

The CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter 2021

Volume 78

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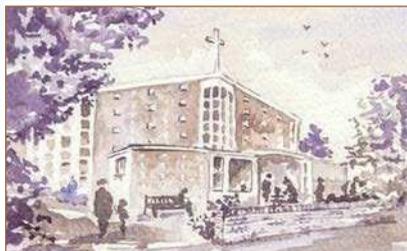
Goring United Reformed Church



The Chronicle

Spring 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

Spring 2021
Vol.78 - No. 666

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Sunrise on Christmas Morning
Chalkstone Trail
Cocking to West Dean (North of Chichester)
Photo by Caroline Hibbs

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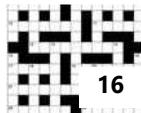
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Disclaimer: Whilst great care is taken to accurately reproduce articles presented for the Chronicle, mistakes sometimes do occur. Please note that the views expressed in the following pages are not necessarily those of Goring United Reformed Church.



From the Manse



We are moving ever closer to the great celebration of Easter. When writing this article, the big question was, will we open or remain closed for Easter? So, things were still very uncertain. But we remain focused on our shared Lenten journey. Lent has traditionally been a time to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Also, to fast or give something up and to change one's life direction as needed. We have certainly had to give up many things over the past year. The forty days before Easter are a symbol of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness before he began his public ministry which led to his crucifixion. In addition to going deeper within, it can also be a time to live and talk about hope, especially in times of darkness and despair which many people experience in our time. The basis of our hope is the great love God shows for us at all times, especially through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for our salvation. In our churches there needs to be a sense that God is drawing us through these times.



I think at this dark period of pandemic we need to be searching for the light and reflecting the light.

During Lent, we are invited to search deeply within our minds and hearts and to look at our own hopes for our own lives and for our world. People often ask: "How can we have hope in times like these?" If we watch TV or read the daily paper, there are endless stories of suffering, loss, a great lack of respect and tolerance, shattered hopes and dreams for many families. On the other side of the coin, we see people reaching out in care and compassion, working to change systems and structures that dehumanize, and sharing their resources with those most in need. Good news can come out of the chaos we find ourselves in. We can always rely on God's promise to be with us every step of the way and to never let us walk alone. We know that where God is, there can always be hope. Lent can be a time when we listen more deeply to hear and respond to the voice of God within and around us. Jesus prayed in his deepest time of despair and it gave him strength to continue the journey.

How can we promote and share our hope? We can do this by believing that even in the darkest times, God's hand will always hold and support us. It is believing that there is something new, something more behind the dark cloud that will bring sunshine to our lives. Hope is in the waiting and expecting.

We never give up even when there seems to be no visible sign that things could or will be better. Isaiah. 43: 2 tells us "When you pass through waters, they will not swallow you up. When you go through rivers, they will not sweep over you."

As we journey with Jesus, we all experience life's challenges. We have the power of the Spirit and are sent to reflect God's healing, forgiveness and hope to all we meet.

We reflect on God's plan for our own lives and for our world and see how we can contribute to making that plan a reality. No matter what the challenges, nothing is impossible with the power and grace of God.

Cont'd from page 3

I remember back to the woman who made my rainbow banner I mentioned in one of my services. She had experienced much pain and suffering in her life.

She said: *"I wake up every morning and give thanks to God for whatever the day will bring. I know that God's outcome will be the best outcome. I walk through the day with confidence, trust and hope."*

She was a witness to living a hope-filled life. She could often be heard singing to herself, her favourite hymn being 'Great is thy faithfulness'.

During Lent, let us open our minds and hearts to the transforming power of God's presence and grace. We try to empty ourselves of our self-righteousness and pride and see how we can respond to God's call in new ways by placing ourselves in God's hands.

Through God's transforming power we will bring renewed hope into our own lives and our world.

May all that we have experienced together through these difficult times strengthen us for the days ahead. To God be the Glory!

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 7.00pm: Rev Andrew Sellwood:

Seda Meal in the Sanctuary, live streamed and recorded for later viewing

Good Friday 10.30am: Mrs Hilary Redman.

Service recorded from home for viewing at any time from 10.30am

Easter Sunday 10.30am: Rev Andrew Sellwood

Service in the Sanctuary, live streamed and recorded for later viewing





Caroline Hibbs

Looking for inspiration and patterns.....

Someone once said to me that looking for inspiration is like wading in mud. My first thought was 'what a ridiculous thought' but after pondering over it I realised that is exactly what it is. During this time of Covid 19 it has been difficult to think of anything else with every media platform full of it and rightly so but it does get in the way of any other thoughts. Keeping to the government guidelines at all times this household has been going for long walks, from our doorstep, on the South Downs, and my word we have really waded in a lot of mud.

The photo on the left, below shows the river bank of the Sussex Ouse ... on the right the river and on the left a flooded field, the river water had to have somewhere to go! The mud does tend to force you to look down at your feet and where you are putting them!



Photos by ©Caroline



But force yourself to look up ... and immediately you will see beautiful patterns everywhere. The sky its light, the clouds and the colours forever changing. The trees in winter enticing us to think of spring with the buds quietly waiting for their moment to flourish, even when they are covered in haw frost.

I constantly find I am looking for patterns wherever I go, the ancient church in a tiny East Sussex village and the other end of the scale the rusty detritus in a farm yard. The sun rising and peeping over the downs or looking out to sea to the horizon as the sun slowly appears.

There are patterns wherever you look if you have the time to gaze.



Artists have painted the South Downs for many years and the artist Eric Revillous famously painted the Downs in East Sussex, the open fields, pathways, fields, pasture and the cliffs looking down to Beachy Head lighthouse to name a few. His work is full of patterns and if we take time we will see them too. So never mind the mud, put on your boots and just go and be inspired.



I am reminded of the poem 'Leisure' by W H Davies ...

What is this life if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep or cows,
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care.



Caroline Hibbs



Children's Work over Christmas

As our usual children's activities couldn't go ahead this year, we had to think outside the box slightly. So, we did things a little differently.

Our Christmas Eve nativity, which has been a fixture of Christmas for many years became an online affair.



The puppet club spent many happy (if a little cold) hours filming their nativity play in Worthing. This all had to be done in a socially distanced way, so instead of all getting together, different people were involved in different areas. Huge thanks go to Amelia, Joe, Chloe, Mary, Chris L, Nathan, Eileen, Paul, Geoffrey, Ryan, Graeme, Val, Hilary, and Wilf for their work recording the

audio tracks, and to Amelia, Chloe, Hilary, Mary, Nathan and Val for puppeteering in all weathers. Also massive thanks to Paul, without whose technical expertise this venture would have fallen flat very quickly. If you missed it, you can find the video on the Church website under Worship/Recordings tab, or on our YouTube page.





Our other event which was run by Faith In Kids, was a bake along session. The children were sent the ingredients to make gingerbread and were invited to an online baking session where they could bake their own nativity set and learn about the nativity story at the

same time. Ed, from Faith In Kids talked about the different characters in the story and about God's great gift to us, whilst Martha (a one-time Great British Bake Off winner) talked the children through how to make their gingerbread.



The puppets will be back at Easter, so make sure you keep an eye on the website for their next performance.

Mary Redman



I wonder how many of us would have heard about 'Zoom' meetings in the Church more than 12 months or so ago.

- or, how about Social Distancing!
..... and wearing masks!



Census in Bethlehem?

My sister's grandson wanted to know if she had to go to Bethlehem for the census. I said to my sister, "You can't drive and haven't got a car so if you are thinking of going by donkey you had better start off now 'cos it could take some time." - There is a donkey sanctuary at the end of her road! I wonder how many months it would take to go from Leeds to Bethlehem by donkey?

Thank you to Carole Culliss for this little tit-bit



What's On at Goring URC?

Are you making good use of our on-line calendar? You can find it from the front page of our website: <https://gurc.net> or on our App. I know there is not much happening at the moment, but ...

Currently it shows details of the Easter day, Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services. Also dates for the Wednesday Lent Bible Studies by Zoom.

Soon we hope there will be many other activities as lockdown rules ease.

It will be much appreciated if you would kindly let me know if you have any additions, or see any errors or omissions.

If you are responsible for producing programmes or publications, please check the dates, they are there to help you. *Graham Redman*



Easter Hope

“So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark.” These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s sermon on Easter Day 2020. Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus’ body. ‘But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.’ (Mark 16:4). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus’ death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: Where is God in all this?

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.” (Mark 16:6).

The women had forgotten Jesus’ promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder! We can trust Jesus’ plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can’t return to the way they were: “There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God.” (Justin Welby).

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the eternal promise of Easter

Parish Pump
Articles for Church Magazines



Appearing on TV

No, not on Crimewatch!

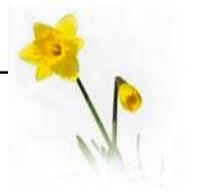
2020 was already quite a surreal year, but became even more so when I found myself on national television!

The starting point was when a former colleague of Dad's asked him to ask me if I'd join his two person team in an attempt to be picked as contestants on BBC2 quiz show "Only Connect". I said 'OK' not really expecting anything to come of it. But we passed the written application stage and were invited to London for an audition with the production team. John and Martin had reached this stage twice before with two separate team-mates - apparently I had been selected for attempt number 3 due to my being a female with a northern accent!

