

The CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter 2020
Volume 77

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Goring United Reformed Church



The Chronicle

Spring 2020

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



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

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

- Family service monthly as announced

- Junior Church

6.00pm Evening Worship - with Holy communion on third Sunday in month.

The Chronicle



Spring 2020
Vol.77 - No. 662



Front Cover: Acacia Dealbata [Mimosa]

The tree which is a native of SE Australia was observed growing in an Exmore Drive garden in Worthing. Can be difficult to grow in this country.

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Disclaimer: Whilst great care is taken to accurately reproduce articles presented for Chronicle, and mistakes sometimes do occur. Please also note that the views expressed in the following pages are not necessarily those of Goring United Reformed Church.

The Environment

What the Bible says about the environment

Like everyone else I have been hearing and reading so much about global warming and the state of the earth. I thought it time to take a Biblical look at things. To see what God is telling us and to see how far we have got it wrong. Sorry in advance if it may seem a bit grim But it is.

In the first chapter of Genesis, God instructs humanity "to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Two Psalms (Psalms 8 and 115) emphasise the notion that God gave the Earth to mankind. It is regretful that our occupation of the Earth has not been more positive. God gave us the sacred and challenging responsibility to serve as caretakers of our world. In addition to the animals, we are equally the custodians of the oceans, the rivers, the mountains, rain forests, the fields, and even the atmosphere. God granted to us, in a way, the ability to act as God. The planet Earth is ours to govern. What an awesome responsibility. Yet, having authority over something does not mean to foolishly use it or abuse it.

Since the 1990s, the amount of food harvested from the ocean has been in decline, as we fish the ocean to depletion. People have no concerns about wiping out whole species as long as they are making money. In addition, we use the ocean as both a food pantry and rubbish dump to poison ourselves. We produce toxic chemicals, nuclear waste, crude oil, and other toxins often with little concern for their safe disposal. Inevitably, much of it reaches the ocean. In addition, as we continue to pump carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, the oceans absorb some of it.

This has resulted in ocean acidification, threatening coral reefs and all ocean life. A giant "island of garbage" floats atop the Pacific Ocean, swept together by ocean current. Scientists studying this ocean trashcan have discovered it contains at least 79,000 tons of plastic. Measuring about 620,000 square miles, the island of rubbish stretches across an area six times the size of the UK! I was horrified when I saw pictures of this recently. Apart from this island, refuse routinely washes ashore all around the world.

The birds of the air are also under assault. Bird colonies around the world are at risk of extinction, as man encroaches on their breeding and feeding habitats such as wetlands, forests, lakes, and rivers. Air pollution and chemicals also threaten the bird population.

Animals hold a special place in the Bible. It is true that they were considered property, yet, God made it clear they were to be treated compassionately.

In Proverbs, we are told that the righteous care for their animals, and we are mandated to care for them and know their condition.

In Exodus and Deuteronomy, we are instructed to care for stray animals, and return such animals to the owner.

We must also allow a beast of burden the ability to eat while working, and to give the animals one day of rest in seven. While some say we are a nation of animal lovers most but not all pets are treated humanely, other animals do not fair as well.

Many are hunted and killed for sport rather than necessity, as we senselessly slaughter entire species of animals to the brink of extinction. Tigers, leopards, rhinos, elephants, and even some of the great apes may be gone in the years ahead.

Animal fighting is a cruel but popular sport around the world. Spectators cheer as animals are pitted against each other.

In Leviticus, God instructs us to give the land one year of rest in seven with neither planting nor harvesting. Even during war, when trees were cut to provide siege material and weapons, the Bible commands the people to spare fruit-bearing trees. Yet, we exploit the land for its mineral wealth, and slash, burn, and clear forests for agriculture, roads, housing, and businesses.

If we consider the tremendous amount of damage that we unleash upon the animals, the air, the ocean, and the land, it is clear that we have acted brashly and foolishly. All of this must change if we are to fulfil the sacred obligation entrusted to us by God, and care for our world. It does however look like we have reached a turning point. But isn't it a sad situation that we are forced into this emergency action to preserve our existence? Its yet another example of humanity turning away from the teaching of the Bible. All the warning signs were there but we chose to ignore them. Here is a reminder of the 5th mark of mission - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

We are now made aware of some of the things we need to do in response to the situation, no excuses. Recycle – reduce our carbon footprint – conserve fuel and energy use – eat less meat, to name a few. But how dedicated are we to respond? It will bear a cost. I have heard it said if I did those things it wouldn't make any difference, why bother. It becomes evident everyone's attitude has to change. We have a shared responsibility to be caretakers of God's creation as God has redeemed us through his Son, so we now have the opportunity to redeem our world. We still have a chance Just.



Andrew Sellwood

Easter Services

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 5 April | Palm Sunday | 10.30am | Worship incl Holy Communion | Rev Tony Trevithick |
| | | 3.00pm | Afternoon Communion & Tea | Rev Andrew Sellwood |
| | | 6.00pm | Bible Study | Rev Andrew Sellwood |
| 9 April | Maundy Thursday | 7.00pm | Holy Communion | Rev Andrew sellwood |
| 10 April | Good Friday | 10.30am | Morning Worship | Rev Andrew Sellwood |
| 11 April | Easter Sunday | 10.30am | Easter Celebration Service | Rev Kenneth Lynch |



A Tale of Two Christmases

This Christmastime we were blessed to welcome our son Neil, daughter-in-law Gaby and six-year old grandson Liam from Mexico City for a month. Added to this, our daughter Karen, son-in-law Chris, Zachary aged 7, Maya 4 and a half, and eighteen- month old Megan visited for two weeks from Jersey, so a very full bungalow! (our sincere thanks to dear friends for their most-appreciated help).

We had planned ahead and booked activities to include the traditional aspects of a British Christmas, for Gaby and Liam especially to experience, and of course every one of us enjoyed each day.

Among many marvellous memories, some 'stand out' moments would be the Puppet Nativity on Christmas Eve here in our Church, so entertaining and well-performed by all concerned; a delicious and superbly-full Christmas Day lunch in our local village pub; the excellent pantomime of Cinderella with all the expected usual components in which everybody soon joined with "he's behind you!" etc – our Mexican visitors learning quickly. In fact Liam, as well as his cousins, entertained us with the whole of the 12 days of Christmas on several occasions – both the well-known version and the alternative extremely amusing one performed on stage at the panto. One such 'performance' was outside the Houses of Parliament when sitting on the walls there enjoying a sandwich break after a few hours of exploring London as per a 'Peppa Pig' book.

In the evening of that same day we all spent a fantastic couple of hours in Kew Gardens following a trail around their fabulous 'lights and music' displays, which was so captivating that everyone was entranced to see what was next and not one of us complained "how much further?" However, all 4 children were asleep as soon as comfortably seated in our cars! On other days we spent time at soft-play centres, crazy-golf courses, tenpin bowling rinks or walking along local beaches and promenades, just revelling in all being together.

Christmas 2018 was also spent strolling on beaches and proms but that time we were wearing shorts and t-shirts as temperatures were in the 80+ degrees! We had flown to Mexico City and then onwards north-westerly with Neil, Gaby & Liam for 2 hours over stunning mountain scenery to reach the narrow coastal plain where Puerto Vallarta is situated on a huge curving bay. Many years ago it was a small fishing



village and whilst it has grown and grown, expanding far along the coast to incorporate luxurious hotels and apartments, restaurants, shops etc, to cater for the needs of Mexican and American holidaymakers.



It has managed to retain its centre with its cobbled streets, colourful buildings, old churches etc. and has an exciting and vibrant atmosphere which we all enjoyed exploring and strolling around. The large bay has extensive golden sands.

Another favourite was to take a stroll around the nearby marina lined with boats and yachts of all kinds and to spot its resident alligator lying basking in the sunshine on a ramp at the edge of the water.

Puerto Vallarta did have decorations and coloured lights, Christmas music was playing (however no carols) and Santa Claus was in attendance on the prom to chat to everyone – we did feel sorry for him in his thick robes and beard – but it felt most strange to think it was Christmastime!

Among our magical memories are of a drive south along the coastal road past sumptuous villas until the road literally 'ran-out', you parked the car and continued by horse through the scrubland, or as we did, took an exhilarating ride at high speed in a very small water taxi to a beautiful beach. Here we walked away from the boat jetty, where most people remained close by, to a quieter area and a beach

restaurant which Neil and Gaby knew from previous visits. They were welcomed back and we were treated as 'honoured guests' for the day, a scenario repeated at all the memorable places to which they took us. Over the past few years they have holidayed there, they have chosen to search out the local businesses and favoured those speaking Spanish against the more-Americanised ones.

We two certainly experienced places we would not have done had we been visiting on our own, so a tremendous time on different beach areas along that coastline each day. Little Liam loved 'braving' the rollers and waves of the Pacific Ocean - with Granddad's help!

The Mexicans celebrate on Christmas Eve with a large meal of different fish dishes and on 'our' Christmas Day they gather again to eat up the left-overs. So on the evening of Christmas Eve we cooked a barbeque meal of chicken, fish and steak with salads

and completed this feast with barbequed bananas/plantains, all partaken outside on the patio in the warmth of a balmy evening and under the stars. Christmas Day evening was a delicious repeat and we imagined you had been enjoying turkey with all the trimmings earlier in the day but with different weather conditions!



Liam has his birthday just before Christmas and as he also receives gifts from us and Santa on Christmas Day and then by tradition on the Day of the Kings (January 5th) from his parents and Mexican grandparents and godparents, he accumulates many new games and toys at one time, so Neil and Gaby try to save some for later in the year. They tell us that young children not only write to Santa with their requests, but they also write to the Magic Kings on a postcard which they tie to a balloon and let fly upwards to reach those Kings.



Writing this brings our celebrations to life again and we feel so fortunate to have been able to take part in these different experiences.

Alan and Alison Westcott

The Bible Society - Albania

Mary Stewart, Worthing's Bible Society representative, recently asked our church to share the following prayer:

In 1967 Albania was declared the first atheist state – no religions were allowed. Praise God that when the Communist system fell in 1990 Christian missionaries flooded in.

Now, thirty years later, the first modern Albanian Bible has been finished, with the full acceptance of all the churches in Albania.

Praise God for the translators who have worked on this since 2001.

Pray that they will be able to publish 20,000 Bibles and also make the Bible available on two 'apps' so that more can read it.

Pray that many Albanian lives will be touched as they read the Bible in a language that they can understand.

Pray that the events around the Bible launch in the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant communities will be blessed as they seek to equip people to rediscover God's word.

May I also ask for prayer for the women in the (Women's) World Day of Prayer organisation in Albania.

They are the prayer partners of our English National Committee who support them financially, in prayer, and by their presence to assist with the annual workshop weekend preparing for the World Day of Prayer service. Thus they are enabled to share experiences, support each other, listen to each other and enjoy the connection with each other.



Eileen Rhodes

Songs with numbers in their titles

eg. 10 G B Ans: 10 Green Bottles (5,7)

1. W 3 K O O A (2, 5, 2, 6, 3)
2. T 12 D O C (3, 4, 2, 9)
3. I S 3 S C S I (1, 3, 5, 4, 7, 2)
4. 76 T (9)
5. N C 2 Y (7, 8, 3)
6. W I 64 (4, 2)
7. 3 C I T F (5, 2, 3, 8)
8. 1 2 3 4 5 (3, 3, 5, 4, 4)
9. 8 D A W (4,1, 4,)
10. S A S O 6 P (4, 1, 4, 2, 3)

See page 24 for answers

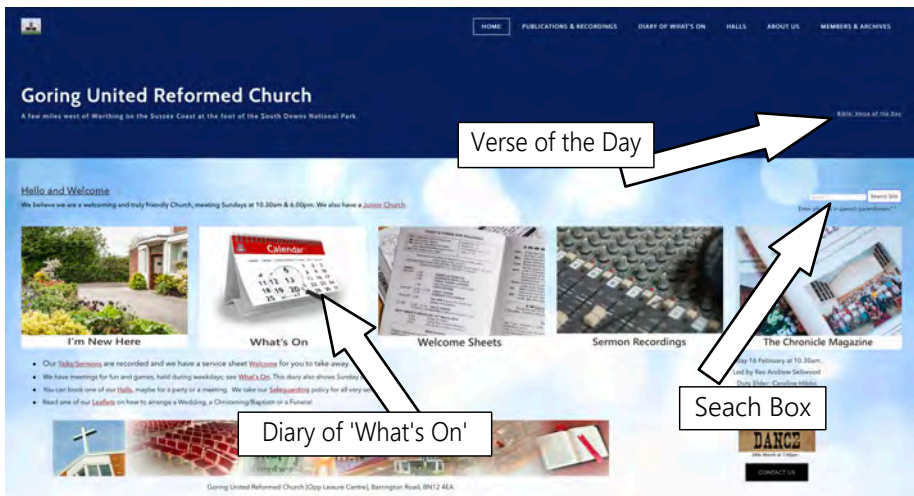


Our Sanctuary WebCam can be seen on the Church App and Website - Members Section



Our Church Website: <https://gurc.org.uk>

Have you visited our website recently? There are some changes



An improved Diary of Events was added some weeks before Christmas enabling users to sort their searches into different categories, thereby filtering unwanted entries. Read about this facility on the following pages.

Verse of the Day may be helpful here. It is also on our Mobile App.

Search the Website

In January a new Search Box was added to the front page as well as on a number of other pages.

The Search facility is also available on our Mobile/Tablet/iPad App.



Publications & Recordings

- * Welcome Sheets
Archives back to 2014
- * Chronicle Magazine
Archives back to 1944
- * Recordings of Sermons
- * Leaflets
- * Reform Magazine



About Us

- * Ark Group
- * Groups using our halls
- * I'm New here
- * Junior Church Programme
- * Mission: Home & World
- * Photo Gallery



Members & Archives

- * Archives:
Ministers, BMD & Other
- * Church Photographs
- * Preaching Plan/Diary
- * Duty Elders
- * Church Meetings
- * Health & Safety
- * Hymns & Songs Sung
- * General Assembly
- * Church Statistics

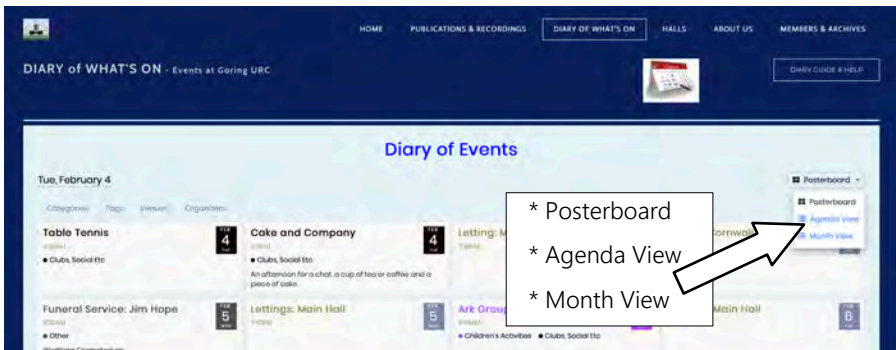
Our Church Website: Diary of Events

Our Diary of Events Diary page [What's On] has been improved with many more facilities to help display what is actually required.

The 'What's On or Diary of events can be accessed via our Website, Mobile App or our Facebook pages.

