

The CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter 2022

Volume 79

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Goring United Reformed Church



The **Chronicle**

Spring 2022

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



AN EASTER *beginning*



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

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

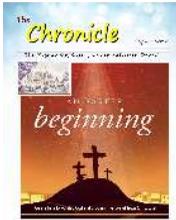
- Family service monthly as announced
- Junior Church

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



The **Chronicle**

Spring 2022
Vol.79- No. 670



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From the Manse

Rev Andrew Sellwood



What Church could be like

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) programme explained

I get to visit many churches in the Synod. Some are thriving and growing, some are just trying to keep going, some are really struggling, some may need to close. What category would you place GURC? I will let you be the judge of that. It must be recognised the future may, no. Will be, very challenging.

Some factors that we need to bear in mind, diminishing numbers, financial burdens, increasing age demographic, fewer ministers, larger groupings of churches. On that last item I receive details of ministerial deployment nationally; there is one pastorate in the Greater Manchester area that is made up of 16 churches with 3 ministers. This seems to be the trend, large groupings with fewer ministers. Within a couple of years, the likely

scoping in our Synod will be one minister to 4 or 5 churches.

There is work being done to be more strategic, by then there may be a whole new way of deploying ministry yet to be discovered.

There is a dilemma, however, do you put precious resources into thriving churches to make them even more successful or into struggling churches to build them up?

David Bosch in his seminal book *Transforming Mission* asks the question why is that particular church struggling in the first place? He comes up with a few possible reasons. The primary concern is that the failing churches have lost their vision, their connection with Jesus. I find this also in the passage in Revelation 2³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name and have not grown weary. ⁴Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. How sad is that? The church in Ephesus has done all the right things battled through and accomplished good works but have lost their First love: There is a definite coldness in their relationship with Jesus. Things aren't as they used to be.

The passion has gone from them, they are going through the motions of being church but they have lost purpose and vision.

So many churches just go through the motion, they look busy say the right things, but they have no heart for the Lord. They are doing Church

not being church.

Don't get me wrong I am not judging anyone here, but the BBC commissioned a survey three years ago, answers were in confidence. It was across all denominations and free churches. I wouldn't bore you with all the findings but in the UK on average 25% of church goers believe in the Biblical account of the resurrection, 21% do not believe. 38% of Christians claim Jesus Christ as their saviour. Note the subtle difference church goers and Christians. I am not sure why they make that distinction, but it is worrying the Christian figure of 38%. We need to do some work within the church community first before we embark on mission.

Matthew 28

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with

you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

The commission was not to get yourself a nice cosy building make sure it has nice fixtures and fittings and be a holy huddle in my name. It says Go ... make disciples in my name. Yes, we need somewhere to meet worship and have fellowship, but then we need to do something else, don't we?

The building should never be the focus, Jesus should be. The commission must spur us on to mission. The founder of the "home church" movement in England, Canon Ernest Southcott, said it best:

"The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when God's people—strengthened by teaching and worshipping and sacrament and prayer —go out of the church door into the world to be the church.

We don't go to church; we are the church wherever we are."

That's the daunting challenge before us so here is something positive. As you may be aware our church has joined the LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) learning hub. We are committed to a two-

year programme of development.

Ten churches in our Synod have joined the scheme.

The previous churches that have gone through the programme have seen significant results. So, the big question is what difference will it make to GURC? Not a lot if we don't embrace the core concept of whole life discipleship. What does that mean? Simply it means we need to develop or in some cases rediscover an awareness that we are disciples, followers of Jesus all the time wherever we are.

We are not Christians for an hour on a Sunday morning. That sounds obvious but many people have been locked into that mindset. I realise it may be a challenge to break out. First, we need to refresh our vision under the Lordship of Jesus. Then understand the mission He calls us to be involved in.

Clarity in understanding the relationship between church in its gathered form (things we do together in a place) and the church in its scattered form (things we do when we are apart from one

another). This involves a change of culture.

A simple first step to this end is to show more grace and love to each other, think before you speak, foresee the possible implications of your words. Are they sharp and unnecessarily critical or are they encouraging and helpful?

What welcome do we extend to the visitor, how do they see us?

Can we be less grumpy and more engaging after the service even when we didn't like the second hymn.

Put personal preference to one side as we are worshipping God together. We all have different opinions.

We come together for the greater good of Gods Kingdom.

I am usually sceptical about new schemes for reviving churches.

I studied many of them for my MA in mission. I soon came to learn there was no silver bullet no magic formula.

However, this LICC initiative is so basic, so logical it just may work. But we must all be part of it.

We need persistence and patience it's not an overnight fix. The church is like a huge oil tanker, it takes a while to alter course. More information will be forthcoming as we are just embarking on this journey together.

One reason I have become excited about this project is that it will continue after I have retired. There will be continuity established a solid foundation for the interregnum. Just



A Few Smiles

- ☆ Never buy a car you can't push.
- ☆ Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly. – Anon
- ☆ City Life: Millions of people being lonesome together. - Thoreau

Coffee, Tea & Cake Drop in

On Monday 10th January, after nearly 2 years, we started meeting once again. We have slightly changed our name and we are meeting at the back of the church on Monday afternoons between 2 and 4'oclock.

We have a Welcome board outside the open church doors inviting any passers by to drop in for refreshment.

There are games available, scrabble, board games, puzzles and colouring books, but a discussion and chat group developed quite naturally and it seems to be very popular.

It was a slow start but after 5 weeks we have 12 people, 5 of them new to the church and one of them has been to a Service here and is intending to come again.



and everyone is very welcome, so please pop in. Valerie, Christina and I take it in turns to bake the cakes and make the drinks and become part of the various groups to chat.

We all enjoy welcoming new people into our lovely Sanctuary.

Please pray for this group, that we continue to grow and find new ways to keep things fresh and interesting, where people want to come and enjoy a couple of hours together. *Rosina Bayley*

Tuesday Fellowship

During the summer we met in my garden. We were only rained off once, and we all enjoyed meeting outside.

We started back in the Cornwall Room in September, with a mixed programme of speakers and in house afternoons. We had an interesting talk by Wilf Rhodes on his working life as a Pharmacist.

Rev. Trevithick as always gave a very Bible based and thought provoking talk, it was good to see our old friend. We had an afternoon of Carpet Bowls organised by Peggy Mott which was great fun.

Our pre Christmas meeting was our own minister Andrew, preparing us for Christmas, followed by Mince pies.

We have welcomed four new members, including one gentleman.

We are a group open to ladies and gentlemen, and would be pleased to have more friends join us. If anyone would like more details, I will be happy to help. *Bobby Hitchin*



No Sunbeams

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears.

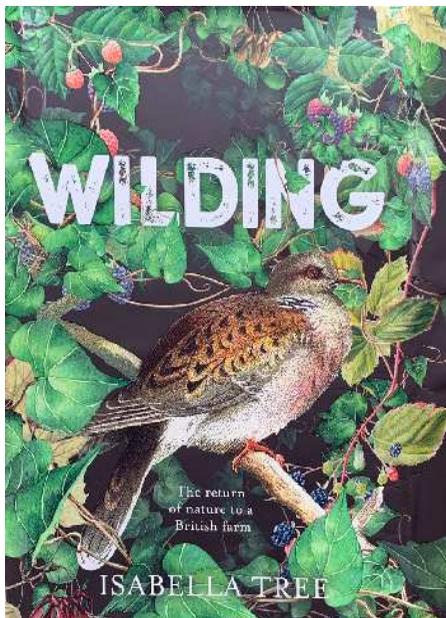
When questioned by his anxious mother, he explained:

"This morning they told me that Jesus wants me for a sunbeam. But I want to be a train driver!"

Isabella Tree's Book

Wilding

Review by Hilary Redman



It is a little while since we have had a book review in Chronicle. So here is something, that you might be interested in. (I have been told that not all my passions are shared by everyone else!!)

Isabella Tree is a conservationist and environmentalist, married to Charles Burrell the owner of Knepp Castle Estate, West Grinstead, RH13 8LJ.

It is land bound on the west by West Chiltington, and on the east by the A24 and West Grinstead. Approach through Dial Post.

It's history is documented from the 12th century until the present day: from 'William de Braose (1144-1211) lord of the Rape of Bramber who built the original motte and bailey keep, now known as 'Old Knepp Castle'. When driving north on the A24 towards Horsham, and looking to your left you may have see the remains of one of Old Knepp Castle's towers in a field, "standing on a knoll." This is the last remaining part of the Castle once frequented by King John on his hunting trips.

Today's 19th century castle at Knepp is privately owned by the Burrell family.

It is easily possible to park in one of their carparks and walk around the estate keeping, of course, to one of the four marked foot paths. Some of the land in the south block where Graham and I walked was muddy and marshy - so you are advised to wear your welly boots!!

An estate map is available from the carpark, and the four paths are well marked, identified by four colour markings on posts, trees and fences.

The estate was formerly traditionally farmed, but in 1987 "Charlie Burrell inherited the estate from his grandparents, but it was already losing money."

Intensifying the farm with various schemes had failed to improve the income.

In 2002 Charlie and Isabella, having been favourably influenced by many environmental and conservation projects which they had visited, made the huge decision to sell all the farm equipment and all the animals, in order to make a new start.

Gradually during the following years the estate was restocked.

The first new comers to arrive in 2002, were fallow deer. 2003 saw twenty Old English Longhorns and six Exmoor ponies, 2004 more English longhorns and two Tamworth sows and eight piglets. 2005 saw the introduction of an Exmoor colt.



Red deer were introduced to Knepp in 2013. In 2020 Beavers came, under licence, to live at Knepp. The first beavers living in Sussex for 400 years!! Wow!!

(A report on Beavers at Knepp can be found on the Knepp Estate website knepp.co.uk)

The 1.5 mile stretch of the river Adur which crosses the land was restored in 2008. As the re-wilding progressed and the land was returned to it's more natural state, and as the animals settled in so the birds began to arrive.

Have you ever seen a turtle dove? - The first to be recorded at Knepp was in the summer of 2007 and features on the dust cover of the book.

The quotations below come from a Time line at the front of Isabella's book.

March 2009 - A "Five-year monitoring survey reveals astonishing wild life successes, including skylarks, wood larks, jack snipe, ravens, redwings, field fares and lesser redpolls; thirteen of the UK's seventeen bat species, and sixty invertebrate species of conservation importance including the rare purple emperor butterfly." It was in March that the first ravens nested at Knepp.

In May, "A mass migration of 11million painted lady butterflies from Africa descends on Britain; at Knepp, tens of thousands are attracted by an outbreak of creeping thistle."

In 2012 "A survey by Imperial College London identifies thirty-

four nightingale territories at Knepp(from none in 2002) making it one of the most significant sights in the UK for this critically endangered bird."

In 2013 "Studies by Imperial College identify nineteen species of earth worm at Knepp, indicating a



marked improvement in soil structure and function compared with other farms." The next year "Eleven male turtle doves were recorded; first sightings of short-eared and long-eared owls."

Knepp now has all five UK species of owl."

2015/2016 "Dave Goulson of Sussex University records sixty-two species of bee and thirty species of wasp at Knepp, including seven bee and four wasp species of national conservation importance."



2017 "Peregrin Falcons nest in a Scotts pine; a red back shrike sets up a territory at Knepp for several weeks."

In January 2018 "Knepp Estate was singled out in DEFRA's 25 Year Environment Plan as an outstanding example of 'landscape-scale restoration in recovering nature.'"

If you don't fancy donning your wellies, and you will need them! - go to their website - <https://www.kneppestate.co.uk>

Enjoy 3,500 acres of land - owned by the Burrell Family for more than 220 years. Overlooking the lake is the 19th century Knepp Castle built by the architect John Nash.

It is still the Burrell family home. Enjoy, Hilary

Art and Craft Club



..... with 'something to do'

This new group opened its doors on 5th February when a goodly number of people came along with their crafts. Others dropped in to see what we were up to.

There is a table on which is with 'something to do'. This is so you can have a go at something new or revisit what you have done before. The first months 'Arty' task was 'Automatic Drawing'.

Something lots of great artists do to get their creativity switched on especially the Surrealists; we probably call it doodling!!! The second meeting on 5th March we got out the paint and had a lovely time with bits of collage and colour.

We meet in the Sanctuary near at the back of the church with the doors open for fresh air and to let others know we are here because all are welcome to join us.



We had a very enjoyable time of creativity and chat in a peaceful and light place.

It's a group of like minded crafty people; who were sharing ideas and techniques.



We meet on the 1st Saturday of the month between 9.30 - 12.30 and would love to see you with your art and craft.

Its a few hours to focus on your creative side. If you don't think you have one come along you may be very surprised!

We look forward to seeing you. *Caroline Hibbs*

World Day of Prayer

Susie Thomas

This year's World Day of Prayer service took place in Goring Methodist Church (Bury Drive) on Friday 4th March 2022.

The theme was Jeremiah 29. 'I Know The Plans I Have For You' - poignantly appropriate given the unfolding events in Ukraine. The service was prepared by women in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Not Scotland, despite my voice and that of Trudy (representing St Michael's RC Church) being noticeably more northern than Hadrian's Wall! (Apparently Scotland set up its own WDP committee first, in 1930, and stayed separate.)



The official artwork for the WDP 2022 service - created by Angie Fox

The Church was pretty packed - lovely to see, but also slightly scary in the times of Covid.

Poor Ryan was there as my chauffeur and muffled up in a mask practically facing the wall - and I don't think that was merely out of embarrassment that I was on the stage. I managed my words ok I think (we just read them - no learning involved) and didn't set fire to the tablecloth when I lit the candle 'proud face'

My parents would be SO proud. 😊

The hymns were a mixture of well-known ("Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace", "The Day Thou Gavest") and the brand new "For Surely I Know The Plans".

The latter was written especially for the event and despite hearing it regularly I never could master the phrasing!

Refreshments were provided afterwards (the real reason Ryan offered to chauffeur me I imagine) - as ever they were themed towards the country producing the service. For some inexplicable reason we eschewed jellied eels and offered cups of tea, Victoria sponge and Welsh cakes.

On arrival at the Church, attendees were presented with a little 'party bag' containing a beautiful paper envelope with seeds, and a knitted prayer square with a prayer.

These had been put together in advance the week before, by four of us sitting round a table working as a human conveyor belt. I was supposed to open the outer bags but found it really tricky so moved on to sticking the labels on the outside. Frankly, it's about time someone found a use for me - bag opening certainly isn't my, er, bag. I would have been first in line to test the Victoria sponges and Welsh cakes, but sadly that position was never advertised!

Next year's service is due to be held at St Michael's in High Salvington and will be put together by women in Taiwan.



Putting together the "party bags" ...

KESTRO - *Worthing Stroke Club*

Although not a Church organization, most of you will know of the close association that the club has always had with Goring URC.

It was started in 1982 by Rev William Connelly, Mrs Robin Bradley and a few others; both then and now, the majority of the helpers come from within the Church.

Robin put an item in the Welcome one week asking for new helpers - myself, Grace & Jim Hope all turned up the following Friday afternoon to Kestro. There we stayed!

Kestro helpers kept in weekly contact with members by phone when the club had to cease meeting in 2020 due to covid 19 lockdown.

The club returned in October 2021 with fewer members but loyal ones eager to get out again & meet up with each other.

Kestro may close in July or it might be able to continue in September but without providing transport.

There are several reasons for this but transport is the biggest headache.

Three drivers turned 70 during lockdown & are no longer able to drive the minibus that we hire weekly from Guildcare to transport members to the club.



Latest News from Kestro

" Kestro helpers had their meeting and the upshot is that most are willing and wanting to keep the club going.

But from September, unless drivers can be found, it will operate without providing minibus transport to the meetings.

Charlie is continuing as treasurer. Tania has agreed to be admin secretary and contact person and Vic continues as leader.

I have emailed most of the local churches for drivers and inserted an entry in the Worthing journal and the free magazines that land on doormats. So maybe that will get a result.

Last year we lost our friend Carole Cullis, a loyal transport organiser.

We have a willing programme secretary, an enthusiastic exercise leader and an excellent tea maker, but we need drivers for the minibus.

Volunteers seem scarce - retirement age has increased and retirees want to be off 'doing their own thing'! I have contacted some local churches and submitted entries to local free magazines and Worthing journal.

I am writing this so you are all aware of the situation and maybe have a suggestion or know of anyone who could help keep the club going for a few more years! *Carol Webber* "

Merida, Mexico

MOVING TO MERIDA, MEXICO

For those who have followed previous jottings about our Jersey and Mexican families, you will recall that December 2019 saw them all travel to Ferring for Christmas and New Year celebrations. Thank goodness they did visit then, bearing in mind what was to happen in subsequent months, putting paid to our twice-yearly adventures to Mexico City!



During that stay, Neil, Gaby and Liam told us of their intention to re-locate from the City to a smaller one, Merida, situated on the Yucatan peninsula. It seemed an appropriate time for them to change from the stressful lifestyle and pace of life they lived with long



working hours and with Liam at his nursery/school from 9am until after 6pm daily.

Gaby was being made redundant from the city centre art museum (change of director who brought his own staff) and Liam due to move on to junior school. Neil taught English at the British Council during the day and also held private classes before and after people's hours of work. He had discussed with these private pupils re continuing with tuition on-line once he moved away and they were all receptive to this, in fact this had already begun.

Neil and Gaby had researched suitable schools for Liam and as Gaby had a cousin and her family already living in Merida (also re-located) they were given lots of advice and help.

They flew to Merida for a couple of weeks during February to visit their chosen school and find a house to rent in a convenient nearby area, both of which they achieved, returning to Mexico City to complete all arrangements to move. Then lockdown intervened!

Living in a fourth-floor flat (although quite spacious) was difficult for months on end with an energetic and lively 6-year old, as countless families here and elsewhere will know only too well. They did go up to the roof-top space where washing is hung to dry, so they could have some fresh air, as children weren't allowed to be on the City streets, and either Neil or Gaby could shop but certainly not with Liam.

They spent some of their time sorting out, packing boxes and making arrangements to move, so that all would be ready as soon as they were allowed to travel. They kept us informed of events and it was a great day when they rang mid-June 2020 to say that all was in place for the removal van to load on Saturday 4th July!

This truck left Mexico City mid-afternoon and Gaby's parents collected the family to stay overnight with them before taking them to the airport on Sunday.

It was then a huge relief to hear that the van arrived safely at the rental house by lunchtime on Monday, a road journey of just over 800 miles.

They soon settled in and began adjusting to the changes in their lives of different places to see, a slower pace of doing things,



Fruit Stall: Cholul, Village Centre

the temperatures, much higher now at sea level as against Mexico City which is over 7000 feet in altitude, and other new experiences.

We received many photos and updates of everything and we could all hardly wait for the day when we would be able to visit.