The audition lasted about 8 minutes and we got the first 4 questions wrong (it IS a hard quiz!) but clearly either everyone else was worse or my northern accent swung the day, and we were invited to be on the actual show.

Covid scuppered the 1st recording dates, but in early August we found ourselves in an industrial estate on the outskirts of Cardiff. Ooh, the glamour!

Due to Covid, the makeup artist couldn't come near us, so that gave me something else to worry about! As it turned out, all eyes were on my team mate John, who hadn't realised that we would be visible full-length and had worn 2 different length tops and a pair of shorts! Comments from strangers on Twitter afterwards invariably involved the words "Worzel" and "Gummidge"



There was no studio audience - there never is, even in non-Covid times - and the TV studio is basically just a room.

The production team were very friendly so the whole thing was remarkably stress-free. (It helps that you are never singled out for question answering - it's very much a team game)

We lost by 1 point - after a really long delay whilst they checked and re-checked.

It was slightly contentious - the host had accepted an answer not on her card. "Things that crackle" - should have been 'radios' and she accepted 'reeds'. Then there was a couple of hours hanging around before the repêchage - which we also lost, despite host Victoria Coren Mitchell seemingly giving us the benefit of the doubt at every

possible opportunity - possibly feeling a bit guilty about "Cracklegate"! BBC budget being what it is, there was no extra night in the hotel and we made it back to Worthing just before midnight.

It's difficult to know how different the experience would have been in non-Covid times. For example, I'd like to think that I'd have been allowed in the front seat of Martin's car - although it could have been worse, at least I was in the back seat rather than the boot! It's possible that Victoria Coren Mitchell just appears and disappears for the actual recording but she would probably have posed for the official photograph - on this occasion we were all photographed separately and put together digitally.



Each team member had their own trestle table with a pack of wipes, hand gel, energy bar, Tangfastic sweets ... And lunch, which we had pre-selected. Black Forest gateau, prawn linguine and garlic bread for me - most of which I was too nervous to eat. With that and the lack of coffee, it was little wonder that I lost focus for game 2!



Finally, here are some "Only Connect" style questions ...

What have the following got in common?

Haggai, Ruth, Numbers, Job

What is next in the sequence?

Mathew, Mark, Luke, ???



Photo by @Susie

Picture left: Random tweets (from Twitter) on the evening of the broadcast

Can you fill in the plague type with the vowels removed and words squashed together?

- LCSTS
- WTR TRND TBLD
- BLS
- D RKNSF RTHRD YS

Susie Thomas

The Chronicle Summer 2021

The closing date for the Summer magazine articles is 1 May 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

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



Bible Crossword

1		2		3			4	5		6		7
8						9						
10								11				
		12		13						14		
15												16
17		18				19		20				
21									22			
23							24					

Answers on page 20



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Je 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Gen 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was _because he had spoken with the Lord' (Ex 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — '
(Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Parish Pump



A Letter from Mary Connelly

Time has raced by since I left Worthing, three years ago. A lot has happened and a lot has not happened in my new life.

For myself, I have not been dismayed by the prospect of having to stay indoors away from other people. The hermit life can be appreciated. When one has had a very full and noisy life, then a little quietness and freedom to do what you like, when you like, to expand or contract, or to be creative or lazy, is very welcome.

However, as with many other people, my solitude does not mean that I have not had some influence outside of the house, thanks to television and the Internet. When the vaccinations began, BBC Look North, (East Riding and Lincs) asked for emails from anyone who had their vaccination to tell of their experience. I did, and then had a request for an interview. I was a bit irritated, as I had spent week writing a little poem with a wry look at the visit to Beverley Racecourse, which I attached to the email and no one, mentioned it. (Yes, Vic Joy, I have at last been to the racecourse!) I felt I couldn't be bothered, but my son, James said, "You might as well do it. If nothing else, it's another experience."

So, on the Monday afternoon, I sat in front of my laptop and for several minutes, spoke to a blank screen on Zoom.



The next day, a severely edited version appeared on the news, but ok. Next day, Beverley East.Riding Facebook had people asking about that old lady who made them laugh so much!

Then there was speculation as to where I might live according to the clues in what I said and whether I might be 'the lady with the windows'. "No," they said, "She's called Mary." It's getting sorted out.

I am aware that it was a selfish point of view and I feel sorry for the people who are confined and don't have a family to care, or as much to do as I have, or the number of interests to keep themselves busy. That must be very disheartening. Please pray for them.

I share with you the thoughts that went through my mind while I sat waiting for my vaccination and waiting afterwards to leave. I think some of the others sitting there wondered why I was smiling to myself.

I also share the thoughts that I wrote down when asked 'What does getting the vaccine mean to you for the future?' When you are getting as old as I am, I suppose it does get quite close and personal. My thoughts change and develop daily, but there is a physical limit to how much can change. 'The spirit is willing... etc.'

My love to you all.
(Josephine) Mary Connelly.



April 
He is risen!

Answers to crossword on page 16

ACROSS:

1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delilah.
10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered.
17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur.
22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN:

1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war.
6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer.
13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche.
16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

"It's not quite as bad as it looks –
they're only withholding payment
until we publish our expenses."

Parish Pump



In the Editor's Garden: The promise of Spring



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

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

Download our Church App





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>

Also find us on Facebook and our Mobile App

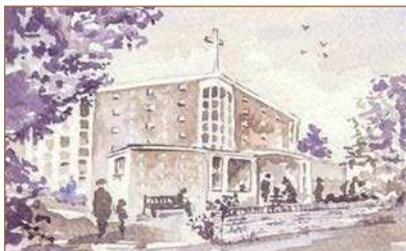




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Telephone: 01903 248259 E-mail: minister@gurc.org.uk

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.

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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

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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?

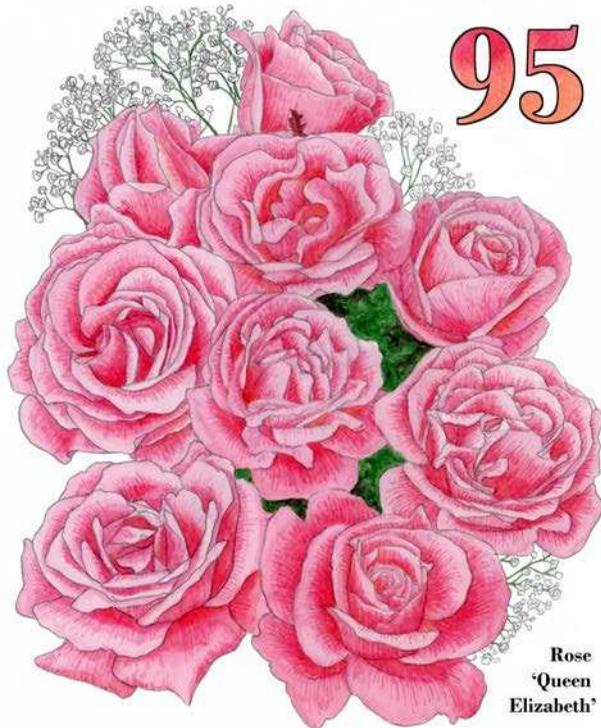
There was a reluctance to count the converted, as the ministers didn't want to fall into David's sin of pride (1 Chr. 21:2). However, there was one record kept that stated there were 20,000 converts during the first five weeks.

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



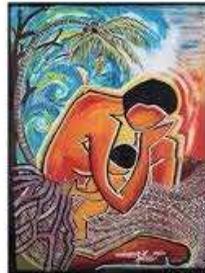
World Day of Prayer 2021

- 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.



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*



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## 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*



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# Crossword Clues

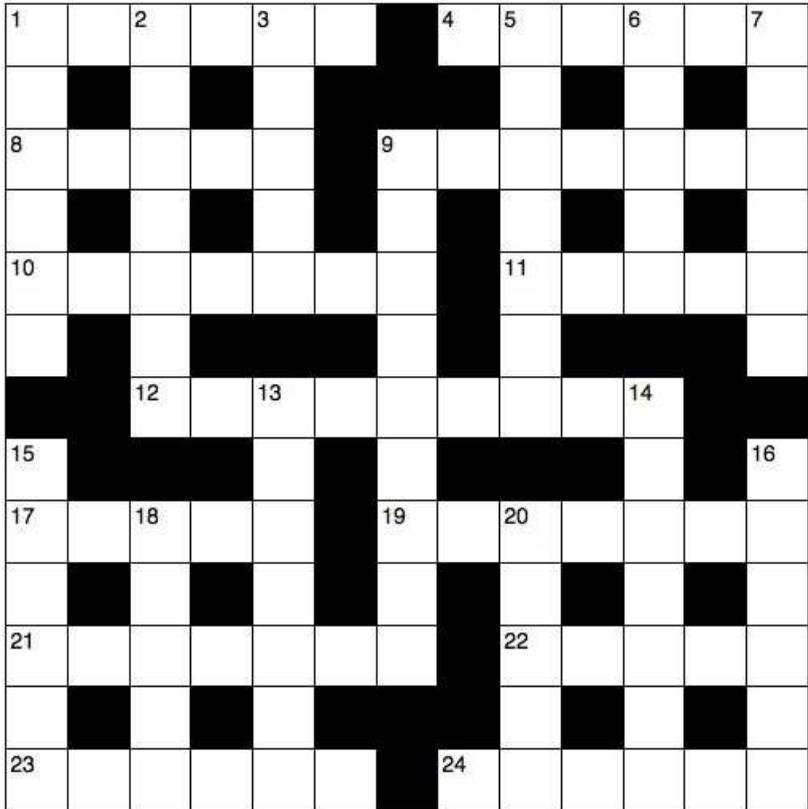
## Across

- 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.

