAM**

**Friday 12 April - 7 pm to 8.30 pm**

Youth Service, starting with food (for ages 11 years and over) at the New Life Baptist Church

**Sunday 14 April - 5 pm to 7 pm**

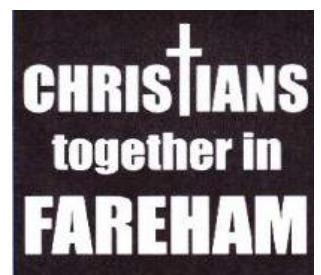
PFZ (for ages 8 years and over) at URC

**Wednesday 17 April - 1.45 pm to 4.15 pm**

Easter Story Trail (for children in school years 1 to 6) at the Community Church – places need to be booked for this event by emailing [ctifholidayclub@gmail.com](mailto:ctifholidayclub@gmail.com)

**Save the Date**

**Harvest Hope - an ecumenical service at 4pm on Sunday 13 October at Holy Trinity Church**



Here are some reports of their help in the Idai Cyclone aftermath in Mozambique and surroundings.

### Tuesday 19 March – Day 5: Rising floodwaters and food drops

‘Today, we joined with Mercy Air in doing three flights into an area totally cut off from flooding along the Buzi River,’ writes Jill Holmes. ‘We were able to distribute about 1,500kg of high energy biscuits. Distribute means dropping boxes out of the helicopter, sometimes into the water near a small patch of land, onto the roof of a house, or into trees. The food distributed comes from the World Food Program.’



‘MAF’s Cessna Caravan aircraft did another much-needed survey into the hard-hit Buzi River area. The aerial survey done yesterday has literally changed the whole direction of the response here in Mozambique. It showed the Government and aid organisations the people most affected and their critical needs.’

‘We know there are large groups of people stranded between Beira and Chimoio who need supplies and food, but after our survey flight a direr situation was discovered along the Buzi River. People are stuck on rooftops surrounded by kilometres of water, with the waters still rising and more rain coming. It’s a heart-breaking situation. Entire villages are completely underwater and this morning’s survey showed some areas that were dry yesterday are submerged today.’



### **Thursday 21 March – Day 7: One week on**

MAF flights continue to bring tents, hygiene kits, supplies and other items to internally displaced persons camps in Beira. MAF Disaster Response Team member Pilot Dave Holmes flew 2 flights with more than 110 family shelter kits and food.

Brad Ballin, another member of the Disaster Response team, continues to support Mercy Air helicopter food delivery flights. They completed 17 food drops (36 boxes of high energy biscuits) to various locations north of the N6 road as well as another drop of 40 boxes to the village of Grudja.

A further survey flight carries the General Secretary of the INGC (the Mozambique Government's disaster response agency) to Buzi city for assessment. The helicopter also flew seven tents and buckets to the camp at Buzi and returned with a pregnant lady who needed a caesarean.

### **Friday 22 March – Day 8: Prayers and continuing need.**

News reports suggest that 15,000 people remain stranded by the floodwaters, needing rescue and aid. The likelihood that the water will rise further as the rain continues to fall leaves these communities at severe risk.

Our team on the ground reports that more international air organisations and larger NGOs are starting to join the response and address the needs of displaced communities. It is vital that shortages of clean water, food and medical care are quickly addressed before diseases such as cholera, caused by contaminated floodwater, take hold.

MAF supporters across the world continue to pray and give generously, moved and motivated by the heart-breaking scenes shown in the media.

'Tomorrow, we've planned more flights with Mercy Air, with more food distribution and evacuations as needed. Another possible survey flight into a different area has been requested. We have also been asked to do a flight for search and rescue workers.'

## Synod Report from meeting 16 March 2019, Basingstoke

The morning started with worship. It included a clip of the 15 year old Greta Thunberg speaking to the UN Climate Change COP24 Conference about adults' lack of action in respect to global warming. It made us reflect on what we are exactly doing about standing up for what is right; not just climate issues but injustices we see around us. Do we do enough? Do you do enough?

The minutes from the last Synod meeting (13th October 2018) were passed at the start of the proceedings. There was time to hear about the Synod family news; those who had died, church closures and retirements. Rev Alan Stanyon was awarded his Jubilee Minister's certificate for an amazing 60 years- so far!

The Ministries and learning committee report urged churches to use a substantially re-written LMMR (Local Ministry and Mission Review) pack to assist churches in refreshing their mission and ministry. This would be invaluable with our vacancy period ahead of us. Two churches (Hindhead URC and Westborough URC) gave a presentation on the helpfulness of this working document, reporting on how useful this was, highlighting their weakness and, more importantly, their strengths. They saw that this document was especially useful to use when working on a church profile.

Stepwise was also advertised again. This is the URC discipleship learning open to EVERYONE. Information can be found at <https://urc.org.uk/stepwise>

If you like the idea of slowing the pace of life down there are two events: on Thursday 30th May there is a Quiet Day walking in the New Forest based at Crowe Hill, led by Mike and Louise Shrubhole; on Saturday 26th October "Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality: Making Place for God".