After a couple of 'false starts' when we had made bookings, only for government advice/regulations to change again, we finally boarded a plane on 10th November 2021.

We were met in Mexico City by Grace and Daniel, Gaby's parents with whom we stayed overnight, catching up with news and with much chat and laughter.

out things and recited a long list of everywhere he wanted to take us and show us their discoveries since moving there.

They have chosen to live in the suburb of Cholul which remained a small town for decades, functioning mainly as the settlement for servants working in the nearby haciendas.



A late-morning 90 minute flight to Merida and soon we were walking through the terminal to see Neil and Liam (jumping up and down) in the distance, waving madly at us.

Suddenly Liam could not contain himself any longer and he came racing past the barriers to welcome us with huge hugs!

Driving to their rental home we passed through the suburbs of Merida and Liam excitedly pointed

At the beginning of the 18th century it had a population of 126, growing to 154 by 1900. There was no main or secondary road, thus limiting the entry of outsiders. Until the late 1990s the town remained mostly sheltered from Merida but with the real estate boom of recent years, many developments and housing areas are being created in the region. Most of these constructions have been placed outside the municipal Centro,

which has helped maintain the original feel of the Plaza Principal, and it still retains most of its customs and traditions. One guide book quotes “when visiting the central square, there’s an undeniably welcoming feel to the plaza. Even with the development of its urban growth, the slow-living feel and the warm breeze of Yucatan have not been lost in Cholul.”



We certainly found it to be of a friendly and relaxing atmosphere when we were exploring the local village lanes.

All quite different from the busy, chaotic, hectic and noisy atmosphere of Mexico City!

The family firstly showed us around Cholul so that we

could 'get our bearings' and we were able to venture out for a stroll by ourselves and explore the area when they were otherwise occupied with schooling and work commitments.

Mexican schools have not really returned to pupils attending face-to-face since the beginning of lockdown, with lessons being conducted on-line for the past many months.

Although Neil and Gaby had visited in February 2020, Liam had not been there then and had to be interviewed on-line and exams taken in September 2020 before his place was confirmed.

All his lessons on-line from 7.30am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday, with two 'breaks' for a drink/snack.



He was so excited and thrilled to at long last, after more than a year, meet his new school friends and teachers in person and loves going to his school, he tells us. It was fascinating to be in the background when he was on-line in the mornings, listening to the teachers, the other pupils and to Liam joining in. Neil and Gaby chose IMA (Instituto Moderno Americano) as all teaching there is 50/50 Spanish/English, so it's ideal for Liam, and he can attend there until university entrance. The family took us out and about in afternoons, evenings and weekends and we certainly made the most of our month-long visit, seeing nearby neighbourhoods and the colonial city of Merida with its beautiful, elegant buildings around the main square and wide avenues with imposing, large mansions and palaces, many now owned by well-known commercial and financial institutions which have kept the original architectural style, so helping to preserve some of the city's air of bygone days.

When we flew into vast Mexico City we were above miles and miles of buildings and housing, whereas flying into Merida we were over miles and miles of green, lush forest/jungle, before suddenly seeing this smaller city.

Certainly the city has now been expanding further and further outwards, its suburbs being developed with housing, businesses, shopping malls etc, and the main roads around about are busy as you would expect.

However once you leave these environs it is just those miles and miles of jungle greenery with occasional scattered small settlements. The long-distance 'motorways' are a joy to drive along, being in good condition and mostly fairly empty of any other traffic, - the M25 they are not!

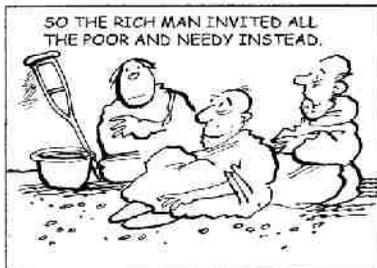
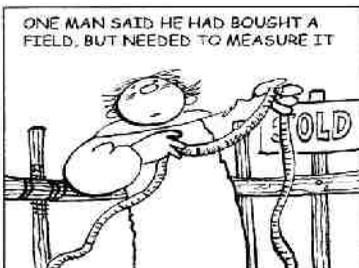
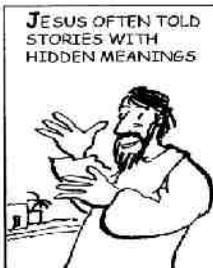
They easily took us on our many journeys around the peninsula, and we'll let you know about these explorations in the Summer edition of *The Chronicle*.

Alan & Alison Westcott

The Parable of the Marriage Feast

St Matthew's Gospel 22: 1-14

The Big Bash!



(Courtesy of Parish Pump)

Broken Glass? or Clear Glass?

If everybody looks through broken glass, then together, we are looking at a world that looks broken.

When I notice my crack... you notice yours, and we start healing our cracks, then we begin to look at the world through clear glass.

And that's what trauma healing does. It starts unifying the world.

by Thomas Hüb



How many cracks have appeared in our window over the last few years: COVID, Syria, the death of George Floyd and too many others, floods, droughts, fires and now the invasion of Ukraine.

Can you make sense of what is happening?

Do you dare take a side other than on the side of "kill no one in my name?"

Imagine the unimaginable - your community being invaded. For what? Consider the fear of people on both sides, one side for their lives, the other side for seeing their sons, brothers and fathers coming back in body bags. In whose name is this insanity being perpetrated?

What can we do to help the peoples of Ukraine and Russia?

Wilfred Rhodes

Best Position in which to Pray !

Three theologians at a conference centre sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone engineer worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," said one, and backed up his claim by quoting a number of New Testament texts on humility in Greek.

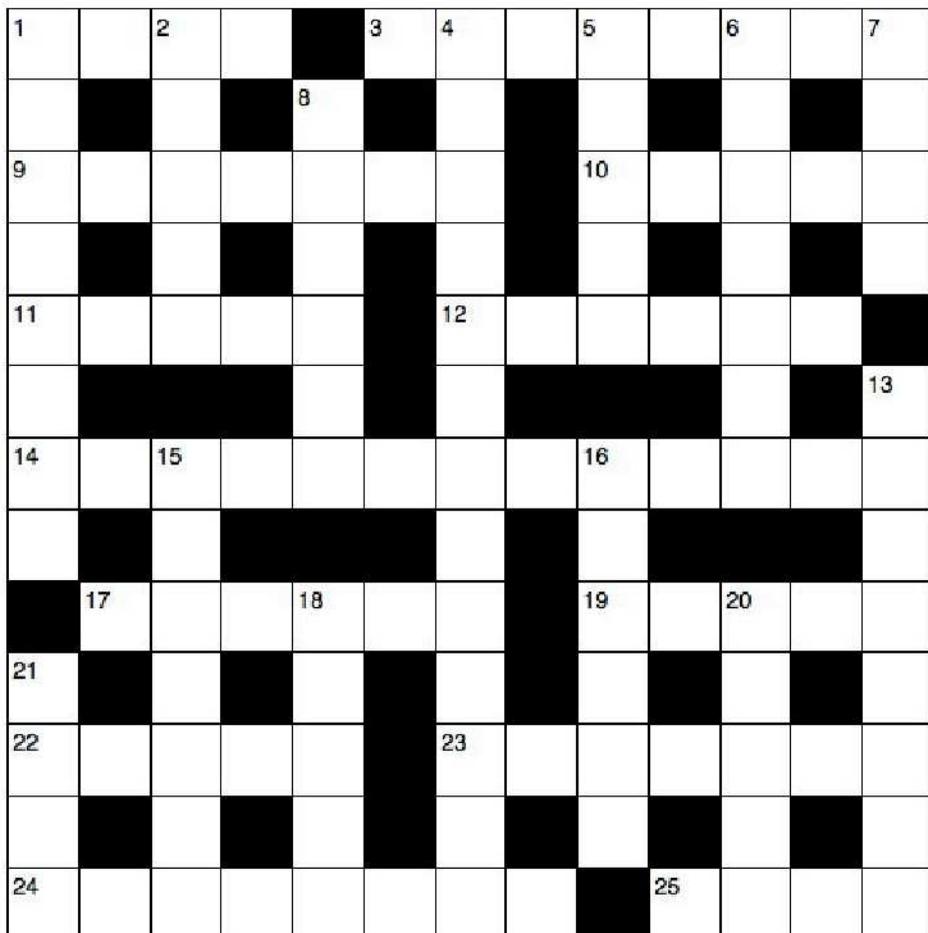
"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." He quoted a few texts on praise in Latin.

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor." He quoted a few texts on penitence in Hebrew.

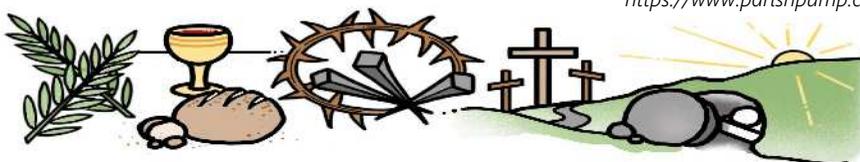
The telephone engineer could contain himself no longer. "Sorry to interrupt," he said, "but the best praying I ever did was in English, hanging upside down from a telephone pole!"

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

The Spring Crossword



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

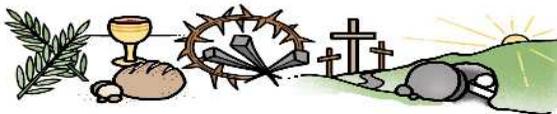
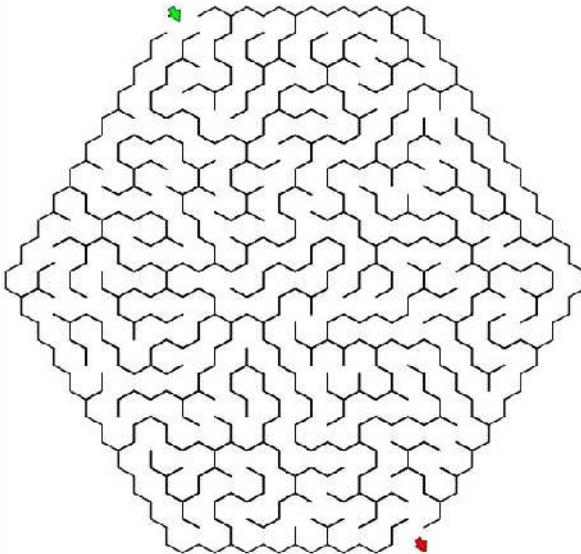


Members' Handbook

No. 74 2021/2022

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

Also in the Members' Area of our website



Puzzles

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

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Solution on page 31

ACROSS:

- 1, Womb. 3, Agnostic. 9, Long ago. 10, Fleet.
- 11, Horeb. 12, Yellow.
- 14, Deceitfulness. 17, Banish. 19, Towel.
- 22, Boils. 23, Inferno. 24, Eternity. 25, Defy.

DOWN:

- 1, Will hide. 2, Minor.
- 4, Glory of Christ. 5, Offal. 6, The Robe.
- 7, City. 8, Zabbai. 13, Psalmody. 15, Chalice.
- 16, Let off. 18, If son. 20, Worse. 21, Able.

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

Easter Prayer

Dear Almighty, All-powerful Father God,

You brought light and hope out of darkness and despair. You brought life out of death when you raised Jesus that first Easter Day.

Thank you that the tomb is forever empty and that Jesus is forever alive!

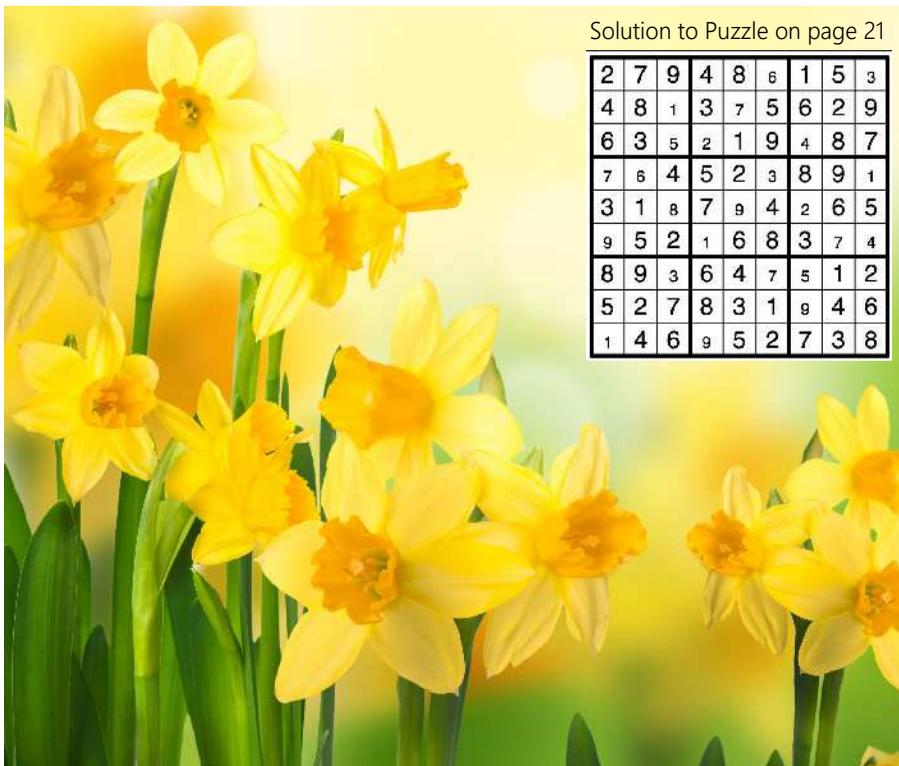
No matter what is going on, no matter how little we understand, help us to hold on to the Easter truth – Jesus is risen! He is alive today and in Him we can put our trust, completely and confidently.

Because of Jesus, death is defeated. Because of Jesus, the best is yet to be.

Love wins! Hallelujah! We praise you, Lord, in Jesus name, Amen.

Daphne Kitchin (Parish Pump)

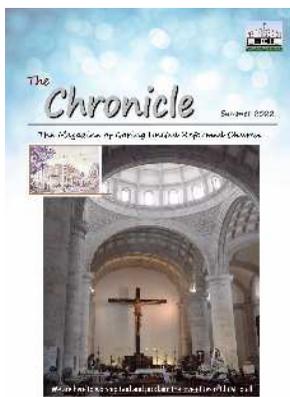




Solution to Puzzle on page 21

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

The Chronicle: Summer 2022



Closing date for the Summer magazine articles is 1 May 2022

Please submit articles in either of the following ways :-

The Form on our Website

E-mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk

Church Website

Did You Know That -

During last month, 141 people visited our Members' Area page

If you haven't already done so, you can get access to our Members's pages by Signing up with your own password.

Click on '**Log in or Sign up**' at top right hand corner or screen

You should only need to log in once, unless you have cleared your cache memory.

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 "New Here ?" leaflet (Back of church) ask a 'Welcomer' at the door, or -
2. Go to our website <https://gurc.net>, just click or tap on the [New Here?](#) button.

Weekday Activities

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

Publications Team

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

Proof Reading: Mrs Jane Bond

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

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

2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

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

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

Thank you.

The
CHRONICLE

<https://gurc.net/chronicle>

chronicle@gurc.org.uk



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.

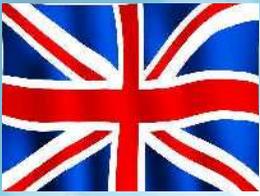
We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

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





The

Chronicle

Summer 2022

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



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

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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Safeguarding lead: Mrs Rosemary Terry and Mrs Mary Redman

Mobile: 07732 358560 Email: safeguarding@gurc.org.uk

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

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



The

Chronicle

Summer 2022

Vol.79- No. 671



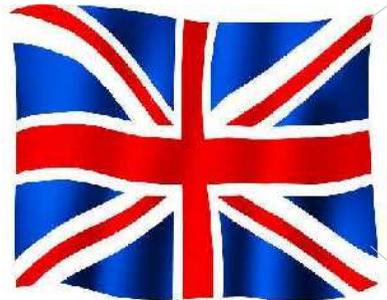
Front Cover:

[Mérida Cathedral in the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico](#)

Photo taken by Alison Westcott

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Queen Elizabeth II
70 Years of Glorious Reign



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

Rev Andrew Sellwood



SUMMER HOLIDAYS

I remember when I was young there was always a summer special edition of the comic I liked to read. It was an exciting time. As soon as the bumper edition comic was in the shops then summer had really begun. In 1963, D.C. Thomson of Dundee, publishers of the successful Dandy and Beano 'humour weeklies' as they were known, put together an oversized 'combo' of the two titles for the lucrative Summer Holiday market. A huge success, this ground-breaking edition started a tradition of Summer Specials that carry on to this day. I actually had the first one! Probably worth a bit now if I had kept it. I suppose they were designed to entertain children on long family drives to holiday destinations in the UK. Not many people I knew went on foreign holidays back then, far too exotic. There was one adventurous lad I remembered who went to Spain with his family. He came home with some kind of stomach bug and sun burn and tales of eating strange unidentifiable food. I think back with fond memories to our 10-day breaks on the Norfolk Broads. Of course, back then the sun shone every single day, never a cloud in the sky. Not a care in the world. Was that really true? Since those times I have been fortunate to visit some amazing places around the world and see how fantastic God's creation is. But when we are fortunate to go on holiday or have a bit of a getaway break, we inevitably come back to reality. Sometimes it is with a real jolt we can't escape it however hard we try.

As you read or hear the news you can't help noticing that we are all currently experiencing an unavoidable global reminder that life is uncertain and perhaps we are not as in control as we'd like to believe. I don't even know what state the world will be in when you get to read this. Things change from week to week. Change on all levels is inevitable. We can't stay in the past. Change threatens the idea we as individuals have some kind of control over events.

We can't deny there have been problems brewing for many years – but people haven't been attuned to them or perhaps they chose to ignore them, within our churches and in the wider world. However, the uncertain, uncontrollable nature of life is undisputable. Our only way forward as Christians must be to acknowledge the situation and turn to God. To make any difference is going to require a huge amount of creativity, compassion, and patience at the global level. But it all starts with us.

It seems that overall, humanity's reaction to life's events are guided by two sets of forces: fear and aggression tempered by love and generosity. Reassuringly perhaps, both have seemed equally prominent across the globe over the last few months.

Of course, fear is normal and healthy in these challenging times – we're naturally built to fear when our lives and those of our loved ones are threatened. Fight or flight is a common reaction to danger. But our society's structures also use this to create unnecessary further fear and panic, it is stirred up by politicians and the media. The good news is like fear, love, hope and compassion are also naturally within us. We're hardwired for belonging in relationships to seek companionship – our lives depend on these factors too. What if we allowed ourselves to be guided more often by them than by fear and threat wouldn't things be great?