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# 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."

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## 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."

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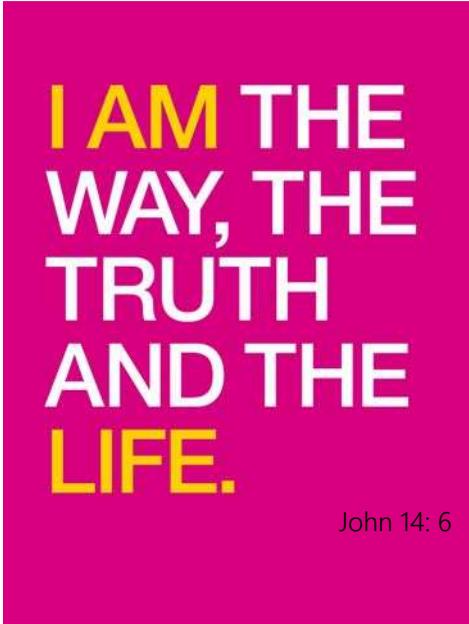
**Answers to Crossword puzzle  
on pages 16/17.**

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.



**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 |

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# 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)

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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

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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.*

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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





Sept 1961  
Goring Congregational Church  
to  
Goring United Reformed Church  
Sept 2021

# The Chronicle

Autumn 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:treasurer@gurc.org.uk)

## **Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary**

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

- Junior Church

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

**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.

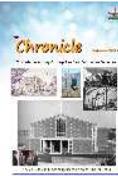


# The **Chronicle**

Autumn 2021

Vol.78 - No. 668

Front Cover:



## Building of the New Church

Photos taken of the new church building from Autumn of 1960 to the opening of the building in September 1961.

Read more on page 22

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

**8 Tuesday Fellowship**

**10 A Journey in Gymnastics** - Chloe Redman

**12 The Bible Society Celebrates** - Eileen Rhodes

**14 Puppets** - Mary Redman

**18 Welcoming People into Church** - Rosemary Terry

**20 Crossword**



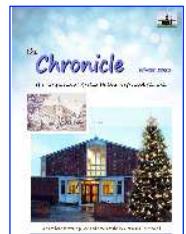
**22 A New Church in 1961**

**23 Parable of the Sower. Mark 4: 1-20** - from Parish Pump

**24 Answers to Puzzles & Did You Know?**



**New in this issue:** Throughout the magazine some text is in blue and underlined. If you are reading this Chronicle on a computer, these are active links that will take you directly to the relevant website page.



**Winter ( Christmas ) edition of the Chronicle due 1st December**

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# From the Manse



By the time you read this letter the impact of COVID-19 on daily life may be significantly reduced. Vaccinations will be well underway, restrictions on movement may have eased, and you might be refreshed by quality time off during the summer. There may be real cause for optimism about the future in our communities; things may be Looking Up. I hope that is true!

I wasn't going to mention Covid 19 in my letter this time but try as I might I kept coming back to it. As variants of COVID-19 begin to spread again some countries are re-entering mandatory lockdowns. Australia that was so swift to lockdown and impose strict travel and border control but is now suffering. The vaccination programme was thought to have limited effect so not pursued. Here in the UK we may be coping but our

world is not out of the pandemic yet. In some form or other Covid will stay with us in a similar way the flu virus is with us. However, with vaccinations on the rise around the world and more than a year's experience, we now have a better perspective, looking back and learning from past events to move forward. But what did we learn from the events of the last 18 months or so?

---

According to a 2020 limited survey by CRI\* UK, \*Christian Research Institute. a large majority of church going adults (80%) say there is a lesson for humankind to learn from the pandemic, while 19% disagreed, 1% said pandemic what pandemic? Of the 80%, 25% of evangelical Christians say the pandemic was sent by God. I am never sure where they get these figures I have never been asked. No matter what researchers tell us I think we can agree that there are always lessons to be learned from God while journeying through tough and challenging times.

As we think about what the pandemic may have taught us, our churches, and our ministries, here are a few potential lessons to reflect upon.

Firstly, a sobering thought - we are not in as much control as we think we are, technology won't save us.

We are not invincible. We are not infallible. We cannot guarantee anything. As we look at our lives, our churches, our ministries, no amount of computer models and predictions or financial support could have prepared us for COVID. No number of volunteers and staff could have prevented a lockdown.

No amount of skill or charisma or training could have helped us foresee a pandemic. We need to remember our human limitations as we live and work for God's kingdom. Though we may have gifts, skills, education, and experience, God is still the one in control, not us. God is the one who is sovereign, not us. It is His Kingdom we are invited to be a part of. That truth puts us in our place.

#### God will draw us closer to Him.

God's desire is for relationships. As God of the Trinity Father, Son and Holy Spirit, He is constantly in relationships. As Creator, He longs to be in relationship with His creation. But in His goodness, He doesn't force us to be in relationship with Him. He draws us in. He sometimes subtly nudges and reveals Himself to us whatever our circumstances.

When we understand this, we can better understand how to draw others to God. The sacrificial and forgiving work of our Saviour Jesus Christ; and the guiding, wise power of a discerning Spirit. God's character draws us to Himself, whether we're by still waters or going through deep dark valleys. He will go to great measures to reveal Himself to us.

---

### Always be ready to respond to God

Being comfortable is not what God desires for us. Cruise-control is not how God wants us to move through life. He wants us to be alert and ready, for whatever comes our way. "Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour" (1 Peter 5:8). That passage makes the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. It should shock us into a state of readiness. We cannot let our guard down. In our churches and in our ministries, it's too easy to do things the way it's always done or to get too comfortable or to leisurely go through the motions. If we are not constantly battling through prayer, through persisting in the study of Scripture, through training others to grow and to lead we have not done all we can to fight for God's Kingdom. Be sober-minded and alert. The lion is prowling.

### Always be ready for God to move

We stay alert not only because we know the enemy is prowling, but because we know God is moving. We wait for instructions. When He says go, we go. When He says stay,

we stay. Many times, we don't know how God will move. He may move through a global catastrophe. He may move through a small act of kindness. God still moves and in ways we sometimes don't understand. That's because we're not God, we're not all-knowing. But He is and being all-knowing and all-good, we can always trust in His plans and movements. Our allegiance to Christ is not a one-time act of obedience. It is a daily walk with Him and following Him in His steps. As great as it is to hear godly wisdom from those we respect and admire around us, we also must come before God, to hear His voice and instructions for us.

### Prioritize first things first

In our church life, many things can be prioritized from worship to outreach opportunities to home groups and mission projects. But if Christ is not the centre of it all, we have somewhat lost our way. Enduring a pandemic reminds us to set our priorities straight. May Christ and a saving knowledge of Him as Saviour and Lord always be placed central in our lives as the best of things. As churches, groups and

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activities continue to reopen, this is a good time to reflect: Is our worship centred on Christ? Are our Hymns and songs centred on Him? Are our sermons centred on Him? Are our Bible study sessions focused on Him? Are our church meetings, finance and property committees, Elders meeting, and outreach planning focused on Him?

The lessons we learn from the pandemic should wake us up and help us refocus our thoughts toward Christ and Christ alone. Whether it's a global pandemic or some other catastrophe or success even, God is always trying to teach us things about Himself and His kingdom. May we have ears to always hear what He has to say. We now have an opportunity to try new things and not to return to some of the old ways. Yes, some of the old ways were good but we need discernment to go forward and grow. The old ways and traditions may not work now, may not be relevant. You would not believe it, but I heard of a church that had fallen out over the way the chairs were arranged on a Sunday; you couldn't make that kind of thing up. What would Jesus say about that?

What would someone visiting make of that?

We must face up to the grim truth that numbers attending worship are dropping across the traditional denominational churches. In our denomination at the end of June 2021 there were 249 full time Stipendiary ministers for the 1300 URC churches across the UK. 20 years ago there were 650 full time Stipendiary ministers and 1600 churches. 200,000 plus members now 46,000. So we have a real challenge but also a real opportunity to put an end to the problem. Sorry, another survey this one was taken in 2018 (way before lockdown) by Christopher Yuan from the Moody Bible Institute. He saw a crisis in the traditional kind of churches, so in his research he through various means contacted 2,000 individuals by random selection. Half were people who had tried church but drifted away, the other half were members of churches. Here are a few of his findings as to what people thought of the church.

---

|                            | Outside of the church % | Worshippers % |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Unwelcoming                | 88                      | 26            |
| Judgemental                | 87                      | 32            |
| Hypocritical               | 85                      | 47            |
| Old fashioned              | 78                      | 36            |
| Too much internal politics | 75                      | 50            |
| Out of touch with reality  | 72                      | 32            |
| Boring                     | 68                      | 27            |
| Confusing                  | 64                      | 44            |

At the top of the list are people who thought the church to be unwelcoming 88% and church folk obviously thought they were welcoming scored 26%.