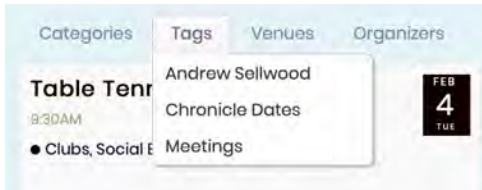
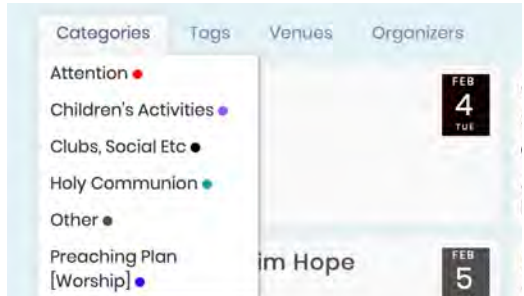
First of all on the far right there is a drop-down menu giving you the option as to how you would like to view the Diary: Posterboard (below) Month View (bottom) and an Agenda View which is basically a list which can be expanded.

Then the page opposite shows that there are 4 Drop-down Menues to help limit the number of events shown: - Categories, Tags, Venues and Organisers.



Categories, Tags, Venues and Organisers

1. Categories Clicking or tapping on Categories shows a drop-down menu giving you option of being able to filter out or show 'Preaching Plan [Worship]', Holy Communion services, Clubs, Social and Children's Activities.

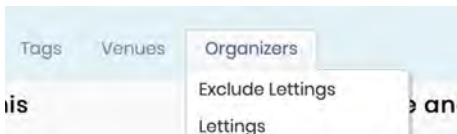


2. Tags

Selecting 'Andrew' brings up all diary entries where Andrew is taking the service. The others are obvious.

3. Venues

Here there is the option to choose between the Sanctuary, Cornwall Room, Main Hall and an External Venue.



4. Organisers

Lastly, Organisers: 'Exclude Lettings' will only show church related events.

You may have wondered why you need an on-line diary? - It is always available to see wherever you may be. Also, unlike a paper copy, it is always up to date with any changes that are made being immediately viewable.

Please do, however, remember to notify diary@gurc.org.uk for any additions and alterations to any event; Church Services as well as Social events ad rotas. All those who need to know will get to know. *Graham Redman*

Permission Granted ?

The East Riding Council have recently reminded me that another year has passed and it is time to renew my parking permit. I will need to renew, despite having paid half the landlord's bill for a roll-up garage door. (What a wonderful invention!) In this town, garages are like oases in the desert and I am one of the lucky ones, but it had a ramshackle up-and-over-almost-impossible-to-use door.

I had eventually managed to sort the 'moving boxes' etc. enough for the car to get in off the road, so I was able reduce my car insurance as well as the anxiety of finding a space near the house. But I still need the option of leaving the car on the road if necessary and the traffic wardens are very punctual in their frequent routine.

The ironic thing is – I do more walking in Beverley than ever before, it's quicker on foot than in a car and the high street shops are near and convenient. Cars take twice as long round the one-way system and then you have the problem of parking. James drives the car when we go any distance – Filey, Hornsea Mere, Etton, Danby. We drove out to Holderness and had a look at Sunk Island and on to Spurn Point heritage Centre.

I did not walk out to the Head –

too adventurous for my walker to help me and possibly a little too wave-washed on the day we were there.

This spring I must get behind the wheel again before I forget how to drive and explore the countryside roundabout. Of course, I have yet to use my bus pass! Perhaps I should use that first. Any bus that can take my walker onboard is good. But time passes so quickly! I don't understand how that happens.

February 5/6th marks the second anniversary of moving from Goring, probably the coldest day of the year, or so it felt. (Beast from the East, please stay away this year.) And before you say anything, I was already wearing my thickest clothes, because Goring was as cold as Beverley, if not colder!

My biggest moan about starting a new life is that now I am settled into it, I am also two years older, with the accompanying deterioration that age brings.

Nevertheless, it was what was needed. And perhaps the deterioration is not as great as I might sometimes believe. Though I can't run around as I have done before, my brain is pleasingly active and productive. It has been good to find myself again, to be 'me, myself and I' in a new environment and away from the memories of the struggles of the last ten years. I will not forget the part that GURC played in our lives from 1974, with the inevitable ups and downs, or the support and friendship that you all gave in times of trouble.

Here in the East Riding, I am not physically able to do as much as I would like, but make up for it in writing not only GURC, but for the quarterly Beverley church circuit magazine. Also, I revived the Christmas Carol that William started and I finished many years later: 'How Many Days to Christmas?' Their deputy MD arranged the music for the Beverley Male Voice Choir and it was sung as part of their Christmas repertoire. It can be heard on their website or on You Tube. I think it was last sung in GURC in about 1987.

I also wrote a fun poem about my walker, which I performed at one of the BMVC's concerts. I introduced it by telling about when young, the girls in our village would be looking out for the 'tastiest tenor, or the bounciest baritone' when there were visiting choirs to our church in an afternoon, to take them home to tea until the evening concert. My poem makes people think I am still after the same thing, until they eventually realise I am talking about my walker and keeping moving and walking.

The High Wolds Poetry Festival took up this poem and I performed it again. It got a place in their poetry book.

Like many Male Voice Choirs, BMVC has mostly 'Silver Singers' and I am currently working on a medley, which makes fun of getting older, but also accentuates the loyalty and dedication of those singers to other people's enjoyment and the glory of God.

My window displays, I find, are appreciated by a lot of people, who, if they see me outside, mention it. I had a Christmas card from a couple thanking me and saying they always look to see what is there. Yesterday there was a bunch of daffodils pushed through the letter slot with the label: 'Just a little thank you for your joyful and engaging window displays. They're a highlight of my walk into town. Thank you!'

So, now instead of thinking that I have given myself extra work to do, I am positive about it and

keep thinking up new ideas that will interest, teach and entertain both children and adults. I don't want to turn it into a Wayside Pulpit, but I often put in stuff that will give cause for thought.

I would like to think that during my life I have done enough here and there over the years to pay my Earthly/Heavenly Council's lifetime's parking ticket, and that the Great Tribunal will pardon any living offences. You think about these things sometimes when you're not feeling very well.

Aunty Flor will be 104 in February and she says, 'You're only young yet!' so working on the same time frame, I have a few years to make more mistakes or be active for good in some way. I don't make New Year resolutions, because every day is the beginning of another year, giving me another chance to get it right and renew my living permit.

Mary Connelly

Eating in the Fifties

Pasta had not been invented; it was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname

A take-away was a maths problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere!

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas-time.

All crisps were plain.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers those days.

None of us had heard of yoghurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognised food.

'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar had a good press in those days and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we'd only seen a picture of a real one!

Water came out of a tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing that we never, ever had on/at our table in the fifties were elbows, hats and mobile phones!

From Caddington Parish Church Magazine



The Inland Revenue making a clearance and tidying the boundary before [hopefully !] erecting a new fence.



World Day of Prayer

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries, beginning in Samoa and prayer in native languages and travelling throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas - before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

- St Andrews Church (Tarring) - 7.30pm Thursday 5th March
- St Richards Church (Maybridge), Collingwood Road, BN12 6HZ
- 2.30pm Friday 6th March

The full version of this text has been printed in Welcome.

Susie Thomas





The Angmering Handbell ringers visit Kestro club in February

Golden Rule Day 2020

Please join us for Golden Rule Day 2020! On Golden Rule Day (April 5th) of 2018 and 2019, we held 24-hour global virtual celebrations of the Golden Rule; a universal principle shared by nearly all cultural, spiritual, religious, and secular traditions on Earth.

Over the course of 24 hours, people from many corners of the world addressed "Why the Golden Rule Matters Now" as they shared how people, organizations and governments can use this Common Principle to create a better world for everyone.

On Sunday, April 5, 2020, we're doing it again! And we want you to be a part of it! We welcome content of all kinds (spoken word, panels, musical performances, interviews, meditations, poetry, etc). We invite you to visit www.goldenruleday.org to learn about opportunities to get involved! If you have any questions, please contact us at goldenruleday@gmail.com

Contributed by Wilfred Rhodes

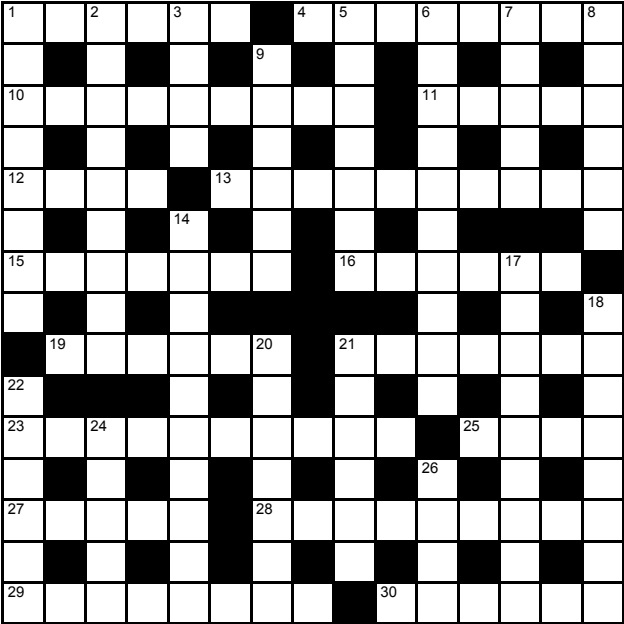
Bible Crossword

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 ‘...it is a ____ thing
the king requireth’
(Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David
with one hundred
clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by
this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal
workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 6 The words of Jeremiah
said not to listen to
these (10)
- 7 Jewish leader (5)
- 8 ‘He is proud, knowing
nothing, but _____
about questions and
strifes of words...’
(1 Tim 6:4) (6)
- 9 Bread makers (6)
- 14 In this year of King
Nebuchadrezzar’s reign,
Nebuzaradan arrived in
Jerusalem (10)
- 17 Ancient city of Og, King
of Bashan (9)
- 18 Stringed instrument (8)
- 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
- 21 Tiny amount (6)
- 22 Jesus did this with
authority (6)
- 24 Last letter of the Greek
alphabet (5)
- 26 Province of the Roman
Empire (4)

Articles for the Summer CHRONICLE

You can submit articles to the editor in any of the following ways

The Form on our Website or App

E-mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk

Post to Graham Redman at 5 Salvington Hill, BN13 3AT

Other Publications

Handbook and Directory:

Available for Church Members and those regularly attending.

Welcome:

Sunday Welcome sheet for Hymns & Songs, Readings, Prayers and Notices

Leaflets:

About this Church, Baptisms & Dedications, Church Membership, Funerals, Getting Married, Hall Hiring.

On-Line:

Welcome sheets, Chronicles and Leaflets are all available from our website <https://gurc.org.uk> - just click on 'Chronicle & Publications'

Welcomes are held back to 2014. Chronicles to the first issue in 1944.

Answers to Puzzles

Bible Crossword on page 22



Across: 1. Shekel, 4 Appeared,
10 Ephesians, 11 Cubit, 12 Rare,
13 Meditation, 15 Raisins, 16 Nathan,
19 Agreed, 21 Torches, 23 Atonements,
25 Baal, 27 Glean, 28 Millstone,
29 Teachers, 30 Rashly

Down: 1 Shearers, 2 Exhorting, 3 East,
5 Passion, 6 Enchanters, 7 Rabbi,
8 Doting, 9 Bakers, 14 Nineteenth,
17 Ashtaroth, 18 Psaltry, 20 Dreamer,
21 Tittle, 22 Taught, 24 Omega, 26 Asia

Answers to puzzle on page 5

1. We three Kings of Orient are
2. The twelve days of Christmas
3. I saw three ships come sailing in
4. Seventy-six trombones
5. Nothing compares to you
6. When I'm sixty-four
7. Three coins in the fountain
8. One, two, three, four, five
9. Eight days a week
10. Sing a song of sixpence



The Handbook and Directory

Latest edition: No. 72: February 2020

Other changes have also been made, and are continually made throughout the year.

Weekday Activities

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Junior Table Tennis | Monday Afternoons |
| Tuesday Fellowship | 2nd and 4th Tuesday Afternoons |
| Cake, Tea, Coffee and Chat | 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday Afternoons |
| Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers | Thursday Mornings. School Term times |
| Kestro (Stroke Club) | Friday Afternoons |
| Little Fishes Play Group | Monday-Friday. School Term times |
| Bible Study Group | First Wednesday in Month |

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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.org.uk/chronicle>

chronicle@gurc.org.uk



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 76000. 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 the 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

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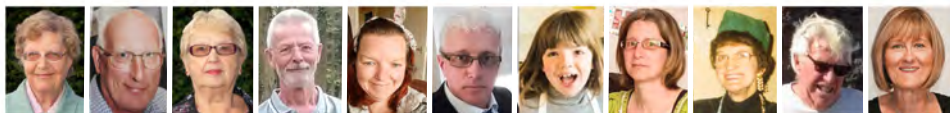


The Chronicle

Summer 2020

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church

*The church building may be closed and locked, but we
the Church, are open and alive for business !*



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

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GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

8.00am Prayer & Praise - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.

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

- Family service monthly as announced

- Junior Church

6.00pm Evening Worship - with Holy communion on third Sunday in month.

The Chronicle



Summer 2020

Vol.77 - No. 663



Front Cover: 'The Goring United Reformed Church'

Very many thanks for all who have contributed photographs

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From the Manse

I am starting to write this article on the first of May. I wasn't aware of the date until I watched the lunch time news. It is so easy to lose track of time during this lock down. In my world there were no clues as to the date, I didn't bother putting my watch on and even my computer didn't tell me. Or perhaps it was because there were no Morris dancers about, no jingling bells, what will they do! Perhaps a ZOOM dance.

I am frequently told we must keep a routine going. For people self-isolating the week can become a bit of a non-event as day runs into day. On Sundays Jill and I still manage to go to church. They are not open they just happen to be on one of our dog walking routes. The dormant restaurants, pubs, shops and of course places of worship are just waiting to come alive again. However, some won't

survive. It is very a very sad sight and brings our current situation into stark reality. I hear of many people beginning to struggle with the situation. I fear some will start rebelling against the lock down and go out more. That would be a completely selfish act to gain a few moments of freedom.

Although I am working from home, I still have a daily routine which helps, plenty of Bible study, research, reflecting and writing, lots of writing. I was looking forward to the reduction in meetings, but oh no, we have virtual meetings! It's not that I don't want to speak to my colleagues, but it can be so draining. What could have been a ten-minute phone conversation now takes an hour (OK slight exaggeration). Psychologists have said the out of synch speech to video is causing video chat fatigue.

It happens because your brain is trying to make sense of what it is seeing and hearing and link the two. There is also the stress factor when there is a silence of more than 1.2 seconds, not long, but our brain tries to think why is there silence, is it a technical issue or has the other person disliked what I have just said, so Zoomitis is a real thing.

There are many online services and talks from our new global internet cyber church. One has to be very discerning though, anyone with a computer can broadcast their thoughts. Like anything online some are really good, some are really bad, there is no filter. If you feel something is not right, then it probably isn't. There are however some standout inspiring YouTube moments one in particular is The UK Blessing. Over 65 churches and Christian movements, have come together online to sing a blessing over our land. It goes to prove the church is still alive, still strong and raring to go. This has to be a period of preparation for us to be used positively. The thought has

just come to me when we re-open our doors perhaps we are being given another chance to start again as church. So let's not waste this opportunity, we may not be able to meet together but we can be preparing in whatever way we can for our new mission, our new start. This shut down time can be the perfect time to refocus on what God wants of us. There has been so much spoken about revival and renewal in the church, well soon this will our chance.