It's very easy to think that Synod deals with things far flung from our own churches. However it was reported that the Mission Development Group working with the Synod Pastoral Committee (South East) is currently overseeing the potential church plant within Welborne Garden Village. A task group based in Fareham is being led by David Childs. The meeting

unanimously agreed to the resolution presented to Synod by Rev Paul Bedford, namely to

- Seek to establish a Christian witness in the Reformed tradition at Welborne Garden Village;
  - Work with other Christian denominations where they are willing to do so;
  - Have members representing the Pastoral Committee, Fareham URC, the Synod Mission Development Group; and such Synod officers as may be needed;
  - Be chaired by a person approved by the Convenor of the Synod Pastoral Committee (South East);
  - Report to the Synod Ministries and Learning Committee, through the Pastoral Committee (South East);
  - Commit Synod resources only in accordance with the decision of the relevant responsible Synod Committee, or other duly approved process.
- Let this be an encouragement that God's church is very much alive and moving - especially in Fareham!

The World Church Group reported that this year's "Le Weekend" will be hosted by Woking URC on the 12-14th April but needs our prayers because the French visitors are concerned about travel arrangements due to the effects of Brexit. Our French friends just want to visit their English friends for Christian fellowship. Wessex Synod has produced a Brexit statement which can be found on the Wessex URC website.

Wessex Synod has ongoing educational and research connections with the United Church of Zambia involving exchange visits. Plans are in hand for three members of Bethel UCZ (United Church of Zambia) to visit Chandlers Ford, and for three members of the Salisbury churches to visit St John's UCZ, as well as for the Moderator, Chair of the Methodist District and the Rev Nigel Appleton to visit Zambia in May. The purpose of the visit is to strengthen the links between partners, to review the operation of the Link in its current phase and outline plans for carrying it forward beyond the current funding

programme whose funding from the Wessex Trust and Westminster College will be concluded by the end of 2020.

Traidcraft Update ( from the Synod Report, March 2019)

We have been greatly exercised by the Traidcraft situation. Our Wessex Synod resolution had led to constructive discussions nationally about whether any loans or other financial support might be appropriate, but nothing had been taken up. Traidcraft is still trading but on a scaled down basis. The main reductions are on the craft side and some of the seasonal material. Traidcraft exchange is working with the providers affected to manage the situation.

The Group is seeking to clarify the implications of Synod Fairtrade Status. We are checking out individual Churches and their own status, but we wish to work towards Fairtrade Status as a Synod, where the criteria for qualification are not clear. This will need at some point a Synod resolution to take this through, but we are not in a position to do this yet.

The group is seeking to compile a list of Fairtrade or ethically trading Shops on our High Streets or in shopping centres. We have been made aware of such outlets in places as diverse as Eastleigh and Oxford, Romsey and Wallingford. If you know or anywhere, do let us know. We would rather hear of something twice than not at all.

The Children's and Youth Work Committee representatives delivered some "home truths" at the end of the meeting. They voiced their frustrations about how hard it is to be part of the church family when they feel their efforts are side lined in some areas. Synod was reminded that it voted for child/youth friendly Synod meetings. There seems to be an effort from the Synod Office but very little commitment from the people who go to Synod who should be encouraging their younger members to go. What are we really doing for our young people and what are we doing to make our church a place they want to worship in. Admittedly some churches do not have young people eligible to attend but we were challenged that Synod is for EVERYONE! Please do not think that only Ministers, Committee Reps. and Synod Reps. are the only ones who

can attend. The thing I have been made aware of as Synod Representative is that the work that the URC is doing isn't just at a local level but on a global level too. The URC is very much alive! I challenge you to go just once – there are only 2 a year, the next is in the autumn. See how ideas from within the church meetings can progress to National level.

The next South East Area Gathering will be on Thursday 6th September 2019 (venue TBA The next South West Area Gathering will meet at Southbourne on Monday 23rd September 2019.

The Synod meeting minutes will be made available on the Wessex URC website.

*Ruth Dewis*

**Save the Date!**

Thy Kingdom Come 30 May to 9 June 2019

***Portchester Castle Beacon Event 9 June 2019 from 1pm***

*Everyone is invited by the Bishop of Portsmouth to an ecumenical event at Portchester Castle on the Feast of Pentecost.*

*Beginning with picnics from 1pm followed by a service of worship and prayer at 2.30pm.*

*All churches and communities welcome*

## Stepwise is coming!

Stepwise is the new intergenerational United Reformed Church discipleship development programme. It is for people of all ages and backgrounds. Stepwise is an integral part of Walking the Way – living the life of Jesus today, the United Reformed Church's focus on whole-life discipleship and mission.