We surely must take a reality check and do something different.

Now is most definitely the time to do so. How will we welcome people and make them feel at home. We have to remember it's not our house but God's house. It's not our kingdom, folks may enter in to it but remember it is the Kingdom of God where He is sovereign.

As a postscript... It seems reading through some of my recent journals that many church leaders are experiencing conflict within their churches.

People falling out over silly and unnecessary misunderstandings.

There is a general lack of communication as well as grace within our churches.

It would be helpful for all to read through Ephesians 4:25-5:2 again. There is a well-known military strategy divide and conquer.

The more time goes on, the more I see this conflict arise.

---

Unity, compassion, kindness, forgiveness and love are what we are aiming for, we miss the target at our peril. All the warning signs are there for us to see. We need to avoid them at all costs. To end this piece on a positive note let's look for the good news.

There may be real cause for optimism about the future of our churches, I believe we have been given another chance to start again. Things may be looking up. I hope and pray that is true!

*Andrew Sellwood*

### Church Website

## **Don't forget -**

To keep up to date by using our Diary

<https://gurc.net/diary>

There is a facility to filter or sort particular events etc by using 'Categories'



### **Croutons**

Why do croutons come in airtight packages?  
Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

### **Grammatical Sense**

If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

---

# Tuesday Fellowship

In March 2020 when the members of Tuesday Fellowship had to stop meeting and enter 'lockdown' along with almost the rest of the world, everyone thought it would soon be over, and we would resume 'normal life'.

As we all know now that did not happen and it is only recently that we have managed to meet one another again. In fact it was in June 2021 that Bobby (our President) invited all those who wished to do so to gather (socially distanced) in her garden, and we have continued to do so every Tuesday fortnight when the weather has allowed. It has been uplifting to see each other, to chat and catch-up with one another's news and local events, and to 'put the world to rights'. Over the past many months we

have kept in touch with members by telephone conversations, writing letters or notes to other members where more appropriate, and Bobby has continued our tradition of sending birthday cards to the ladies - all very much appreciated.

You will all no doubt be aware of Jane Allen dying last year, of Joan Finlay moving into a care home in Ferring, and just recently the sad passing of our dear friend Carole Culliss. Carole had served on the Committee, and also as President, over many years and will be so greatly missed for all the assistance, help and support given to Tuesday Fellowship by her over such a long time.

Our numbers are now in the

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region of a dozen or so members and we are planning to reconvene our September meetings (2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 2.15 p.m.) back in the Cornwall Room at our Church. These first two gatherings will be on an informal basis, with lots of chatter and exchange of news and views, plus the collection of our annual subscriptions as per usual that month.

We are then hoping to be able to provide a speaker for some of the other autumn afternoons from amongst our local ministers and friends who have so thankfully

visited us in the past and to whom we are so grateful for their time and the presentations delivered to us.

We are a friendly and welcoming group and look forward to meeting anyone else who has a spare couple of hours to join us - and please bring a friend along if you so wish.

*Alison Westcott*



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# Gymnastics: A Journey for Chloe

Hi readers!

For those who don't know, I am a Vault and Tumble Gymnast and trainee volunteer coach for gymnastics company (Gymco).

I have been doing gymnastics as a beginner for most of my life but recently things have become progressed. Originally, I was a member of Flipitas Gymnastics Club, and they got me into gymnastics and loving the sport. Sadly they had to shut down last year because of covid. Since then, I have joined Gymco.

At first, I was gutted but now I realise it was a bit of a blessing in disguise, because Gymco have pushed me so much further and given me the opportunity to become a coach.



Now I am coaching 4–7 year-olds on a Tuesday, preschool fun camps (these run in Christmas/ summer holidays and half terms) and coaching 4–7 year-olds on Fridays.

Photo left: Chloe taken a few years ago at Flipitas Gymnastics Club.

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I also do vault and tumble training on a Tuesday once I have finished coaching.

I am loving gym and can't wait to see what it brings me in the future!!

*Chloe Redman*



On this page:

Very recent photos in Gymco



## Gym?

Before setting off on a business trip to Birmingham, I called the hotel where I'd be staying to see if they had a gym.

The hotel receptionist's sigh had a tinge of exasperation in it when she answered. We have over 100 guests at this hotel," she said. "Does this 'Jim' have a last name?"

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# The Bible Society Celebrates !

Do we in England take our various English editions of the Bible for granted? Just imagine living and worshipping God in a country where there is no Bible in your own language.

So it has been in ALBANIA until now. Until the fall of communism in 1990 Albania was an atheist state – religion was banned and schools taught that faith was wrong. Then thanks to missionaries entering the country the Gospel message began to spread.

Then the miracle happened! Four Albanian men, each from a different Christian tradition came together to translate the Bible from the original Greek and Hebrew, grappling with meaning, context and culture for each verse.

Every couple of months for the last 10 years they met together, spending seven days working from morning until evening, discussing every word and carefully nurturing every verse into its new language.

Now the project has been completed and Albania has its first complete Bible. Altin Hysi, who leads Bible Society's work in Albania says: "These translators are not just linguists, they are truly believers in God. There is beauty in this translation – there is richness and form. It has life!"



So, we too can celebrate with the Bible Society, praying that this first Albanian Bible will be a tool to bring more people to know and love our Lord.

NB I have personally been interested in Albania since I was on the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer (now World Day of Prayer). We supported the Albanian committee in prayer and with grants to enable them to hold annual workshops prior to the Day of Prayer service. The women of the country were enthusiastic but so poor that the only way they could attend was for a coach to travel around the country to pick them up.

*Eileen Rhodes*

# Goring URC Preschool Puppet Club

Tuesdays in term time  
1.30pm - 2.15pm  
Starting 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021



Bible Story-time  
Craft  
Singing  
Puppet Play



@goringurc  
BN12 4EA (opposite Worthing Leisure Centre)

[www.gurc.net](http://www.gurc.net)



- Reading this on a computer? click on the [image](#) above to see more -

# Goring URC Sunday Children

Sunday Mornings  
10.30am - 11.30am

## Puppet Club

Bible stories told  
through puppeteering  
September 19<sup>th</sup>  
October 17<sup>th</sup>  
November 21<sup>st</sup>  
December 19<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> (Nativity)



## Junior Church

Bible study, prayer, games,  
and craft  
September 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>  
October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>  
December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>

## Youth Church

A time for High School  
pupils after the service to  
chat about the service.  
September 5<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>  
October 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>  
November 14<sup>th</sup>



@goringurc

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- Reading this on a computer? click on the [image](#) above to see more -



This photo is nothing to do with my article about the Bible Society on page 11, but it shows the statue in Tirana, capital of Albania is of Mother Theresa, who was born in Albania.

## Did You Know That -

We have an [On-Line Prayer book](#) with a facility to submit your own prayer or prayers.

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## New facility on gurc.net

We have very recently introduced a [Meet the Team](#) page showing the Minister, Church Secretary, Pastoral Secretary, Church Treasurer and the Serving Elders

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

## Sudoku

Difficulty: Easy

Solution: page 24

© 2013 CrazyDad.com

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# Welcoming People into Church

with Andy Twilley

22 July 2021

Members from Sompting and Goring attended the session which was opened with prayer. Andy led us in thinking about how we welcomed people into our churches. He reminded us that it is usually very difficult for those with no faith, new to faith or visiting to pluck up the courage to get over the threshold and that whether they return depends greatly on the reception and welcome they receive. Many who feel welcomed will often give positive feedback about their experience.

Having watched a video about a couple trying to buy a drink of coffee and talked about what had made it so difficult and the experience so unwelcoming, we discussed what helps people make a decision to come to church.

These are some of the examples that help:-

- Clear, simple and inclusive external notice boards including saying that everyone is welcome. Andy felt ours was a good example of this. He read Coventry Cathedral's welcome which was long but very inclusive and a good reminder of what 'everyone' really means. (He is sending it to Andrew for distribution to anyone who would like a copy.)

- 
- Information on websites – ours has a 'New Here' section with information of what is on offer.
  - Smiling Welcomers (Stewards) who introduce themselves and make introductions to other members of the congregation, focus on the new comer and ask non-intrusive questions.
  - The Welcomers' role in passing on important information to put the visitor at ease on the assumption that they know nothing about church:-
    - o Seating arrangements
    - o Hymn books/words on a screen
    - o Where the facilities are
    - o Communion protocols
    - o Information leaflets to hand out about church activities or services
    - o If children come – do we have anything to offer them e.g. activity bag/area for play/offer of going into Junior Church?
    - o Extend an invitation to join those who stay behind after the service for a drink and chat and to remember to follow this up at the end.
  - Andy reminded us that we all have a role to play in making visitors feel welcome and that the quality of the beverages available after the service may also influence how visitors view us!
  - Lastly, the importance of remembering people's names and something about them if they do come back again, has a very positive effect.

We ended with prayer and thanks to Andy for a very useful session. It gave us food for thought about what we are doing well and where we could do better.