In practice, the focus here has to be on our day-to-day lives- and the

relationships we have with God, other people, with nature and the world. The “work or change” always starts with us as individuals, As well as a chance for a summer holiday or some kind of get away break this time of year could this also be a time for us to pause and reflect? A chance to ground ourselves in the presence of God and regain the light and hope he gives?

Could we also remember to treat ourselves with gentleness and compassion? Could we remember to do the same for each other and the natural world we’re part of? Could we commit to developing truth and understanding over division and conflict in our own lives?

When uncertainty and suffering triggers fear and anxiety like it has in recent months, we need an antidote – not as a distraction but we need to acknowledge the all too real fear and suffering around us but with a compassionate reaction. Where do we feel grounded and safe? What brings us joy and peace? Where is there beauty? Because these are all present in every moment as well, if we’re open to receiving them. It is through healing ourselves by

drawing closer to Jesus that we will start to bring forth a happier, more peaceful world. Indeed, it’s unlikely that we’ll find creative ways forward fuelled solely by animosity, panic, and fear of change. In the bible there are so many references telling us - do not worry and do not be afraid God is in charge.

Matthew 6:25-34 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Psalms 23:3 "He refreshes my soul, He guides me along the right paths for his names' sake."

These verses and many others give us confidence that God sees our problems, he is planning to deliver us, and that He has our best interests at heart. He shows up when we mess up.

Christians can trust and rely on Him to supply a rescue as He did by the sacrifice of His Son for our salvation. This was a turning point in human history.

The world was in a terrible state then, but God surprised everyone by demonstrating that He has control over sin and death, raising His Son from the grave. Life itself falls under the command of He who gives life in the first place. Let go of all that holds you back all you think you can control and let God.

Words from a reassuring song:-

He has never let you down
Why start to worry now?
He is still the Lord of all we see
And He is still the loving Father
Watching over you and me.

*Songwriter: Twila Paris © Capitol CMG Publishing,
Universal Music Publishing Group.*

Andrew Sellwood

Worthing Aid for Ukraine

Goring URC was amazing in its support and generosity for our appeal for items for Ukraine, but how did it all come about?

I was asked by a Christian friend of mine who lives in Poland if it was possible to ask as many people as I could for items that could be sent to Ukraine. She had been at Warsaw train station when the thousands of people were arriving and heard first hand of the atrocities and the dire conditions for those left behind. How could I refuse?

I contacted as many schools and organisations as I could, where I had some sort of connection and more importantly, churches including GURC of course, where I had been involved since my earliest days. The response from everyone was totally overwhelming in terms of people's generosity and kindness.

The appeal was for long-life food, baby, sanitary and medical products and if at all possible, a generator, which I thought would be an impossible ask.

Every day, items were being left either in church porches, schools and even my own doorstep and in just two weeks we had collected and packed up 224 boxes of goods, when I was optimistically hoping for about 100. Not only that



but we had been given money for not one, but two generators, both of which, you will be very interested to hear, came from GURC.

I even had a lady from New York contact me, as she had heard about the appeal from her sister who lived locally, who ordered multiple boxes of nappies from Amazon UK which also landed on my doorstep.



... a lot of my neighbours came out to help load up and formed a chain ...

I went from worrying that I wouldn't have enough items to fill the van, to worrying that the van wouldn't be big enough, but God knew what he is doing and the van was exactly the right size to fit everything in comfortably. On the day of the departure, a lot of my neighbours came out to help load up and formed a chain from my garage to the van which made it a very swift and efficient operation.

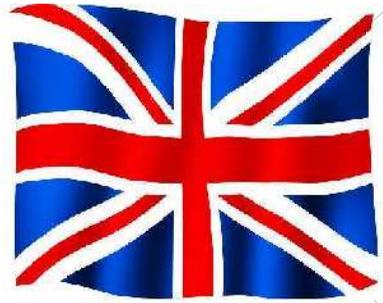
I was sent pictures when our van arrived in Warsaw and have also seen pictures of our boxes being unloaded in Ukraine, so I can assure you that everything has arrived safely and is being distributed to the people who need it the most.

With very grateful thanks indeed for caring and for your practical love in action. Amanda Cherry



The helpful neighbours

We wish
Her Majesty
Many Congratulations



70

Years of Glorious Reign

Church Website

Did You Know

1. From the front page of our website you can reach the current Sunday Service, Welcome, Members'Area, and Diary of Events, as well as our new Safeguarding pages.
2. You can search for past week's services from the top menu bar under 'Worship'

Yucatan Peninsula Mexico



Exploring the Yucatan

In the Spring Chronicle we explained how our son, Neil, daughter-in-law Gaby and grandson Liam had relocated from Mexico City to the smaller city of Merida on the Yucatan peninsula and settled in very happily. We were finally able to visit in November 2021, after the lifting of some travel regulations. We have just returned from a second visit in April 2022 and all agree this is a really glorious and interesting area to live in/visit. We had always enjoyed exploring Mexico City on our stays there, and now the Yucatan is exciting with such a variety of things to do and see. During our two visits Neil, Gaby and Liam have taken us to so many places but we have only just begun to experience it, they tell us!

From Merida you travel north to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, visiting Progreso, the Yucatan's main port. Its pier, extending several kilometres into the Gulf as the water is so shallow, is considered to be the longest in the world, handling multiple cargo vessel operations and cruise ships. Progreso is also a beach resort which is crowded during the months of July and August and on weekends.

We read that hundreds of holidaymakers invade the beaches and the ocean promenade with its bars and seafood restaurants, but when we were there on a fabulously sunny and hot (30C) Friday in November, we were almost the only ones strolling along. We asked Neil and Gaby where everyone was and they replied that people do not visit the beach areas in winter, it was thought to be too cold!! We also found this when we enjoyed two Sundays at a beach club along this coastline and further down at Sisal. Each were virtually deserted and we swam in the waves with Liam and the family, or strolled along the sand, viewing beach houses, from small 'shacks' to the ultra-modern huge ones. Return visits in April with temperatures of 35C did see more families on the beaches, but still not as packed as you might picture UK resorts in similar hot weather!

There are many inlets, estuaries, points, lagoons, islands and keys of great beauty and possessing a variety of mangroves, vegetation and wildlife.

Much of the Yucatan coast has been declared a national park to protect habitats and conserve the rich variety of plant and animal species that live there.

We drove to Rio Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, many miles to the north-east, where we stayed for a few days in the tiny port village of Las Coloradas to explore and to view the large numbers of cormorants, herons, pelicans and vultures etc. Also here are numerous large flocks of flamingoes which gather to feed on the micro-organisms and algae that are found in the lagoons of this port. At certain times and in certain conditions, the water of these lagoons has a definite pink hue. The extremely high concentration of salt occasions many salt pans, with high salt 'mountains', gleaming pure white in the bright sunshine, which await packing and transportation. What a sight beside the pinkness!

We wrote previously of the miles and miles of jungle greenery you drive past when travelling around the Yucatan, and the quiet 'motorways' you use to get about.

We were often to be found driving along these excellent roads for an outing, for instance to venture south-west for a long weekend in the city of Campeche, where we walked on the top of its old walls whilst looking down onto everyday life in courtyards and gardens, explored an old fort and strolled the long promenade, enjoyed

delicious fresh fish lunches whilst sitting in a small round 'dining room' on stilts over the waves, and later stopped in the small village of Becal to visit a family cave where generations have made 'Panama' hats from the jipijapa palms. The fibres need to be kept moist to be able to shape them, hence using the damp conditions of the cave.

Other times we left the motorway and drove further into the woodlands to visit spectacular Maya sites which suddenly just appeared, rising up out of the jungle of trees and greenery. Magnificent Mayapan, regarded as the last great Maya capital, covered an area of one and a half square miles with about 4000 structures and up to 12,000 inhabitants in AD 1250-1450. We were totally on our own here to wander around the ruins and were able to climb the tall pyramid for 360 degree views over the treetops.



It was with a great sense of achievement (and relief) that we all successfully made it back down! The atmosphere of the site was so peaceful, being miles and miles away from anything else. We were all in awe of its people who had planned this city and then executed the design, all the decorative elements, etc.

The same was felt at the stunning site of Uxmal, more than 4 square miles and housing 20,000 at its peak AD 600-800, where there were other visitors that day but not crowds, so again we were able to contemplate it all in peace and quiet. The Great Pyramid here is huge and we would not have wanted to attempt a climb, even if it had been allowed! Once again we thought of the enormous amount of labour involved in its construction.

As well as these and many other ruined sites we have yet to explore, the Maya

have left other truly wonderful memories – cenotes.

These are natural sinkholes filled with freshwater and formed when the limestone bedrock collapsed.



Mayans believed that cenotes were openings to the underworld, and with religious connections. The word has Mayan origins meaning 'well' and they played a crucial role in the development of Mayan civilization. The peninsula has very few rivers and lakes, so the cenotes represented the main source of water and many Mayan settlements were built next to a cenote.

There are over 3000 registered cenotes, mostly in the area covered by the Chicxulub crater which was formed after the meteorite impact that is said to have extinguished the dinosaurs. Over 1000 are open to the public to explore and swim, and we were so fortunate to visit two in April. Cenotes can be open, partially covered, or completely roofed as in a cave, and often with lush green plants or trees around the circular opening.





Those with rocky roofs have stalactites and the one we swam in that was totally enclosed also had stalagmites, thousands of years old. Our guide told us that it takes 100 years to grow 1 centimetre of these natural wonders and some had joined to form a continuous column.

The cenotes we explored required you to wear life-vests which were of great assistance, as it meant you were able to float around and take in the atmosphere without worrying about getting exhausted swimming or treading water. As the depth of one was about 180feet and the other 120feet, there was no chance of standing! The water was so clear and soft-feeling, with dragonflies flitting around and also beautiful blue birds with long tails, called 'toh'. In one we were the only ones swimming, so it was calm and peaceful and relaxing. The other totally-enclosed one was really two linked by an interconnected 'canal' and here we were in a group with a guide.



It was still peaceful and quiet though, as he had asked us to respect the Maya people and not to be noisy or splash around. As we went deeper into the cave system and the stalactites and stalagmites increased in number, we felt we were entering into a cathedral, with the cave soaring high about us and where there was a small natural opening in the roof, the sunlight poured through in a shaft of brilliant light – awesome and magnificent, and we felt it was such a privilege to be able to experience this wonderful place, as the Maya did indeed view this cenote as a religious place. We look forward to swimming in more cenotes on future visits – Neil, Gaby and Liam have found several more to show us and say each one is a different feeling, according to its situation, the size and condition. All spectacular though.



We are so fortunate to have our own 'local guides' living there and know we would not experience as much if we were holidaying there 'under our own steam'. We have walked around 'magic towns', such as Izamal (all painted in yellow since colonial times), so-called as they are kept as they were, without any new buildings or the usual commercial signage, or 'improvements'. We've stopped in Tizimin, home to the state's cattle ranchers as the fertile soil supports pasture and grain for the animals. We've visited a ruined hacienda to learn about the growing of henequen and the sisal rope production during the 19th century, and how the vast estate was the economic, religious and social life of the local community. Many haciendas have now been restored and become first-class hotels, museums or private homes.

One morning, Neil drove us around some of the local villages further away from Merida and what a different experience that was. What we might think were dilapidated, derelict small shacks hardly standing up beside the road, upon glancing through the open doorway, you would see a table and chair and a hammock strung from one wall to another and we realised this was a villager's home.

Others had stalls outside selling home-grown produce and we would stop to buy the most delicious fruit, huge pineapples for £1.50 and watermelons at 35 pence – breakfast was sorted!

This journey in particular showed the great divide that is being created more and more in the area. Building is everywhere, with much new housing and all its attendant necessities.

We read that Merida is one of the fastest-growing cities in Mexico, as since the pandemic people are leaving Mexico City for more rural areas, and also many Canadians 'winter' in the area and then stay as they love it so much. Beautiful homes (a fraction of the price they would be in the UK) are affordable to those who've sold a property in Mexico City or to overseas residents and are soon sold.

Another aspect to this building boom that distresses and worries Maya people is that acres of the natural woodlands are being destroyed and thus the habitats of animals and birds. We who live in the areas of Goring and Ferring etc can certainly empathise with the Maya as we come under threat of losing our open spaces.

Alan and Alison Westcott.



Goring United Reformed Church

A joint Pastorate with Sompting United Reformed Church



Minister: Rev Andrew Sellwood 01903 248259

Church Secretary: Mrs Val Gill 01903 531069

Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Hilary Redman 01903 260568

Welcome Editors

Would you like to join our team of Welcome editors?

All you need is a computer, email address
and a bit of time now and again.

It can be very exciting and a very worthwhile job to do.

People look forward to getting their copy of Welcome in
church every Sunday; also on line as many will know.

You will need to -

1. Assemble the notices given to you, usually by email,
2. Write some prayers for the week, or get somebody else you know, to write them for you.
3. Keep an eye on the church diary and insert events into Welcome for the coming week.

Possibly interested, or want to know more? Then speak to one of the team or get in touch with Wilfred Rhodes

Your turn will come around approximately every 4 months. Currently people on the rota do a 3 week run, but if you cannot manage that, then the rota may be able to be adjusted to suit your needs. Please ask.

Church Cleaning Day

The day started sunny and bright. Preparation for church cleaning day started with a long "To Do List".

Were we being too ambitious in the time we had, would many people turn up? I heard the sound of a lawn mower, then realised some-one had started to mow the church grass! and it was not on the "To Do List" , and so it started, people turned up looked at the list and just got on with the jobs in hand.

Cleaning teams were formed, the work continued throughout the morning (we did have a quick coffee break) and the " The To Do List" was ticked off -

Sanctuary



Cornwall Room



Main Hall



Gardening



What great team work and so much achieved in a short space of time well done and thank you to all who came and made it possible.

Val Gill ... and thank you from the Property Group



The Chronicle: Autumn 2022

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

Please submit articles in either 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

New Here?

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

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.

Weekday Activities

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

Publications Team

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

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

Thank you.

The

CHRONICLE

<https://gurc.net/chronicle>

chronicle@gurc.org.uk



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

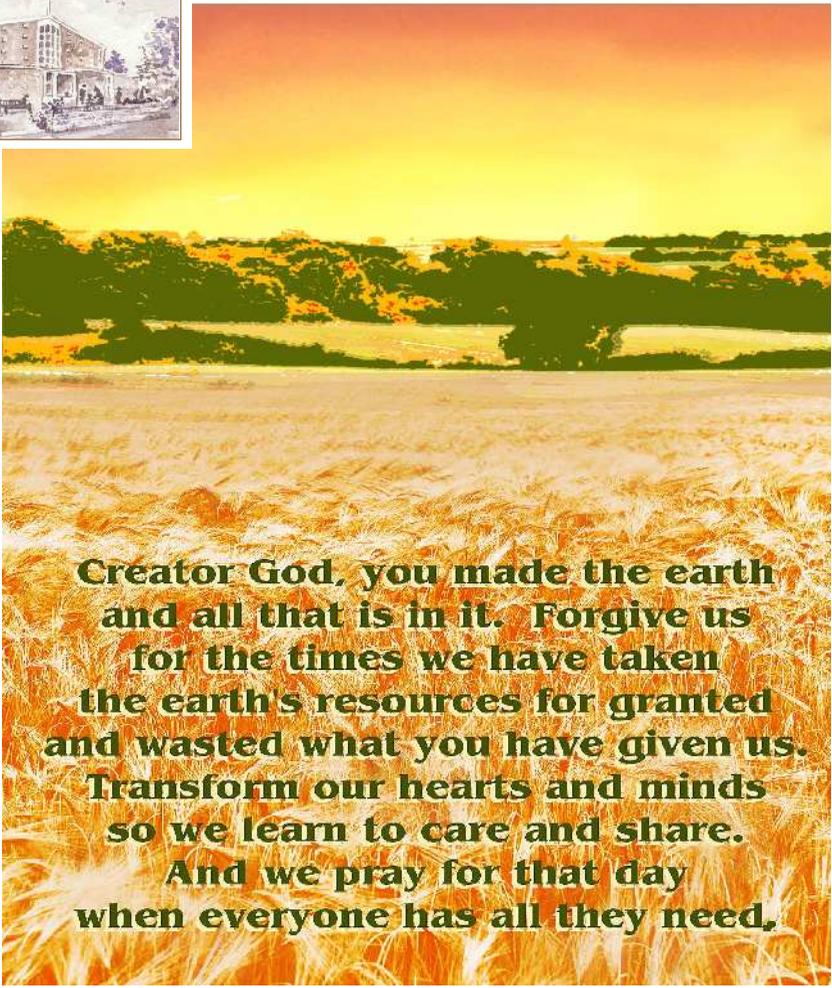




The **Chronicle**

Autumn 2022

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



**Creator God, you made the earth
and all that is in it. Forgive us
for the times we have taken
the earth's resources for granted
and wasted what you have given us.
Transform our hearts and minds
so we learn to care and share.
And we pray for that day
when everyone has all they need,**

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

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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Mobile: 07732 358560 Email: safeguarding@gurc.org.uk

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

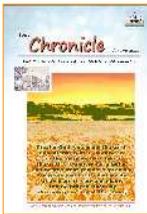
All services at 10:30am are live streamed and recorded for later viewing on our website <https://www.gurc.net/> and our YouTube channel.



The **Chronicle**

Autumn 2022

Vol.79 No. 672



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The Chronicle: Winter 2022

The deadline for Winter magazine articles is 1 November

Items can be submitted by Email to chronicle@gurc.org.uk or directly to the Editor.

The Winter edition will be available from Sunday 4th December

From the Manse

Rev Andrew Sellwood



My countdown clock to retirement is inexorably running down. Sadly, the time has come to drastically reduce my library. Even more distressing is that no one wants the books! I have contacted colleges, charities, and churches. One local second-hand book seller expressed interest, however when I told them the subject matter, they were very sorry but couldn't take them, 'not much call for theological stuff'. So, it's to the tip they go to be recycled. Goodbye old friends. There is one slim volume I am keeping, it is a commentary given to me back in 1988 by a family member on 2 Timothy.

On the flyleaf is written 'We hope this will help you carry out the difficult duties entrusted to you' then a reference to chapter 2 verse 15. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

I consider Paul's letters to Timothy to be as relevant and inspiring today as they were then. At times I have felt they were speaking directly to me when I was facing a situation that was difficult or challenging. As I reflect back on my ministry there have been some awful times. If I told you, you probably wouldn't believe me! It was all down to the complete lack of grace that some 'Christian' people in church have. Perhaps someday I will publish my memoirs. Of course, there have been good times as well. Overall, I feel it has been an honour and blessing to have laboured for the Lord. I can honestly say in times of trouble he has been there with me.

