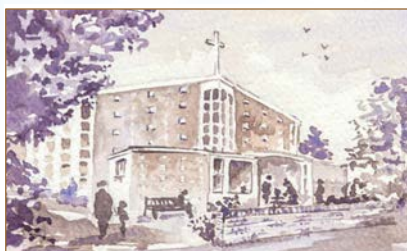




The **Chronicle**

Summer 2021

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 -

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

Website: <https://gurc.net>

Church Office: office@gurc.org.uk Telephone 01903 600260

Church Secretary: Mrs Valerie Gill

36 Ontario Close, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 2TE

Telephone: 01903 531069 E-mail: secretary@gurc.org.uk

Minister: Rev Andrew Sellwood - Friday rest day

17 Drummond Road, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex. BN12 4DX

Telephone: 01903 248259 E-mail: minister@gurc.org.uk

Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Hilary Redman

5 Salvington Hill, High Salvington, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT

Telephone: 01903 260568 E-mail: pastoral@gurc.org.uk

Church Treasurer: Mr Matthew Smith

10 Cissbury Drive, Findon Valley, Worthing, West Sussex. BN14 0DT

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

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



The Chronicle

Summer 2021

Vol.78 - No. 667

Front Cover:



Photo taken in Clapham Woods

Did you know that the English Bluebell [Hyacinthoides non-scripta] belongs to the same family [Asparagaceae] as Hyacinths, and Asparagus.

Our native bluebell is quite different from the popular Spanish variety.

2 **From the Manse** - Revival Post Pandemic - Rev Andrew Sellwood

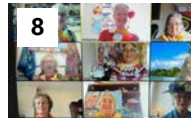
5 **The Queen's 95th Official Birthday**

6 **Children's Work 'Easter Fun'** - Mary Redman



8 **World Day of Prayer** - Susie Thomas

10 **Did You Know?1 & Sudoku puzzle**



12 **Pillow Talk** - Eileen Rhodes

14 **My Grandmother and 'The Angelus'** - Eileen Rhodes

16 **Crossword**

18 **To Make You Smile** 😄



19 **Answers to Puzzles & Did You Know? No. 2**

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



Revival Post-Pandemic?

According to our Christian calendar we have just emerged on the other side of Pentecost. We hear how the church is now empowered by the Holy Spirit and launches itself upon the world like a whirl wind. 120 disciples waiting in a house for the promised gift from above. They had no knowledge of exactly what it would be or when this would happen, but they were together expectantly waiting.

Q. What were they doing in the meantime?

A. They got to work praying and praising God.

When I was studying at Cliff College for my MA one of the main courses on offer was devoted to the history of revival and renewal in the church. This was a subject that greatly interested me. It seems that often before a revival took place the church at the time was struggling and moral was low.

As we emerge from the restrictions of the lock down and the real fear of Covid19, could this be a threshold point for revival? This has been our generations dark time. Can we grasp the opportunity to have more presence than we had before? Not simply to go back to the way we were but to experience new exciting things of God. This can surely be a time of revival and renewal. Three key factors in this revival were timing, openness and response. We have to really want this and to be really committed. As we know, with God all things are possible. In all things God's timing is perfect, the right people are put in the right place at the right time and amazing things happen.

As an example, here is just a short account of the famous Isle of Lewis revival of 1949.

► According to testimonies of people present prior to the revival, they confessed that the churches were dead and that they were in a spiritual winter.

► Legalism, judgement and tradition were extreme and the young people wanted nothing to do with the Church. Some of the churches had no young people attending.

► The people on the island had a “form of godliness” in that worship, prayer and Bible study was conducted regularly, but it was carried out as a duty; it was a tradition of those who were committed to God as well as those who were not.

► In Sunday school the children learned Bible stories from their unbelieving teachers, as well as how to sing and chant many of the Psalms. They were also required to memorize many other selected passages of scripture and took part in exams—but there was no life in it. It was all formality and tradition, dry ground.

Beginning in November of 1949, two sisters, Peggy and Christine Smith, 84 and 82 years old (Peggy completely blind, and Christine crippled with arthritis) were burdened due to the depressed spiritual state in their village church. They sensed the Lord speaking to them: “I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground.” (Isaiah 44:3).