*Rosemary Terry*

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# Crossword Clues

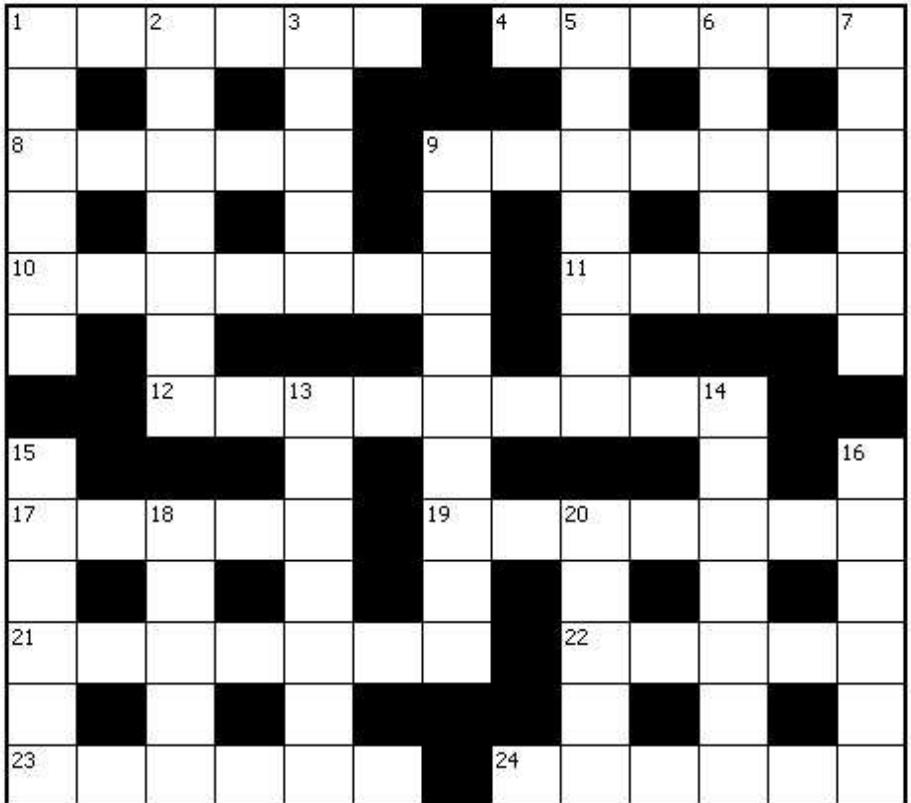
## Clues Across

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained .... by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
- 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

## Clues Down

- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
- 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
- 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
- 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
- 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
- 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
- 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
- 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
- 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
- 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

**Answers on page 24**



## **The Chronicle Winter 2021**

The closing date for the Winter magazine articles is 1 November 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

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# Building of the new Church



1. Rev Bernard Spaul with Helen Franks  
[Daughter of Rev Cyril Franks]  
Saturday 22 October 1960



2. Architect's drawing



3. JCB - the first dig.

4. Portal Frames December 1960

See and read more about our history on our website <https://gurb.net> under 'Archives'



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# The Parable of the Sower

## Mark 4: 1-20

The Parable of the Sower is the story of a farmer who sowed his seed in different type of soils. These represent the different responses of the heart to God's Word (v15-20)

1. The hard heart: 'like seed along the path...as soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.' (15). Some people, when they hear the message, get distracted eg social media, work or relationships. Personal priorities prevent them from hearing God.

2. The shallow heart: 'like seed sown on rocky places...since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.' (16,17). These are the people whose heart isn't open to the message. When things become uncomfortable or discouraging, they are ready to quit.

3. The crowded heart: 'like seed sown among thorns...but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.' (18,19). This soil is most relevant for us today. People crave status, comfort, security and personal desires alongside the things of God. It's a heart that is worried about life getting out of control!

4. The open heart: 'like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.' (20). This represents the open heart that listens and accepts Jesus's word, and is ready to follow Him however difficult things become. What kind of soil is our heart? Are we hard, shallow, crowded or open? Do we have a heart of faith to follow Jesus in every aspect of our lives?

*Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers how various people respond to God.*

*Parish Pump*

## Answers to Crossword puzzle on pages 20/21

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | C | C | E | S | S |   | B | L | I | N | D | S |
| D |   | R |   | I |   |   | A |   | Y |   |   | A |
| R | H | Y | M | E |   | L | O | Y | A | L | T | Y |
| I |   | S |   | G |   | A |   | B |   | O |   | I |
| A | N | T | W | E | R | P |   | A | E | N | O | N |
| N |   | A |   |   |   | P |   | R |   |   |   | G |
|   |   | L | O | F | T | I | N | E | S | S |   |   |
| A |   |   |   | U |   | D |   |   |   | P |   | T |
| S | A | T | A | N |   | O | B | A | D | I | A | H |
| H |   | E |   | E |   | T |   | I |   | T |   | O |
| O | N | E | A | R | T | H |   | S | T | O | R | M |
| R |   | T |   | A |   |   |   | L |   | U |   | A |
| E | X | H | A | L | E |   | D | E | P | T | H | S |

### Church Website

## Did You Know That -

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

1. Picking up a Leaflet "New Here ?" ask a 'Welcomer' at the door, or -
2. From our Home Page <https://gurc.net>, just click or tap on the [New Here?](#) button.

### Solution to puzzle on page 17

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

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## Weekday Activities

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

## Publications Team

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

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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

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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.*

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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





The

# Chronicle

Winter 2021/22

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*The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church*



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 -

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

Website: <https://gurc.net>

Church Office: [office@gurc.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>

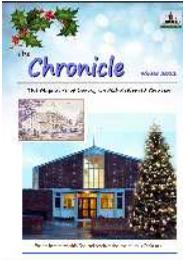


# The **Chronicle**

Winter 2021/22

Vol.78 - No. 669

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## Front Cover:

### The Church in Winter

Photos taken a few years ago with the Christmas tree superimposed.

The tree was in the church for Christmas 2018

- 2 **From the Manse** - Rev Andrew Sellwood
- 5 **Christmas Services**
- 6 **A Christmas Message from the Moderator** - Bridget Banks
- 10 **Flower Power at Leonardslee** - Wilma Smith
- 14 **Mission Aviation Fellowship** - Eileen Rhodes
- 16 **Mission Group** - Bobby Hitchin
- 18 **Two Stories** - Wilfred Rhodes
- 21 **Church goes Optical Fibre**
- 22 **Crossword**
- 24 **Little Fishes Report** - Val Gill
- 26 **A Bank Account** - Bobby Hitchin

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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.

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# From the Manse

*Rev Andrew Sellwood*



"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness. " --John Steinbeck. I would paraphrase this with "Without the darkness of winter there would not be the new life of spring." My favourite season".

I must admit I do like the changing seasons. They make the year more interesting. The highlight of this winter season is of course Christmas. Due to the current distribution problems one news commentator said we may have to postpone Christmas until Easter!!! However, as I write this it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

As with the seasons over the years Humankind has constantly changed and developed. Our technology, fashion, society etc. On a personal level, our mood changes, our character changes, our appearance changes, and so on. Everything that has been created is constantly in a state of change. The lives of men and women in the 21st century is totally different from our forebears

of 100 years ago. More recently Covid 19 has changed so many lives. Our attention is being brought to the real and urgent problem of Climate Change. Weather patterns have been thrown into chaos. Our focus is very much on the issues of global warming. When God created the universe, the earth, He saw it and declared it was all good. It was in a state of balance and stability.

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We have tipped that balance by greed and exploitation.

We as rebellious humans have over the last couple of centuries wrecked the planet and we keep on doing it.

I have spoken quite a bit about change. Well now I am going to talk about someone that doesn't change.

It is of course God, who is the Creator, He does not change. He is constant. Scientists, theologians, and philosophers may-debate how the universe came into being... Some say that it-all-started in a huge-explosion. Others say that it all very gradually developed out of a primordial soup. But those theories are scientists'-attempts to explain "how" the universe began. Scripture, on the other hand, teaches us that there is a much bigger and much more important question: "Who". Who got this whole thing going, in the first place? Who is the mastermind who came up with this infinitely complex, and beautiful design that we call 'the universe'?... Who? The Bible gives us the answer to that question straight away, page one: It is God!

God created all that is, created it in love, created us out of love, created it-all with love in mind.

In one of my study-Bibles, I came across a superb comment:

"We will never know all the answers to how God created the whole universe and our earth, but the Bible tells us that God did create it. That fact alone gives worth and dignity to all people."

In the Genesis account The Spirit of God hovers over the nameless, shapeless, chaotic void-of-nothingness then He said, "Let there be light..." There was light and life and eventually us humans. That same Spirit present at the point of creation wants to dwell in us. God was the same when He created the earth as He is today. He will always be the same, perfect and in glory, for all eternity. However, God expresses different emotions as He interacts with His creation, his children, through history. But He will always respond to everything according to His unchanging character (Psalm 102:25-27). So, we have established God does not change. That is good news for us mere mortals, here

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today and gone tomorrow. God has been and always will be here for us. It is so important that we have that eternal truth 'God is'. There is only one God. Just to make sure we understood that fully

He sent His Son to show us. John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Hebrews 13:8 goes on to tell us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. It is important for us to understand God never changes because by understanding this, we can have peace and comfort knowing that we do not have to fear but a constant hope.

Think of the hymn "Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not. As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

I know change is a worrying and difficult concept for church. But God wants to see a change in us as individuals. Jesus came to restore a

long-broken relationship between humanity and God. We had drifted so far from Him it was time to change all that.

Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Christian faith. It's also a celebration. It's when Christians celebrate God's love for the world through the birth of the Christ child: Jesus. The Bible tells of his birth hundreds of years before, fulfilling prophecies.

Read again the Christmas story as recorded in Luke 2:4-19.

Jesus was born to pay the price for the things we have done wrong: we call that sin. God sent his only son to be the atonement [noun - the action of making amends for a wrong or injury. for all our sins so that we would not be separated from God. Without Jesus, we would not have the promise of eternal life of heaven. While being fully God and yet fully human, Jesus came into the world as a helpless infant to save us all. One of the titles for Jesus is Emmanuel = God with us. God is with us not just for Christmas but for eternity.

Hope peace and joy this Christmas.  
*Andrew*

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# Christmas Services



## **Sunday 12 December: Third in Advent 10:30am**

Service leader: Miss Maureen Clarke

Duty Elder: Caroline Hibbs

AV Desk: Graham and Alan

## **Thursday 16 December: Carols by Candlelight 7:00pm**

Service leader: Rev Andrew Sellwood

Duty Elder: Valerie Cooper

AV Desk: Ryan and Alan

## **Sunday 19 December: Fourth Sunday in Advent 10:30am**

Service leader: Rev Andrew Sellwood

Duty Elder: Matthew Smith

AV Desk: Graham and Alan

## **Friday 24 December: Christmas Eve 5.00pm**

Nativity Service by Junior Church Puppet Club

AV Desk: Ryan and Alan

## **Saturday 25 December: Christmas Day 10:30am**

Service leader: Mrs Valerie Cooper

Duty Elder: Eileen Rhodes

AV Desk: Graham and Alan

## **Sunday 26 December: No service today**

## **Sunday 2 January: Epiphany 10:30am**

Service leader: Rev Andrew Sellwood

Duty Elder: Rosemary Terry

AV Desk: Ryan and Alan

\*\*\* For more information see Church Diary on our website - <https://gurc.net/diary>

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# A Christmas Message from the Moderator

**Rev Bridget Banks**



'Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the new-born king'

Last year Christmas with our families was cancelled, and we wonder if it will happen this year too. The uncertainty continues.

It may seem that after the pandemic we entered a new way of hybrid living, part on zoom and part in person, life might at times feel chaotic and strained at the edges.

You received my letter recently about deployment and maybe moaned at Synod, the national church or even your minister.

It doesn't seem very fair that there aren't the number of ministers that we used to have.

As the Hebrews sang in Egypt, it's hard to sing the Lord's song in a strange land. Jesus knew all about strange lands, he ended up in Egypt after he was born, to escape Herod. Sometimes we are taken to a place we don't know, even at Christmas time. Of course, while we have strangeness around us, we can hold onto something that is familiar to us, Christmas and the coming of the Lord Jesus.

It doesn't matter what kind of land or liminal space we are in; the story of Christ's birth reminds us that God came to be 'with us' in our strife.

Herald angels come to announce good news:

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel

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

<sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2: 8-12

These angels brought good news to bring joy. We, who have heard this good news, are invited to share this news of joy at a time when others need to hear it, rather like the herald angels. Not only your ministers or Elders, we all have someone we could share this amazing news with.

Jesus is still coming to us, especially at this time of challenge and uncertainty.

As the evenings grow longer and the darkness seems to deepen, let us hold onto the fact that God is doing what God did 2000 years ago. God is doing a new thing, and we need to take time to recognise it, and embrace it.

May the light of Christ shine in your darkness this Christmas.

Every blessing,



## Listen

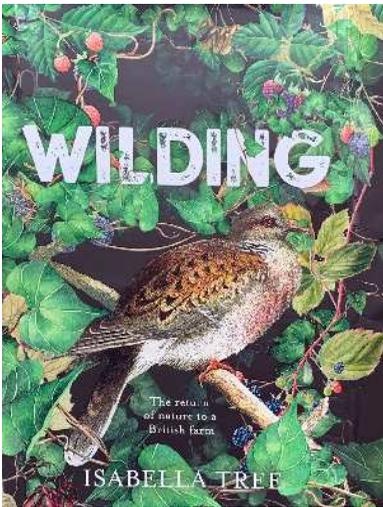
My three-year-old was saying his nightly prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you", I said.

He said firmly, "I wasn't talking to you!."

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# In the Spring issue

- of The *Chronicle* we hope to have a review on the fairly recently published book; 'Wilding'



Isabella Tree, the author and a travel writer is owner of the Knepp Wildlife Project in Dial Post, situated between Worthing and Horsham just off the A24.



View from one of the many Tree Platforms



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# Members' Handbook

No. 74 2021/2022

The printed Handbook for 2021/22 in both A5 and A6 is available  
by request from Graham Redman

## Church Website

### **Did You Know That -**

As well as the printed Handbook, you can have access to all [or nearly all] names, addresses etc of members and friends in the Church via our website.

[Members' Handbook](#)

You should only have to log in once [unless you have cleared your cache] which should make things a lot easier and faster.

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# Flower Power at Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens

The Sussex Area of The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) celebrated their Diamond Anniversary this year.

To mark the occasion an extravaganza of floral designs/arrangements was organised. It was set in the beautiful Grade 1 listed Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens, Horsham and was open to the public from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 inclusive.

All the forty plus flower clubs in the Sussex Area were asked last year (2020) if they could contribute to this event.



As a member of Worthing Flower Club, I agreed to help with our contribution (not knowing what would be involved - I had never been involved in anything this big before!). So, there were seven of us from Worthing Flower Club all with varying abilities. Something to look forward to during Covid!

Our remit from the powers that be came down to us early in the New Year. The idea for our club was to create a 3D city scape outline in flowers.

The flowers were to be in the designs of the past, such styles as triangular, European, freestyle, modern, etc.

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The colours/blends were to be kept separate to keep the design clear and crisp and tied into the colours of the Rubik's cube. By this time, I do not mind telling you I am thinking what have I got myself involved in? I was not the only one!

Several zoom meetings later, lots of emails, a site visit to Leonardslee on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March (socially distanced of course) to see where our display would be, and finally a meeting to lay out all our stands in my back garden and we felt that things were starting to come together. By this time each of us had decided which colour and shape of design we were doing.

We each had four stands of varying heights painted the appropriate colour. We even had a wheel and a couple of garden obelisks in the mix!

We had to finalise the flowers we wanted in our designs; one of the organisers of the event was ordering them straight from the wholesalers. Of course, the flowers we ordered were supplemented with greenery and other flowers from our/friends' gardens.

So, we arrived at Leonardslee on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September (the three hottest days of the year) to put everything together. As you can imagine I still had very mixed feelings; trepidation and excitement to name a couple.

It was not only Worthing Flower Club that was involved, but all the flower clubs spread across West Sussex. It was hard work, but it was also fun working as part of a team, helping each other and getting to know the other 'girls' better. It was a privilege to be part of this and of course to work with the beautiful flowers and plant materials that God has created.

Visitors were taken on a trip with fun, flowers, moments, and memories. Names of some of the designs included 'Past Masters', 'Hug a Tree' (how many of you remember that from 1974 when in an act of resistance in the Himalayan area of Uttar Pradesh, a group of women surrounded local trees to save them from being cut down). It is still going on today!

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A more poignant design gave us pause for thought. It was named 'For a Friend' and was in memory of one of our Worthing Flower Club members who was also on the Flower Power committee.

She unfortunately did not make it out of hospital after contracting Covid.

I am sure it made people stop and think about people they had lost who were close to them. The design itself was made up of lots and lots of red anthuriums, which are heart shaped flowers.



Some 4,873 crocheted and knitted flowers were made for a design called 'Kaleidoscope'.

Another which represented the World Wide Web, which was invented by Tom Berness-Lee in 1989 and totally changed our way of communication.



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Our design was named a 'Puzzle by Rubik'; I think we filled our remit. There were some exiting floral visual memories to see with something for everyone.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about what was for me an extraordinary but enjoyable event.

*Wilma Smith*





## What difference does Mission Aviation (MAF) make?

*Here is a true story from Liberia to illustrate the difference MAF makes, sent by MAF pilot Roy Rissanen. Eileen Rhodes*

From a remote village in Liberia Roy picked up a five-month old baby girl called Sangai who was extremely ill. She was infected with a flesh-eating parasite and would not have survived a ten-hour road journey on the back of a motorbike in the wet season. Healthcare in the countryside is limited so Roy flew Sangai and her mother, Blessing, in 60 minutes to Monrovia, the capital to the ELWA (Eternal Love Winning Africa) mission hospital.

Margot Biggs, wife of Roy's fellow MAF pilot, Steven, works at this hospital and is very happy to report that Sangai is in a good condition following an operation. She is still receiving regular treatment to remove the parasites that were eating her flesh. Blessing says she is such a little fighting champion, and thanks everyone involved in her care.

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## WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN WE MAKE?

The simple answer is that our prayers and gifts to MAF make all the difference and can result in stories such as this one.