Another insight as to the process we are currently experiencing. A few weeks ago, I planted some seeds, I thought I would grow summer vegetables. The small seeds lay dormant in the packet, but they still contained the potential for life if given the opportunity. Over the last few days the bright green shoots have emerged from the dark soil. New life bursts forward into the light. That to me was a message regarding the church we will grow through this dark period and once again see the light and bear fruit.

Being prepared and continuing to be growing in faith. Unseen but active spiritually being transformed by this new experience. A sense of a shared time not necessarily seeing each other but united through the bond of the Holy Spirit and joined by our common vision and sense of belonging.

I am encouraged by the good work being done by Elders and others, keeping in touch reminding everyone we are still here and waiting to get back in business. Thanks to everyone involved with communication and the web site.

We need to be prepared for we do not know as yet when we can open the doors. There are many references to being prepared in the Bible. Here are two that can speak to us.

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Matthew 25:1-46

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ... Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

In the meantime, stay safe and know the blessing of the Lord is on your life. *Andrew Sellwood*



Editorial

For this quarter's Chronicle, I asked people, including friends who have moved away, if they could write a little on how they have been spending their time during lockdown.

I have been speaking to a number of you on the telephone and have received emails etc, suggesting that, for some life has continued in its usual course, without anything much unusual. But some have had extra time to develop new pursuits.

You will get some idea from the contents of this magazine - the largest one we have produced - Well done all! I have enjoyed using my camera, so I have included some photographs taken in our garden in the lovely weather which enhances God's creation in the Spring flowers and blossom.

Editor



News from the Stitchery

What do you do when you have to stay at home? Lots!! Well there are the usual chores to do - cooking, vacuuming, laundry and umm Oh yes dusting and chasing cobwebs!!!! There are much more interesting things to do though, than dusting - and leave the cobwebs to the spiders. Like walking 4 miles a day!

Be creative ... yes, yes, yes ... I took on an online art course all about filling a sketchbook with new ideas and techniques. I loved it and got very messy in the process!!

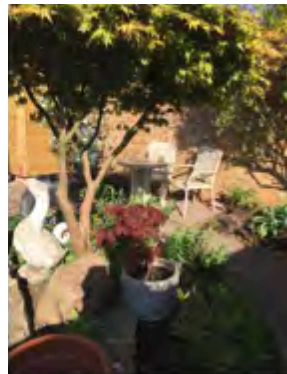


It was playtime for grown ups!! I shared some of the ideas with my Grandson Max on FaceTime as I became his art teacher after the schools closed.

I, of course, kept up with the stitching as I am never far away from a needle and thread!! However embroidery was shelved to make scrubs for the NHS.

An email arrived asking for help in the making of them as they are needed for the fantastic staff working so hard during the crisis we find ourselves in due to Covid19.

At the same time as all this the garden has had a make over. It was very overgrown when we moved here, the trees and bushes had knitted themselves together over years of minimal work.



It was a very satisfying thing to do as it seemed that as we took out shrubs and invasive plants the ones left behind seemed to breath a sigh of relief!!! One poor little Magnolia swamped by a bay bush is now stretching in the sunshine. We have bags full of waste to be tipped when the lockdown is all over! That was the back now for the front!!!

During this time I have been very aware that the Lord is with us. I felt that we could do something to His glory while we are waiting to return to normal life and able to worship him together in fellowship in the Church.

These thoughts reminded me of something Val Gill said about making another banner, maybe for harvest! So began our project to make flowers!

Knitted or Crocheted we would be working together-ish!!! Over a dozen people have been busily making really lovely flowers in all colours and textures.

As I write the first banner is complete. It's adorned with 185 flowers surrounding the words 'God is Love'.

The second is in the offing, so far I have a bag of around 100 ready to attach to it around the words 'Jesus Loves us'.

They will both be hung in celebration and with thanksgiving for all that has been done to keep us healthy and remembering the lost.

Caroline Hibbs



Self Isolation

Twelve weeks of self isolation.....

So the directive came to our mobile phones - TWELVE weeks !!!!

Did you take up a new hobby? Clean out your garage? Catch up with half forgotten projects? Do a jigsaw? Finish your knitting? Tidy up the garden? or something completely unique to you?

I was going to do all those things, but soon found that everyday life hadn't stopped and the jobs that needed doing and which had normally filled my days still had to be done! This was not a holiday after all!!!

Some will be home educating their children, some serving in the frontline of the NHS, some helping vulnerable neighbours. Some will be lonely, missing Real Contact with loved ones and the friends who live down the street. Many will be anxious or grieving and asking questions about life and death.

There will be absolutely no-one at all who will remain untouched by the virus in some way or another.

So I baked - until the flour ran out. I knitted til the cry went up 'we

need no more flowers, thank you' I did a jigsaw - which occupied too much of my time!!



Two [Teddy Bears] walked round and round the garden - 10 laps = half a mile, but we are no Tom Moore.



We made our meals, did the laundry, etc. etc. I potted on the plants, and caught up, (do we ever?) with my reading of the OT. We both spent a long time on the phone, and seemingly hours and hours meeting the challenge of shopping on line!!

In spite of all all my activity there was time.

Time to think, and pray.

Time to reflect on the issues raised by a pandemic.

To think new things

To seek a new relationship with our loving Saviour who still holds the whole world in His hands - for ever and ever - who still holds His children in His everlasting Love.

How awesome is our God. HE is in control.



There was time to watch, and a rare opportunity to listen to, Spring unfold - although the temperatures suggested mid - summer.



The trees came into bud, then the buds opened and the blossom showered us with white and pink beauty. After the blossom we saw the fruit had set - the promise of harvest in months to come.

Two great tits built a nest in our box on the wall outside the kitchen window.

Two pairs of robins built their nests in neighbouring gardens and we saw one brood fledge.

We learned to identify the songs of birds whose voices are often drowned by the noise of the A27.

There was time to talk to each other, with family and friends, some using video links and, some rediscovered the telephone!! and the power of a loving letter arriving in the post.

God did not intend us to live in isolation. Gen 1 v 27 "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them."

Then Gen 2 v18

"The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper suitable for Him.""

Graham set about his ambitious project, collecting miniature photographs of the church family to remind us that we are not alone. The church is a body of God's people, His Body working together to serve Him in what ever ways we can, and from wherever we find ourselves.



'We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all.' The church family has a shared mission and shares a Father mightier than all fathers.

Whether we are in isolation or not we are His children and He always remains with us. *Hilary Redman*



Round the garden of 'Ashlea Cottage'
Hilary & Graham Redman

Joan Finlay – born 20 June 1920

– by Carole Culliss

On 20th June, Joan Finlay celebrates her 100th birthday. Whether we are able to celebrate with her, we don't yet know, but I am sure a cake will be produced, but not with 100 candles, that might be dangerous, so here are my virtual 100 candles condensed to one for each 10 years of your life Joan.

1920's

Your early school years. Queen Elizabeth was born in 1926. Her grandfather George V was king. The year she was born flu and football mouth [*Mouth & Foot Disease*] were rife. Bolton Wanderers beat Manchester City 1-0 in the cup final at Wembley. A woman called Miss Gibson shot Mussolini in the nose and said she was suffering from religious mania. On 3rd May the General Strike started which led to years of depression and the Wall Street Crash 1929.

1930's

Your teenage years. King George V made his first Christmas broadcast in 1932, celebrated his Silver Jubilee in 1935 and a year later died. In 1931 a national government was formed under Ramsey MacDonald to try and deal with the financial crisis, and the

Jarrow 300 Mile March took place in 1936. Also that year The Crystal Palace burned down and Edward VIII abdicated the throne, and the National Trust was started.

1940's

I do not know what happened to you in the war years, but I will skip them, they are well documented and led to the austerity years. Later in the decade, Princess Elizabeth married, The National Health Service was established, India became independent and Nato was set up in 1949

1950's

What were you doing in this decade Joan? It started with the Korean War. The Festival of Britain and fun-fare opened on the South Bank in 1951. I remember the tree walk which was part of the fun-fare and the New Look clothes. The King died in 1952 and Elizabeth

was crowned on a very wet miserable day in June 1953. In 1954 ITV opened to rival BBC and that year Billy Graham made his mark in Britain. In 1956 Calder Hall power station opened, the last Deb was presented in 1957.

1960's

At the beginning of the decade National Service was abolished, also during this decade John F. Kennedy was assassinated, the Berlin Wall came down, the Beatles rose to fame with Rock and Roll and the Profumo Scandal rocked the nation, and in 1965 Winston Churchill was given a State Funeral.

England won the World Cup against Germany at Wembley, Concord ruled the skies and in Wales in 1966 there was the Aberfan disaster.

1970's

Great Britain joined the Common Market, there was trouble and terror in Northern Ireland and the death penalty was abolished. Lord Lucan became a celebrity for the wrong reasons, and who saw the Tutankhamen Exhibition in 1972? We had decimal coinage introduced in February 1971 and Mrs Thatcher became the first woman Prime Minister in 1979.

1980-2020

The Thames Barrier was opened in 1984. During these years from 1980 Britannia was decommissioned, Prince Charles got married, divorced and remarried. Princess Diana was killed. The Mouse Trap became the longest running play in the West End. The Mary Rose was raised in 1982, and we won the Falklands War. We also reluctantly gave up Hong Kong, and I am sure you can think of a lot more memorable events.

Ten virtual candles for your cake Joan. The world is such a different place now with all the technology and easy communication, but whether it is a better world remains to be seen.

Happy 100th birthday Joan



Jane Bond

A Church Member & Elder



Felicity Jane Bond, always known as Jane, was born in July 1939 and brought up in Mill Hill, north west London. Her parents and family were members of the Congregational Union Church there, and she was much influenced by that very active church. She became convinced that she should become a missionary and so she commenced nurse training at the Westminster Hospital. But then in 1958 her parents and family moved to Goring-by-Sea. As Jane was still living at home at that time when not nursing, she had to move too, and she was sorry to lose many of her friends.



Now 1959 and Jane became much involved in Goring Congregational Church when she was able to get home from nursing.

At that time Rev Cyril Franks was minister and it was during his time that the present church was built.

Shortly after this, Jane changed her job to train in midwifery at Southlands Hospital, one of the leading centres for such training in the South of England in those days.

Then occurred one of the most exciting periods of Jane's life: Some friends from the Mill Hill church where she had been brought up – Professor Cyril Blackman and his wife Muriel –

were living in Canada, where Cyril was working. They invited Jane to live with them and experience nursing in Canada. So for 15 months she was based in Toronto at a Doctors' Hospital, and Grace Maternity Hospital. As she says this was well before the days of 'gap years', which were unheard of at that time. Her time in Canada was a wonderful experience with many opportunities to travel in Canada and the United States.

On returning to England she took up a post in Worthing hospital and progressed as Night Sister and spent time in the School of Nursing.

Jane then realised that if she was to go abroad as a missionary she needed to be a Nurse Tutor, so she went to Queen Elizabeth College, London University in 1968 to enter the Nurse Tutor Course.

From there she took a post at Addenbrook's Hospital, Cambridge. But then Eric Bond came into her life – and everything changed! As Jane says "the whole course of her life changed", and she returned to Southlands and Worthing Hospitals as a Nurse Tutor. Jane and Eric were married in 1972.

Then their daughter Elizabeth was born, and so for the time being she gave up teaching.

Even so she began a long association with the British Red Cross Society, and ultimately that led to Jane becoming the Branch Nursing Advisor for the Sussex Counties. She found this most rewarding and it enabled her to keep in touch professionally with nursing.

At the same time Jane taught Medical Secretaries, part time, at Worthing Technical College for several years until the course was discontinued. Also her hearing began to deteriorate and she found it impossible to manage classroom teaching.



Jane's hearing loss affected her so much. She enjoyed singing in various choirs wherever she has been, and listening to music. But all that has had to be given up. As she says "a great loss".

Throughout all this time there have been many "jobs for Jesus" : singing in Goring church choir, Warden of Hayward House for 30 years, and Elder for many years and Church Secretary for 6 years. Prior to that last, Jane was able to temporarily take over as Secretary when Wilfred Rhodes had cancer in September 1991, which was a life saver for him at the time!

Jane and Eric had a very happy marriage for 46 years. Eric enjoyed a long and happy retirement, and with him she became involved with bowling! In his last years Eric became very frail and that has left a lasting impression on Jane – she misses him tremendously. But having Elizabeth and son-in-law Nigel and 3 grandchildren, however far away, has been wonderful.

Jane Bond & Wilfred Rhodes



Compassion

Compassion is something that the whole world needs. It has something to do with 'Life style'. Andrew talked about Lifestyle some time ago, and in the 1970's Eileen and I stayed in a Community and learned that Life style meant "Live more simply that others may simply live".

Some time ago I signed up to a website for an organisation called "Charter for Compassion". It was started by Karen Armstrong and a few other like-minded people. She's a Christian and a religious historian and world famous in her field. I regularly get e-mails that are very interesting and thought provoking. She says that if we want to create a viable peaceful world we've got to integrate compassion into the reality of 21st century life.

If we believe in compassion then it follows that we accept the Golden Rule. All religions on this planet have that rule built into their beliefs and creeds: – love your neighbour as you love yourself. Jesus taught that – quoting Leviticus, The rule has been around for a long time.

The Charter of Compassion and the Parliament of the World's Religions meet from time to time. The Parliament first met in 1893 in Chicago and the 7th meeting in 2018 was in Toronto. 118 spiritual and secular traditions met together. 8324 people from 81 countries. All to work "For a more just, peaceful and sustainable world." How wonderful to attend something like that! The 2020 meeting has been postponed and they are looking for a venue for 2021. It's the largest inter-faith gathering in the world.

We can't ignore other religions. Christianity is right for us and Jesus is all-in-all for all of us. But the bottom line for all religions is the one God, the Creator, the Ground of all being, God without compare.

The first week of February each year is World Interfaith Harmony Week when all those who were signed up to the Charter for Compassion, and everyone else really, promised to act compassionately towards other people. Not difficult for us in middle England if you think about it. The World Interfaith Harmony Week was proposed by H.M.King Abdullah II and H.R.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan. It's to help neighbours of different faiths get to know each other, and so lead the world to Peace.

In connection with all this I received details of something called "The One Billion Rising". It's the biggest mass action to end violence against women in human history. This campaign was launched on Valentine's Day 2012 because it was calculated that 1 in 3 women on this planet Earth will be beaten or raped at some time during their lifetime. With a world population of 7 billion this means more than 1 billion women and girls. Events take place in 200 countries to bring this to peoples' notice.

We too must spread compassion.

Eileen Rhodes

Life Under Lockdown – Susie Thomas

This is a bit rambly, as it's more a collection of thoughts rather than a structured piece with a beginning, middle and end ... Seems appropriate really, as it can be quite difficult to know what day it is at the moment!