After several weeks of praying, one of the members felt it was all a bit half hearted, so they organised a 24-hour prayer session. A group of people met in church thorough the day. At around 3am, the presence of God gripped every person present.

It wasn’t only them that sensed this, for the entire village and larger surrounding area sensed that same awareness of God. The following day everyone was absorbed by the reality of God’s calling on their lives.

To cut the long but amazing story short Peggy was informed in a vision that someone was to be invited to come and preach during the revival, but she didn’t know who he was. She only saw an unfamiliar face in the vision.

So, she told her minister Rev. MacKay what had happened, he was intrigued by this revelation. He then thought of a suitable preacher, so he duly contacted Duncan Campbell and asked him to come. Unfortunately, he was booked somewhere else and couldn't oblige. Rev. MacKay regretfully told Peggy Smith the news. Peggy Smith responded, "Mr. MacKay, that is what man is saying. But God has said something else, and that person will be here within a fortnight". The next part of the story is like Paul being called by the Macedonian man. Remember his plans were also changed. Acts 16:9-10. Due to a change of events, the planned mission on Skye was cancelled and Campbell arrived on the island of Lewis ten days later!

Three hundred people were gathered at the church when Campbell arrived. After preaching a sermon, nothing significant happened, a bit of an anti-climax. There was an awareness of God's presence but nothing more. The service was closed at approximately 10:45 p.m. People were milling around just chatting.

Then at around 11pm the back door of the church burst open, and a man entered saying, "Mr. Campbell, something wonderful has happened. Mr. Campbell, we were praying that God would pour water on the thirsty and floods upon the dry ground and listen, He's done it! He's done it! Will you come to the door and see the crowd that is here?"

It was then that Campbell witnessed many hundreds of people entering the church. No one had invited them. They had been drawn by God at that late hour of the evening.

By 12 midnight the church was crowded out. People gathered outside in the dark and cold night. All kinds of people were drawn to church even youngsters made their way to the service throughout the night.

They couldn't explain why they just came to receive God's blessing.

It is a great story; many amazing events took place. Sadly, I have no room for all of them here. One question that is always asked is ... How many came to the Lord?

There was a reluctance to count the converted, as the ministers didn't want to fall into David's sin of pride (1 Chr. 21:2). However, there was one record kept that stated there were 20,000 converts during the first five weeks.

We have many examples of wonderful things taking place in the church over the years.

Accounts of so many lives changed, so many people coming to God.

It is exciting to think that possibly, just possibly over the next months we could be part of something amazing taking place here.

Andrew Sellwood



The Queen's official birthday falls on the second Saturday in June.

It is marked this year on the 12th June 2021 by the ceremony of Trooping the Colour.

Easter Fun

Easter is usually a time when I would get together the children of the church for some baking fun, telling the story through food (always a good way to get to a child's heart!) This year, I had to think a little more creatively.

We have 23 children from 12 families connected to Junior church and Puppet Club. I sent a pack of goodies to each family. Each family received some craft activities, and Easter Egg Hunt telling the story of Easter, ingredients for Resurrection Rolls, and the ingredients for Chocolate Brownies. The brownies were made whilst watching a video by the fabulous FaithInKids team, again telling the story of Easter.

The children were also invited to join in our Easter Amble. Many thanks go to all those who allowed me to put a poster in their front gardens, for people to take a walk

around the local area, reading the Easter story as they went.

Each poster told the next bit of the story, built up the phrase "Jesus is Risen" and tested map reading skills on the walk.

Finally, my thanks go to the Puppet Club volunteers who helped put together the video "The Greatest Story Ever Told". If you haven't yet seen it, you can catch up on our website or YouTube channel. Our most ambitious project yet, it was great to be part of the team, and I got to wear a silly green hat whilst filming!

While it's been very difficult to get together with the children, it's been a great opportunity to share this amazing and very real story with them.