That brings me to the times we are all facing or about to face. On the news we have so many warnings about hard times ahead and another possible (probable) recession. Over the winter there will be many families facing financial hardships as basic bills rise.

A phrase being glibly banded about is 'people will have a choice to heat or eat'. This comes from commentators and politicians who will have no problems making their own ends meet.

There are wars and rumours of wars. We are all too aware of the tragic war in Ukraine but there are another nine major conflicts taking place. They don't appear on our TV news, at this time of writing we seem to be more concerned over celebrities falling out and of the uncharacteristically hot weather, yes, it is hot we can tell! Rehydrate, drink more water, I forgot we are in a drought. Seriously, despite the floods in places there is a world-wide shortage of fresh water.

Our global climate is changing leading to extremes of weather conditions. Floods, fires, famine and fighting characterise the world. There is a global refugee problem, 90 million people displaced from their homes and countries, hopelessly wandering the planet.

All the facts and figures are becoming more extreme, we are breaking records in all the wrong ways.

In the UK our churches are suffering post Covid, denominational churches are down in attendance by 34% (recent Evangelical Alliance survey for the church times May 2022).

However, the good news is there are signs of growth in the evangelical/charismatic churches. Those that are Bible based and worship centred. So now we are in a season where we must do some serious thinking and praying about a way forward. This applies to how we live and how we are Church in the next few years. Relationships between church and community have struggled somewhat over the last couple of years. We need to build bridges again.

“We know from other pieces of research that there is an openness to the gospel at this time and the most common pathway to faith is through a Christian friend.

This research highlights the need for every church to prioritise inspiring every member to be a great friend and equipping them to be able to share their faith.” – Phil Knox, Head of mission to young adults, Evangelical Alliance.

This is also what the LICC programme teaches on its Frontline initiative. As individuals we all have different places and circumstances where we meet people. In those environments we can be ourselves with no fixed agenda or thoughts of ‘I must convert my lost friend before it’s too late’. We wait and when the time is right or appropriate, we can share our faith, God will do the rest. That way we come over as genuine not as an overzealous evangelist. God will give us opportunities; God will give us words. We see this in the letter to Timothy.

Chapter two of the second letter to Timothy begins with a warning, after nine verses describing all kinds of problems and despicable people. “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days”. Paul then goes on to encourage Timothy.

A Final Charge to Timothy

¹⁰You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹persecutions, sufferings —what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹²In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We need to remember that God is in control of His church and of His Kingdom. Disasters and catastrophes come and go but God will always prevail. If we follow him closely, we will also prevail, be more than conquerors (Romans 8:37 - do yourself a favour and read all of Romans 8). Sometimes we forget this and need reminding when things seem to be going badly.

We must re-tune ourselves into God's wavelength. Just like a radio the signal may drift a bit and get a bit fuzzy (OK perhaps not in this digital age but this is a metaphor) and needs to be retuned, we also may drift and need to be fine-tuned, or 'tweaked' as it said in my synonym selector in MS word.

As we continue along our journey of faith we learn and apply God's word. We see God working in people's lives and that gives us motivation and confidence to carry on. Just as Timothy is thoroughly equipped for every good work so can we be.

Andrew Sellwood

The Earth's Temperatures

One hundred years ago, on 13th September 1922, the highest temperature ever recorded in the world was reported to be 57.7 Centigrade (136 Fahrenheit) in Al'Aziziyah in Libya.

This stood for nearly a century but was challenged at various times and eventually decertified by the World Meteorological Organisation in 2012, which believed there was a faulty reading. It was replaced by a record of 134F (56.7C), taken not in these heady days of climate crisis, but back in July 1913, at the aptly named Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, California.

There are many other examples of temperatures near to 60C going as far back as 1909 (Cherokee, Oklahoma) and 1966 (Sonora, Mexico).

The WMO is an agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international co-operation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.

Temperature peaks are measured in three major ways: air, ground, and through satellite observation. Of these, air measurements are used as standard because of the persistent unreliability of ground and satellite readings. Since these measurements generally are taken of necessity in extreme conditions, they are frequently challenged, and a great deal of uncertainty remains.

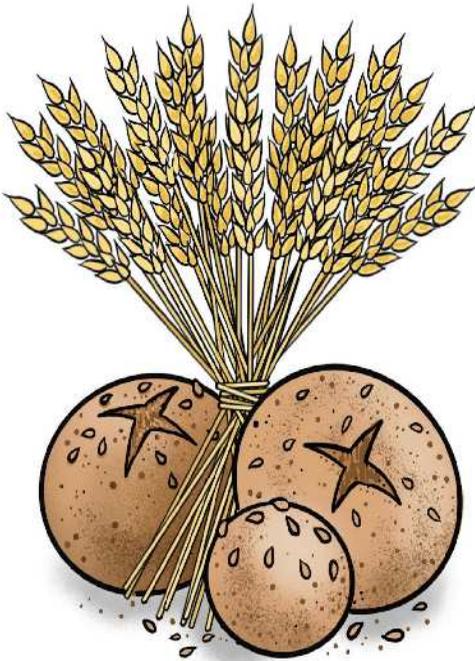
For comparison purposes, the hot weather in the UK in July this year peaked at 40.3C (104.5F), at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, on the 19th of that month. Many schools closed.

The Parish Pump

Tuesday Fellowship

In June and July we met in the garden and had beautiful weather both times. One day in July we had a very noisy sports day behind us. Eventually it ended and we had peace, perfect peace. It has been great to get together, enjoy the garden, chat and tea and cake.

In September we will be back in the Cornwall Room with a mix of speakers and in house sessions. It would be great to have more friends



Artwork by Deborah Noble

We met in the garden
The sky was blue
We talked away
And had lots to say.
We had cake and tea
And the garden to see
A good time was had by all !

Bobby Hitchin

One Day's Trek is Five Minutes Flying

MAF FLIES MOSQUITO NETS TO REMOTE PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Malaria is a disease which kills thousands of people globally every year. MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) has partnered with Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) for over ten years and their goal is to eradicate malaria from the face of the earth using proven interventions such as free long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets.



1 - MAF plane and nets

This year 2022 MAF and RAM delivered 34,250 nets to 26 airstrips across Papua New Guinea's (PNG) vast, isolated areas.

In remotest PNG there are no roads or infrastructure and the only means of transport in mountainous areas is either walking or flying. MAF serves some 200 bush airstrips and so great are the distances it can take two days to walk to the nearest airstrip. For RAM to distribute these life-saving nets MAF are the most cost-effective, reliable, fastest and safest mode of transport to reach vulnerable, rural communities.

Siobhain Cole from MAF's PNG Ground Operations team says: 'We specialise in flying to very hard, remote communities, such as Telefomin because no one else will fly to its airstrips.

They are very remote, steep, scary airstrips that no commercial operator will fly to. We're also flying nets to 20 bush airstrips serving 32 health centres. Each centre serves at least a dozen villages. Without MAF not everyone would get a net'.

For Siobhain and her team it has been an intense and complex operation. The nets are weighed, and any fuel drums that may be required to transport the nets further (i.e. motor operated canoes), also passengers and their luggage. In addition to thorough logistical planning, good weather is also key to a successful operation.



2 - Siobhain and Ryan

As MAF pilot (Siobhain’s husband) Ryan Cole testifies: ‘We may have a wonderful plan, but PNG has some of the most challenging flying in the world because of the weather, created by the mountains – cloud on the ridge lines needing pilots to find holes in the cloud to find the airstrips. In hundreds of miles of cloud, there might be just one little clear hole I can go through.



Sometimes it feels like God is giving me a window’ Without MAF to fly from Telefomin to Edwaki there would be huge implications for RAM in terms of logistics, time and cost.

Without MAF it would take four days on foot to reach the nearest river, another two days to travel by canoe and another day of walking – a week of overland travel compared to a 30-minute flight.

I have written this article with permission from Mission Aviation Fellowship so that you can visualise and thank God for the wonderful work they do. Here are their details if you wish to get in touch or contribute to their



organisation: MAF UK, 1st Floor, Castle Hill Folkestone, CT20 2TQ 01303 850950

www.maf-uk.org

Eileen Rhodes

Remembrance Day Quiz

1. The two-minute silence is held on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. But at what time was the `Armistice of 1918, which signified the end of the war, signed? 5am 10am or 11pm the night before
2. How many horses were used by Britain in WW1?
120,000 1.2 million 1.5 million 12 million
3. How many women served in the Women's Auxiliary Army between January 1917 and November 1918? 27,000 57,000 107,000
4. How many British people were evacuated in major cities during WW1? 1.5 million 4 million 500,000
5. How many soldiers and labourers from across the Empire and Commonwealth served alongside the British Army in the First World War? 1.3 million 2 million 3 million 30 million
6. Who wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields', and what nationality?
7. What does the word 'Cenotaph' literally translate as?
8. Which of these countries was neutral in World War 1?
Spain Bulgaria Portugal Nepal
9. Which building was surrounded by a sea of ceramic poppies in 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1?
10. Who lays the first wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day?

Answers on page 19

Quiz donated by Mrs Marion Tarbuck of Worthing USA



Garden Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are a gardener's friend, as they eat beetles, caterpillars, worms and other invertebrates. Did you know that as many as ten different hedgehogs may visit a garden over several nights, which could mean 'your hedgehog' is actually a number of different ones visiting at different times! To encourage them to visit you, leave areas of your garden wild, with piles of leaves, logs or compost. These are an attractive nest, as well as a home for the invertebrates that hedgehogs like to eat. You could place a piece of board against a wall thus making an artificial home for them. *Information gathered from <https://rspca.org>*

Monday Afternoons Coffee Cake Chat

You are invited to come and join us on Mondays 2 - 4pm for a Cuppa, Cake and Chat.

Maybe a game of Scrabble.
We are very friendly and welcome all. Hope to see you.

Rosina, Val and Christina





The Covid delayed Skittles Evening from 2020 -
Saturday 25th June 2022 at The Spur, Slindon
Eighteen enjoyed a few games of skittles with a hot buffet.

Photo by Chloe

Church Website

Did You Know

1. From the front page of our website you can reach the current Sunday Service, Welcome, Members'Area, and Diary of Events, as well as our new Safeguarding pages.
2. You can search for past week's services from the top menu bar, under 'Worship'

Walking 600 Miles - for the fun ?

After the first lockdown Graham asked for news of what we had been doing during the imposed house arrest that the whole world was experiencing. What DID we do with ourselves then and during the time later when we were allowed out but not to socialise?

Well we, that is David and I decided to go for a walk! Not just an afternoon stroll, oh no not nearly challenging enough. Many of you know that we embarked on walking the Monarch's Way a 600ish mile long national footpath which allegedly was the escape route of King Charles II in 1651. It passes Findon Church and goes up through Nepcote. I say 600ish because some information says 615 and some 625 miles. Just to keep you reading I shall tell you how far we walked later.

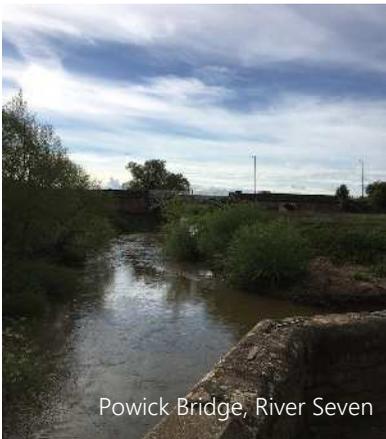
The background to this tale; King Charles II lost the battle of Worcester in September 1651 and to avoid death by Oliver Cromwell and with the help of sympathisers he went North to return to Scotland but didn't get any further than the Wolverhampton area. The route then comes south via Stratford-upon-Avon and on to Charmouth then along the South of England from Dorset to Sussex where from Shoreham he boarded a boat to France.

We didn't walk the route in the correct order as we completed the last leg across the South of England first because it was near home. Covid rules were that we were not to travel too far away from home. So during the latter part of 2020 when we were allowed we completed the first 200 miles. It was probably the best thing we could do to keep fit and healthy in

the time of social distancing as we didn't meet many people on the trail. We were self sufficient with food and drink on our backs and using 2 vehicles to ferry ourselves around, taking one to the end of the days route and one to the beginning, walking in between. On this first leg, we experienced some very steep hills and the most beautiful views, from The Trundle

behind Chichester our 360 degree view took in the Isle of Wight to the west and the 7 Sisters to the East, its not often you can see both ways but we did that day. Its a climb I would really recommend. The most challenging hills on this leg were the cliffs at Charmouth it is also part of the South West Coastal Path. They were steep to climb up but so much worse coming down I resorted to slowly sliding down on my derriere, I learnt that my knees may not be up to it!!!

Well the South was complete in 2020 so we waited for Spring 2021 to begin again, this time doing it in the same order as the King from Worcester and finishing in Charmouth. Starting at Powick Bridge which is the site of the Battle of Worcester to Stratford-upon-Avon via Boscobel.



Powick Bridge, River Seven

Most of the trail on this leg was along canals in the West Midlands which are really beautiful and very easy walking.

We were beginning to see a pattern of the Kings route it was always away from towns and villages and also always passing country churches where he could rest perhaps.

He took refuge in Boscobel House, North West of Wolverhampton where he hid for a few days in a priest hole hidden in the house. This was also the place where he hid in an oak tree while soldiers were searching the house and grounds. An oak tree is still there but it is a great granddaughter of the original!

All the time his friends and servants were working hard for him trying to find an escape route.

We continued on the trail from the West Midlands south to Stratford along canals and crossing motorways and across farmers fields.

One of our day's walk on this part of the journey was 17 miles going through one of the longest canal tunnels in the country.



The Netherton Tunnel is 2768 metres long or 1.72 miles. It was pitch black with 3 openings for air but so overgrown they didn't offer any light, thank goodness for torches. There was a safety rail so no falling into the murky water! I was quite convinced we were in an episode of *Midsummer Murders*!!

It was exciting but frightening too. The King left the West Midlands with the help of another sympathetic family as the servant of a woman who was going to visit her sister in

Bristol via Stratford, well that was his excuse! It was where he had been promised help and possibly a boat, which was sadly not forthcoming. It's 2022 now and we continued to Stratford, like the King, and they were really lovely walks. Moving on through Gloucestershire in gorgeous weather was a joy.

Then on to Somerset; it was a bit of a disappointment as the farmers don't keep the paths open becoming very difficult to get through; hard going. Mind you having said that some of the views are so beautiful they take your breath away.

We had great weather here thankfully for us and the tens of thousands of people who descended on Worthy Farm, Pilton for the Glastonbury Festival. Just to walk through the site and out the other side was an experience, not that I could ever entertain the idea of going to the concerts with such huge crowds!!

Another odd sight we encountered in Somerset was a tiny prison; picture below.



It is said that the roof inspired the police helmet but its other claim to fame was that if a child skipped Sunday School they were locked inside for a while. Eventually we left Somerset for Dorset and arrived in Charmouth our final destination.

We were sad and happy at the same time; sad to finish but happy that we had. We were blessed with good weather and hardly any rain over 3 summers 200 miles each. We loved it, and achieved our goal; walking 604 miles. The first leg we got blisters but kept going. We bought new boots for the second and third and no blisters.



David and Caroline

We met a couple somewhere in the West Midlands who were walking from Cornwall to Yorkshire to visit their Grandchildren for half term, it had taken 2 months with another 7 weeks to go.

We also met Hannah on a gap year who was walking the route and wild camping.

We met her in Bourton-on-the-Water outside the Co-op!!! She did the whole route in 57 days, We were there to greet her at the end and buy her a lunch of just chips, she had missed them!!!

Well we did it!!!

But Finally.....

The Captain of the ship that took the King to France from Shoreham-by-Sea was called Nicholas Tetterel. An unusual name but one I had heard before, the former Boss of Mid Sussex Roofing had the same name, sadly he has died but his son Jack still runs the business and when he was putting a new roof on our bungalow I asked him if he knew the story of the King's escape.....

The Captain of that ship from 1651 was Jack's 15 times Great Grandfather. What a lovely ending.

Caroline Hibbs

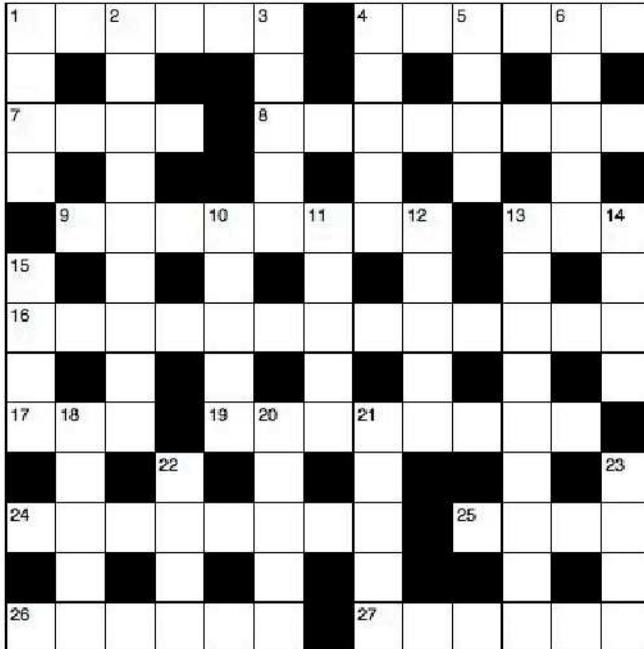
Autumn Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me'
(Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock(Luke 14:29)(8)
- 24 Disgrace(Psalm 44:13)(8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten (anag.)(5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)
- 22 Be distressed(Proverbs 24:19)(4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)



Crossword by Parish Pump. Solution on page 20

Answers to Remembrance Day Quiz on page 11

1. The two-minute silence is held on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. But at what time was the `Armistice of 1918, which signified the end of the war, signed **5am**,
2. How many horses were used by Britain in WW1? **1.2 million**
3. How many women served in the Women's Auxiliary Army between Jan 1917 and Nov 1918? **57,000**
4. How many British people were evacuated in major cities during WW1? **1.5 million**
5. How many soldiers and labourers from across the Empire and Commonwealth served alongside the British Army in the First World War? **3 million**
6. Who wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields', and what nationality? **John McCrea, Canada**
7. What does the word 'Cenotaph' literally translate as? **Empty Tomb**
8. Which of these countries was neutral in World War 1? **Spain**
9. Which building was surrounded by a sea of ceramic poppies in 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1? **The Tower of London**
10. Who lays the first wreath at the Cenotaph ? **The Queen or her representative.**

The Chronicle: Winter 2022

The closing date for the Winter magazine articles is 1 November.

Please submit articles in either 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

Crossword Solution from page 18/19

ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay.

8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act.

16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule.

24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

DOWN:1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree.