I wonder if this is a common experience? Being lulled into a false sense of security by everyone queuing really nicely outside Tesco/Iceland ... but absolutely horrified that it was 'business as usual' inside, with people leaning over you to pick up produce. I wasn't sure whether it was more responsible to get shopping delivered, or whether that was selfishly taking up a slot from someone who needed it more, but I tried a 'click and collect' from Asda. I was really surprised that just about all the items that had been in stock at 10pm Thursday were not available when they fulfilled my order the next morning - and felt quite embarrassed to pick up a trolley that was literally 12 bottles of wine and a punnet of grapes. As if I was too superstitious to buy 13 bottles and had decided to make the 13th bottle myself ...

COMPLETELY unrelated to my need for 12 bottles of wine, I am currently in lockdown with Ryan, Charlie and Joe.

I don't think anything has changed for Charlie - being 16 and studying for A'levels, he was already spending a lot of his time in his room ignoring the rest of us.

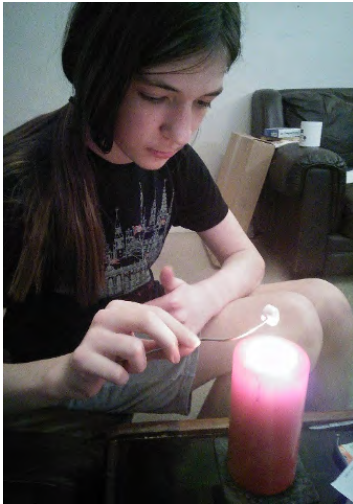
The wonders of modern technology means that he can chat to groups of friends at the same time as they play computer games, so really he's only missing out on his weekly table-tennis, tennis, gym visits, cycling to and from college .

Joe is in Year 9 and I have been really, really impressed by Durrington High School. Basically, he spends 8.40-3.10 (and often later) doing the subjects he would be doing in school.

I sit with him for some of them to ensure focus , so I'm getting to struggle with Year 9 English all over again. Yay!

The teaching is sometimes videos, sometimes TV clips, sometimes worksheets. Or, for last Monday's PE lesson, the message "go and run/walk/cycle 5km"! That was the only time that Joe hasn't been in his pjs during the day - and we made it to the Lido and back in time for the next lesson ...

Our biggest problem is sharing the family PC - but that has eased now that we've got a laptop 12



Generally, the day goes something like this:

Joe - School

Charlie – "What's for breakfast?"

Joe - School

Charlie – "What's for lunch?"

Joe - School

Walk – Usually just Ryan, Joe and me. Usually along the seafront - Joe is especially keen on walking along the walls and balancing on the wooden beams. Ryan has rediscovered Marine Gds and really enjoys walking through there.

It's going to blow his mind when he discovers that there's a cafe where he'll be able to get a cup of tea when this is all over ...

Charlie – "What's for tea?"

Tea

On-line quiz / Scouts / Explorers

Both Scouts (Joe) and Explorers (Charlie) have been 'meeting' throughout lockdown - either with video calls or challenges set. Joe had an indoor barbeque (toasting marshmallows on a candle!

(Bear Grylls, eat your heart out ...) but drew the line at decorating his hard-boiled egg.

So I did it - not sure whether it's Kojak or Ryan :-)

Joe has even been able to continue his keyboard classes! The tutor watches and listens via mobile phone :-)



On-line quizzes have been great fun - there's a daily one run by a Scot and an Aussie with 40 questions, all done and dusted in less than 90 minutes, with answers sent in (if at all) by 5pm the following day. We tend to do that with my sister in France and a couple of other friends in Brighton and East Worthing and it's a really nice way of keeping in touch.

On weekends and holidays (or if Joe has science, maths or computer science where I am zero help) then I'll spend the morning doing gym classes on-line. So anyone in the west Worthing area wondering about a spate of mini earthquakes this month ... that'll have been me, prancing about to music. And I've been doing housework, of course. Having said that, I have learned that it will take more than a global pandemic and five week lockdown to inspire me into making inroads into my mountain of ironing ...

I've really cut down on shopping - I used to do 3 or 4 trips to Tesco per week (on my way home from David Lloyd classes) but now I just go once. I nip to Iceland occasionally for top-ups (milk, bread and strawberries - the latter being pretty much the only fruit or vegetable Joe eats, so classed in our house as 'essential'!)

Ironically, although I probably ought to be looking after my parents, they do not trust me to do this and are more likely to be dropping off food parcels for us Usually soup, but occasionally chicken, gravy and roast potatoes!!!

Charlie managed to watch all 236 episodes of "Friends" before Ryan and me even though we'd had a 26 year head start! He has also worked through "Peaky Blinders" and "Designated Survivor". Joe has restricted his binge watching to the 144 episodes of comedy "Brooklyn 99" and I'm currently working my through the 127 episodes of the very undemanding comedy "Mike and Molly".

Both Ryan and Joe have celebrated birthdays under lock down and so far the boys have had 8 school trips and scout camps cancelled between them! Our characteristic lack of forward planning actually worked in our favour re our family summer holiday, as we hadn't got round to booking anything before all the regulations kicked in...

Ryan has kept busy with typesetting Welcome and various computer-y things. He misses his parents, as he'd usually spend a day there each week. But on the plus side, it is literally a legal requirement that he does not spend any time at all with his mother-in-law! *Susie Thomas*



KESTRO Club – Stroke Association

When coronavirus first reared its ugly head I received a phone call from Peggy. The previous week I had asked members of KESTRO if they wanted to keep our Friday Afternoon rendezvous. The answer was a unanimous 'Yes'. So the idea of continuing was firmly scotched in an email from the Stroke Association.

Peggy suggested that members of the committee phone our members and a rota be devised so that we keep in touch with each other.

Not as simple as it looks at first glance but achievable.

Soon afterwards an e.mail was circulated which provided the names and telephone numbers in groups of three or four.

Each Tuesday the next group on the list became your responsibility and meant that the recipients were treated to a different caller.

It seems to work like a charm.





Everyone is glad to have someone to talk to and if they do not like the sound of my voice or my conversation, they only have to put up with it for seven days, then it will change. No specific time of day or number of calls in a week has been specified but from what I have gleaned to date every other day seems to be the very least.



Our birthday secretary continues to send each member who has a birthday within this period, a birthday card.

The celebrant would, under ordinary circumstances, have the Assembled membership, sing 'Happy Birthday' and have the dubious honour of a kiss from 'yours truly'. Some you win and some you lose. I seek to do nothing more than provide an opportunity for friendship amongst those who have suffered a stroke. The telephone calls are an extension of that maxim. I feel very fortunate to be a part of it.

Without GURC it would not exist.

Vic Joy

Photos by Carol Webber of our beautiful countryside

How Chloe has been managing recently

Over the the last few weeks at home it has been quite stressful. (I'm sure many would agree!) But I have also found a lot of time to slow my life down. With nothing on I get more time with God, which is great, and I've also been looking into my true personality more, which I never really did before.

As well as all of that I need to try my best to still focus on school work and study. I am using a websight called 'FROG' for this. I dont know what it means, but maybe I will try to find out when I get back to school.

Our school would usually use this online learning platform for teachers to send out homeworks and studying tasks to students, but the teachers are now using it to send us all of our school work that we would normally do in a lesson. It's been fun working from home because I get to do all of my lessons in the office next to Dad. He is very usful because he helps me with working with the computer.

Before isolation, I already new how to work one, but now I feel like an expert! He has taught me loads.

Away from school, I have been doing my best to try and keep fit. Every morning we all, as a family, do Joe Wicks P.E on youtube. We've been on loads of long walks and cycle rides as well. I've been doing some laps around the Lamb park and running too! I have been finding it quite tricky not to be doing gymnastics, because obviously that's not on anymore. For those who know me well, you will know that I love gymnastics, and I don't have the equipment like a volt or bars, floor or airtrack. Hopefully I can go back into the gym and still remember how to do stuff! I also can't do my modern and contemporary dance lessons either, but I can always move the furniture around and go onto youtube for some music.

And then there are Sunday's. As a family we have been doing a live Zoom video call with my Grandma and Grandad's church in Basingstoke.

We have songs and hymns with a children's talk and sermon, just like normal church but on a computer!

We have also been using the app 'Zoom' for alot of thing's. for example, Guides, Church, School study, Bible study and just to catch up with friends and family. It's basically like 'Skype' or 'Face time'.

Isolation has taught me lots of things. It has taught me to be grateful for my friends and family that I can no longer see. It has taught me to be grateful for my food and the supermarkets. As well as letting me realise how amazing our NHS and key workers are. And it has also taught me to be a more positive, smiley, and happy person.

I am trying to spread a smile onto people's faces every day. Making others feel the positivity that I feel. To make them know the amazing good news of the Bible. My message to everyone reading this is to 'always be happy! And if you can't manage that, then at least smile:)'



Stay home and stay safe.
Thank you.



I have enjoyed painting and making some hair pins. *Chloe Redman*

... and Nathan

What's he been doing?

What is isolation like for you?

It is fun for me because I get to work with Mummy. I have been doing exciting maths, with chalked numbers on the floor outside on the patio. Oh no, it's vanished because it rained! I get to do handwriting in my handwriting book.



"I have been learning about Africa and how to paint like Martin Bulinya"



I can tell the time really well now because we made a big clock in the garden. We have been doing some P.E. with Joe since the beginning of coronavirus. Joe is doing fun activities in his lounge and we can see it on the TV.

We have been doing church on zoom, we can meet up together on the computer with Grandma and Grandad's church. *Nathan Redman*

Articles for the Autumn CHRONICLE

You can submit articles to the editor in any of the following ways

The Form on our Website or App

E-mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk

Post to Graham Redman at 5 Salvington Hill, BN13 3AT

Other Publications

Handbook and Directory:

Available for Church Members and those regularly attending.

Welcome

Sunday Welcome sheet for Hymns & Songs Readings,
Prayers and Notices

Leaflets

About this Church, What's On, Baptisms & Dedications, Church
Membership, Funerals, Getting Married, Hall Hiring.

Past weeks' 'Welcome' sheets, Leaflets and the Chronicle are all
available from our website <https://gurc.org.uk> and click on 'Chronicle
& Publications' and also on our 'App'.

A Sad time

'Eileen and Wilf were very sad to say goodbye to their beautiful cat Cleo recently. She had been failing since the beginning of the year, but on that last morning she seemed very poorly, and after one last cuddle they took her to the vet, leaving her carrier on the doorstep.

On examination the vet thought she had cancer of the spleen and they all made the decision that she should be put to sleep.

They couldn't even be with her..... She was 13. Eileen and Wilf adopted her three years ago and they had been very happy years for all of them.'



The Commitment Egg

I was lying awake one night and thinking about our commitments, and I realised they fell into three groups. Then the idea of an EGG came into my mind: the YOLK (the first group) is our own personal prayers of commitment – to pray for ourselves and others, to pray for peace and love, the ability to serve, guidance to see where help is needed; to keep Jesus in the centre of our lives.

The WHITE of the egg (the second group) is the prayers and actions for all that surrounds us – our families, our neighbours, the lonely, the young, the homeless, those in need, our church communities. Prayers that we may befriend, serve, love, visit and share the Word of God and our Christian faith.

The third group breaks us out of the SHELL into our wider community – to do, support, act, encourage, visit, drive, and shop. I realise this may not be possible at the moment but I imagine we can all think of specific groups in our area of Goring and Worthing, and even in our gifts to charities at home and abroad.

Perhaps we may have a little more time just now to think about our activities in the days to come when we have the freedom to help or join or give. *Eileen Rhodes*



Volunteering at Chichester Cathedral

When we first moved from Goring to Chichester, I joined the local St. Paul's C of E Church straight away because our son and his family worship there. I now lead the Discoverers group in St. Paul's Junior Church which is the youngest age group of three sections which are all fairly busy. They also have a thriving Boy's Brigade and Messy Church! Nothing meeting at the moment of course!

Within a few months of settling in, I found a leaflet in the cathedral on my first visit asking for volunteers to help with The Family Activity Days. These are held about 6 times a year in holiday time within the cathedral. It sounded like a posh Messy Church so I applied and, after an interview, joined. The day consists of a children's trail around the cathedral and various craft activities all on a different theme each time.

From that I was asked to join the Schools Team within the Learning

and Engagement Team and was soon taking the schoolchildren around on interactive short tours and workshops making "ugly mugs" (the gargoyles) or stained glass windows as souvenirs of their visit.

After a year I was invited to become a guide and, after 3 months training, passed my assessment. Cathedral guides commit to two of the daily tours per month and are asked to take round various groups who want specialised private tours.

I then saw a notice put in by the cathedral librarian asking for volunteers to help in the library. After passing yet another interview I joined a team of volunteers who clean and catalogue the 9,000 books in the library. It is open once a month to the public and is accessed by 40 stone spiral steps! Since February 2019 when we started we have welcomed hundreds of visitors.

Our oldest book is the Kenilworth Missal, thirteenth century and famous because the monk left something out and has had to include the missing part in the margin along with a cartoon of himself.

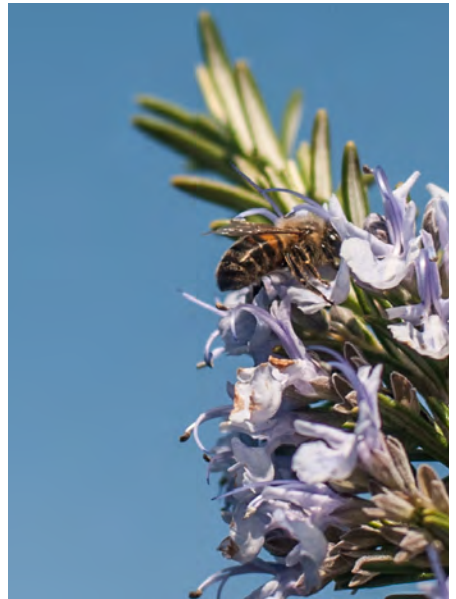
Last summer I was lucky enough to go on a tour of the cathedral roof whilst it was being replaced and after managing the 100 steps we were all rewarded with seeing wooden beams with the original medieval mason marks inscribed and other very old graffiti. As well as dealing with schools, the Learning and Engagement Department handle tours and events for those with a range of medical conditions, including two large services at Christmas for those with dementia. I have been fortunate enough to also visit Chithurst Buddhist Monastery and a Sikh temple with other members of the Learning and Engagement Department.

We are very lucky because our flat has a magnificent view of the cathedral and under normal circumstances we can hear the bell ringing practice on Wednesday evenings.

Shortly before lock down, I took a party round the cathedral from the church where my parents worshipped and from where I began my Christian spiritual journey. I explained that since those days I had attended a Methodist church and the United Reformed Church and finally ended up at the cathedral; whether that is promotion or demotion I'm not sure!!

Susanna Gauntlet

Susanna was a member here at Goring for many years with her mother Joan Eley.



Saved and Redeemed

We have nearly all of us come up against ‘Sod’s Law’ at one time or another, not the least since the beginning of this year. I have been in Beverley over two years now and have settled well. I was just at the point of recuperation and relaxation where I was sorting myself out and deciding what things I should cut down on – for instance, gardening and growing things, giving myself a lot of work each day. I had decided that the local shops and Saturday Market were more than capable of meeting my small needs.

I had decided to make sure that I went out for a walk every day, whatever the weather; to use my free travel ticket by going on any bus that would take my walker and seeing where I end up, making sure I can get back home by teatime. I need to explore Yorkshire! I intended to go to more lectures, concerts, theatre, events and music in Toll Gavel church, the Minster or the Memorial Hall.