I am very much looking forward to being able to share more with our fabulous Junior Church when we can start up again, hopefully in September. *Mary Redman*



World Day of Prayer 2021

- A little bit of Vanuatu comes to Goring-by-Sea

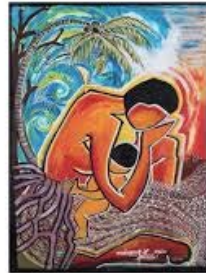
You may or may not know that the World Day of Prayer (formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer) takes place on the first Friday of March every year. Each year has a different 'host' country, who are responsible for writing the service - this year it was the turn of Vanuatu.

Local churches take turns to host the services - we held it here in Goring URC a couple of years ago. The committee is made up of representatives of the affiliated churches - we are clustered with, amongst others, St Andrews C of E (Ferring), English Martyrs and Ferring Baptists.

The service itself is a mix of prayers, songs, a brief sermon (this year based on the wise man building his house upon the rock) and the personal stories of people from - this year - Vanuatu.



Friday 5th March 2021
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
'Build on a strong foundation'



Service written by the Christian women of Vanuatu

I think Vanuatu is probably more famous than ever these days - as a regular answer on the BBC show 'Pointless'! - but there was still plenty to learn in the accompanying service booklet. This is a 30 page booklet which includes the entire text of the service, plus several pages of facts about the host country.

Did you know, for example, that the population of Vanuatu is 312,000? That it used to be called New Hebrides? That is Y-shaped and made up of over 80 islands?

Usually, the Goring World Day of Prayer service takes place at 2.30pm in a church. This year, of course, was different. Discussions were held about the possibility of postponing the service, but several spoke up about the importance of marking the day itself: one of the lovely things about the global movement is that it ripples round the world ... Starting in the east and then finishing in the west over 24 hours later ... so we decided to hold it as a Zoom service.

Service booklets were distributed to people in advance whether they were able to Zoom or not, so we had three types of 'attendees': people reading the booklets in their own time, people reading the booklets whilst watching the Zoom call and people on the Zoom call with no idea what was coming up as they did not have the booklet!

St Mary's in Goring was due to be the host Church, and did indeed lead the service and provide the music. The service is also available to watch on their Facebook page.

Ordinarily I'd put in the details to make it easy for you to find it, but the recording was made at the rehearsal where I was having trouble with both my laptop and my microphone so I seem to be visible on the screen a whole lot more often than I should have been, and therefore I would rather not draw attention to it :-)

The service worked surprisingly well as a Zoom call! Potential problems with playing music for some of the hymns were overcome by various ladies singing a capella. (Not me. No-one deserves to hear that.)

I only had a couple of lines as part of the service, but ironically my brief speaking part coincided with chainsaw action right outside my window as tree surgeons battled with the large tree in our garden!

The nerves of speaking in public were dwarfed by the fear that a large tree would crash through the window and flatten me ... The fact that it didn't was strangely appropriate, as the cover art for the service booklet (by Vanuatu artist Juliette Pita) was actually of a woman being sheltered by a palm tree during one of the many cyclones that hit Vanuatu ...

Naturally, audience attendance in normal times is limited to people in the area. This year, we had enquiries from as far afield as the Isle of Man and Aberdeenshire!

The photo below is of the committee just before the Zoom service started.

It would make a VERY tough 'Guess Who' game ... Guess 1) Bright-coloured clothing? Doesn't narrow it down ... Guess 2) Flowers and garlands visible? Erm, that would still be all of us ... Guess 3) Glasses? OK, that cuts the field in half ... Guess 4) Someone who has clearly absconded with the previous year's offering and is filming herself from an actual beach in Vanuatu?

Yes! We have a winner!

Next year (2022), the host countries are England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

I'm sure we'll be back in a church by then, but if we're not, I'm happy to take suggestions for a suitably appropriate green screen backdrop: Stonehenge? Giants' Causeway? Ironbridge? Holding a daffodil on Snowdon? Buckingham Palace?

A long queue outside a branch of Greggs?

Susie Thomas



Did You Know That -

When viewing the recordings of services, you can go directly to the Sermon or a particular Hymn and sometimes other areas. ie Chapters?

Look for the dots on the play progress bar.