5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric.

13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve.

20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

New Here?

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

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

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

Weekday Activities

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

Publications Team

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

Proof Reading: Mrs Jane Bond

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

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

2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

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

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Thank you.

The

CHRONICLE

<https://gurc.net/chronicle>

chronicle@gurc.org.uk



Goring United Reformed Church

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

The United Reformed Church has over 1600 churches in England, Scotland and Wales with a total membership of about 46500.

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



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

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





The **Chronicle** Winter 2022/23

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



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

A Very Happy Christmas to all

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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

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

Safeguarding lead: Mrs Rosemary Terry and Mrs Mary Redman

Mobile: 07732 358560 Email: safeguarding@gurc.org.uk

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

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



The

Chronicle

Winter 2022/23

Vol.79 No. 673



Front Cover:

Designed for Christmas 2022

- 2 **From the Manse** - Rev Andrew Sellwood
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 - 17 **Christmas Services**
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 - 19 **Coffee Morning on Friday 13th January** - Advertisement
-

The Next Chronicles: Spring & Summer 2023

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

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

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



From the Manse

Rev Andrew Sellwood

WINTER REFLECTION ЗИМНЯ РЕФЛЕКЦИЯ

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

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

The winter of discontent period dominated political memories of

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

As I mentioned I am writing this at the beginning of November.

Everything may have changed by the time you read this. Things can only get better as they say.

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

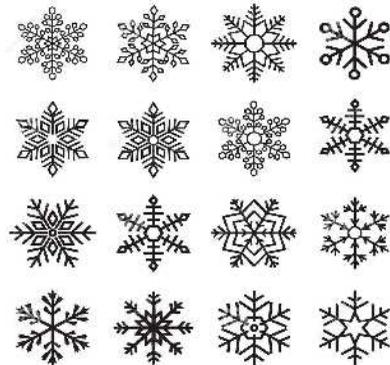
In the mornings net curtains would be frozen to the windows. I am beginning to sound like the Monty Python Four Yorkshiremen sketch when they discuss "the bad old days" and how young people don't properly appreciate what their elders had to go through (you can find this on YouTube).

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

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

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

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



Even two flakes floating side by side will each be blown through different levels of temperature, humidity and vapour to create a shape that is truly unique.

"Snowflake" has sadly also become a derogatory slang term for a person, implying that they have an inflated sense of uniqueness, an unwarranted sense of entitlement, or are overly emotional, easily offended, and unable to deal with opposing opinions ... I can't think of anyone who fits that bill!

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

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

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

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





Barn Dance Evening

8 October 2022

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

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





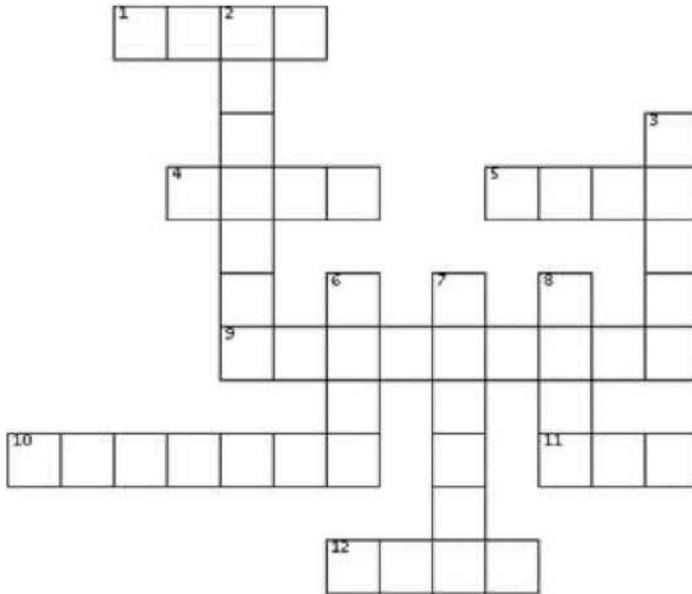
Thank you to all those who helped to clear and decorate the Sanctuary, buy and prepare the supper, advertise the event and sell the tickets. And we made a small profit. What a team! *Val Gill*



Photos: Paul & Mary Redman

Biblical Weather Puzzle

Based on NKJV



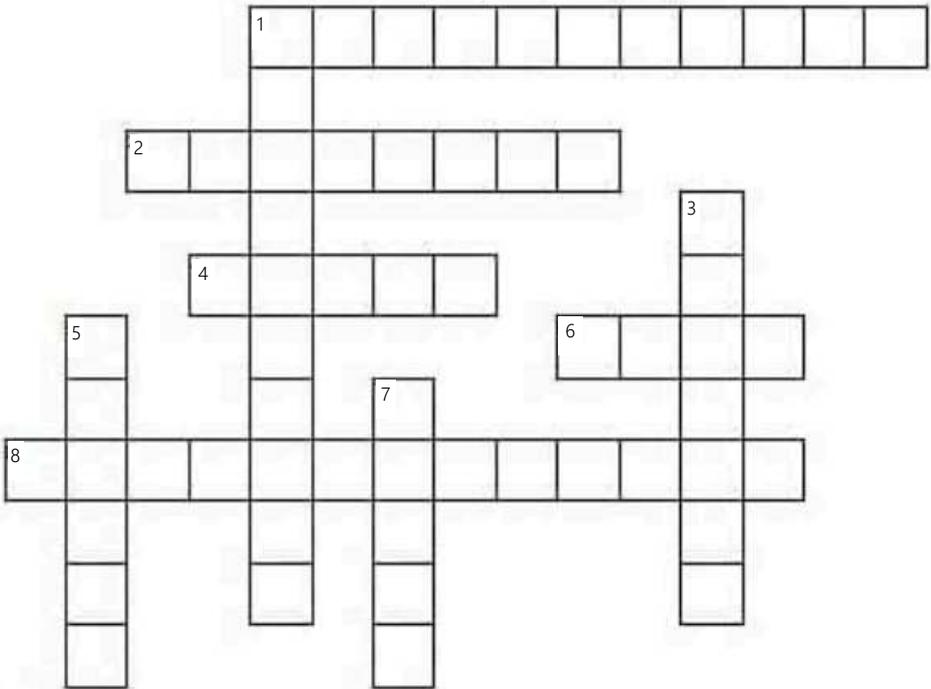
ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

The Beatitudes - The Sermon on the Mount



Across

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

Down

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

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

A Motorhome called Heidi

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

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



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



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

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

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

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



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

The Pretentiously-Titled Thomas Lectures Presents

God
~~A Dog~~ Is For Life, Not Just For Christmas

(Style Over Substance: Part II)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



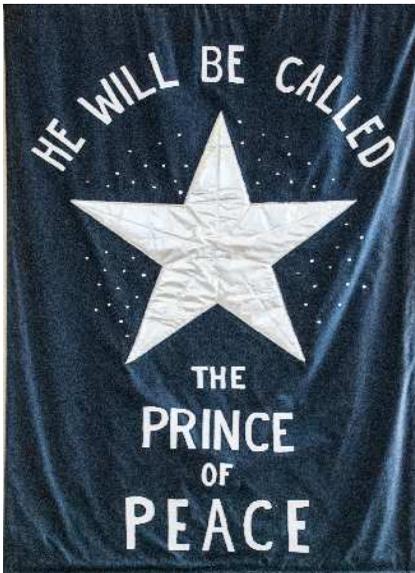
'God is for Life' Continued -

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

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

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

Ryan Thomas



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

Qualifications for a Preacher

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Birth of Jesus

as told in St Luke's Gospel (NIVUK)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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

Goring United Reformed Church Christmas Services



Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 15th December, 7pm

A traditional 9 lessons and carols service, held by candlelight.

Refreshments served after the service

Nativity Service

Christmas Eve, 5pm

A fun service aimed at young children. Come dressed up as your favourite Nativity character. Including songs by the Puppet Clubs and our Brass Band.

Refreshments served after the service

Christmas Morning Family Service

Saturday 25th December, 10.30am

A relaxed family service
led by Rev Andrew Sellwood



Chronicle Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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



Coffee Morning

in aid of

**BREAST
CANCER**

NOW The research &
support charity

Friday 13th January 2023
9.45am - 12noon

**Fresh coffee, tea and
homemade cakes**

The Chronicle: Spring 2023

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

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

Closing date: 1st May 2023

Answers to 'The Beatitudes' Quiz

Matthew 5

Across

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

Down

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

New Here?

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

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

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

Weekday Activities

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

Publications Team

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

Proof Reading: Mrs Jane Bond

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

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

2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

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

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

Thank you.

The **CHRONICLE**

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Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

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





The **Chronicle**

Spring 2022

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



AN EASTER *beginning*



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GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Hilary Redman

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Telephone: 01903 260568 Email: pastoral@gurc.org.uk

Church Treasurer: Mr Matthew Smith

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

Telephone: 01903 873265 Email: treasurer@gurc.org.uk

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

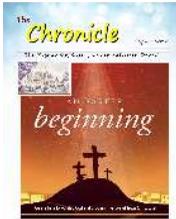
- Family service monthly as announced
- Junior Church

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



The **Chronicle**

Spring 2022
Vol.79- No. 670



Front Cover:

An Easter Beginning

Artwork by CPO

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- 7 **Tuesday Fellowship** - Bobby Hitchin
- 8 **Wilding: 'Isabella Tree' Book Review** - Hilary Redman
- 12 **Art and Craft Club** - Caroline Hibbs
- 14 **World Day of Prayer** - Susie Thomas
- 16 **Kestro Stroke Club** - Carol Webber
- 18 **Merida, Mexico** - Alison & Alan Westcott
- 23 **Children** - Come to my party! - Matthew 22
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- 30 **An Easter Prayer** - Daphne Kitching
- 32 **Did You Know That**

From the Manse

Rev Andrew Sellwood



What Church could be like

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) programme explained

I get to visit many churches in the Synod. Some are thriving and growing, some are just trying to keep going, some are really struggling, some may need to close. What category would you place GURC? I will let you be the judge of that. It must be recognised the future may, no. Will be, very challenging.

Some factors that we need to bear in mind, diminishing numbers, financial burdens, increasing age demographic, fewer ministers, larger groupings of churches. On that last item I receive details of ministerial deployment nationally; there is one pastorate in the Greater Manchester area that is made up of 16 churches with 3 ministers. This seems to be the trend, large groupings with fewer ministers. Within a couple of years, the likely

scoping in our Synod will be one minister to 4 or 5 churches.

There is work being done to be more strategic, by then there may be a whole new way of deploying ministry yet to be discovered.

There is a dilemma, however, do you put precious resources into thriving churches to make them even more successful or into struggling churches to build them up?

David Bosch in his seminal book *Transforming Mission* asks the question why is that particular church struggling in the first place? He comes up with a few possible reasons. The primary concern is that the failing churches have lost their vision, their connection with Jesus. I find this also in the passage in Revelation 2³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name and have not grown weary. ⁴Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. How sad is that? The church in Ephesus has done all the right things battled through and accomplished good works but have lost their First love: There is a definite coldness in their relationship with Jesus. Things aren't as they used to be.

The passion has gone from them, they are going through the motions of being church but they have lost purpose and vision.

So many churches just go through the motion, they look busy say the right things, but they have no heart for the Lord. They are doing Church

not being church.

Don't get me wrong I am not judging anyone here, but the BBC commissioned a survey three years ago, answers were in confidence. It was across all denominations and free churches. I wouldn't bore you with all the findings but in the UK on average 25% of church goers believe in the Biblical account of the resurrection, 21% do not believe. 38% of Christians claim Jesus Christ as their saviour. Note the subtle difference church goers and Christians. I am not sure why they make that distinction, but it is worrying the Christian figure of 38%. We need to do some work within the church community first before we embark on mission.

Matthew 28

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with

you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

The commission was not to get yourself a nice cosy building make sure it has nice fixtures and fittings and be a holy huddle in my name. It says Go ... make disciples in my name. Yes, we need somewhere to meet worship and have fellowship, but then we need to do something else, don't we?

The building should never be the focus, Jesus should be. The commission must spur us on to mission. The founder of the "home church" movement in England, Canon Ernest Southcott, said it best:

"The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when God's people—strengthened by teaching and worshipping and sacrament and prayer —go out of the church door into the world to be the church.

We don't go to church; we are the church wherever we are."

That's the daunting challenge before us so here is something positive. As you may be aware our church has joined the LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) learning hub. We are committed to a two-

year programme of development.

Ten churches in our Synod have joined the scheme.

The previous churches that have gone through the programme have seen significant results. So, the big question is what difference will it make to GURC? Not a lot if we don't embrace the core concept of whole life discipleship. What does that mean? Simply it means we need to develop or in some cases rediscover an awareness that we are disciples, followers of Jesus all the time wherever we are.

We are not Christians for an hour on a Sunday morning. That sounds obvious but many people have been locked into that mindset. I realise it may be a challenge to break out. First, we need to refresh our vision under the Lordship of Jesus. Then understand the mission He calls us to be involved in.

Clarity in understanding the relationship between church in its gathered form (things we do together in a place) and the church in its scattered form (things we do when we are apart from one

another). This involves a change of culture.

A simple first step to this end is to show more grace and love to each other, think before you speak, foresee the possible implications of your words. Are they sharp and unnecessarily critical or are they encouraging and helpful?

What welcome do we extend to the visitor, how do they see us?

Can we be less grumpy and more engaging after the service even when we didn't like the second hymn.

Put personal preference to one side as we are worshipping God together. We all have different opinions.

We come together for the greater good of Gods Kingdom.

I am usually sceptical about new schemes for reviving churches.

I studied many of them for my MA in mission. I soon came to learn there was no silver bullet no magic formula.

However, this LICC initiative is so basic, so logical it just may work. But we must all be part of it.

We need persistence and patience it's not an overnight fix. The church is like a huge oil tanker, it takes a while to alter course. More information will be forthcoming as we are just embarking on this journey together.

One reason I have become excited about this project is that it will continue after I have retired. There will be continuity established a solid foundation for the interregnum. Just



A Few Smiles

- ☆ Never buy a car you can't push.
- ☆ Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly. – Anon
- ☆ City Life: Millions of people being lonesome together. - Thoreau

Coffee, Tea & Cake Drop in

On Monday 10th January, after nearly 2 years, we started meeting once again. We have slightly changed our name and we are meeting at the back of the church on Monday afternoons between 2 and 4'oclock.

We have a Welcome board outside the open church doors inviting any passers by to drop in for refreshment.

There are games available, scrabble, board games, puzzles and colouring books, but a discussion and chat group developed quite naturally and it seems to be very popular.

It was a slow start but after 5 weeks we have 12 people, 5 of them new to the church and one of them has been to a Service here and is intending to come again.



and everyone is very welcome, so please pop in. Valerie, Christina and I take it in turns to bake the cakes and make the drinks and become part of the various groups to chat.

We all enjoy welcoming new people into our lovely Sanctuary.

Please pray for this group, that we continue to grow and find new ways to keep things fresh and interesting, where people want to come and enjoy a couple of hours together. *Rosina Bayley*

Tuesday Fellowship

During the summer we met in my garden. We were only rained off once, and we all enjoyed meeting outside.

We started back in the Cornwall Room in September, with a mixed programme of speakers and in house afternoons. We had an interesting talk by Wilf Rhodes on his working life as a Pharmacist.

Rev. Trevithick as always gave a very Bible based and thought provoking talk, it was good to see our old friend. We had an afternoon of Carpet Bowls organised by Peggy Mott which was great fun.

Our pre Christmas meeting was our own minister Andrew, preparing us for Christmas, followed by Mince pies.

We have welcomed four new members, including one gentleman.

We are a group open to ladies and gentlemen, and would be pleased to have more friends join us. If anyone would like more details, I will be happy to help. *Bobby Hitchin*



No Sunbeams

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears.

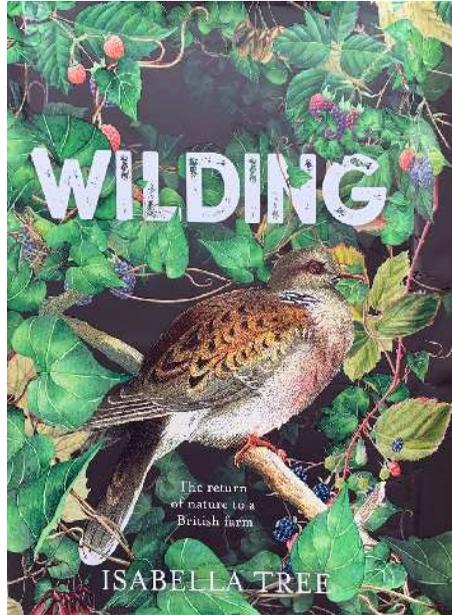
When questioned by his anxious mother, he explained:

"This morning they told me that Jesus wants me for a sunbeam. But I want to be a train driver!"

Isabella Tree's Book

Wilding

Review by Hilary Redman



It is a little while since we have had a book review in Chronicle. So here is something, that you might be interested in. (I have been told that not all my passions are shared by everyone else!!)

Isabella Tree is a conservationist and environmentalist, married to Charles Burrell the owner of Knepp Castle Estate, West Grinstead, RH13 8LJ.

It is land bound on the west by West Chiltington, and on the east by the A24 and West Grinstead. Approach through Dial Post.

It's history is documented from the 12th century until the present day: from 'William de Braose (1144-1211) lord of the Rape of Bramber who built the original motte and bailey keep, now known as 'Old Knepp Castle'. When driving north on the A24 towards Horsham, and looking to your left you may have see the remains of one of Old Knepp Castle's towers in a field, "standing on a knoll." This is the last remaining part of the Castle once frequented by King John on his hunting trips.

Today's 19th century castle at Knepp is privately owned by the Burrell family.

It is easily possible to park in one of their carparks and walk around the estate keeping, of course, to one of the four marked foot paths. Some of the land in the south block where Graham and I walked was muddy and marshy - so you are advised to wear your welly boots!!

An estate map is available from the carpark, and the four paths are well marked, identified by four colour markings on posts, trees and fences.

The estate was formerly traditionally farmed, but in 1987 "Charlie Burrell inherited the estate from his grandparents, but it was already losing money."

Intensifying the farm with various schemes had failed to improve the income.

In 2002 Charlie and Isabella, having been favourably influenced by many environmental and conservation projects which they had visited, made the huge decision to sell all the farm equipment and all the animals, in order to make a new start.

Gradually during the following years the estate was restocked.

The first new comers to arrive in 2002, were fallow deer. 2003 saw twenty Old English Longhorns and six Exmoor ponies, 2004 more English longhorns and two Tamworth sows and eight piglets. 2005 saw the introduction of an Exmoor colt.



