



Goring United Reformed Church

Goring United Reformed Church is part of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom. At the beginning of 2018, a Joint Pastorate was formed with Sompting United Reformed Church with whom we share Ministry.

The United Reformed Church has over 1600 churches in England, Scotland and Wales with a total membership of about 46500. It has over 1300 congregations, and 608 active ministers. It was formed in 1972 when the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of England and Wales united, and it was joined by the Reformed Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and the Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000. The churches of Emmanuel in Worthing, Sompting, Goring and Littlehampton are part of the 'Worthing Cluster' and United Reformed Church Southern Synod, whose affairs are governed by General Assembly.

It was early in the 1930s that Worthing Congregational Church in Shelley Road began planning to build a new church in the rapidly growing area to the west of Worthing. The present building was opened in September 1961 when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall. This first building was opened in 1948. Other churches in Goring with whom we share the Christian faith are English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, St Mary, St Laurence & St Richard Churches of England, New Life Baptist Church and Bury Drive Methodist Church.

We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

<https://gurc.net> and on facebook



The Chronicle Winter 2022/23

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all

A Very Happy Christmas to all

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

Shaftesbury Avenue, Goring by sea, Worthing, West Sussex. BN12 4EA

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Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

10.30am Morning Worship - with Holy communion on first Sunday in month.

All services at 10:30am are live streamed and recorded for later viewing on our website <https://www.gurc.net/> and our YouTube channel.

Weekday Activities

Please refer to our website for up to date information
<https://www.gurc.net/diary>

Publications Team

Editor: Graham Redman 01903 260568 chronicle@gurc.org.uk

Proof Reading: Mrs Jane Bond

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

Please send any contributions towards the Chronicle and mailing cost to her at -

2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

The Chronicle costs approximately £1.50 each to produce. Whilst no charge is made for the magazine, the Church would be very grateful for any donations given to help towards its cost of production.

There is a box provided for such purpose at the back of the church, or contributions may be made by post to Mrs Susie Thomas (address above). Thank you.

The **CHRONICLE**

<https://gurc.net/chronicle>

chronicle@gurc.org.uk

The Chronicle: Spring 2023

As mentioned earlier in this magazine, there will be no Spring Chronicle, but if you have anything in particular you would like shared at the time, please send to welcome@gurc.org.uk.

The next Chronicle will be issued in the Summer of 2023.

Closing date: 1st May 2023

Answers to 'The Beatitudes' Quiz

Matthew 5

Across

1. V9 Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.
2. V7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
4. V8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
8. V6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
6. V5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Down

1. V10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. V11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
5. V3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
7. V4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

New Here?

If you are new to Goring United Reformed Church and would like to know a bit more about us, then you can very easily do so by either -

Picking up a Leaflet "New Here ?"
ask a 'Welcomer' at the door if you need help, or -

on our website <https://gurc.net>,
click or tap on the [New Here?](#) button.



The Chronicle



Winter 2022/23

Vol.79 No. 673



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The Next Chronicles: Spring & Summer 2023

The Editor is moving home early 2023 - that is if all goes to plan!

With regret the Spring Chronicle will not be able to be produced.

However, there should be a magazine for Summer closing date 1st May



From the Manse

Rev Andrew Sellwood

WINTER REFLECTION ЗИМНЯЯ РЕФЛЕКЦИЯ

For many people this winter will be a tough time, perhaps tougher than past winters. As I am writing this there is talk of food and fuel shortages, rising inflation industrial action and power cuts. OK I will stop there it's a long enough list of problems. Some of us have been there before; remember the 1970's? This time much of the blame for our current situation is focused on Mr. Putin's war on the Ukraine. It always seems to be the misguided desires of an individual that causes so much pain and suffering. How one person can inflict needless suffering on so many. It's been like that through every generation's living memory or so it seems.



Coffee Morning

in aid of

BREAST CANCER NOW

The research &
support charity

Friday 13th January 2023
9.45am - 12noon

Fresh coffee, tea and
homemade cakes

Chronicle Editor

How would you like to become the Chronicle Editor from about the middle of 2023?

If this takes your fancy, and would like to know a bit more about it and what it involves, please speak to Graham Redman on 01903 260568.

The Chronicle started as the 'Elm Grove Chronicle' in May 1944, when Goring Congregational Church met in Elm Grove School Hall for its services.