Further information about the programme is available from the URC website on the Stepwise page. <https://urc.org.uk/stepwise/Stepwise-flyer.pdf>

Wessex Synod is pleased to confirm that Stepwise will soon be rolled out in our Synod. A Synod Stepwise Advocacy Group was formed last Autumn and they have been working hard to make sure that all the procedures are put in place to ensure safe recruitment and orientation of voluntary facilitators and mentors. We hope that we will have some groups following the Faith Filled Life Stream in Wessex later this year. If these are not in your area – please don't worry – groups will be starting at different times in different areas according to numbers and need.

This is what you need to know

All participants wanting to engage in the Stepwise programme will have to begin with completing Faith Filled Life. If you want to participate in Faith Filled Life, go to our Synod website and fill in an application form, and send this to Ruth Heine, [development@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:development@urcwessex.org.uk). You will then be contacted by a member of the Synod Advocacy Group.



Synod will identify where the learning Hubs will be located within the Synod Groups will be formed logically for participants, and appointed facilitators will be asked to travel (where appropriate). Groups will then be registered with the Stepwise hub at Church House and you will receive a login for your online learning.

You will have a mentor throughout Stepwise, and if you are unable to identify one from your church, you will be given help to find one.

Following on from Faith Filled Life, there will be Faith Fuelled Leadership, Faith Filled Community and Faith filled Confidence. Then the final stream will be Faith Filled Worship. You can do all of these or just select what you feel God is calling you on to after completing Faith Filled Life.

If you want to know any more about this, please contact Mary Thomas [dso-s@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:dso-s@urcwessex.org.uk) or Ray Stanyon [dso-n@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:dso-n@urcwessex.org.uk)

## What's on

### Monday:

#### **Fun For Under Fives (FFUFs)**(9.30-11.15am)

Play, praise and a craft activity for children under five with their parent/carer.

Contact: Katie Standing

#### **Housegroup** (7.30pm)

1st and 3rd Mondays at 18 Harrison Road.

Contact: Moira Noble or Ruth Dewis

### Tuesday: (7.15pm prayer, 7.30pm meeting)

Church & Elders' Meetings - alternate months

#### **Worship Group:** (7.30pm)

For anyone wishing to get involved with the worship life of the church. For meeting dates, see church notices. Contact: Sue Brown

### Wednesday

#### **Knitwitters** (10am till 12noon)

In the lounge to knit for charity and chat for fun.

Contact: Valerie Saunders

#### **Bible study:** (12noon for 12.30)

2nd Wednesday - bring packed lunch

Contact: Paul Bedford

#### **Healing Ministry Team** (2pm )

Usually 2nd Wednesday in the month for prayer and to plan services.

Please see calendar for dates.

Contact: Brenda Russell

#### **Housegroup** (1.30pm)

Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6 Bentley Crescent for fellowship and discussion.

Contact Naomi Zumpe or Meryl Moore

#### **Social and Fundraising Group**

Meets to arrange events throughout the year.

All welcome. See calendar for dates.

Contact: Liz Dunning or Moira Noble

### Friday:

#### **Prayershare:** ( 2.30pm)

2nd Friday in the month. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for an hour of prayer and quiet contemplation.

Contact: Hazel Hill

#### **Prayershare Plus**

See calendar for days and times.

Once a week, a time of prayer for the church.

Contact: Jean Antcliffe

#### **Choir Practice** (7.30pm)

Weekly except for Friday preceding the 4th Sunday-For singers who would like to help lead songs and hymns in worship.

Contact: Dennis Mason

### Saturday:

#### **Women's Breakfast** (8 for 8.30am)

Usually 2nd Saturday of the month; see calendar. Bring your cereals, share an enriching time of faith and fellowship

Contact: Susan Bedford

#### **Men's Breakfast** (9.00am)

Usually the same day at The Red Lion in East Street

Contact David Lea

### Sunday:

#### **PFZ (8-18yrs)**(5pm –7pm)

2nd Sunday of the month for young ones and their friends, whether they come to church or not. Fun, games and food.

Contact: Jean Antcliffe

#### **Messy Church:** as advertised

Craft, food and bible story for parents/ carers and children. See calendar for details

Contact: Jean Antcliffe

## Sunday Services

### Family Worship and Junior Church at 10.30am

On Sunday mornings we have a crèche where the younger children may safely be left with staff.

**Communion** is held during the morning service on the third Sunday of each month and occasionally at one of the evening services

*Refreshments are served after morning services.*

*Please stay and enjoy this time of fellowship*

**Evening Services are normally held on the first Sunday of the month at 6pm**

**All ages and abilities are welcome at our services and social events**

**Please come and join us; you will be very welcome.**



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**Church Secretary**

Mrs Fiona Corless

[secretary@farehamurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@farehamurc.org.uk)

**Treasurer**

Mr Graham James

**Minister**

Rev Paul Bedford

01329 234401

*Our Minister can be contacted at any time  
in cases of urgent pastoral need.*