Red deer were introduced to Knepp in 2013. In 2020 Beavers came, under licence, to live at Knepp. The first beavers living in Sussex for 400 years!! Wow!!

(A report on Beavers at Knepp can be found on the Knepp Estate website knepp.co.uk)

The 1.5 mile stretch of the river Adur which crosses the land was restored in 2008. As the re-wilding progressed and the land was returned to it's more natural state, and as the animals settled in so the birds began to arrive.

Have you ever seen a turtle dove? - The first to be recorded at Knepp was in the summer of 2007 and features on the dust cover of the book.

The quotations below come from a Time line at the front of Isabella's book.

March 2009 - A "Five-year monitoring survey reveals astonishing wild life successes, including skylarks, wood larks, jack snipe, ravens, redwings, field fares and lesser redpolls; thirteen of the UK's seventeen bat species, and sixty invertebrate species of conservation importance including the rare purple emperor butterfly." It was in March that the first ravens nested at Knepp.

In May, "A mass migration of 11million painted lady butterflies from Africa descends on Britain; at Knepp, tens of thousands are attracted by an outbreak of creeping thistle."

In 2012 "A survey by Imperial College London identifies thirty-

four nightingale territories at Knepp(from none in 2002) making it one of the most significant sights in the UK for this critically endangered bird."

In 2013 "Studies by Imperial College identify nineteen species of earth worm at Knepp, indicating a



marked improvement in soil structure and function compared with other farms." The next year "Eleven male turtle doves were recorded; first sightings of short-eared and long-eared owls." Knepp now has all five UK species of owl."

2015/2016 "Dave Goulson of Sussex University records sixty-two species of bee and thirty species of wasp at Knepp, including seven bee and four wasp species of national conservation importance."



2017 "Peregrin Falcons nest in a Scotts pine; a red back shrike sets up a territory at Knepp for several weeks."

In January 2018 "Knepp Estate was singled out in DEFRA's 25 Year Environment Plan as an outstanding example of 'landscape-scale restoration in recovering nature.'"

If you don't fancy donning your wellies, and you will need them! - go to their website - <https://www.kneppestate.co.uk>

Enjoy 3,500 acres of land - owned by the Burrell Family for more than 220 years. Overlooking the lake is the 19th century Knepp Castle built by the architect John Nash.

It is still the Burrell family home. Enjoy, Hilary

This new group opened its doors on 5th February when a goodly number of people came along with their crafts. Others dropped in to see what we were up to.

There is a table on which is with 'something to do'. This is so you can have a go at something new or revisit what you have done before. The first months 'Arty' task was 'Automatic Drawing'.

Something lots of great artists do to get their creativity switched on especially the Surrealists; we probably call it doodling!!! The second meeting on 5th March we got out the paint and had a lovely time with bits of collage and colour.

We meet in the Sanctuary near at the back of the church with the doors open for fresh air and to let others know we are here because all are welcome to join us.



We had a very enjoyable time of creativity and chat in a peaceful and light place.

It's a group of like minded crafty people; who were sharing ideas and techniques.



We meet on the 1st Saturday of the month between 9.30 - 12.30 and would love to see you with your art and craft.

Its a few hours to focus on your creative side. If you don't think you have one come along you may be very surprised!

We look forward to seeing you. *Caroline Hibbs*

World Day of Prayer

Susie Thomas

This year's World Day of Prayer service took place in Goring Methodist Church (Bury Drive) on Friday 4th March 2022.

The theme was Jeremiah 29. 'I Know The Plans I Have For You' - poignantly appropriate given the unfolding events in Ukraine. The service was prepared by women in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Not Scotland, despite my voice and that of Trudy (representing St Michael's RC Church) being noticeably more northern than Hadrian's Wall! (Apparently Scotland set up its own WDP committee first, in 1930, and stayed separate.)



The official artwork for the WDP 2022 service - created by Angie Fox

The Church was pretty packed - lovely to see, but also slightly scary in the times of Covid.

Poor Ryan was there as my chauffeur and muffled up in a mask practically facing the wall - and I don't think that was merely out of embarrassment that I was on the stage. I managed my words ok I think (we just read them - no learning involved) and didn't set fire to the tablecloth when I lit the candle 'proud face'

My parents would be SO proud. 😊

The hymns were a mixture of well-known ("Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace", "The Day Thou Gavest") and the brand new "For Surely I Know The Plans".

The latter was written especially for the event and despite hearing it regularly I never could master the phrasing!

Refreshments were provided afterwards (the real reason Ryan offered to chauffeur me I imagine) - as ever they were themed towards the country producing the service. For some inexplicable reason we eschewed jellied eels and offered cups of tea, Victoria sponge and Welsh cakes.

On arrival at the Church, attendees were presented with a little 'party bag' containing a beautiful paper envelope with seeds, and a knitted prayer square with a prayer.

These had been put together in advance the week before, by four of us sitting round a table working as a human conveyor belt. I was supposed to open the outer bags but found it really tricky so moved on to sticking the labels on the outside. Frankly, it's about time someone found a use for me - bag opening certainly isn't my, er, bag. I would have been first in line to test the Victoria sponges and Welsh cakes, but sadly that position was never advertised!

Next year's service is due to be held at St Michael's in High Salvington and will be put together by women in Taiwan.



Putting together the "party bags" ...

KESTRO - *Worthing Stroke Club*

Although not a Church organization, most of you will know of the close association that the club has always had with Goring URC.

It was started in 1982 by Rev William Connelly, Mrs Robin Bradley and a few others; both then and now, the majority of the helpers come from within the Church.

Robin put an item in the Welcome one week asking for new helpers - myself, Grace & Jim Hope all turned up the following Friday afternoon to Kestro. There we stayed!

Kestro helpers kept in weekly contact with members by phone when the club had to cease meeting in 2020 due to covid 19 lockdown.

The club returned in October 2021 with fewer members but loyal ones eager to get out again & meet up with each other.

Kestro may close in July or it might be able to continue in September but without providing transport.

There are several reasons for this but transport is the biggest headache.

Three drivers turned 70 during lockdown & are no longer able to drive the minibus that we hire weekly from Guildcare to transport members to the club.



Latest News from Kestro

" Kestro helpers had their meeting and the upshot is that most are willing and wanting to keep the club going.

But from September, unless drivers can be found, it will operate without providing minibus transport to the meetings.

Charlie is continuing as treasurer. Tania has agreed to be admin secretary and contact person and Vic continues as leader.

I have emailed most of the local churches for drivers and inserted an entry in the Worthing journal and the free magazines that land on doormats. So maybe that will get a result.

Last year we lost our friend Carole Cullis, a loyal transport organiser.

We have a willing programme secretary, an enthusiastic exercise leader and an excellent tea maker, but we need drivers for the minibus.

Volunteers seem scarce - retirement age has increased and retirees want to be off 'doing their own thing'! I have contacted some local churches and submitted entries to local free magazines and Worthing journal.

I am writing this so you are all aware of the situation and maybe have a suggestion or know of anyone who could help keep the club going for a few more years! *Carol Webber* "

Merida, Mexico

MOVING TO MERIDA, MEXICO

For those who have followed previous jottings about our Jersey and Mexican families, you will recall that December 2019 saw them all travel to Ferring for Christmas and New Year celebrations. Thank goodness they did visit then, bearing in mind what was to happen in subsequent months, putting paid to our twice-yearly adventures to Mexico City!



During that stay, Neil, Gaby and Liam told us of their intention to re-locate from the City to a smaller one, Merida, situated on the Yucatan peninsula. It seemed an appropriate time for them to change from the stressful lifestyle and pace of life they lived with long



working hours and with Liam at his nursery/school from 9am until after 6pm daily.

Gaby was being made redundant from the city centre art museum (change of director who brought his own staff) and Liam due to move on to junior school. Neil taught English at the British Council during the day and also held private classes before and after people's hours of work. He had discussed with these private pupils re continuing with tuition on-line once he moved away and they were all receptive to this, in fact this had already begun.

Neil and Gaby had researched suitable schools for Liam and as Gaby had a cousin and her family already living in Merida (also re-located) they were given lots of advice and help.

They flew to Merida for a couple of weeks during February to visit their chosen school and find a house to rent in a convenient nearby area, both of which they achieved, returning to Mexico City to complete all arrangements to move. Then lockdown intervened!

Living in a fourth-floor flat (although quite spacious) was difficult for months on end with an energetic and lively 6-year old, as countless families here and elsewhere will know only too well. They did go up to the roof-top space where washing is hung to dry, so they could have some fresh air, as children weren't allowed to be on the City streets, and either Neil or Gaby could shop but certainly not with Liam.

They spent some of their time sorting out, packing boxes and making arrangements to move, so that all would be ready as soon as they were allowed to travel. They kept us informed of events and it was a great day when they rang mid-June 2020 to say that all was in place for the removal van to load on Saturday 4th July!

This truck left Mexico City mid-afternoon and Gaby's parents collected the family to stay overnight with them before taking them to the airport on Sunday.

It was then a huge relief to hear that the van arrived safely at the rental house by lunchtime on Monday, a road journey of just over 800 miles.

They soon settled in and began adjusting to the changes in their lives of different places to see, a slower pace of doing things,



Fruit Stall: Cholul, Village Centre

the temperatures, much higher now at sea level as against Mexico City which is over 7000 feet in altitude, and other new experiences.

We received many photos and updates of everything and we could all hardly wait for the day when we would be able to visit.

After a couple of 'false starts' when we had made bookings, only for government advice/regulations to change again, we finally boarded a plane on 10th November 2021.

We were met in Mexico City by Grace and Daniel, Gaby's parents with whom we stayed overnight, catching up with news and with much chat and laughter.

out things and recited a long list of everywhere he wanted to take us and show us their discoveries since moving there.

They have chosen to live in the suburb of Cholul which remained a small town for decades, functioning mainly as the settlement for servants working in the nearby haciendas.



A late-morning 90 minute flight to Merida and soon we were walking through the terminal to see Neil and Liam (jumping up and down) in the distance, waving madly at us.

Suddenly Liam could not contain himself any longer and he came racing past the barriers to welcome us with huge hugs!

Driving to their rental home we passed through the suburbs of Merida and Liam excitedly pointed

At the beginning of the 18th century it had a population of 126, growing to 154 by 1900. There was no main or secondary road, thus limiting the entry of outsiders. Until the late 1990s the town remained mostly sheltered from Merida but with the real estate boom of recent years, many developments and housing areas are being created in the region. Most of these constructions have been placed outside the municipal Centro,

which has helped maintain the original feel of the Plaza Principal, and it still retains most of its customs and traditions. One guide book quotes “when visiting the central square, there’s an undeniably welcoming feel to the plaza. Even with the development of its urban growth, the slow-living feel and the warm breeze of Yucatan have not been lost in Cholul.”



Colonial Mansion, Merida

We certainly found it to be of a friendly and relaxing atmosphere when we were exploring the local village lanes.

All quite different from the busy, chaotic, hectic and noisy atmosphere of Mexico City!

The family firstly showed us around Cholul so that we

could 'get our bearings' and we were able to venture out for a stroll by ourselves and explore the area when they were otherwise occupied with schooling and work commitments.

Mexican schools have not really returned to pupils attending face-to-face since the beginning of lockdown, with lessons being conducted on-line for the past many months.

Although Neil and Gaby had visited in February 2020, Liam had not been there then and had to be interviewed on-line and exams taken in September 2020 before his place was confirmed.

All his lessons on-line from 7.30am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday, with two 'breaks' for a drink/snack.



The Long Pier of Progreso

He was so excited and thrilled to at long last, after more than a year, meet his new school friends and teachers in person and loves going to his school, he tells us. It was fascinating to be in the background when he was on-line in the mornings, listening to the teachers, the other pupils and to Liam joining in. Neil and Gaby chose IMA (Instituto Moderno Americano) as all teaching there is 50/50 Spanish/English, so it's ideal for Liam, and he can attend there until university entrance. The family took us out and about in afternoons, evenings and weekends and we certainly made the most of our month-long visit, seeing nearby neighbourhoods and the colonial city of Merida with its beautiful, elegant buildings around the main square and wide avenues with imposing, large mansions and palaces, many now owned by well-known commercial and financial institutions which have kept the original architectural style, so helping to preserve some of the city's air of bygone days.

When we flew into vast Mexico City we were above miles and miles of buildings and housing, whereas flying into Merida we were over miles and miles of green, lush forest/jungle, before suddenly seeing this smaller city.

Certainly the city has now been expanding further and further outwards, its suburbs being developed with housing, businesses, shopping malls etc, and the main roads around about are busy as you would expect.

However once you leave these environs it is just those miles and miles of jungle greenery with occasional scattered small settlements. The long-distance 'motorways' are a joy to drive along, being in good condition and mostly fairly empty of any other traffic, - the M25 they are not!

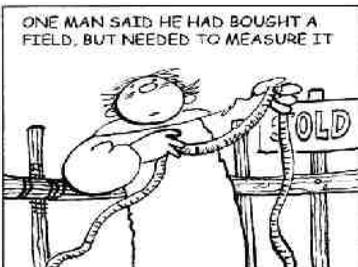
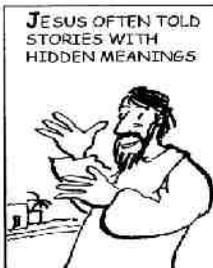
They easily took us on our many journeys around the peninsula, and we'll let you know about these explorations in the Summer edition of *The Chronicle*.

Alan & Alison Westcott

The Parable of the Marriage Feast

St Matthew's Gospel 22: 1-14

The Big Bash!



(Courtesy of Parish Pump)

Broken Glass? or Clear Glass?

If everybody looks through broken glass, then together, we are looking at a world that looks broken.

When I notice my crack... you notice yours, and we start healing our cracks, then we begin to look at the world through clear glass.

And that's what trauma healing does. It starts unifying the world.

by Thomas Hüb



How many cracks have appeared in our window over the last few years: COVID, Syria, the death of George Floyd and too many others, floods, droughts, fires and now the invasion of Ukraine.

Can you make sense of what is happening?

Do you dare take a side other than on the side of "kill no one in my name?"

Imagine the unimaginable - your community being invaded. For what? Consider the fear of people on both sides, one side for their lives, the other side for seeing their sons, brothers and fathers coming back in body bags. In whose name is this insanity being perpetrated?

What can we do to help the peoples of Ukraine and Russia?

Wilfred Rhodes

Best Position in which to Pray !

Three theologians at a conference centre sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone engineer worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," said one, and backed up his claim by quoting a number of New Testament texts on humility in Greek.

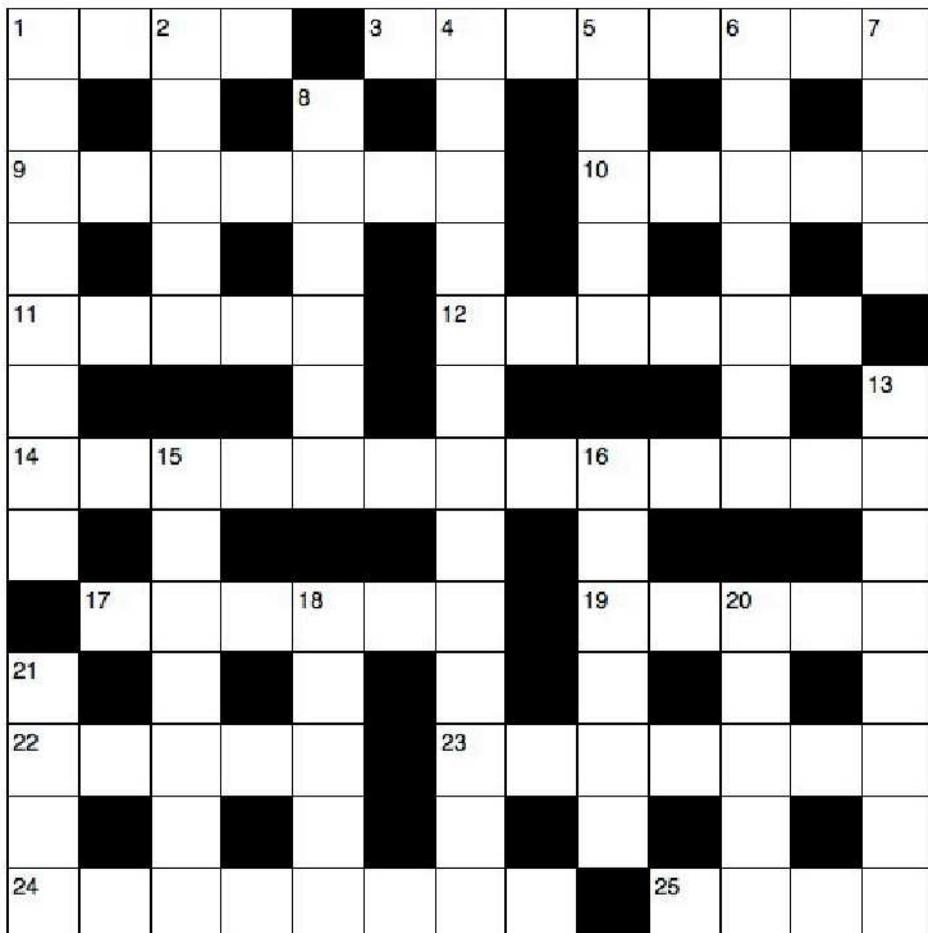
"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." He quoted a few texts on praise in Latin.

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor." He quoted a few texts on penitence in Hebrew.

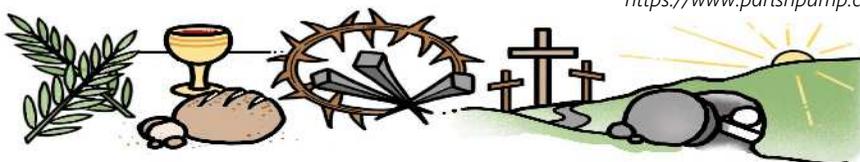
The telephone engineer could contain himself no longer. "Sorry to interrupt," he said, "but the best praying I ever did was in English, hanging upside down from a telephone pole!"