What happened? Murphy’s Law – the perverseness of things – that something that can go wrong will go wrong. Sod’s Law is the English version: an average person who has bad luck, with the added sense of being mocked by fate. Finagle’s Law of Negative Dynamics, sometimes known as ‘Finagles

Corollary to Murphy’s Law’, states that everything that can go wrong, will go wrong, and at the worst possible time. The word ‘Coronavirus’ will surely find its niche in the descriptive words of history.

So, without exploratory walks, bus outings, lectures, concerts, theatre, events and music, what is happening, here at home? Luckily or unluckily, I was able to get some Growbags and compost before the lockdown and I felt obliged to get my small-holding/nursery garden on its way back again. Unluckily, I didn’t buy new packets of seeds while I had the chance, so I had to resort to my boxes and bags in the garage and see what I may have hidden there. Ah! Here they are!



How old are these seeds?

Some of them were saved from last year. Some of them are saved from plants in Worthing, so they must be at least three years old. Hold on – this purchased packet says ‘Best Before 2015’ and this one ‘2012!’ Some seeds were in envelopes, unmarked, and educated guesswork had to be

employed. I went online for information on viability of old seed and discovered that some seeds of 2000 years and 32000 have been successfully germinated. There was hope for these, then, if the conditions were all right and the seeds didn’t get too hot or damp or ?– so that life is not extinct.

I set up test conditions to see whether they would germinate so I wouldn't waste time waiting for the odd one to emerge from the soil. Strips of kitchen paper, well watered, cradled them in the darkness of the fold of foil. A few haven't tried to see the light of day, but others, once proved, were set into their first growing trays.

Soon, they were leaning towards the light. One or two could not throw off the seedcases that stuck to their heads, keeping them blind and hindering the leaves from gathering strength. From bitter experience, I have learned not to try to pull these hoods off, as more often than not, the head comes as well.

Best to let them fight their own way out. They may prove to be stronger than those that had an easy birth. The boxes, pots and Growbags stand waiting. So far, I see Rocket, spicy leaves, a variety of tomatoes, and Purple sprouting broccoli. I don't have any pots which are really big enough for the size of the Purple Sprouting which I grew in my last garden. Will they grow in a Growbag? Siblings that I grew in the ground were huge.

The most prolific seedlings seem to be Swiss chard. Just as well I like Swiss chard! My Loganberry and Blackberry look happy enough in their boxes and putting forth good shoots.



All well and good so far, but much TLC will be required and the slog of constant watering. Sod's Law again – I don't have an outside tap (not that it would be any good for the front garden) or a hosepipe! Washing up water – diluted – will be the main beverage for the backyard beauties, though I have made a big discovery,

that I could disconnect the outside waste pipe which comes from the downstairs washbasin; the watering can fits underneath, so we need not be without fresh water on occasion. Necessity is the mother of invention.

A death provided a big incentive to carry on with the gardening. Yes, the death of my intrepid Aunt Flor who died on 16th March, quietly, in her sleep, at the age of 104.

She was the remaining one of fourteen children born to my Grandmother and Grandfather on a farm in Cornwall.

She trained to be a nurse and during the war joined Queen Alexandra's Nursing Corps. She was one of the first to cross the channel to help with the casualties after D-day and nursed for a long time in the Army hospital units in France and Belgium.

After the war, she married a Major she had met during her service and she set up a Nursing home in Hampshire, which later was changed to a Convalescent Home. Her husband ran a small farm attached to the premises, which helped supply some of their needs. Flor kept her kitchen garden going in the family tradition. (The females of this family have always kept their flower and vegetable gardens going in good times and bad).

When they 'retired' they were both well known and very busy socially in the Alton district. After Bill's death, Flor bought a bungalow, which she shared, separately, with her divorced daughter. Sue carried on with her beauty salon work in one part and Flor did most of the cooking and gardening. She had a greenhouse of a size that would not disgrace a garden centre. It was full of flowers, fruit and vegetables. She managed to keep this going for a number of years with a little help. But still the pots of Fuchsias and ferns near the back porch flowered profusely.

It was a sad day two years ago when she fell and broke her hip and was then confined to a chair. Her sight had been deteriorating and she was almost blind. She kept as cheerful as possible, but was troubled by her inaction, both in body and mind. Even at 104, we, members of her wide family, were shocked – we thought she would go on forever. She was one of the most beautiful women I have ever known and I yearned to look like Flor. As time went on, the beauty didn't matter so much as her ideas and aspirations and the grit and determination needed to bring them to fruition. I yearned to be like Flor. I may have succeeded. After all, my mother was Flor's older sister.

The funeral was, of course, confined to a few attendees. But she would have liked it and have given her hearty laugh as they went in to Elgar's 'Nimrod' and came out to the jolly strains of the Helston Flora dance.

The grand reunion will have to wait until her ashes can be taken back to Cornwall to the family grave. We all went to a virtual funeral at the designated time and thought of her as we looked at things that reminded us of her and listened to music she liked. I repotted two cuttings of a Fuchsia she had given me (as cuttings) years ago. The bushes have given many people pleasure over those years.

Meanwhile, I will continue doing whatever, in the same spirit as Flor, to keep on keeping on as cheerfully as possible.

There is a quote at the end of Tolstoy's "War and Peace" which somehow sums up what I hope will be my attitude at the end of the pandemic and quarantine: 'And from old habit he asked himself, "Well, what next? What am I going to do now?" And he immediately gave himself the answer: "I am going to live! How splendid!"

Forget Murphy, Sod and Finagle! "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, according to His purpose." Romans 8. 28.

*So here hath been dawning
Another blue day:
Think, wilt thou let it slip useless away?
Out of eternity
This day is born;
Into eternity,
At night, will return.*

*Behold it aforetime
No eye ever did:
So soon it forever
From all eyes is hid.
Here hath been dawning
Another new day:
Think, wilt thou let it
Slip useless away?
Thomas Carlyle. (1795-1881)*



Some darling little squirrel, from who knows where, has been roaming around and digging in my chard boxes. I have replanted the seedlings that were lying limply in the debris. They may recover.

The tomato plant that James gave me as a surprise gift had to be put in the front room window. It then needed repotting and re staking and putting on the floor. Now it has outgrown the new stake. The tender top growth that had two flower trusses, broke off as I was tying it up, with only a sliver of skin on one side. I matched up the broken edges, I made a splint/bandage with some masking tape and made sure it was well supported, watered it, and left it.

The heat of the mid day sun leaves it a bit limp, but at other times it seems to be making a good recovery. I will be glad when the nighttime temperature is warm enough for it to go outside. Further bulletins at harvest time.

J. Mary Connelly

World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer service for our local area was held at St Richard's on Friday 6th March. The theme was "Rise! Take Your Mat & Walk" and the short service was put together by women of Zimbabwe. This included the opportunity for people to write pledges of what they could do to support their communities and there was a follow-up meeting the following Friday where Eileen summarised the pledges and we finished off the biscuits!

The World Day of Prayer (formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer) is an annual service put together by women in a different country each time, with an accompanying order of service that includes a section at the back with fascinating details about the 'host' country. In recent years it's been Surinam and Slovenia and next year it's Vanuatu.

Representatives of local churches lead the service, which is open to all - we (GURC) team up with, amongst others, English Martyrs, St. Mary's, St Richard's, New Life and St Andrew's, Ferring.

Next year's service will be at St. Mary's Church in Goring - Friday 5th March 2021 ... assuming we're allowed out by then!

Thanks to Wilf for the colourful photo of the participants in this year's service - which will almost certainly be black and white in the Chronicle, so please just imagine vibrant yellows, reds and greens in the costumes. And if you can imagine my head as Catherine Zeta Jones's, that's good too!



Susie Thomas

Jottings

We, the willing, led by the unknowing,
are doing the impossible for the ungrateful.

We have been doing so much, for so little, for so long,
that we are now qualified to do anything for nothing.

Found in an old diary, and worth thinking about:

Judas was the only disciple who really understood Jesus.

He was the only one of the 12 with sufficient imagination to see that Jesus had to be sacrificed in order to fulfil the demands of the messianic Myth, and he loved him enough to help him do it. Really he was the only one of the disciples who didn't betray him.



The Handbook and Directory No. 72

The up to date version is on our website, but you will need a password from Graham to access the data pages.

Download our App
Goring United Reformed Church



Alphabetical list of names on front cover

How many people do you recognise on the front cover? Full marks if you recognise them all, although there are no prizes for achieving that!

Somebody said to me, it's a bit like 'Where's Wally?'

A

Alan P
Alan W
Alison
Amelia
Andrew
Anya

B

Barbara H
Barbara P
Bill
Bobby
Brian

C

Carol
Carole
Caroline
Charlie
Chloe
Chris
Christina

D

Daphne
David
Denise
Donna
Doris

E

Eileen

F

Freda

G

Gaynor
Geoffrey
Giles
Gordon
Graham

H

Hilary

J

Jane
Jean
Jill
Joan F
Joan J
Joan W
Joe
Jonathan
Julia

L

Lindsey

M

Margaret B
Margaret G
Marielle
Mary C
Mary R
Matthew
Maureen
Mia
Munro

N

Nathan

P

Paul L
Paul R
Peggy

R

Ray E
Ray K
Rita R
Rita W
Roger
Rosemary
Rosina
Ruth
Ryan

S

Shirley
Steve
Susie

T

Tania

V

Val B
Val G
Valerie
Verna
Vic

W

Wilfred
Wilma

No photos for-

Alan C, Bett,
Cath F, Do, Edna,
Ellie, Isobel,
Marianne, Olive,
Penny, Sue M,
Trevor, Trudie

Weekday Activities

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Junior Table Tennis | Monday Afternoons |
| Tuesday Fellowship | 2nd and 4th Tuesday Afternoons |
| Cake, Tea, Coffee and Chat | 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday Afternoons |
| Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers | Thursday Mornings. School Term times |
| Kestro (Stroke Club) | Friday Afternoons |
| Little Fishes Play Group | Monday-Friday. School Term times |
| Bible Study Group | First Wednesday in Month |

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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.org.uk/chronicle>

chronicle@gurc.org.uk



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 76000. 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 the 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.org.uk>



The Chronicle

Autumn 2020

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



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

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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Church Treasurer: Mr Matthew Smith

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Telephone: 01903 873265 E-mail: treasurer@gurc.org.uk

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

- Family service monthly as announced
- Junior Church

6.00pm Evening Worship - with Holy communion on third Sunday in month.

The Chronicle



Autumn 2020

Vol.77 - No. 664



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An August sunset over High Salvington
Inset: Bougainvillea 'Vera'

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Editorial

Thank you to all who have contributed to this Quarter's magazine. - the Autumn Chronicle.

Your pieces have been most useful - I know it must have been difficult trying to remember your comings and goings, conjouring up stories or whatever you may have discovered during this very difficult time.

At the time of writing the Church is planning to hold its first short service in the Sancutary after many months of shut down. Even now there are no plans to open our halls for hiring or indeed for our own use.

The time since early March has affected us all in so many different ways - most of all, I think, it is not being able to hug our loved ones, and to show our Christian love towards one another. It is just not the same by email, telephone call or even by a Zoom meeting - new word to many of us - .

Like many others, Hilary and I have spent time in the garden. We have a large pond which has been losing water for a long time. We were able to locate the problem at last and will start to make amends.

I have been busy making jams, attempting to get my autobiography book together with a view of completing it by the end of the year, as well as keeping our website and App up to date - a daily task.

Our long case clock which was build c1730 needed some restoration work both on the case and dial. When we first aquired it some many years ago now, the previous owners had removed the plinth and a top, to enable it to fit into the modern low ceiling houses. During Victorian times, the door was carved - a popular thing to do then. Shortly after, I made a new plinth for it from my fathers old tallboy, and fitted a new shaped top after first having it turned in a woodyard.

A celebration for the two of us was held on the 1st August, our Golden Wedding anniversary. Somewhat different to what we might have expected before the pandemic. See page 6



From the Manse



Great is thy faithfulness.

Strange how things work out. After Graham had reminded me about my Chronicle item, I pondered the idea of writing about the hymn Great is thy faithfulness. Last Sunday on Radio 4 during the virtual Keswick Convention Service they spoke about this hymn also. So, in a way it confirmed my initial thoughts. We are so familiar with the hymn, it's one of my favourites. So, I think it's worth looking at what it really means to us when we sing those words. But first do you know where the words appear in scripture. I will tell you, Lamentations 3:

²² It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

²³ They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. (KJV).

Thomas O Chisholm wrote the poem/hymn in 1923 about God's faithfulness over his lifetime.

It has inspired and comforted thousands of Christians for nearly 100 years. We know the hymn so well I want to turn our attention now to its source, The book of Lamentations.

At first you may think by its title it will be a bit gloomy and depressing read. Instead it is seen to be such a powerful, emotional piece of writing. The book consists of five separate poems. In the first (chapter 1), the city sits as a desolate weeping widow overcome with miseries. In Chapter 2 these miseries are described in connection with national sins and acts of God. Chapter 3 speaks of hope for the people of God: the chastisement would only be for their good; a better day would dawn for them. Chapter 4 laments the ruin and desolation of the city and temple but traces it to the people's sins. Chapter 5 is a prayer that Zion's rebuke may be taken away in the repentance and recovery of the people.

The structure is unusual as it is in an acrostic form.

It follows the order of the Hebrew alphabet. Each chapter has 22 verses, the number of letters in that alphabet. Each verse begins with a sequential letter of the alphabet equivalent of A, B, C etc. OK my theory begins to come apart because chapter 3 has 66 verses, but every three lines begins with the same letter and chapter 5 is not an acrostic but still has 22 verses.

Don't try and discover this in any English version as it doesn't translate. I remember all this from my Old Testament lectures we had to translate Chapter 3. I have to confess I didn't do very well, but I still remember it.

The book can be seen in its 5 distinctive sections/chapters as PLACE – PUNSHMENT – PROPHET/PROMISE – PEOPLE – PRAYER.

In the original language it is a very sad piece of writing from the heart of Jeremiah the author. It is still very poignant in the translated version. He is grieving for the loss of his home Jerusalem, which is laying in ruins,

deserted.

The place where he grew up where his memories were.

He is heartbroken. The first half of the work is terribly sad and depressing (well it is called Lamentations, so we have a clue there) but then almost at the halfway point it changes, there is hope after all; Great is Thy faithfulness.

The book is read once every year in the synagogue as a reminder of the destruction of the two temples in Jerusalem. At the end of the reading verse 21 is repeated Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old. Let's look at that verse briefly. It could be a logical three-fold pattern for us to follow now as we emerge into a new normal.

1. Restore us to yourself, Lord I think we all need to re-engage with our God after perhaps drifting a little spiritually. The pandemic has come as a great shock and has affected people in so many ways. Many questions have been asked with few satisfactory answers. We need to turn back to God.

2. That we may return. We have been exiled from our places of worship for so long are we worthy and ready to return? Remember when the Israelites were delayed from entering the promised land they went off and worshiped other gods.

3. Renew our days as of old. We are to re-engage with the continuity of 2000 years of worship. That is not an invitation to go back to our old ways and habits, but to seek His will for our new future.

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. [Psalm 96]. But no singing just yet. [Government guidelines].

The book of Lamentations obviously can't exactly represent our current COVID19 situation, but I can see some areas of possible overlap. People now are Lamenting the past and are worried about an uncertain future. Our way of life has been drastically changed. For a time, our towns and cities have been deserted. Chapter 1 verse 1 - How deserted lies the city, once so full of people!

4. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed festivals. No Glastonbury, Wimbledon or any other events this year. In the church we missed Easter and Pentecost.

v11 All her people groan as they search for bread; the shelves were bare at the start of lock down, flour for bread making was scarce.

v18 My young men and young women have gone into exile. The schools closed and home schooling became a necessity.

Perhaps it is all too easy to make scripture fit our situation, but we still need to hear it speak to us and make the connections. So even though there is so much woe in Lamentations and perhaps in people's hearts today there is that ray of hope that shines out, there is always a ray of hope in God's plan for His people.

We can confidently say together
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me.

Andrew Sellwood



Golden Wedding

1 August 1970 - 1 August 2020

Hilary & Graham Redman

The family enjoy an Indian Take-Away actually it was delivered !





Doing our best to keep social distancing
at 5 Salvington Hill, Worthing.



Miss H. C. Stephens and Mr G. E. Redman

A former pupil of West Preston Manor School, Rustington, Miss Hilary Catherine Stephens, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles S. Stephens, of 7 Arlington-avenue, Goring, was married at Goring Congregational Church on Saturday.

Her bridegroom was Mr Graham Edward Redman, son of Mr and Mrs N. F. Redman, of 5 Whylands-avenue, Durrington, who is a telephone engineer working in Brighton. His brother, Mr Martyn Redman, was best man.

The bride, who is a primary school teacher in East Sussex, was given away by her father.



Photo: Charles

She wore a long white empire-line dress of angela nylon with a short train and veil trimmed with Guipure lace. She carried white roses and gladioli.

Her sisters, Barbara and Jane Stephens, were bridesmaids, wearing long mauve empire-line dresses trimmed with purple velvet ribbon.

After the ceremony, conducted by the Rev. Wallis Hayward, a reception was held at the Beach Hotel.

Margaret Catherine Anne & David Charles Butcher

After 3 months locked up (except for regular walks and gardening) it was lovely to be able to visit David and Margaret in their home. As rain was in the air we sat well spaced out in their delightful conservatory.

David Charles was born in Great Yarmouth on 9th February 1936 and he too remembers the Big Dipper in the fun fair there. His father ran an Ironmonger's shop, though during W.W.II he served in the R.A.F. and so David and his sister didn't see much of him for 5 years. The family lived in Sherringham for much of the war as their father was stationed there for the rest of the war. David remembers seeing bombers returning to base in flames and crashing into the sea. There were several air fields in the area. The family returned to Great Yarmouth after the war and David attended the grammar school there.

His parents packed him off to join the Royal Navy when he was 15, before even taking his GCE O Level exams; they thought that this would be good for him. (David said he was getting 'wild'!). He started as a Boy Seaman 2nd Class, being promoted after five weeks, and later became a Radar Operator. So he learnt to use Morse Code and Semaphore. Of course he was often away from home, nine months being the longest time.

After 12 years he came to the end of his 'contract' and left the Royal Navy as a Petty Officer in 1963 (this is roughly equivalent to Sergeant in the military).

David had served on destroyers and frigates, and even on a submarine rescue ship, and it was on the latter when he met Margaret. No, she was not in the navy! They met in 1957 through a naval friend whilst on land.

In no time at all (!?) they were married, on 8th August 1959. (Yes, they celebrated their 60th Diamond Anniversary last year when we all had a piece of wedding cake in church.)

So David was in the Royal Navy for another 4 years after their marriage and was often away – not quite the seven seas as he didn't get to sail in the Pacific, but often in the Mediterranean.

During this time Margaret stayed with her father, her mother having died in 1957 just before she and David met. The new family stayed with Margaret's father until 1964, by which time there were three small children! Now, so many years later, daughter Fiona is 60, and their sons are 58 and 56! Margaret and David are very pleased that they are all safe through the virus troubles and that they live not too far away.

Margaret Catherine Anne was born on 24th December 1936, right on Christmas, which was always difficult when it came to presents! She was born on the island of Bute, off the west coast of Scotland. Her father was a British Captain in the Indian Army, and her mother was with him in India, but when she was expecting it seemed wisest for her to return to Bute to have her baby, and so Margaret was born there.

David sat Civil Service exams before leaving the Royal Navy, and at first worked for the national Assistance Board in Greenock. At that time he had to take bus, train, ferry and train to get to work. Later they lived in Alnwick in Northumberland, and David moved to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He remained with the Ministry for the

rest of his career, starting with a transfer to the Animal Health Division in Tolworth, which led to the family moving to Surbiton in 1971. There, amongst other things, they became members of Oaklands Baptist Church. Over the next few years David spent time in various H.Q. Divisions including Personnel, and Fisheries. He enjoyed Fisheries very much, not only did he speak the 'lingo' - which helped with his "street cred" when dealing with staff around the coast but he could also read charts. He says that it all helped sidestep being referred to as "a suit from London"! He also managed visits to some North Sea oil platforms where there is obviously a fisheries interest. These visits were amazing!

In her earlier years Margaret was a school dinner lady and playground supervisor. Later she worked for the Gala Cosmetic Company, then as Deputy Cook in a large Surbiton Care Home before spending 13 years holding the post of Records Keeper for the Nurses Christian Fellowship based in Surbiton. After the NCF moved to Nottingham she also joined the Civil Service, working in the Meat Hygiene Department for imports and exports, and this was most important during the Foot and Mouth Disease epidemic.

David and Margaret moved to Worthing from Surbiton in July 1997, David having retired in 1996. He and Margaret had always planned to move to the coast when the time came, and that was the time!

David has been very keen on speedway racing all his life, though Margaret says he doesn't take part! When he was young he used to help the motorcyclists in order to get into meetings free. He is a member of the Nelson Society, a very elite group; also a member of the British Legion and Worthing Royal Naval Association.

Margaret has always loved music and joined the Bute Choral Society from school, and has belonged to choirs and choral societies ever since, including our church choir and the Rowland Singers. Now she is our church's Bible Society representative and David has been a Steward for many years.

It's been a great privilege to be able to meet and write about Margaret and David, and of course space has meant that I have omitted many words!

We nearly shook hands when I left!

Wilfred Rhodes

Venturing Out

Just a few words about our weekly walks that developed as lockdown eased. After 9 weeks of being restricted to phone calls we were delighted to be able to get out for some exercise together, albeit socially distancing. We have visited Longcroft park, The Lamb park, Highdown, Castle Goring, Holt Lane and Ferring.

Our favourite routes involve footpaths and short cuts, some of which Christina is familiar with, others I was able to introduce her to and the odd one that was an adventure for the both of us.

We have shared experiences, fantastic views, a variety of wildlife and nature, met a cat on a lead sat on the owner's shoulder and talked almost non-stop.

Val Gill

Bible Quiz

Questions:

1. What is the last word in the Old Testament?
2. By which previous name was Paul of Tarsus known as?
3. Whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back?
4. In the Bible, who is said to have lived on a diet of locusts and wild honey?
5. How many years did Noah live for after the flood?
6. There are only three angels named in the bible, Michael and Lucifer are two, name the other?
7. The book of Esther is unique because it does not mention which word?
8. The Bible was written in three languages - Hebrew, Koine Greek and which other language?
9. Who made the first translation of the Bible into English in 1382?
10. Name the longest book of the Bible with 150 chapters?
11. In what city was Jesus born?
12. Who took the place of Judas in the twelve disciples?
13. Who was the older brother of Moses?
14. What kind of wood was Noah's ark built from?
15. Who, following Moses' death, became the leader of the children of Israel?

Answers:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Curse | 6. Gabriel | 11. Bethlehem |
| 2. Saul | 7. The word 'God' | 12. Matthias |
| 3. Lot's | 8. Aramaic | 13. Aaron |
| 4. John the Baptist | 9. John Wycliffe | 14. Gopher wood |
| 5. 350 years | 10. Psalms | 15. Joshua |

<http://www.freepubquiz.co.uk/bible-quiz.html>

Local Wild Flowers

Whilst Hilary and I have been walking on the downs on High Salvington, Hilary took the following photographs with her mobile phone.

How many can you identify?



**** Carole Culliss celebrated her 80th birthday on 3rd August ****
Congratulations !

New Talents Discovered !

I thought I'd share a few of my creative moments throughout Covid-19. Although I've had to work 3 days a week at Little Fishes I have enjoyed having more time to myself.

My woodwork course was cancelled but I put my tools to work at home and managed a spice rack, a cross, our door number, a doll's rocking cradle, a herb planter, a tower to enable our granddaughter to reach the kitchen worktop and a mud kitchen for her too.

I am so surprised at what I've achieved using YouTube for ideas

and guidance and mostly learning through trial and error.

The knitting needles came out for a blanket for a friend's new baby due in August as well as quite a few flowers for the church banners. The rocking cradle needed a blanket too.

I've now spent a few days sewing face masks ready for the new legislation. *Val Gill*



Lockdown in Ferring

In the weeks preceding lockdown, Alan and I were in Jersey helping with our three grandchildren, as our daughter Karen was poorly, (not coronavirus), and when Alan had to fly home to Ferring owing to various commitments, I stayed on. We were following the daily news bulletins and when it looked likely that the States of Jersey would be closing their borders, we all decided it was time for me to leave.

The children were keen for Alan to join us again on Jersey and stay together there, but however great that would have been, it would not have been practical for the weeks and months that have come to pass!

My evening flight carried 30 passengers, all 'socially distanced' (although that phrase had probably not come into being just then). The train from Gatwick to Goring was even more sparsely occupied and almost empty – an eerie feeling compared with the previous 'normality' of packed carriages and standing room only!

Over the next couple of days we shopped (responsibly!) and I received a very welcome and necessary hair trim. Thank goodness I did, bearing in mind how many weeks it would be before we were allowed another cut!

Boris Johnson then announced his plans for the lockdown – and life changed literally overnight, didn't it?



Photo by Alison

Initially our 'allowed' daily exercise for an hour was around the local roads of the village or along Patterson's walk at the top of the beach, and although we know these areas so well, it all felt very different in this strange time.

Everywhere was so exceptionally quiet with no cars and hardly anyone else around, and soon we realised we had stopped checking for any traffic at junctions and just walked at will.

We enjoyed watching gardens come alive with spring bulbs and flowers and were able to really see the changes on a daily basis.

We would return to sit in our garden with a coffee and were joined by a friendly robin, who always sat on the top branch of a tall tree in our neighbour's garden, cheerfully singing to us.

We were fascinated to watch this tree on a daily basis as the leaves appeared and multiplied, soon filling each of its previously bare branches. We saw and appreciated things we normally take for granted in our usual busy lives. We are not often here for these first weeks of spring as it has been our 'normal' plan in past years for a long visit to our family in Mexico City and we realised this year 'just what we had been missing' in those absences.

How incredible it was (or maybe not?) that the weather changed from weeks and weeks of continuous rain to dry and sunny days as lockdown began. Like many other people, we were able to tidy our garage and shed, and to work around the garden day after day and then to relax and appreciate it all at leisure, instead of having to fit in a quick tidy around

before rushing out to the next appointment or meeting and so on. We even managed to use the loungers - given to us years ago and hardly seen the light of the sun - in the afternoons and extremely comfy they turned out to be – most welcome after all our efforts around the borders!

By now we had ventured further on our daily walk, to the banks of the small river Rife, which runs behind the gardens of the road next to us. Here again we were able to watch changes in growth of all the greenery around us; and how much the views have altered in the weeks we have walked that way. We have revelled in hearing the prolific bird song all around and although not accomplished to distinguish the separate calls of the different birds, we have rejoiced in listening to them each morning.

In the early days a crop had just been sown in the fields and it was interesting to see the small seedlings appear and grow sturdier and taller. We wondered what it would be and then one morning we were greeted by a 'sea' of beautiful small blue flowers and realised it was flax or linseed. We were reminded of the parable of the sower upon noticing that at the edge of the planted area and close

to where we were on the footpath, some very small spindly plants were struggling to grow on stony ground. We have since been greeted each morning by a 'wave' of yellow now as the flowers have formed seed heads and we await the next stage.

We usually leave home about 7 a.m and go across the fields to East Kingston farm, or if our legs are feeling up to doing so, we continue to West Kingston Gorse, passing fields of golden crops. Although now 'used' to the views, we never cease to be delighted by the 360 degree panorama and I so often 'stop and stare' or take yet another photo (!), that I then have to stride out sharply to rejoin Alan! It is a similar experience once we reach the greensward and the sea, as on no two mornings are the views the same, with different heights of tides and varying wave conditions.

Other early-bird companions out at this time are mostly dog-walkers or exercisers and we all smile and exchange greetings, whilst politely criss-crossing so as not to pass too closely to one another – oh, the 'new normal' ! We are totally aware, however, of just how blessed we are to be living where we do, and that we are able to get out and about.

We keep in our minds and our prayers all those not so fortunate as us and who are locked down in flats in cities and towns, and all those people not able to, or not allowed to, venture out-of-doors. Our hearts go out to them and indeed our own family in Mexico City were locked down in a 4th-floor apartment, only allowed out once a week for food and essentials – and only Gaby went as they wanted to keep 6-year old Liam safe. We were careful on video calls with them not to mention our outings and joyous experiences so as not to highlight their situation.

In the recent more cloudy days when we have been indoors, I have been re-organising our photos. Some time ago I had begun an album for each of our grandchildren to keep as a memory, as many families do not have prints done so much nowadays.

I had allowed these to lapse for the last few years, and in fact the youngest at two years old did not even have her album started! All that has now been rectified (whilst Alan would be catching up with cricket and football on TV) and I have spent such happy hours looking back and remembering the days when we were all able to be together. (God-willing, everyone will be able to travel to meet up with and to hug their family members and friends in the not-too-distant future). Each album begins with their birth and so onwards, even including the most recent photos, sent to us by mobile phone, of them taking part in home schooling activities, art projects and home baking, etc and they will have a record of these historic and strange times.

We still continue our early-morning walk and hope to do so in coming weeks and months now we are into

the routine, although maybe not daily (!), and look forward to watching the changes that new seasons will bring.

Alison Westcott



Photo by Alison

Bible Society

Egypt

Praise God that the book shops have remained open.

Pray for Ramez Atallah and his team for personal safety and safety from the Covid19

Pray for the finances to do their work they now have electronic donations system in place for the first time.

Ramez writes that he is encouraged when he speaks to his bookshop managers on Zoom. They were all praising God because other shops are closed. They are the only place to get Bibles and they have remained open!! They also make home deliveries to those not going out.

Ongoing Bible completions, other Zoom meetings and digital resources have enable the Book shop managers engage with many people. One priest had 1900 on his What's

App group. People can receive daily readings and Bible studies. They can also have zoom meetings and chat about the readings. They have also renovated 3 shops during lockdown. These three shops will open shortly.

China

Thank God for the many still coming to faith. Pray for pastors to be trained so that new converts do not hear false teaching and that their faith will grow.

Pray that the pastors will continue to strengthen the churches. Pray for protection for the Christians as the churches are being watched and many have been attacked and crosses pulled down in some areas of China. Pray for wisdom for the Bible Society staff here in the UK as to the best ways to help and move forward in China at this crucial juncture. Vision visits have been prevented for the last two years.

Thank God for the many Bibles provided. Pray that this may continue.