Over 670 have been produced since then. It started with a simple A4 sheet of paper (or the equivalent at the time) all typewritten of course and produced every other month, then from January as a monthly magazine.

From December 'Winter 2006/7' we changed from issuing a copy every month to once a quarter, as it is now.

Visit our website under 'Archives' to see all the Chronicles from the very first issue in 1944.

In our own country many of the workers who are currently striking – or warning of industrial action – are those who were identified as key workers during the pandemic. As in the 1970s, they are demanding that their pay keeps up with the rising cost of living, but they are bargaining from a position of weakness. Ironically they were praised two years ago when we depended on them but now things have eased slightly they are vilified. How short our memories are! It maybe too harsh to compare what happened on Palm Sunday to Good Friday, perhaps not. It all goes to prove how changeable the crowd is, short memories. In my experience you never get credited for the 99 things you do well but only remembered for the one failing, however slight it may have been.

The winter of discontent period dominated political memories of

the 1970s, 1972 and particularly 1978-79. Back then the peak rate of inflation approached 25% in 1975!

As I mentioned I am writing this at the beginning of November. Everything may have changed by the time you read this. Things can only get better as they say.

I remember back to those grim days in the 1970's. In our street where was a standpipe to get our water. If it hadn't frozen up. We had a power cut schedule it was printed in the daily newspaper (Newspaper my definition – an informative printed publication produced daily and often delivered to your home early in the morning. Newspaper, a convenient way of conveying fish and chips). During the power cuts we lit Tilley lamps and paraffin heaters. Highly dangerous and would not be encouraged with our present health and safety awareness. These devices produced a lot of condensation.

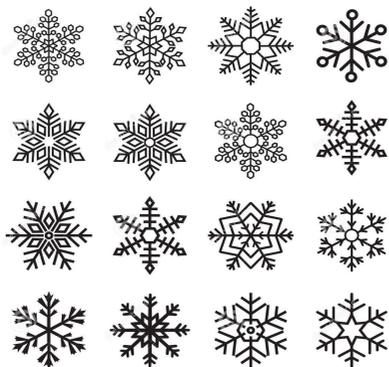
In the mornings net curtains would be frozen to the windows. I am beginning to sound like the Monty Python Four Yorkshiremen sketch when they discuss "the bad old days" and how young people don't properly appreciate what their elders had to go through (you can find this on YouTube).

On winter mornings I awoke to see brilliant lines of frost reaching across the glass of window, I was not allowed the luxury of the then fashionable net curtains. For some reason I studied the frost patterns carefully. I was intrigued. The lines of frost perfectly designed and executed, the fern like fronds tapered in fractal like patterns [fractal, in mathematics, any complex geometric shapes that commonly have "fractional reducing dimension," a concept first introduced by the mathematician Felix Hausdorff in 1918. I have always liked fractal patterns; I know sad really].

The point I think I am trying to make is that we often miss the

simple beauty of nature in our everyday struggle. Back then as now it was the priority to stay warm. A seemingly trivial thing frost on the window but still amazing. Our God the creator and designer of this universe went to all the trouble to inscribe that most intricate unique pattern on my window. It only lasted a few moments as the room warmed up and it slowly melted gone forever from sight never to be replicated.

Fairly recently someone asked me 'Are snowflakes really unique, there are so many of them'. Answer - Yes, they are. Because a snowflake's shape evolves as it journeys through the air, no two will ever be the same, always with six arms though.



Goring United Reformed Church

Christmas Services

Carols by Candlelight
Thursday 15th December, 7pm
A traditional 9 lessons and carols service, held by candlelight.
Refreshments served after the service

Nativity Service
Christmas Eve, 5pm
A fun service aimed at young children. Come dressed up as your favourite Nativity character. Including songs by the Puppet Clubs and our Brass Band.
Refreshments served after the service

Christmas Morning Family Service
Saturday 25th December, 10.30am
A relaxed family service led by Rev Andrew Sellwood



The Birth of Jesus

as told in St Luke's Gospel (NIVUK)

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

11 Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Even two flakes floating side by side will each be blown through different levels of temperature, humidity and vapour to create a shape that is truly unique. "Snowflake" has sadly also become a derogatory slang term for a person, implying that they have an inflated sense of uniqueness, an unwarranted sense of entitlement, or are overly emotional, easily offended, and unable to deal with opposing opinions ... I can't think of anyone who fits that bill!