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

The Spring Crossword



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

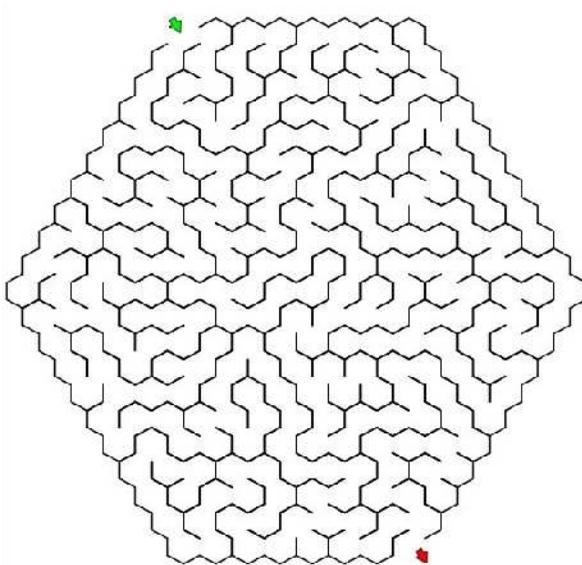


Members' Handbook

No. 74 2021/2022

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

Also in the Members' Area of our website



Puzzles

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

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Solution on page 31

ACROSS:

- 1, Womb. 3, Agnostic. 9, Long ago. 10, Fleet.
- 11, Horeb. 12, Yellow.
- 14, Deceitfulness. 17, Banish. 19, Towel.
- 22, Boils. 23, Inferno. 24, Eternity. 25, Defy.

DOWN:

- 1, Will hide. 2, Minor.
- 4, Glory of Christ. 5, Offal. 6, The Robe.
- 7, City. 8, Zabbai. 13, Psalmody. 15, Chalice.
- 16, Let off. 18, If son. 20, Worse. 21, Able.

W	O	M	B		A	G	N	O	S	T	I	C
I		I		Z		L		F		H		I
L	O	N	G	A	G	O		F	L	E	E	T
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I				A		O				B		P
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E	T	E	R	N	I	T	Y		D	E	F	Y

Easter Prayer

Dear Almighty, All-powerful Father God,

You brought light and hope out of darkness and despair. You brought life out of death when you raised Jesus that first Easter Day.

Thank you that the tomb is forever empty and that Jesus is forever alive!

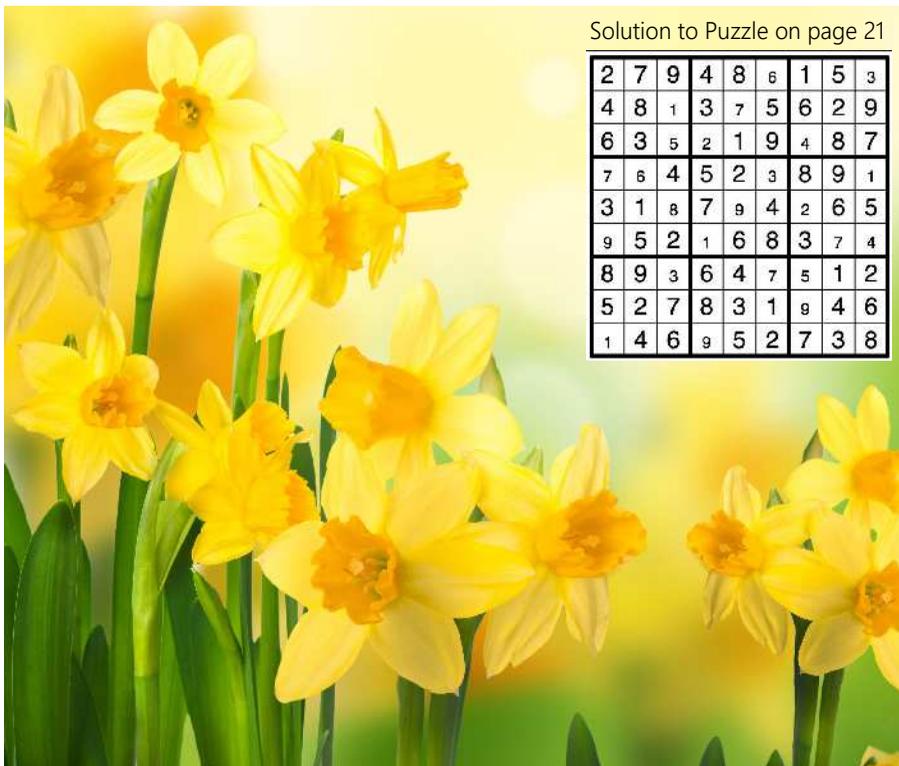
No matter what is going on, no matter how little we understand, help us to hold on to the Easter truth – Jesus is risen! He is alive today and in Him we can put our trust, completely and confidently.

Because of Jesus, death is defeated. Because of Jesus, the best is yet to be.

Love wins! Hallelujah! We praise you, Lord, in Jesus name, Amen.

Daphne Kitchin (Parish Pump)

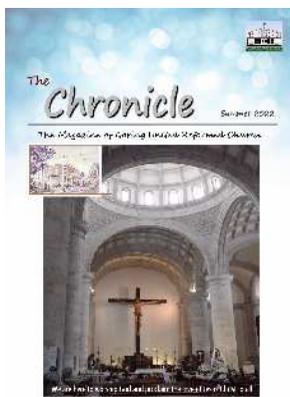




Solution to Puzzle on page 21

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

The Chronicle: Summer 2022



Closing date for the Summer magazine articles is 1 May 2022

Please submit articles in either of the following ways :-

The Form on our Website

E-mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk

Church Website

Did You Know That -

During last month, 141 people visited our Members' Area page

If you haven't already done so, you can get access to our Members's pages by Signing up with your own password.

Click on '**Log in or Sign up**' at top right hand corner or screen

You should only need to log in once, unless you have cleared your cache memory.

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 "New Here ?" leaflet (Back of church) ask a 'Welcomer' at the door, or -
2. Go to our website <https://gurc.net>, just click or tap on the [New Here?](#) button.

Weekday Activities

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

Publications Team

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

Proof Reading: Mrs Jane Bond

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

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

2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

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Thank you.

The
CHRONICLE

<https://gurc.net/chronicle>

chronicle@gurc.org.uk



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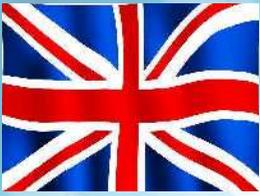
We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

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





The

Chronicle

Summer 2022

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



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- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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Safeguarding lead: Mrs Rosemary Terry and Mrs Mary Redman

Mobile: 07732 358560 Email: safeguarding@gurc.org.uk

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

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Vol.79- No. 671



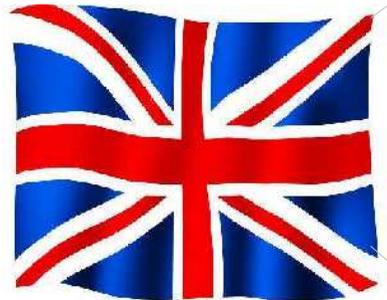
Front Cover:

[Mérida Cathedral in the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico](#)

Photo taken by Alison Westcott

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Queen Elizabeth II
70 Years of Glorious Reign



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

Rev Andrew Sellwood



SUMMER HOLIDAYS

I remember when I was young there was always a summer special edition of the comic I liked to read. It was an exciting time. As soon as the bumper edition comic was in the shops then summer had really begun. In 1963, D.C. Thomson of Dundee, publishers of the successful Dandy and Beano 'humour weeklies' as they were known, put together an oversized 'combo' of the two titles for the lucrative Summer Holiday market. A huge success, this ground-breaking edition started a tradition of Summer Specials that carry on to this day. I actually had the first one! Probably worth a bit now if I had kept it. I suppose they were designed to entertain children on long family drives to holiday destinations in the UK. Not many people I knew went on foreign holidays back then, far too exotic. There was one adventurous lad I remembered who went to Spain with his family. He came home with some kind of stomach bug and sun burn and tales of eating strange unidentifiable food. I think back with fond memories to our 10-day breaks on the Norfolk Broads. Of course, back then the sun shone every single day, never a cloud in the sky. Not a care in the world. Was that really true? Since those times I have been fortunate to visit some amazing places around the world and see how fantastic God's creation is. But when we are fortunate to go on holiday or have a bit of a getaway break, we inevitably come back to reality. Sometimes it is with a real jolt we can't escape it however hard we try.

As you read or hear the news you can't help noticing that we are all currently experiencing an unavoidable global reminder that life is uncertain and perhaps we are not as in control as we'd like to believe. I don't even know what state the world will be in when you get to read this. Things change from week to week. Change on all levels is inevitable. We can't stay in the past. Change threatens the idea we as individuals have some kind of control over events.

We can't deny there have been problems brewing for many years – but people haven't been attuned to them or perhaps they chose to ignore them, within our churches and in the wider world. However, the uncertain, uncontrollable nature of life is undisputable. Our only way forward as Christians must be to acknowledge the situation and turn to God. To make any difference is going to require a huge amount of creativity, compassion, and patience at the global level. But it all starts with us.

It seems that overall, humanity's reaction to life's events are guided by two sets of forces: fear and aggression tempered by love and generosity. Reassuringly perhaps, both have seemed equally prominent across the globe over the last few months.

Of course, fear is normal and healthy in these challenging times – we're naturally built to fear when our lives and those of our loved ones are threatened. Fight or flight is a common reaction to danger. But our society's structures also use this to create unnecessary further fear and panic, it is stirred up by politicians and the media. The good news is like fear, love, hope and compassion are also naturally within us. We're hardwired for belonging in relationships to seek companionship – our lives depend on these factors too. What if we allowed ourselves to be guided more often by them than by fear and threat wouldn't things be great?

In practice, the focus here has to be on our day-to-day lives- and the

relationships we have with God, other people, with nature and the world. The “work or change” always starts with us as individuals, As well as a chance for a summer holiday or some kind of get away break this time of year could this also be a time for us to pause and reflect? A chance to ground ourselves in the presence of God and regain the light and hope he gives?

Could we also remember to treat ourselves with gentleness and compassion? Could we remember to do the same for each other and the natural world we’re part of? Could we commit to developing truth and understanding over division and conflict in our own lives?

When uncertainty and suffering triggers fear and anxiety like it has in recent months, we need an antidote – not as a distraction but we need to acknowledge the all too real fear and suffering around us but with a compassionate reaction. Where do we feel grounded and safe? What brings us joy and peace? Where is there beauty? Because these are all present in every moment as well, if we’re open to receiving them. It is through healing ourselves by

drawing closer to Jesus that we will start to bring forth a happier, more peaceful world. Indeed, it’s unlikely that we’ll find creative ways forward fuelled solely by animosity, panic, and fear of change. In the bible there are so many references telling us - do not worry and do not be afraid God is in charge.

Matthew 6:25-34 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Psalms 23:3 "He refreshes my soul, He guides me along the right paths for his names' sake."

These verses and many others give us confidence that God sees our problems, he is planning to deliver us, and that He has our best interests at heart. He shows up when we mess up.

Christians can trust and rely on Him to supply a rescue as He did by the sacrifice of His Son for our salvation. This was a turning point in human history.

The world was in a terrible state then, but God surprised everyone by demonstrating that He has control over sin and death, raising His Son from the grave. Life itself falls under the command of He who gives life in the first place. Let go of all that holds you back all you think you can control and let God.

Words from a reassuring song:-

He has never let you down
Why start to worry now?
He is still the Lord of all we see
And He is still the loving Father
Watching over you and me.

*Songwriter: Twila Paris © Capitol CMG Publishing,
Universal Music Publishing Group.*

Andrew Sellwood

Worthing Aid for Ukraine

Goring URC was amazing in its support and generosity for our appeal for items for Ukraine, but how did it all come about?

I was asked by a Christian friend of mine who lives in Poland if it was possible to ask as many people as I could for items that could be sent to Ukraine. She had been at Warsaw train station when the thousands of people were arriving and heard first hand of the atrocities and the dire conditions for those left behind. How could I refuse?

I contacted as many schools and organisations as I could, where I had some sort of connection and more importantly, churches including GURC of course, where I had been involved since my earliest days. The response from everyone was totally overwhelming in terms of people's generosity and kindness.

The appeal was for long-life food, baby, sanitary and medical products and if at all possible, a generator, which I thought would be an impossible ask.

Every day, items were being left either in church porches, schools and even my own doorstep and in just two weeks we had collected and packed up 224 boxes of goods, when I was optimistically hoping for about 100. Not only that



but we had been given money for not one, but two generators, both of which, you will be very interested to hear, came from GURC.

I even had a lady from New York contact me, as she had heard about the appeal from her sister who lived locally, who ordered multiple boxes of nappies from Amazon UK which also landed on my doorstep.



... a lot of my neighbours came out to help load up and formed a chain ...

I went from worrying that I wouldn't have enough items to fill the van, to worrying that the van wouldn't be big enough, but God knew what he is doing and the van was exactly the right size to fit everything in comfortably. On the day of the departure, a lot of my neighbours came out to help load up and formed a chain from my garage to the van which made it a very swift and efficient operation.

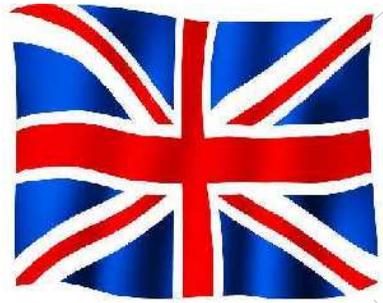
I was sent pictures when our van arrived in Warsaw and have also seen pictures of our boxes being unloaded in Ukraine, so I can assure you that everything has arrived safely and is being distributed to the people who need it the most.

With very grateful thanks indeed for caring and for your practical love in action. Amanda Cherry



The helpful neighbours

We wish
Her Majesty
Many Congratulations



70

Years of Glorious Reign

Church Website

Did You Know

1. From the front page of our website you can reach the current Sunday Service, Welcome, Members'Area, and Diary of Events, as well as our new Safeguarding pages.
2. You can search for past week's services from the top menu bar under 'Worship'

Yucatan Peninsula Mexico



Exploring the Yucatan

In the Spring Chronicle we explained how our son, Neil, daughter-in-law Gaby and grandson Liam had relocated from Mexico City to the smaller city of Merida on the Yucatan peninsula and settled in very happily. We were finally able to visit in November 2021, after the lifting of some travel regulations. We have just returned from a second visit in April 2022 and all agree this is a really glorious and interesting area to live in/visit. We had always enjoyed exploring Mexico City on our stays there, and now the Yucatan is exciting with such a variety of things to do and see. During our two visits Neil, Gaby and Liam have taken us to so many places but we have only just begun to experience it, they tell us!

From Merida you travel north to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, visiting Progreso, the Yucatan's main port. Its pier, extending several kilometres into the Gulf as the water is so shallow, is considered to be the longest in the world, handling multiple cargo vessel operations and cruise ships. Progreso is also a beach resort which is crowded during the months of July and August and on weekends.

We read that hundreds of holidaymakers invade the beaches and the ocean promenade with its bars and seafood restaurants, but when we were there on a fabulously sunny and hot (30C) Friday in November, we were almost the only ones strolling along. We asked Neil and Gaby where everyone was and they replied that people do not visit the beach areas in winter, it was thought to be too cold!! We also found this when we enjoyed two Sundays at a beach club along this coastline and further down at Sisal. Each were virtually deserted and we swam in the waves with Liam and the family, or strolled along the sand, viewing beach houses, from small 'shacks' to the ultra-modern huge ones. Return visits in April with temperatures of 35C did see more families on the beaches, but still not as packed as you might picture UK resorts in similar hot weather!

There are many inlets, estuaries, points, lagoons, islands and keys of great beauty and possessing a variety of mangroves, vegetation and wildlife.

Much of the Yucatan coast has been declared a national park to protect habitats and conserve the rich variety of plant and animal species that live there.

We drove to Rio Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, many miles to the north-east, where we stayed for a few days in the tiny port village of Las Coloradas to explore and to view the large numbers of cormorants, herons, pelicans and vultures etc. Also here are numerous large flocks of flamingoes which gather to feed on the micro-organisms and algae that are found in the lagoons of this port. At certain times and in certain conditions, the water of these lagoons has a definite pink hue. The extremely high concentration of salt occasions many salt pans, with high salt 'mountains', gleaming pure white in the bright sunshine, which await packing and transportation. What a sight beside the pinkness!

We wrote previously of the miles and miles of jungle greenery you drive past when travelling around the Yucatan, and the quiet 'motorways' you use to get about.

We were often to be found driving along these excellent roads for an outing, for instance to venture south-west for a long weekend in the city of Campeche, where we walked on the top of its old walls whilst looking down onto everyday life in courtyards and gardens, explored an old fort and strolled the long promenade, enjoyed

delicious fresh fish lunches whilst sitting in a small round 'dining room' on stilts over the waves, and later stopped in the small village of Becal to visit a family cave where generations have made 'Panama' hats from the jipijapa palms. The fibres need to be kept moist to be able to shape them, hence using the damp conditions of the cave.

Other times we left the motorway and drove further into the woodlands to visit spectacular Maya sites which suddenly just appeared, rising up out of the jungle of trees and greenery. Magnificent Mayapan, regarded as the last great Maya capital, covered an area of one and a half square miles with about 4000 structures and up to 12,000 inhabitants in AD 1250-1450. We were totally on our own here to wander around the ruins and were able to climb the tall pyramid for 360 degree views over the treetops.



It was with a great sense of achievement (and relief) that we all successfully made it back down! The atmosphere of the site was so peaceful, being miles and miles away from anything else. We were all in awe of its people who had planned this city and then executed the design, all the decorative elements, etc.

The same was felt at the stunning site of Uxmal, more than 4 square miles and housing 20,000 at its peak AD 600-800, where there were other visitors that day but not crowds, so again we were able to contemplate it all in peace and quiet. The Great Pyramid here is huge and we would not have wanted to attempt a climb, even if it had been allowed! Once again we thought of the enormous amount of labour involved in its construction.

As well as these and many other ruined sites we have yet to explore, the Maya

have left other truly wonderful memories – cenotes.

These are natural sinkholes filled with freshwater and formed when the limestone bedrock collapsed.



Mayans believed that cenotes were openings to the underworld, and with religious connections. The word has Mayan origins meaning 'well' and they played a crucial role in the development of Mayan civilization. The peninsula has very few rivers and lakes, so the cenotes represented the main source of water and many Mayan settlements were built next to a cenote.

There are over 3000 registered cenotes, mostly in the area covered by the Chicxulub crater which was formed after the meteorite impact that is said to have extinguished the dinosaurs. Over 1000 are open to the public to explore and swim, and we were so fortunate to visit two in April. Cenotes can be open, partially covered, or completely roofed as in a cave, and often with lush green plants or trees around the circular opening.





Those with rocky roofs have stalactites and the one we swam in that was totally enclosed also had stalagmites, thousands of years old. Our guide told us that it takes 100 years to grow 1 centimetre of these natural wonders and some had joined to form a continuous column.

The cenotes we explored required you to wear life-vests which were of great assistance, as it meant you were able to float around and take in the atmosphere without worrying about getting exhausted swimming or treading water. As the depth of one was about 180feet and the other 120feet, there was no chance of standing! The water was so clear and soft-feeling, with dragonflies flitting around and also beautiful blue birds with long tails, called 'toh'. In one we were the only ones swimming, so it was calm and peaceful and relaxing. The other totally-enclosed one was really two linked by an interconnected 'canal' and here we were in a group with a guide.