Here are MAF's contact details:

MAF UK, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Castle House  
Castle Hill Avenue,  
Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2TQ  
Tel: 01303 850950

[maf-uk@maf-uk.org](mailto:maf-uk@maf-uk.org)

[www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org)

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# Mission Group

- by Bobby Hitchin

Thanks to the generosity of the Church we are able to send £100 to each of the following:

The Bible Society; Good News for Everyone ( Gideons); Living Hope Ministries; Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF); Leprosy Mission and Medicins sans Frontiers. Some people have said they do not know what these Charities do, so I will give a short precis of their purposes.

The Bible Society: They distribute Bibles all over the world in many languages. Normally we have a speaker once a year. They do a children's Christmas story book and other materials. Margaret Butcher represented us for many years and we are grateful to her, Christine Shearer has taken over.

Christian Aid: This organisation is self explanatory, we have supported them for many years. Bett Swierk is our representative and will be happy to give you more details.

Living Hope Ministries: This supports and trains Ministers in third world countries, at the moment on-line due to Covid. We had a very interesting speaker earlier this year explaining the work they do,

The Leprosy Mission: Leprosy is a disease still active in some countries. It is easy to cure if caught early. But neglected leads to deformity of limbs etc. There is a real stigma to this disease which they are educating people about. Bobby Hitchin represents this Charity.

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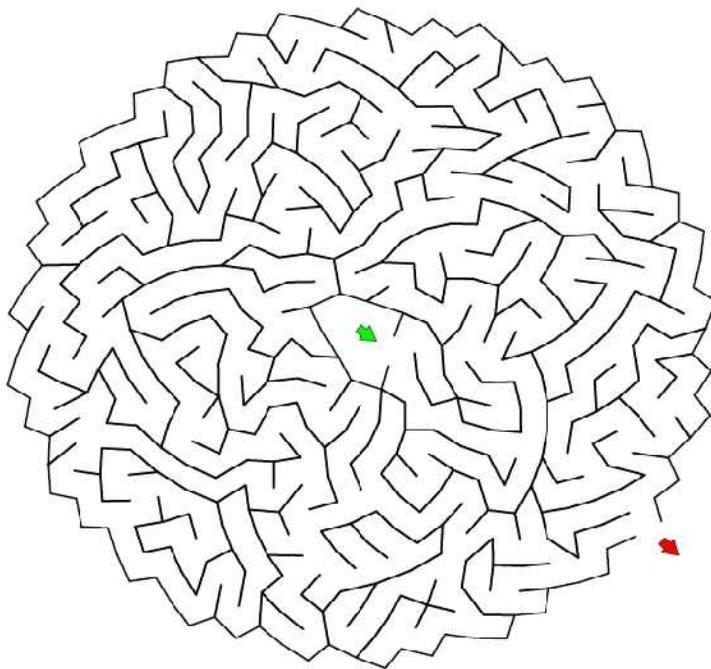
Mission Aviation Fellowship(MAF): This is a Christian organisation, flying people and supplies to medical facilities in remote areas, in third world countries. We have had speakers in the past.

Good News for Everyone ( formerly Gidions): They place Bibles in Hotel bedrooms where allowed. They visit schools giving talks and handing out New Testaments.

Medicins sans Frontiers: Doctors & Medical staff treat any people in need. They go wherever a Medical crisis occurs.

The information on all these organisations is normally on a table at the back of the Church, but due to Covid this has not been possible. Hopefully we will soon be able to resume this.

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## Two Stories from Wilfred Rhodes

### **Do you know the story about the butcher? by David Kosoff**

This is a story that I have retold many times in addresses in services that I have conducted.

It was the end of the week, a good many years ago, 5 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon, and the butcher was just preparing to close up shop. He took down the very last chicken from the hook in the ceiling and took it round the back to put it into cold store.

Then the doorbell rang as a late customer came in. The butcher was surprised to see that it was the lady from the posh house at the top of the hill; she usually went to the butcher up the road who charged the fancy prices and delivered free. But of course he closed on Saturday afternoons.

"Can I help you, madam?" Then came the long story of unexpected guests, and not enough food for them all.

"A chicken, have you a chicken?" So round the back went the butcher and brought out the very last one. Such a fine bird too!

And the lady looked at it, prodded it. "Have you one a little bigger?" Back behind the shop went the butcher with the bird, and with a mighty puff blew into it, tied up the neck, fluffed up the wings and legs and took it back into the shop. "There!" "Ah, yes, that's better," said the customer. And then she thought for a moment – "On second thoughts I'll take them both!!"

You see, if we try to bend the truth it can get us into all sorts of bother.

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## **The Second, from Bishop David Copeland of San Antonio:**

There was a man who discovered that God was going to visit him.

So he cleaned his house from top to bottom, and prepared a wonderful meal. He had been told that his visitor would call at 12 noon that day.

At 10.30 there was a knock on his door, and there on his door step was a Buddhist. "I haven't got time for you" said the man "I have a special visitor coming, you will have to go."

Then at about 11.30 a Jewish fellow showed up. "I really don't have time for you today, I've got a special Divine Visitor coming soon, you will have to go".

No one showed up at 12 noon, or at 1 o'clock. But at about 1.30 a woman with a baby knocked on the door. "Oh no" said the man "I really haven't got time for this, I have a Divine Visitor coming soon and I don't want you in the way".

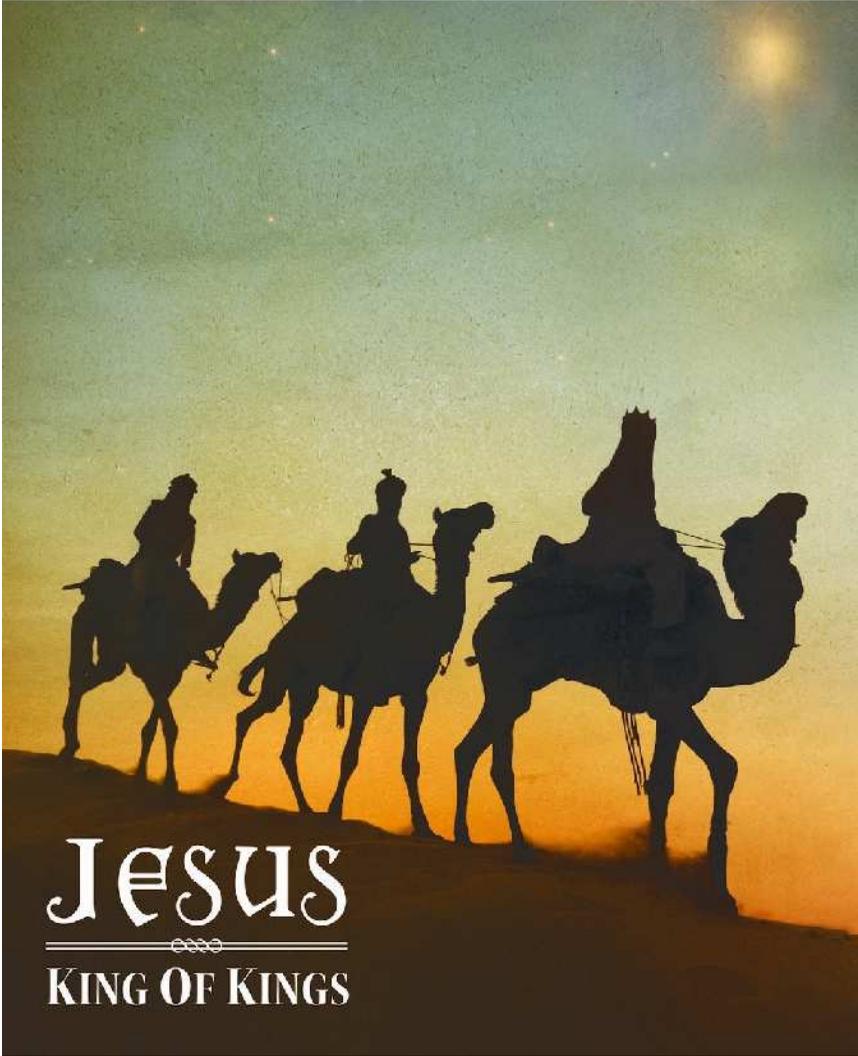
The lunch got cold, the sun went down, and then there was another knock at the door. The man answered it and there on his door step was his Divine Visitor.

The man said "You have really disappointed me so much, I cleaned my house and made a wonderful meal, but you didn't show up when you said you would. I think it has been very rude of you".

The Divine Visitor said "I came at 10.30 this morning, and then at 11.30 and again in the afternoon and you wouldn't see me – you sent me away.

I remember reading somewhere that what you do unto the least of these, you do unto me".

I am because we are, we are because God is.



JESUS  
KING OF KINGS

Two snowmen were standing next to each other.  
One said to the other: "Can you smell carrots?"

*From the Parish Pump*

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# Goring URC goes Optical Fibre

with very fast broadband internet speed, so ....

## What does this mean in plain English?

First of all, we can now live stream and record all of our services with far better quality video; ie Full HD

The security cameras will not interfere with the streaming process.

Little Fishes will also be able to make more use of the higher speed.

We will no longer need a copper telephone line to the exchange as the telephone service is provided over our internet connection.

The number is remaining unchanged as 01903 600260.

The following are also unchanged:

Website: <https://gurc.net> or <https://gurc.org.uk>

- and all church email addresses.