Seriously frost patterns, snowflakes, all the designs from nature all go to show the care and minute detail God puts into his creation. That includes us, we are marvellously made; we are unique and are loved by God. So, amidst all the negative, destructive and unforeseen things of this world

take comfort that God is there for us, he knows us better than we know ourselves.

So, remember 'in the bleak mid-winter' Christmas comes. We know God sent his son into the world on a rescue mission He came in human form so that we would recognise Him. Jesus came to make the relationship between Creator and created real and eternal. Jesus entering our world as he did in the most unlikely of circumstances brought us a new life in Him. We call it salvation. May this Christmas be the blessing it was intended to be.

The light has come into the world and the present darkness can never put it out. *Andrew*





Barn Dance Evening

8 October 2022

Over 60 people met in the Church for a long awaited Barn Dance. Sean Goddard and Michael Curry provided the music and Dave Rannie was the caller and they were all brilliant. Not everyone was able to dance but they were well entertained by those who tried.

We all needed a break to eat a delicious ploughman's supper which energised us for more dancing and laughing. It was great to welcome so many people into the church and we've been asked to repeat the experience next year.



Qualifications for a Preacher

The other day a member of our Pastoral Committee read a letter from a possible applicant for a post in our church. The Chairman of the Committee read the letter to the Committee:

"I have many qualifications. I've been a preacher with much success and I've also had some success as a writer. Some say I'm a good organizer. I've been a leader in most places where I have been.

I am over 50 years of age. I have never preached in one place more than three years. In some places I have left after my work has caused disturbances.

I must admit I've been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrong doing.

My health is not too good, though I still get a great deal done.

The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I've not got along too well with religious leaders in towns where I've preached.

I'm not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptized.

However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you."

Our Committee Chairman looked around and asked the committee "Well, what do you think? Shall we take him on?"

The rest of the Committee were aghast. Hire an unhealthy, trouble-making, absent-minded ex-jailbird? Was the Chairman crazy? Who was the applicant anyway? Who would have such colossal nerve!?

"Oh" said the Chairman who had read the letter,

"It's just signed, 'Apostle Paul' "



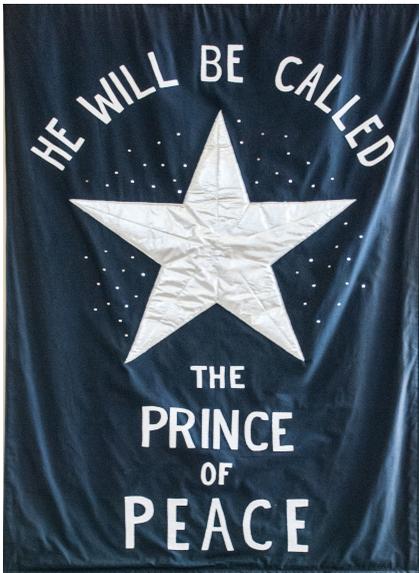
'God is for Life' Continued -

So, we have two options: do we try and give a well-meaning but false impression every time we're open to the public; or do we let them see us as we really are; flawed, a little disorganised but mostly trying to do the right thing.

Who really cares if we forget to clear away the celebrity gossip magazines or put the biscuits out?

If churches can strike a balance between, on the one hand, treating every service as a unique and special occasion with, on the other hand, being unvarnished, unpretentious and honest, then with luck we can finally restrict scurryfunding to the confines of our own homes.

Ryan Thomas



PS: These opinions are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Goring United Reformed Church, its Elders or indeed my family. Oh, and biscuits never last long enough to make it to a plate in our house, but we keep buying them just in case anyone visits.