New facility on gurc.net

An A-Z page index
supplementing the search box found on every page

		5	9		1		8	
2		9	7					
	6			2	5			
		4						
	5		6	3	4		1	
						5		
			5	1			4	
					2	6		7
	2		4		3	9		

Medium
Difficulty
Sudoku

Solution: page 19

Pillow Talk

I knew I wouldn't get to sleep!
I'm so churned up. What a day!
I'm here for you.
I'm right here beside you.
I'm not going anywhere.
What they say is wrong. What they do is wrong.
I've been shamed, hurt, wilfully misunderstood.
I don't know what to do!
Let the pain and anger come up.
Get it all out. Only don't get into revenge scenarios.
You know I don't do revenge.
Go on, I'm listening...
I've been going round in circles for hours.
I've got to the end of myself. I'm desperate.
HEEEEEEEEEELP!



Over to you, God.
You say my name.
I turn to you, and your face is radiating love.
I think I can go to sleep now.
When I wake, I'll know what to do.
And I know it will be OK.

Thank you for turning things round for me.
Thank you for this delicious peace.
I love you!

Love you to the ends of the earth. Sleep tight.

~~~~~

*By Maggie Hindley. From the URC Prayer Handbook 2021*

*Eileen Rhodes Printed with permission*



---

## My Grandmother and 'The Angelus'

Hanging on the wall by my bed I have a copy of this picture called 'The Angelus' and painted by Jean-François Millet between 1857-59. Two peasants, who have been gathering potatoes, are standing alone in a field, their heads bowed in prayer. The prayers, called 'The Angelus' were prayed morning, noon and night. The church bells ringing from the church steeple visible in the background and the setting sun would indicate the time to be 6pm.

So why is this picture special to me? When I was very young my grandmother (Nanny) to my little brother Clive and myself wrote frequently to us, often on the back of a card or picture to save on paper during the war years. She had written on the back of this picture, describing simply what was happening and including a child-like equivalent prayer for Clive and I to pray:

'Lord through this hour  
Be thou my guide  
Kept by Thy power  
No foot shall slide'

Nanny suggested we sang it to the tune of the Westminster chimes (try it, dear reader).

As you can imagine the ink of her writing is fading after so many years, but the fact that I have kept it for so long indicates what a treasure it is to me.



---

Born in 1814 in Normandy, Millet had grown up in a modest home and spent his time working on the land until his grandmother had noticed his talent for drawing and arranged for some tuition. Still she insisted: "Remember, Jean-François, you are a Christian before you are an artist".

There is something I have learned from all this and that is to pray for and write to our children and grandchildren regularly over the years, especially if they are away from home. In this day and age it's still nice to receive a letter through the post (or even an e-mail or text message!).

NB: Our grandson, Jonathan, in his second year at university will reply by 'WhatsApp' if we send him a bar of chocolate!!

*Eileen Rhodes*



---

# Crossword Clues

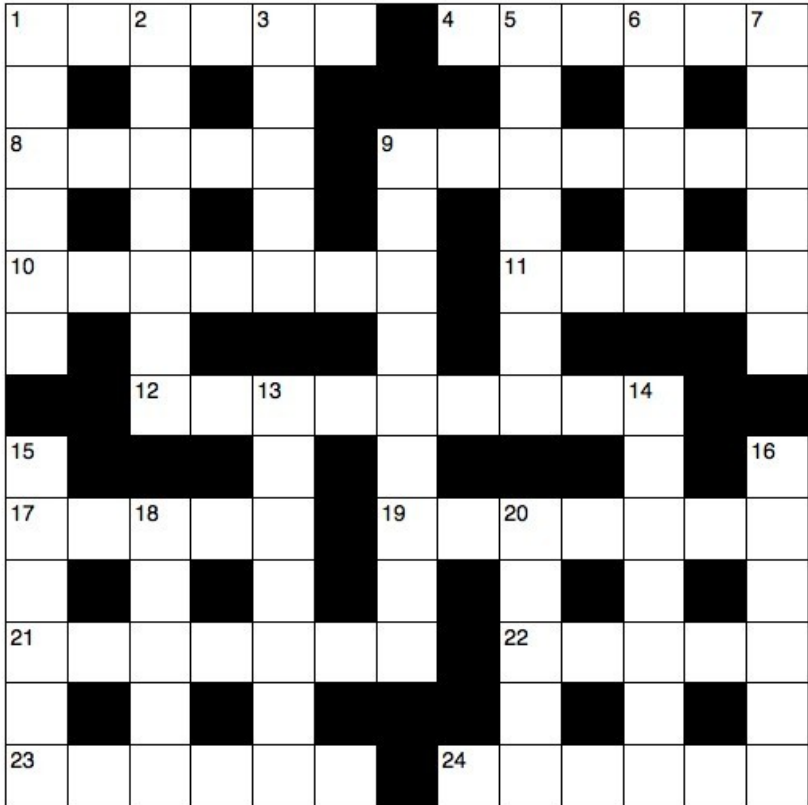
## Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it'  
(Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet  
(Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover  
(Exodus 12:22) (6)

## Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles'  
(Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay  
(Mark 5:39) (8)
- 18 Part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

**Answers on page 18**



## The Chronicle Autumn 2021

The closing date for the Autumn magazine articles is 1 August 2021

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

The Form on our Website

E-mail to [chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)

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

However, it would be most helpful if you could submit articles before this.

---

# To Make you smile



## The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to memorise the short Psalm. Little Richard was excited about the task – but he just couldn't memorise things very well. On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Richard was very nervous. When it was finally his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and .... that's all I need to know."

---