Niger

A very poor country mostly desert and 95% Muslim. Very badly hit by Covid19. Bibles are provided to churches but many have to choose between feeding their family or buying a Bible. They have literacy projects, translation projects and listening projects.

Persecution is on the rise it is number 50 on Open Doors Watch list but in spite of this Churches want to reach the Muslims, but the Churches are ill equipped to do so. Pray for training and resources.

Pray for finances because they are small they fear that they may have to close.
Eileen Rhodes

The Hand of God

Submitted by Roger Wilde

Little Philip was walking home in the rain with his mother following Sunday worship. It finally stopped raining as they rounded a corner, where to their surprise and delight appeared a vivid double rainbow in the sky.

"Doesn't it look like an artist painted this rainbow?" his mother exclaimed.

"I bet God painted it just for you!"

"Yes," replied Philip, "God did it, and He did it left handed."

Confused, his mother asked him, "What makes you say God did it with His left hand?"

"Well," said Philip, "we learned in Sunday School that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

Source: www.stewardshipoflife.org

Looking up from Lockdown

Every morning Eileen and I are woken up by our radio alarm clock at 7.45 am, and within a minute or two we are listening to Thought for the Day.

On July 15th Daniel Greenberg was the speaker. He is a Parliamentary Lawyer, and he spoke very well. Jewish people always seem to have a gift of finding words that really count.

He spoke about the easing of Lockdown and how at first essential shops and premises were allowed to reopen. Now so-called non-essential places can reopen. But it's right to distinguish between essential things. Of course provision of food and health and so on is important. But what about mental health? Beauty Salons and Nail Bars can open now.

There is a Talmudic story told about a Rabbi in a busy market place talking to Elijah. He asked him about the important people there were about in the market. Elijah looked around and pointed to two quite nondescript men over in a corner. The Rabbi went over to speak to them – they were important after all. "Oh no" said the men, "we aren't important, Elijah must have made a mistake. We are just clowns in the local circus. We just help to make people happy, happier when they leave than when they came."

Of course Elijah had made no mistake. The clowns made people feel good about themselves and that was certainly an important and essential thing to do.

Lockdown has been far more traumatic and challenging for some than for others, and in some their mental health has been affected.

Nail Bars and Beauty Salons aim to make people feel better about themselves. Their customers leave feeling happier, more content and more self-confident than when they arrived.

And what is more important and essential than that!? *Wilfred Rhodes*

P.S. And did you know that a Smile is infectious?

You Smile at someone and they Smile back at you. Then they Smile at the next person they meet, and before you know it that Smile has been passed around the world!

In the Pink

Our youngest granddaughter, Rebekah, is keen on needlework – known today in GCSE terms as ‘Textiles’. When she was a young teenager she made, and gave me for Mothering Sunday this little pink pouch.



It is made from felt with white embroidery and pale pink flower-shaped buttons. Inside are eight cards, each with a Bible text on it, and I would like to share these with you as they are very special:-

- * Be still and know that I am God. *Psalms 46:10*
- * Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation pray with thanksgiving and present your requests to God. *Philippians 4: 6*
- * As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. *Joshua 24: 15*
- * The Lord your God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with His love. He will rejoice over you with singing. *Zephaniah 3: 17*
- * My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. *Psalms 121:2*
- * Take courage. I am always with you. *Matthew 14: 27 and 28: 20*
- * I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The sovereign Lord is my strength. *Habakkuk 3:18-19*
- * This is the day the Lord has made. *Psalms 118:2*

Eileen Rhodes

Mary Connelly

Pink Fuchsias are in flower four months on from Aunty Flor's funeral day.

The red ones are from a few bits and pieces that survived the move from Goring, also the daisies which keep us smiling, all over the place, from one of the Redman's garden!



The Blackbird

Black Jack is back! He brought one of his youngsters to my two little gardens and told it that this was a good place to plunder. It's a very confident youngster, quite happy for me to be a few feet away from it while it forages, quietly clucking away to itself.

But Black Jack must have a new family. He looks a bit frazzled, his feathers not so sleek as before. Mrs Black Jack must be on her nest. Plants in their pots are again in peril of extinction as he tosses everything out in search of worms and grubs. Some pots have even been upset and the contents strewn over the tiles, earth, plants and teabags waiting for me to sweep up and rescue. I am putting out soaked seedy bread, etc, but that's not good enough for him. I need to start a wormery and forget trying to grow parsley and chard - well, anything!

Lockdown to Opening

On Monday 23 March the U.K. government imposed a 3-week national lockdown, enforced by police, to contain coronavirus. As we all know this turned out to run into many months of total and partial restrictions affecting us all in so many different ways. Most of all affecting our Church life and our spiritual wellbeing.



Shortly after, Andrew made the first recording of his message and issued a 'Manse Musings'. This pattern has followed ever since with the occasional Holy Communion video, and a few full services conducted from members homes, both in Goring and Sompting.

The Church has been doing its best to keep people informed as to what is going on: Welcome sheets and Musings along with Sermon transcripts have been delivered to all those households who have no internet connection, whilst those who can receive email will know that they have access to our website and consequently to all our on line services. Our Mobile App has been a hit in as much as all the above can be heard and seen by those preferring to use mobile devices.

We do thank all those who have been involved in any way in contributing to these services; from leading, to readings, producing and delivering the Welcome sheets, Musings and sermon transcripts. This service has been very much appreciated.

After many months of the church being closed, it was opened again on the last Sunday in August for a short 30 minute service. There were mixed views on the subject of opening, but 41 people attended.

Live viewing & listening [streaming] is being researched by those on the A/V desk. Watch this space for news.

Graham Redman



Articles for the Winter CHRONICLE

Your articles are very important to us all, as they keep the Chronicle magazine interesting and varied in content.

You can submit articles to the editor in any of the following ways

The Form on our Website or App

E-mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk

Post to Graham Redman at 5 Salvington Hill, BN13 3AT

The closing date for the winter magazine articles is 1 November 2020
However, it would be most helpful if you could submit articles before this.

Other Publications on our Website and Mobile App

Handbook and Directory:

Available for Church Members and those regularly attending.

Welcome

Sunday Welcome sheet for Hymns & Songs Readings,
Prayers and Notices

Leaflets

About this Church, What's On, Baptisms & Dedications, Church Membership, Funerals, Getting Married, Hall Hiring.

Normal Weekday Activities

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Junior Table Tennis | Monday Afternoons |
| Tuesday Fellowship | 2nd and 4th Tuesday Afternoons |
| Cake, Tea, Coffee and Chat | 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday Afternoons |
| Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers | Thursday Mornings. School Term times |
| Kestro (Stroke Club) | Friday Afternoons |
| Little Fishes Play Group | Monday-Friday. School Term times |
| Bible Study Group | First Wednesday in Month |

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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



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 76000. 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 the 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 original 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 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>





The *Chronicle*

Winter 2020/21

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



Unto us a boy is born



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

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

- Family service monthly as announced

- Junior Church

All services at 10:30am are live streamed and recorded for later viewing on our website <https://www.gurc.net/about-sunday-worship> and on our Church App.

The Chronicle



Winter 2020/21

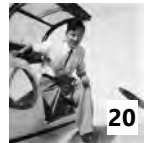
Vol.77 - No. 665

Front Cover:



Unto us a boy is born.
King of all creation,
Came He to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.

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Disclaimer: Whilst great care is taken to accurately reproduce articles presented for the Chronicle, mistakes sometimes do occur. Please note that the views expressed in the following pages are not necessarily those of Goring United Reformed Church.

From the Manse



Welcome to the Winter edition of Chronicle.

We have already altered the clocks at the end of October, now it gets darker an hour earlier. Coincidentally the weather seems to instantly change as well, wind and rain have marred the half term break. In addition, we have entered another period of lockdown.

Winter, the name comes from an old Germanic word that means "time of water" and refers to the rain and snow of winter. But I often get corrected when I think of November and even early December as being winter. In the Northern Hemisphere Winter is technically from the winter solstice (year's shortest day), December 21 or 22, to the vernal equinox (day and night equal in length), March 20 or 21, The really low temperatures associated with our winter occur mainly the further north you go, but global warming is drastically altering that.

We usually miss the extreme weather down here in the South of England. However, in the UK the winter of 1946–1947 started out relatively normal but became one of the snowiest UK winters to date, with nearly continuous snowfall from late January until March. Many people were shut in their homes, travel was limited, road and rail transport disrupted, supplies ran low as people hoarded the essentials and many jobs were lost. That is so hard to imagine now. I hope we never get into that situation again!

The season of winter is associated with a time of dormancy, particularly in relation to crops; some plants die, leaving their seeds, and others merely cease growth until spring. Many animals also become dormant, especially those that hibernate. It seems we have already gone through a time of hibernation earlier in the year, the first Lockdown.

It was the 23 March 2020 that Boris Johnson told the country that people 'must' stay at home and certain businesses must close, travel was limited. It was like most of the nation was hibernating back in spring; storing up toilet rolls, pasta and tinned tomatoes for the uncertain period of isolation that lay ahead. During this time jobs and livelihoods were and are still being lost. Not to mention the many thousands who lost their lives. For me the whole year has blended into one uneasy season of discontent (*though it can be ... 'made glorious summer by this Son of God'*) *.

The church year was undefined with a reduced ability to celebrate Easter, Pentecost, Harvest. At this time, I have absolutely no idea what Christmas will be like.

Perhaps it will be a slower calmer time. A time to really reflect on the meaning of our celebration. Instead of rushing round the shops and partying, a time to be still.

A time to take stock and be thankful for what we have rather than what we lack. There may be many restrictions imposed for our good and we may find it to be a cold dark season, but the light of Jesus will shine through.

There will always be hope for a brighter day. We don't know how long this shadow of Covid19 will hang over us but there is always sunshine after the rain. What about George Matheson's beautiful words in the hymn, "O Love that will not let me go:" in particular the phrase - I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain. That morn shall tearless be. What a great image. A reminder too of God's covenant promise made to humanity after the flood.

The experience of faith in Matheson's hymn refers to a basic sense of trust that we must have in the process of life, one that with Jesus we can hold both the light and the dark, the joy and the pain.

Also, a Faith that even in our darkest moments, keeps us going towards that light, and that light will prevail.

It has been reported that many more people are suffering from SAD seasonal affective disorder. The exact cause of SAD is not fully understood, but it's often linked to reduced exposure to sunlight during the shorter autumn and winter days. The main theory is that a lack of sunlight might stop a part of the brain called the hypothalamus working properly, which may affect the: body's internal clock (circadian rhythm).

This winter season may have a dark and dulled edge for us all this year. No big gatherings indoors at the moment (who knows how things may change).

We might be allowed to gather in small groups outside to socialise but that's not much fun in the cold and rain. For many folks there will be a lingering empty space in their lives without friends and family around them. A sadness which seems to be enhanced over this period. We need to be sensitive to their needs, hopes and fears and

our own too. At the moment it does not look like it being the season we are used to, but we will get through it and make the best of the present circumstances. So continue to look forward to the great day December 25th and celebrate it the best way you can.

"in Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song."

Have a joyous and peaceful Christmas. Andrew and Jill

* *A bad miss quote from Richard III Act 1
Scene 1. William Shakespeare.*



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherd's would have the same dramatic effect."



Little Fishes

Little Fishes returned in September to an almost normal routine. It was lovely to welcome our returning children, some of whom we'd not seen since March and also meet lots of new families. The children settled in very quickly and have been busy playing, creating, singing and generally having fun.

We have been able to have our 2nd playground resurfaced and its looking fabulous, well worth the wait.

We have also invested in a large six seater buggy (we call it the bus) which enables us to take six smaller children out safely, it does attract a lot of attention, please give us a wave if you see us out and about in Goring.

COVID has limited some activities but we have had two visits from reptiles which included a massive snake and a very pretty tarantula, fascinating to the children and the staff.

As I write this the nation is going back into lockdown but childcare is exempt which places a great deal of pressure on the staff, please do remember us in your prayers, your support is much appreciated. *Val Gill*



The Bus

Fifty Golden Years

September 1970 - September 2020



Mr & Mrs Alan & Alison Westcott

Heston Parish Church, Middlessex

When we learned of Hilary and Graham celebrating their Golden Wedding in August, we knew that we were in 'good company' as our 50th anniversary was not many weeks later - on 5 September 2020.

Regular readers of *The Chronicle* may recall that our family from Jersey and from Mexico were all staying with us for Christmas 2019 and realising that we would not be able to be together in September due to school and work commitments and the distances involved, we decided to celebrate early at that time in December – and thank goodness that we did!

However, the Jersey branch of the family invited us to visit them in September as the island was 'open' and after testing immediately upon arrival and the results being 'negative', we were free to enjoy Jersey's delights. This we definitely did in glorious weather, whilst always remaining extremely careful when out and about.

On the actual day we undertook a country walk (2.5 miles each way) along an old railway track, now for cyclists and pedestrians, and which ends at St. Ouens bay where La Corbiere lighthouse is situated. The three children were on their scooters or running beside us and we all enjoyed the many varied sights and things to discover and explore along the way.



There is a restaurant overlooking the lighthouse, rocks and long bay, with the other Channel Isles on the horizon and here we partook of a delicious lunch accompanied by those stunning views. There was much fun and laughter as Alan and I reminisced over the past 50 years and remembered family happenings and stories to pass onto the next generations.



It was a good thing that it was a long way back to the car to enable us all to 'walk down' our celebratory meal and the children certainly slept well that night after all the fresh air and exercise!

Since then we have been presented with a wonderful album compiled by Karen & Chris and full of photographs over our 'fifty golden years' as they have entitled it.

We will certainly have many happy hours looking through it over times ahead.

Alison Westcott.



Christmas Day

When did we get the date for Christmas fixed?

The church in Rome began formally celebrating Christmas on December 25 in the year 336, during the reign of the emperor Constantine.

As Constantine had made Christianity the effective religion of the empire, some have speculated that choosing this date had the political motive of weakening the established pagan celebrations.

It did, many were wiped out. One in particular the cult of Mithras. Apart from the slaying of bulls, a sacrifice had to be made on behalf of the followers, its followers worshiped a 'sun' god (or son of god), took a ritual bath before they could be a member and had their main celebration on ... you guessed it December 25th.

Andrew Sellwood



Christmas Services

Please keep an eye on our website for up to date information on Church services during the Christmas period as Government restrictions may or may not apply.

Journeys or Lockdown this Christmas?

Christmas is a busy time for travel, as many of us venture a great distance to see family or friends again. But this year coronavirus has put an end to all that. Seeing all our loved ones this Christmas will be difficult, if not impossible. Soon we may not be travelling anywhere very much at all.

Have you noticed that the Christmas story is about journeys? It begins with Mary and Joseph travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Then, some shepherds receive news from an angel about a special birth. They travel through the night, across dark fields and down unlit streets to search for the baby Jesus.

After this, in an eastern country some wise men see a new star, one that heralds a new king. They leave home and set out with only the star to guide them, and their faith to reassure them that Someone special is waiting at the end of their journey.

All these travellers must have wondered what really lay ahead. Nothing was fully understood, carefully planned for, or safe. They all travelled with questions and uncertainties. But God had come unexpectedly into their lives, and

suddenly they were given new roles to serve Him. Despite worldly circumstances that could have crushed them, they stood firm and trusted God all the way.