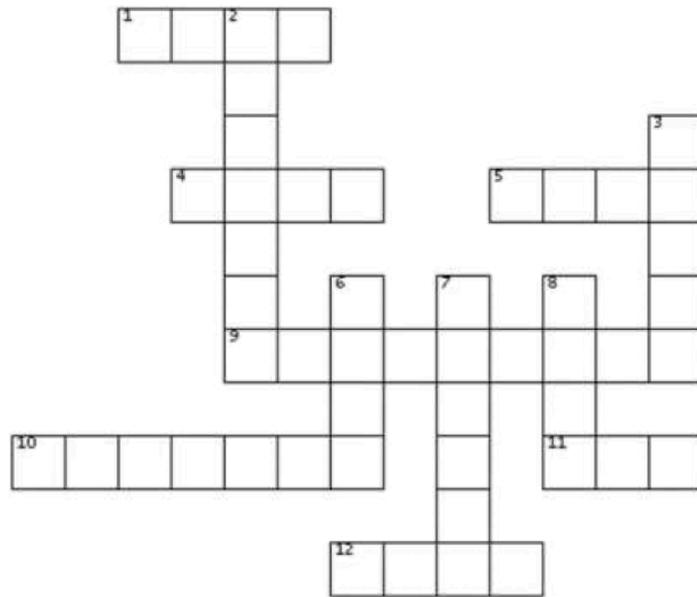
Thank you to all those who helped to clear and decorate the Sanctuary, buy and prepare the supper, advertise the event and sell the tickets. And we made a small profit. What a team! *Val Gill*



Photos: Paul & Mary Redman

Biblical Weather Puzzle

Based on NKJV



ACROSS

1. Weather Controller (Ps. 135:6)
4. Never happens in the summer (Prov. 26:1)
5. Destructive precipitation (Rev. 16:21)
9. A biblical tornado (Nahum 1:3)
10. A sea storm (Jonah 1:4)
11. Morning blessing from the heavens (Zech. 8:12)
12. Clouds in this direction means rain (Luke 12:54)

DOWN

2. Appears after a rain (Gen. 9:14)
3. Excessive precipitation (Is. 28:2)
6. Watered the ground in the beginning (Gen. 2:6)
7. They hold the rain (Job 26:8)
8. Comes from the East and makes things dry (Hosea 13:15)

Do we run around frantically trying to make Christmas appear as neat, smooth-running and welcoming to the likely once-a-year visitors as we can possibly achieve when usually things are a little more cluttered, messy and disorganised?

Does Christmas make us prioritise superficiality over authenticity and depth? To stretch the analogy, are we neat and tidy for one week of the year but living in squalor the rest of the time?

It is, of course, the most special time of the year for the majority of Christians and numerous non-Christians alike. For many who join us, Christmas is the only time they will willingly attend a church service that isn't a baptism, wedding or funeral and it is right that we make the effort to welcome each and every one of them.

However, this all raises the question of whether we can and do put the same time, thought and effort into every other service we hold. We might think we should at least try, but even though they are ultimately rewarding, Christmas services can be exhausting for all involved in their arranging, preparing and leading. Is it sustainable to 'rinse and repeat' every single week?

With a dwindling number of members to call on for assistance it is questionable, to say the least. Thus we are potentially left with two levels of service.

Maybe the question is being asked the wrong way around. Perhaps the festive scurryfunding is not actually deceiving anyone and we are no more convincing to the public than a career criminal is to a judge when they put on a suit and tie for yet another court appearance.

And even if the public does, in fact, believe our sanitised and glossy presentation, is that really enough? Should that even be considered a success? To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can not fool God."

It is worth remembering that the original Christmas was not exactly a clean and shiny affair with everything going according to plan. Jesus was, after all, born in a stable.

If we really do believe that we should take as they are the people we hope to attract to worship with us, then we should not be afraid to show them who we really are. After all we know that we are no better than they are. *Continued over page*

The Pretentiously-Titled Thomas Lectures Presents

God

A Dog Is For Life, Not Just For Christmas

(Style Over Substance: Part II)

(If you were wondering what happened to Style Over Substance: Part I, you probably missed my Devotions at the May Church Meeting. If you want to find out more, please either ask me or find one of the few people who stayed awake through it.)

There is a word of which Susie Dent, the long-serving lexicographer on Countdown, regularly reminds her 1.1 million followers on Twitter. It is a rarely used, but delightful, term for an activity in which many of us engage whenever we are expecting guests at home.

scurryfunge (verb; US dialect, 1800s): to dash around the house in a frenzied attempt to tidy up before visitors arrive