## Belief

Our elderly vicar was very devout, but sometimes lost his place during the service. One Sunday as we reached the Creed there was a long silence, so the curate went across to him and gently touched his arm. "I believe in God," she whispered.

The vicar smiled back happily. "Oh so do I, so do I!"

---

## Curate

As the enthusiastic curate was preparing to move on to his first church as a vicar, a parishioner asked him what he thought had been his main contribution to the life of the church. He replied: "People here didn't know what sin was until I came."

---

## Answers to Crossword puzzle on pages 16/17.

### ACROSS:

1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired.  
9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor.  
12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles.  
21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm.  
24, Hyssop.

### DOWN:

1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided.  
5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre.  
9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents.  
15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early.  
20, Alley.

**I AM THE  
WAY, THE  
TRUTH  
AND THE  
LIFE.**

John 14: 6

## Church Website

### Did You Know That -

The Elders page has been re-designed and shows all elders, serving & non-serving together with their terms of office.

There is also information about the election of elders and 'Called to be an Elder' booklet.

### Solution to puzzle on page 11

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 1 |

---

# Need help with some digging?

## Old and alone and needing help...

An old Italian priest lived alone. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was so hard. A member of his church, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. So the old priest wrote a letter to his parishioner and described his predicament:

*Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days. I remember you in my prayers. Fr Louis*

A few days later he received a letter from his parishioner.

*Dear Fr Louis, whatever you do, don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.*

*Thanks for your prayers. Vinnie*

At 4 am the next morning, the local police arrived and dug up the entire area, without finding any bodies. They apologised to the old priest and left. That same day the old priest received another letter.

*Dear Fr Louis, You can go ahead and plant your tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Vinnie*

*Parish Pump*

## 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>

## Publications Team

Editor: Graham Redman    01903 260568    [chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)

---

Reporters: Mr Wilfred Rhodes

Proof Reading: Mrs Jane Bond and Mrs Denise Woods

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

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

2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

---

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

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

---

The  
**CHRONICLE**

<https://gurc.net/chronicle>

[chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto: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 46500.

It has over 1300 congregations, and 608 active ministers. It was formed in 1972 when the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of England and Wales united, and it was joined by the Reformed Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and the Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000.

The churches of Emmanuel in Worthing, Sompting, Goring and Littlehampton are part of the 'Worthing Cluster' and United Reformed Church Southern Synod, whose affairs are governed by General Assembly.

It was early in the 1930s that Worthing Congregational Church in Shelley Road began planning to build a new church in the rapidly growing area to the west of Worthing. The present building was opened in September 1961 when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall. This first building was opened in 1948.

Other churches in Goring with whom we share the Christian faith are English Martyrs Roman catholic Church, St Mary, St Laurence & St Richard Churches of England, New Life Baptist Church and Bury Drive Methodist Church.

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



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

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