These travellers' tales tell us that God may suddenly enter into our familiar, or this year, unfamiliar circumstances. He may come in surprising ways, to prompt us into new avenues of service. At first His call on us may be uncomfortable and challenging.

If our response is anything like Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and wise men – to be obedient to His call in serving, witnessing and worshipping, we shall be greatly blessed and rewarded.

We are all on life's journey. If we travel with God, He will be faithful and lead us to His heavenly Home.

Parish Pump





Crossword

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Answers on page 28

Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)



Joseph and his Amazing Journey

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David. Luke 2 1-4

What a year we have had!

But I suppose Joseph had had a demanding year as well. Having learned that his betrothed was pregnant due to divine intervention, he then learned of the Roman government's demand for a census.

These Bible verses show Joseph being a good citizen. Leaving home for a long journey in order to please the government would not have been welcome, but Joseph complied and obeyed the law.

This year the situation is reversed. Millions of us want to make a long journey, to visit our loved ones across the UK. But this year, because of coronavirus, the Government is asking us to stay at home.

The Romans had censuses for a good reason: to help them run the business of the empire. This Government has restrictions in place for a good reason: to help to slow the spread of a deadly virus.

Following government rules and laws it is not always easy or pleasant but as Christians we should be good citizens.

As always this is a light-hearted guide to a complicated subject. If you are going home for Christmas, get proper advice - and have a Merry one.



Parish Pump

Synod Together

Report for GURC on Synod Together "Virtual Meeting" 10th October 2020 via Zoom

There was no theme this meeting.

The meeting scheduled for March 2020 was cancelled following the outbreak of the Covid-19 corona virus so this was the first meeting of Synod Together for 12 months. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues it was decided to hold the meeting as a virtual meeting using Zoom. As the church's representative I joined the meeting as a viewer, because I had neither web-cam nor microphone. However, I found that I was able to follow the meeting and vote when necessary.

I am always surprised by the range of committees and officers working mainly behind the scenes to ensure that local churches can continue to spread the Bible teaching.

Synod Clerk dealing with Pastoralia, the names of Members of Synod who had died since the last meeting in October 2019. We were asked to pray for them.

Our first task was to welcome Southern Synod's new moderator, the Reverend Bridget Banks, who was confirmed in post at the July virtual meeting of Mission Council. The Synod Together Meeting also welcomed our new Synod clerk, the Reverend Russell Furley-Smith, who had agreed to serve for an initial period of 5 years from 1 October 2020.

The minutes of the meeting in October 2019 were approved unanimously.

The meeting then moved on to consider the Synod Council report, the main themes of this were climate change and racial justice.

The Reverend Bridget Banks led the opening worship, followed by the

A report from URC Youth stated that Christians should be stewards of the planet following the principles of A Rocha. A Rocha is a charity which sees its mission as responding to the biblical mandate to care for the earth,

and demonstrating the Christian hope for God's world.

The search for a Racial Justice Advocate continues. Sharon Henriques has been representing Southern Synod on the national racial justice network across the United Reformed Church.

The Synod Council report also dealt with the Korean Ministries. Ms So Young's post as Mission Partner has been reviewed and it was agreed to renew her post until 2023. The Reverend Suk Lee's post is currently under review pending a decision at the next Synod Council Meeting.

The Reverend Andy Twilley's post as Training Development Officer has been renewed until 2026.

After considering the Synod Council report The Reverend Helen Warmington reported on Ministerial Supervision. After a 3 year lead-in time this will be compulsory for individuals, but not groups. Further details will no doubt, follow.

The Reverend Helen Warmington was followed by Belinda Nielsen, the safeguarding officer for Southern Synod and North Thames, who introduced and explained a short video clip reminding

us of the importance of safeguarding children and adults at risk. She emphasised the need for Good Practice, Policy and Procedures. None of this was designed to trip anyone up. It is important to recognise, respond, refer and report bad practices. "Good Practice 5", a guidance note on the topic, is available to download from the main URC website. Training is mandatory for a wide range of officers. There will be a question on safeguarding in church annual returns due at the end of December.

After a short break John Denison, Synod Treasurer, took us briefly through the budget for 2021 and estimates for 2022 to 2025. As in previous years Synod is unlikely to break even without the income from the sale of redundant church buildings. The budget for 2021 envisages a deficit of £443,091. Stripping out the provision for the sale of property there is planned expenditure of about £944,091 against estimated income of about £321,00.

Unlike local churches Synod does not receive hall letting income, so has to rely on the proceeds from the sale of redundant churches.

The schemes for loans and grants to churches have been reopened and the Emergency Fund is also open.

There is also a deficit on the Ministers' Final Salary Scheme, which will be discussed with the scheme's actuary early in 2021. Synod Together endorsed the recommended Synod budget for 2021.

Next, the Children and Youth Development Officer showed us a short clip of the work done by the CYDO. There is an information pack available to local churches.

The meeting then broke up into groups to discuss the future for churches after Covid. Some churches had tried social meetings on Zoom. The prospect of holding carol services outdoors was discussed. The Forest Church in the New Forest pointed out that the only way to have a gathering of 30 people outside was to take a gun and shoot a deer during the service. There were various suggestions for holding

Communion services, members to bring their own elements; have 2 trays, one for glasses of wine and the other for glasses containing bread. One church had found pre-packed sets of bread and wine which the congregation could collect on the way into church. It was pointed out that a risk assessment would be needed to run social events and that back to back events should be avoided. Each group appointed a rapporteur to report back to the Synod Secretary

The final item on the agenda was the expression of thanks to Jubilee ministers, those who had served for more than 25 years. There were 13 in total including the Reverend John Kay who had completed 60 years of service.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm after setting the date for the next meeting, on 13 March 2021.

Giles Wilson

Refugees in Worthing

This is a message I received from "Worthing 4 Refugees", which is connected with the Maybridge Community Centre. I had asked of them whether refugees were still being settled in the area. This is their answer. Wilfred Rhodes

The government's resettlement scheme announced in 2015 had a target to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK by 2020. West Sussex County Council voluntarily signed up to this scheme to resettle 240 individuals or 60 families. Both the local and national targets have just about been met. This included refugee families resettled by local charities, a scheme that the Home Office created from a Canadian model. This scheme is called Community Sponsorship, and is how Worthing 4 Refugees has been involved in refugee resettlement locally.

Recently the Home Office introduced a follow-on scheme to enable refugees from any part of the world to be resettled here into the future, so there is a commitment going forward. In addition, the Home Office has announced that any refugee families resettled using Community Sponsorship will be in addition to government targets for

the first time. This is exciting news going forward and enables local grassroots charities to make a real difference to the lives and numbers of refugee families who are able to resettle in the UK.

However, since March, no Syrian refugees have been resettled because of Covid-19, and there is no date to restart the scheme. So we are concerned about the refugees waiting in hopeless situations, some in refugee camps, who are not able to start their new life moving forward.

If you would like to know more about the work of Worthing 4 Refugees, an inter-church Christian charity, please do look at our website:

www.worthing4refugees.org.uk

I imagine you have already done so and used the website to get in touch. If there is someone at Goring URC who would like to co-ordinate prayer for our work, I could ask our prayer co-ordinator to get in touch.

Continued on page 22

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Flying For Life

This year 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). There was to have been a national celebration in London in the spring, but due to the COVID 19 lockdown this could not take place. As a supporter I was hoping to be there and to meet Stuart King, co-founder (with RAF colleague Squadron Leader Jack Hemmings) of MAF in 1945.

I imagine we would have heard from him and others about those early days and the small and struggling beginnings in the aftermath of World War II.



Stuart King in Miles Gemini aircraft in 1947

So how did it all start?

Stuart was Chief Technical Officer at RAF Duxford, but he had a vision of using aircraft to bring HELP, HOPE and HEALING to those in need. He gave up his career to pursue this and joined other Christian airmen to establish MAF, with the aim of reaching the earth's remotest communities, using aviation and technology.

His first pioneering flight with his colleague Jack Hemmings was in a tiny 2-seater Miles Gemini from Croydon to East Africa, 4,000 miles away. With little more than a map and a compass they followed the River Nile as their guide across Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Kenya and the Belgian Congo.

Sudan was the country identified as the most in need of MAF's services, and Stuart based himself there, each adventure bringing its own unique blessing, helping to sow a million Gospel seeds.

From those small and struggling beginnings in post-war Britain MAF now flies to more than 1,400 remote locations across 26 developing countries – more destinations than any other airline in the world.



Cessna 208B at Lydd Airport in 2019

The aim of MAF is always: 'To see isolated people physically and spiritually transformed by God's love' Today MAF pilots fly to areas almost unreachable by road, carrying medicines, Bibles, other goods, doctors, pastors and patients.

Stuart's lifetime commitment to MAF continued until his death in August this year at the age of 98. He described himself simply as an ordinary man serving an extraordinary God. But he was far from ordinary, he was a man chosen by God for an enormous task. MAF has gone from strength to strength, reaching the lost, the lonely and the languishing. In 2016 Stuart King wrote the following prayer, encapsulating all that MAF holds dear:

'Lord, thank you for your peace, protection and provision.

We pray that MAF will always have:

One purpose – the glory of God

One pathway – the will of God

One passion – the love of God.

In Jesus' name, Amen'

Photographs by courtesy of MAF

Eileen Rhodes

Continued from page 19

Refugees in Worthing

Also on the website, you can sign up to receive news and/or prayer updates. If Goring URC are providing online church services, we have recently produced a 5 minute video introducing our work, or we have people on the team willing to talk to the church if that would be helpful. So do ask if the church would like to connect with us more.

I hope this information is helpful to you. You can also contact the refugee resettlement team at West Sussex County Council for more information.

We work closely with them. Just phone the switchboard at county hall.

Gay Jacklin

Worthing 4 Refugees Lead

Submitted by Wilfred Rhodes



'Hope' Photo by Christina Shearer

Taken 25 October

Sudoku

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Solution on page 28

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The Chronicle Spring 2021

The closing date for the Spring magazine articles is 1 February 2021

You can submit articles in any of the following ways :-

The Form on our Website

E-mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk

Post to Graham Redman at 5 Salvington Hill, BN13 3AT



The Handbook and Directory

has been republished to No. 73 2020/2021

Changes are always being made, and are updated on our on-line version as they occur.

Mary Connelly

I have one sentinel only this year in my Red Hot Poker planter instead of six. He has made up for the lack of others by growing to six feet tall. Next to him, my tiny twig of Buddleia has grown to three feet, with two strong shoots alongside. I have hopes that the New Year will see more than one tiny flower this winter. Meanwhile, other flowers are filling their pots and still giving pleasure to the people who pass by my house.

In this time of viral infection we wonder what the next plague will be. One lockdown was enough to cause muscles and joints to seize up and malfunction. Apathy soon sets in; disinclination to go out increases as the weather gets colder, and so the deterioration continues.

It was not only people who found the time difficult, but my tomatoes too. The young plants were doing well and getting ready for the Church plant sale in May. But there was no sale this year. I did throw the weaker plants away, but the rest went into Gro-bags in the back yard. There were more than usual, of three kinds. They flowered well, fertilized and fruited well. A colour started to develop, but the sun was lower in the sky, not giving sunshine at that end of the yard more than an hour or so during the day. They seemed to find it difficult to ripen. The weather turned colder.

The marks on the fruit became darker and eventually turned brown and hard before some going soft and rotting.

What to do? I picked them all – many of the cherry tomatoes had to go in the bin, being brown already, but the big nearly-a-pounders and half-pounders yielded enough flesh and pulp to make many jars of: delicious green tomato chutney with apple, garlic, onion and mustard seeds; spicy tomato chutney, brown and rich; sweet and sour pickle and mint relish.

The plants had not done well because they were too close together and picked up their own kind of virus too easily. Next year I will have tomatoes only in my front room window and none in the backyard. Time will allow the spores to die. The chance of virus must be avoided, or it will come again and again.

It is good to remember that we can cut out the canker that grows in poor conditions and that it can be avoided. It's not easy, but we can be re-made into something worthwhile.

*'Oh God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come.
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home.'*

Written in 1708 by Isaac Watts. (1674-1748)

Great Baddow, Essex

Saturday 3rd October 2020.

Eileen and I had a rather sad day. We attended a funeral at 2.00pm. There were 28 of us there. The Moderator of the Eastern Synod, the Rev Canon Paul Whittle preached the address and the service was conducted by Rev Paul Stein. He is minister of Christ Church in Chelmsford.



Great Baddow URC, Chelmsford

The funeral was the closing down of Great Baddow United Reformed Church, and we were members there from 1971 to 1979.

We arrived in Great Baddow two weeks after D-Day in 1971 from Welwyn Garden City, and the church was in the middle of a two year interregnum and during that time the members and Deacons had extended the church building. Which must say something about the church itself. There were 51 members in 1971

Rev Ken Pryor was ordained and inducted as minister in 1973 and one of my treasured possessions is his letter of acceptance of our call to be Minister. (I was joint Church Secretary at the time.) Some may remember that Ken has conducted worship in our church here in Goring, some years ago.

Eileen and I and our two sons and our cat moved to Worthing in 1979 and one week later Ken and his wife Rose moved too, to minister in the Medway towns. Theirs was a real team ministry and with their daughter Jennifer and son Tim they made a wonderful family. Whilst at Great Baddow Ken also had responsibility for Writtle URC and covered many many thousands of miles annually in his car visiting and meeting around the county.

Before Ken arrived, and during his time with us in Great Baddow and at various times during subsequent decades, I have given an address when I've asked the question "Is the Church effective?" Unfortunately on most occasions the answer tends towards "No". But not at any time in Ken Pryor's ministry! The area had a very well organised three - monthly Preaching Planning meeting

with the 10 small churches that were around Chelmsford. One member from each meeting together to plan the coming three months in detail and the following three months in outline. In that way even the smallest chapel had one of the three ordained ministers for their Holy Communion services. Eileen and Ken also started a very busy and thriving Pilots Company. During those years there was a Provincial Day Out held in Ely Cathedral, and flower festivals organised by the ladies.

Amongst our most beautiful services were Christmas Midnight Communions.

When Ken and Rose left Great Baddow URC the membership was 85, and the church was the only one in East Anglia with an actively growing membership.

So on Saturday 3rd October we had a sad journey down Memory Lane but with many happy memories. Our boys were 12 and 10 when we left and they too had contributed much to our lives in Great Baddow.

The church has been sold to the Octavia Schools organisation. This consists of several schools at the present time in various parts of London. They provide "outstanding" schooling for 5 to 16 year olds who have special needs. I'm very pleased to think that they will continue to contribute much to the life of Great Baddow.

Wilfred Rhodes

Church Other Publications on our Website and Mobile App

Handbook and Directory:

For Church Members and those regularly attending.
Top Menu Bar under 'Church Management'

Sunday Welcome Sheets:

Sundays' Welcome sheets
Top Menu Bar under 'Publications'

Leaflets:

About Us; Baptisms; Funerals; Church Membership; Marriages
Top Menu Bar under 'Publications'

Archives:

History in Pictures; Ministers; Birth, Marriage & Death Records
Top Menu Bar under 'Archives'

Solution to Sudoku on page 23

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Answers to crossword on page 12

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak.
8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's
comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne.
24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink.
4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man.
12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon.
18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG.
23, Leah.

Weekday Activities

All weekday activities are suspended until further notice due to Covid-19

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

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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

Download our Church App





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>

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