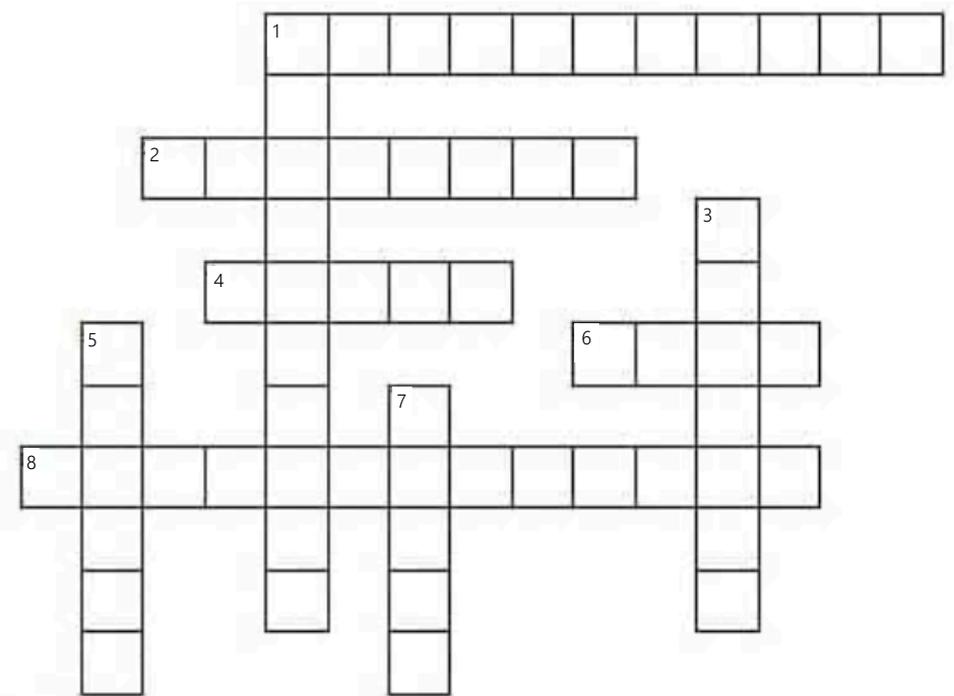
It is an affectation, designed to present a superficially favourable yet misleading impression of tidiness and order where usually disarray and chaos reign.

We might quickly Hoover the rooms our guests are likely to see, plump the cushions on the sofa and dust the ornaments on the mantelpiece.

Perhaps, if the visitor is important (hi, Andrew!), we might go a step further, removing that celebrity gossip magazine from the coffee table and replacing it with a plate of biscuits and a worthy tome by Tolstoy or Joyce, bookmarked to suggest meaningful progress.

It is natural to want to show ourselves in the best possible light (despite my own shambolic appearance), but are churches – from all Christian denominations – guilty of something similar at this time of year?

The Beatitudes - The Sermon on the Mount



Across

1. Blessed are the _____, for they will be called the children of God
2. Blessed are the _____, for they will be shown mercy
4. Blessed are the pure in _____, for they will see God.
8. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for _____, for they will be filled
6. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.

Down

1. Blessed are those who are _____ because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. _____ are you when people insult you, persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
5. Blessed are the poor in _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted

If you need help, please refer to Matthew 5: 1-12 (Page 20)

A Motorhome called Heidi

Graeme and I bought our Hymer when he retired 4 years ago and we have had plenty of time away with her but this summer was busier than ever. We visited Belgium for a veteran bike rally in May and spent time in The Netherlands, riding downhill over the border into Germany, and spending 30 minutes walking uphill on the return. I guess that's why they are called 'pushbikes'. Don't ever think that The Netherlands is flat!!

Following the rally we visited the Menin Gate and attended the sounding of the last post. Back in England we enjoyed weekends away at Parham Steam Fair with Kev, Sam and Ella, and Henley Traditional Boat Rally, with all the grandchildren and their parents.



Our main holiday was to the Commonwealth Games, enjoying the Rugby 7's in Coventry and then swimming, athletics and diving in Birmingham. It was great to be a part of it.



August included a long weekend away with Kerry, Douglas and Harry at the British Car Show (their Christmas present from us).

The boys and I enjoyed a ride out in a Ford Camaro and we all posed with the Stig.

Our campsite was on a farm where we were allowed to feed the chickens, pigs and best of all – bottle feed a calf.

The owners also collect old military vehicles and a highlight of our weekend was playing hide and seek among tanks, aeroplanes and lorries. We ended the summer with another rally near Peterborough. Heidi has made these weekends away so easy, we SORN her from November so no more camping until next year. We are off to Liverpool to see the Gymnastics World Championships but that will be in the MX5 and a hotel.



Now we've got to find the suitcases. - Val Gill