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*We don't sing carols no more...  
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*

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# Crossword Clues

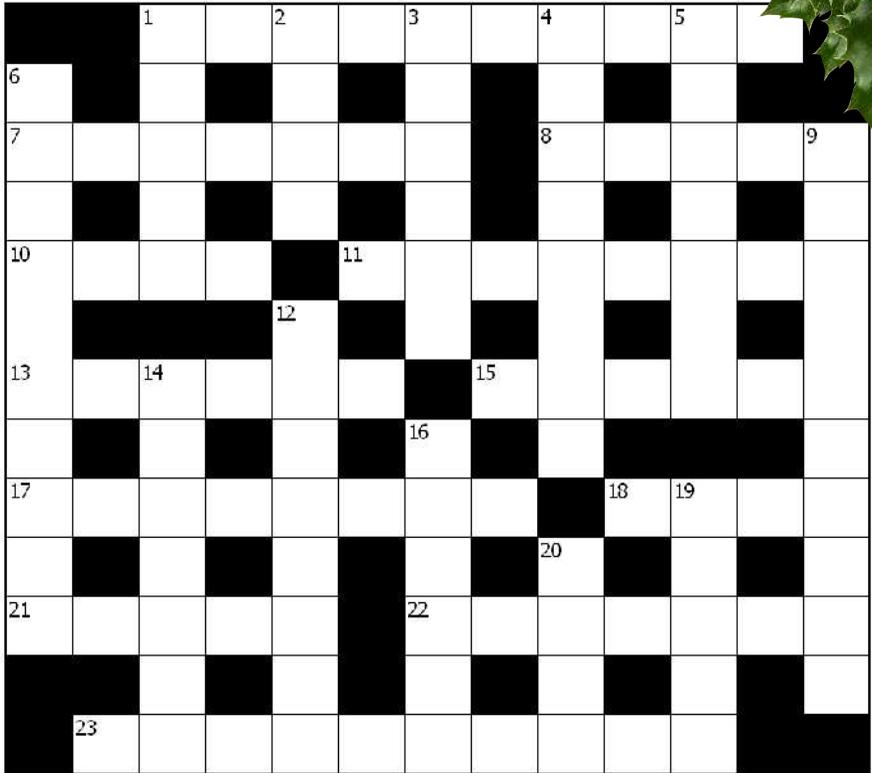
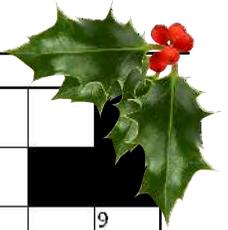
## Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14ñ15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith \_\_\_\_ (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

## Down

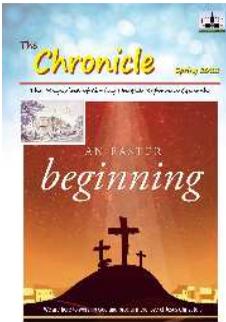
- 1 ' \_\_\_\_ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as \_\_\_\_ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19ñ20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living \_\_\_\_\_, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will \_\_\_\_ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

**Answers on page 28**



<https://www.parityump.co.uk>

## The Chronicle: Spring 2022



The closing date for the Spring magazine articles is 1 February 2022

Please submit articles in either of the following ways :-

The Form on our Website

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

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## Little Fishes Autumn Report

Staffing – Our team has increased to 9 permanent staff and 1 regular bank staff. The latest additions have proved invaluable, bringing ideas to the group, providing resources, and in general supporting the children, other staff and Little Fishes.

What we have been up to:

We have been busy raising funds; we organised a sponsored event at the leisure centre and miraculously raised £2059 by the children riding scooters and bikes round the running track. We have used this towards replacing the big tablet, to purchase bikes and scooters, as well as athletic and sensory equipment.

Additionally, we have taken part in West Sussex's healthy eating and physical development activities; we arranged for the children to make their own lunch for one day each week for four weeks; a parent came in to demonstrate to a small group of parents, a healthy and cheap meal (they all observed covid guidelines) and had great fun, we intend to

carry this on monthly throughout this year from October onwards. During this time we increased the children's physical activity, with Bee-Fit and You-Tube videos (Jump Start Johnny). We applied for a small grant and were granted a sum to enable us to do this and to help us purchase some, much needed athletics equipment, helping us to enhance the children's physical experiences.

The summer club ran for a few children and they enjoyed trips out to the park and the local shops (especially the bakers).

The end of term culminated in a bouncy castle party and a Leavers Graduation/Presentation ceremony, the children purchased 'Leavers' t-shirts with all their names in the Little Fishes logo which they wore on the day and received a Leavers medal (they loved climbing up the podium). This is the first time that we have organised something like this, it was well received by the parents. We will be holding a similar event next year.

This term:

We have commenced the new term with gusto, we have a good number of children attending preschool and

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have a small, but continuous flow of interest in viewing and signing up. Our numbers are very close to where we want them to be. Staff are busy settling children, some of whom are struggling socially/emotionally probably due to covid isolation. I'm sure we will get there in the end.

Lesley has introduced an anniversary celebration, to commemorate staff length of service.

Cia and Petrina received a box of chocolates each: 5 years service

Ricky rec'd a Parker pen: 18 yr's service

Val received a bracelet: 25 yr's service

Staff have completed mandatory training courses (first aid and safeguarding) and necessary training (new EYFS).

We visited Field Place trains with most of our existing families ... it was great fun!



To keep up the momentum for the West Sussex healthy eating/physical exercise programme (to combat childhood obesity), we have increased the children's physical activities, each month they will have Bee-fit, yoga for toddlers/preschoolers and from October a dance teacher. Additionally, now that the new tablet is here, staff will be sourcing You-Tube videos of dance, yoga and exercise for children. We hope this will appeal to all children and will encourage them to be more active.

Mini Fishes baby and toddler group began with huge numbers in November and the same day we were excited to have the awning fitted over the second playground [photo below]. We received a generous donation towards this and are extremely grateful for the support we are given.

We hope that we will be able to do something at Christmas in or with the Church, and plan to hold a Summer Fair next year as our next fundraiser.

*Lesley and the team at Little Fishes*

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# A Bank Account!

A 92 year old, upright and proud man, who is always fully dressed each morning at eight o'clock, hair brushed and perfect shaved, even though he is registered blind, moved to a nursing home today. His wife of 70 years had recently passed away. After many hours of waiting patiently in the hall of the nursing home, he smiled when told his room was ready.

As he manoeuvred his zimmer to the lift, I gave him a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window.

"I love it," he said with the enthusiasm of an eight year old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"But Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room; just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," he replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged.... it's how I arrange my mind. I have already decided to love it.

It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with parts of my body that no longer work or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

Each day is a gift, and as long as I keep my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day with all the happy memories I've stored away.

Especially at this time of my life. Old age is like a bank account. you withdraw from what you have put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories! Thank you for your part in filing my memory bank and remember five simple rules to be happy."

- 
1. Keep your heart free from hate
  2. Your mind free from worries
  3. Live simply
  4. Give much
  5. Expect little
  6. Fill your life with love
  7. Scatter sunshine,
  8. Forget self and think of others
  9. Do as you would be done to
  10. Trust God and thank Him for His blessings
  11. Do all you can to help others

Try this for a week and be surprised.

From The Living Water Church in Mojacar Spain where Bobby worships when staying there. *Bobby Hitchin*

## Church Website

### **Did You Know That -**

During the last 12 months the website has been visited over 9000 times!! This is an increase of 78% over last year.

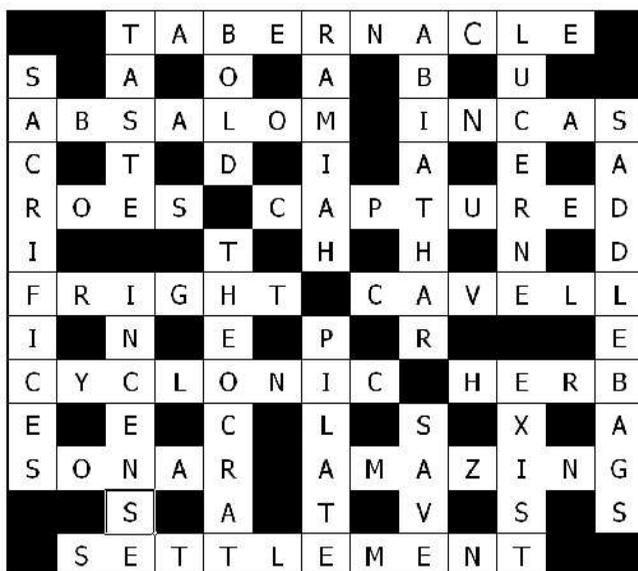
During the last 12 months approx. 1500 hundred people visited the site on more than one occasion. This an increase of 51% over last year.

Interestingly, people have spent an average of 12m 17s on each visit.

Most popular pages visited are Home, Diary and Welcome.

There are about 60 visits to the Sunday Worship page every week.

## Answers to Crossword puzzle on pages 22 and 23



## New Here?

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

1. Picking up a Leaflet "New Here ?" ask a 'Welcomer' at the door, or -
2. From our website <https://gurc.net>, just click or tap on the [New Here?](#) button.

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## Weekday Activities

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

## Publications Team

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

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Proof Reading: Mrs Jane Bond

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

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

2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

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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.*

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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

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