It was still peaceful and quiet though, as he had asked us to respect the Maya people and not to be noisy or splash around. As we went deeper into the cave system and the stalactites and stalagmites increased in number, we felt we were entering into a cathedral, with the cave soaring high about us and where there was a small natural opening in the roof, the sunlight poured through in a shaft of brilliant light – awesome and magnificent, and we felt it was such a privilege to be able to experience this wonderful place, as the Maya did indeed view this cenote as a religious place. We look forward to swimming in more cenotes on future visits – Neil, Gaby and Liam have found several more to show us and say each one is a different feeling, according to its situation, the size and condition. All spectacular though.



We are so fortunate to have our own 'local guides' living there and know we would not experience as much if we were holidaying there 'under our own steam'. We have walked around 'magic towns', such as Izamal (all painted in yellow since colonial times), so-called as they are kept as they were, without any new buildings or the usual commercial signage, or 'improvements'. We've stopped in Tizimin, home to the state's cattle ranchers as the fertile soil supports pasture and grain for the animals. We've visited a ruined hacienda to learn about the growing of henequen and the sisal rope production during the 19th century, and how the vast estate was the economic, religious and social life of the local community. Many haciendas have now been restored and become first-class hotels, museums or private homes.

One morning, Neil drove us around some of the local villages further away from Merida and what a different experience that was. What we might think were dilapidated, derelict small shacks hardly standing up beside the road, upon glancing through the open doorway, you would see a table and chair and a hammock strung from one wall to another and we realised this was a villager's home.

Others had stalls outside selling home-grown produce and we would stop to buy the most delicious fruit, huge pineapples for £1.50 and watermelons at 35 pence – breakfast was sorted!

This journey in particular showed the great divide that is being created more and more in the area. Building is everywhere, with much new housing and all its attendant necessities.

We read that Merida is one of the fastest-growing cities in Mexico, as since the pandemic people are leaving Mexico City for more rural areas, and also many Canadians 'winter' in the area and then stay as they love it so much. Beautiful homes (a fraction of the price they would be in the UK) are affordable to those who've sold a property in Mexico City or to overseas residents and are soon sold.

Another aspect to this building boom that distresses and worries Maya people is that acres of the natural woodlands are being destroyed and thus the habitats of animals and birds. We who live in the areas of Goring and Ferring etc can certainly empathise with the Maya as we come under threat of losing our open spaces.

Alan and Alison Westcott.



Goring United Reformed Church

A joint Pastorate with Sompting United Reformed Church



Minister: Rev Andrew Sellwood 01903 248259

Church Secretary: Mrs Val Gill 01903 531069

Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Hilary Redman 01903 260568

Welcome Editors

Would you like to join our team of Welcome editors?

All you need is a computer, email address
and a bit of time now and again.

It can be very exciting and a very worthwhile job to do.

People look forward to getting their copy of Welcome in
church every Sunday; also on line as many will know.

You will need to -

1. Assemble the notices given to you, usually by email,
2. Write some prayers for the week, or get somebody else
you know, to write them for you.
3. Keep an eye on the church diary and insert events into
Welcome for the coming week.

Possibly interested, or want to know more? Then speak to one
of the team or get in touch with Wilfred Rhodes

Your turn will come around approximately every 4 months.
Currently people on the rota do a 3 week run, but if you
cannot manage that, then the rota may be able to be adjusted
to suit your needs. Please ask.

Church Cleaning Day

The day started sunny and bright. Preparation for church cleaning day started with a long "To Do List".

Were we being too ambitious in the time we had, would many people turn up? I heard the sound of a lawn mower, then realised some-one had started to mow the church grass! and it was not on the "To Do List" , and so it started, people turned up looked at the list and just got on with the jobs in hand.

Cleaning teams were formed, the work continued throughout the morning (we did have a quick coffee break) and the " The To Do List" was ticked off -

Sanctuary



Cornwall Room



Main Hall



Gardening



What great team work and so much achieved in a short space of time well done and thank you to all who came and made it possible.

Val Gill ... and thank you from the Property Group



The Chronicle: Autumn 2022

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

Please submit articles in either 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

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Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

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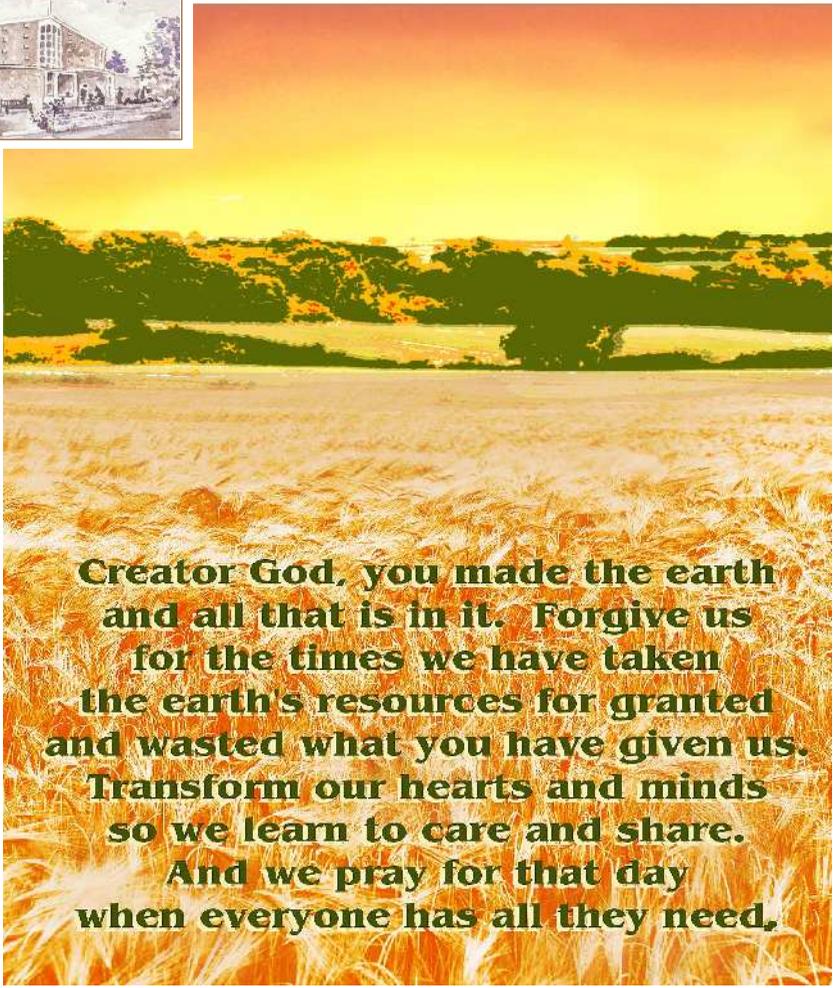




The **Chronicle**

Autumn 2022

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



**Creator God, you made the earth
and all that is in it. Forgive us
for the times we have taken
the earth's resources for granted
and wasted what you have given us.
Transform our hearts and minds
so we learn to care and share.
And we pray for that day
when everyone has all they need,**

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

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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

Safeguarding lead: Mrs Rosemary Terry and Mrs Mary Redman

Mobile: 07732 358560 Email: safeguarding@gurc.org.uk

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

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The **Chronicle**

Autumn 2022

Vol.79 No. 672



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 - 12/13 Hedgehogs, Monday Afternoon, Skittles Evening**
 - 14 Walking 600 Miles for the fun.** - Caroline Hibbs
 - 18/19 Crossword Puzzle**
-

The Chronicle: Winter 2022

The deadline for Winter magazine articles is 1 November

Items can be submitted by Email to chronicle@gurc.org.uk or directly to the Editor.

The Winter edition will be available from Sunday 4th December

From the Manse

Rev Andrew Sellwood



My countdown clock to retirement is inexorably running down. Sadly, the time has come to drastically reduce my library. Even more distressing is that no one wants the books! I have contacted colleges, charities, and churches. One local second-hand book seller expressed interest, however when I told them the subject matter, they were very sorry but couldn't take them, 'not much call for theological stuff'. So, it's to the tip they go to be recycled. Goodbye old friends. There is one slim volume I am keeping, it is a commentary given to me back in 1988 by a family member on 2 Timothy.

On the flyleaf is written 'We hope this will help you carry out the difficult duties entrusted to you' then a reference to chapter 2 verse 15. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

I consider Paul's letters to Timothy to be as relevant and inspiring today as they were then. At times I have felt they were speaking directly to me when I was facing a situation that was difficult or challenging. As I reflect back on my ministry there have been some awful times. If I told you, you probably wouldn't believe me! It was all down to the complete lack of grace that some 'Christian' people in church have. Perhaps someday I will publish my memoirs. Of course, there have been good times as well. Overall, I feel it has been an honour and blessing to have laboured for the Lord. I can honestly say in times of trouble he has been there with me.

That brings me to the times we are all facing or about to face. On the news we have so many warnings about hard times ahead and another possible (probable) recession. Over the winter there will be many families facing financial hardships as basic bills rise.

A phrase being glibly banded about is 'people will have a choice to heat or eat'. This comes from commentators and politicians who will have no problems making their own ends meet.

There are wars and rumours of wars. We are all too aware of the tragic war in Ukraine but there are another nine major conflicts taking place. They don't appear on our TV news, at this time of writing we seem to be more concerned over celebrities falling out and of the uncharacteristically hot weather, yes, it is hot we can tell! Rehydrate, drink more water, I forgot we are in a drought. Seriously, despite the floods in places there is a world-wide shortage of fresh water.

Our global climate is changing leading to extremes of weather conditions. Floods, fires, famine and fighting characterise the world. There is a global refugee problem, 90 million people displaced from their homes and countries, hopelessly wandering the planet.

All the facts and figures are becoming more extreme, we are breaking records in all the wrong ways.

In the UK our churches are suffering post Covid, denominational churches are down in attendance by 34% (recent Evangelical Alliance survey for the church times May 2022).

However, the good news is there are signs of growth in the evangelical/charismatic churches. Those that are Bible based and worship centred. So now we are in a season where we must do some serious thinking and praying about a way forward. This applies to how we live and how we are Church in the next few years. Relationships between church and community have struggled somewhat over the last couple of years. We need to build bridges again.

“We know from other pieces of research that there is an openness to the gospel at this time and the most common pathway to faith is through a Christian friend.

This research highlights the need for every church to prioritise inspiring every member to be a great friend and equipping them to be able to share their faith.” – Phil Knox, Head of mission to young adults, Evangelical Alliance.

This is also what the LICC programme teaches on its Frontline initiative. As individuals we all have different places and circumstances where we meet people. In those environments we can be ourselves with no fixed agenda or thoughts of ‘I must convert my lost friend before it’s too late’. We wait and when the time is right or appropriate, we can share our faith, God will do the rest. That way we come over as genuine not as an overzealous evangelist. God will give us opportunities; God will give us words. We see this in the letter to Timothy.

Chapter two of the second letter to Timothy begins with a warning, after nine verses describing all kinds of problems and despicable people. “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days”. Paul then goes on to encourage Timothy.

A Final Charge to Timothy

¹⁰You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹persecutions, sufferings —what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹²In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We need to remember that God is in control of His church and of His Kingdom. Disasters and catastrophes come and go but God will always prevail. If we follow him closely, we will also prevail, be more than conquerors (Romans 8:37 - do yourself a favour and read all of Romans 8). Sometimes we forget this and need reminding when things seem to be going badly.

We must re-tune ourselves into God's wavelength. Just like a radio the signal may drift a bit and get a bit fuzzy (OK perhaps not in this digital age but this is a metaphor) and needs to be retuned, we also may drift and need to be fine-tuned, or 'tweaked' as it said in my synonym selector in MS word.

As we continue along our journey of faith we learn and apply God's word. We see God working in people's lives and that gives us motivation and confidence to carry on. Just as Timothy is thoroughly equipped for every good work so can we be.

Andrew Sellwood

The Earth's Temperatures

One hundred years ago, on 13th September 1922, the highest temperature ever recorded in the world was reported to be 57.7 Centigrade (136 Fahrenheit) in Al'Aziziyah in Libya.

This stood for nearly a century but was challenged at various times and eventually decertified by the World Meteorological Organisation in 2012, which believed there was a faulty reading. It was replaced by a record of 134F (56.7C), taken not in these heady days of climate crisis, but back in July 1913, at the aptly named Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, California.

There are many other examples of temperatures near to 60C going as far back as 1909 (Cherokee, Oklahoma) and 1966 (Sonora, Mexico).

The WMO is an agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international co-operation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.

Temperature peaks are measured in three major ways: air, ground, and through satellite observation. Of these, air measurements are used as standard because of the persistent unreliability of ground and satellite readings. Since these measurements generally are taken of necessity in extreme conditions, they are frequently challenged, and a great deal of uncertainty remains.

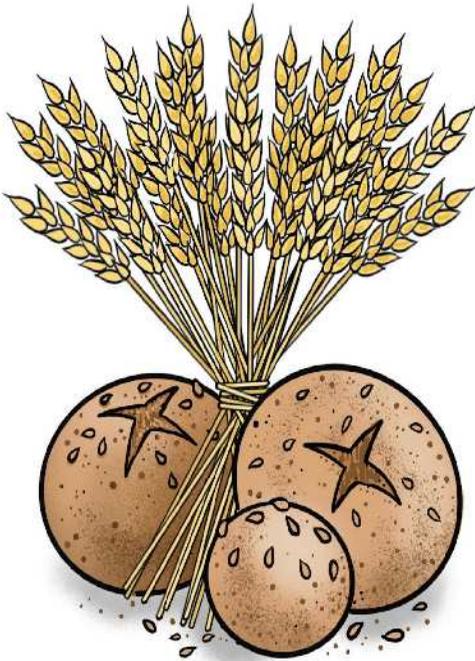
For comparison purposes, the hot weather in the UK in July this year peaked at 40.3C (104.5F), at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, on the 19th of that month. Many schools closed.

The Parish Pump

Tuesday Fellowship

In June and July we met in the garden and had beautiful weather both times. One day in July we had a very noisy sports day behind us. Eventually it ended and we had peace, perfect peace. It has been great to get together, enjoy the garden, chat and tea and cake.

In September we will be back in the Cornwall Room with a mix of speakers and in house sessions. It would be great to have more friends



Artwork by Deborah Noble

We met in the garden
The sky was blue
We talked away
And had lots to say.
We had cake and tea
And the garden to see
A good time was had by all !

Bobby Hitchin

One Day's Trek is Five Minutes Flying

MAF FLIES MOSQUITO NETS TO REMOTE PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Malaria is a disease which kills thousands of people globally every year. MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) has partnered with Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) for over ten years and their goal is to eradicate malaria from the face of the earth using proven interventions such as free long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets.



1 - MAF plane and nets

This year 2022 MAF and RAM delivered 34,250 nets to 26 airstrips across Papua New Guinea's (PNG) vast, isolated areas.

In remotest PNG there are no roads or infrastructure and the only means of transport in mountainous areas is either walking or flying. MAF serves some 200 bush airstrips and so great are the distances it can take two days to walk to the nearest airstrip. For RAM to distribute these life-saving nets MAF are the most cost-effective, reliable, fastest and safest mode of transport to reach vulnerable, rural communities.

Siobhain Cole from MAF's PNG Ground Operations team says: 'We specialise in flying to very hard, remote communities, such as Telefomin because no one else will fly to its airstrips.

They are very remote, steep, scary airstrips that no commercial operator will fly to. We're also flying nets to 20 bush airstrips serving 32 health centres. Each centre serves at least a dozen villages. Without MAF not everyone would get a net'.

For Siobhain and her team it has been an intense and complex operation. The nets are weighed, and any fuel drums that may be required to transport the nets further (i.e. motor operated canoes), also passengers and their luggage. In addition to thorough logistical planning, good weather is also key to a successful operation.



2 - Siobhain and Ryan

As MAF pilot (Siobhain’s husband) Ryan Cole testifies: ‘We may have a wonderful plan, but PNG has some of the most challenging flying in the world because of the weather, created by the mountains – cloud on the ridge lines needing pilots to find holes in the cloud to find the airstrips. In hundreds of miles of cloud, there might be just one little clear hole I can go through.



Sometimes it feels like God is giving me a window’ Without MAF to fly from Telefomin to Edwaki there would be huge implications for RAM in terms of logistics, time and cost.

Without MAF it would take four days on foot to reach the nearest river, another two days to travel by canoe and another day of walking – a week of overland travel compared to a 30-minute flight.

I have written this article with permission from Mission Aviation Fellowship so that you can visualise and thank God for the wonderful work they do. Here are their details if you wish to get in touch or contribute to their



organisation: MAF UK, 1st Floor, Castle Hill Folkestone, CT20 2TQ 01303 850950

www.maf-uk.org

Eileen Rhodes

Remembrance Day Quiz

1. The two-minute silence is held on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. But at what time was the `Armistice of 1918, which signified the end of the war, signed? 5am 10am or 11pm the night before
2. How many horses were used by Britain in WW1?
120,000 1.2 million 1.5 million 12 million
3. How many women served in the Women's Auxiliary Army between January 1917 and November 1918? 27,000 57,000 107,000
4. How many British people were evacuated in major cities during WW1? 1.5 million 4 million 500,000
5. How many soldiers and labourers from across the Empire and Commonwealth served alongside the British Army in the First World War? 1.3 million 2 million 3 million 30 million
6. Who wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields', and what nationality?
7. What does the word 'Cenotaph' literally translate as?
8. Which of these countries was neutral in World War 1?
Spain Bulgaria Portugal Nepal
9. Which building was surrounded by a sea of ceramic poppies in 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1?
10. Who lays the first wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day?

Answers on page 19

Quiz donated by Mrs Marion Tarbuck of Worthing USA



Garden Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are a gardener's friend, as they eat beetles, caterpillars, worms and other invertebrates. Did you know that as many as ten different hedgehogs may visit a garden over several nights, which could mean 'your hedgehog' is actually a number of different ones visiting at different times! To encourage them to visit you, leave areas of your garden wild, with piles of leaves, logs or compost. These are an attractive nest, as well as a home for the invertebrates that hedgehogs like to eat. You could place a piece of board against a wall thus making an artificial home for them. *Information gathered from <https://rspca.org>*

Monday Afternoons Coffee Cake Chat

You are invited to come and join us on Mondays 2 - 4pm for a Cuppa, Cake and Chat.

Maybe a game of Scrabble.
We are very friendly and welcome all. Hope to see you.

Rosina, Val and Christina





The Covid delayed Skittles Evening from 2020 -
Saturday 25th June 2022 at The Spur, Slindon
Eighteen enjoyed a few games of skittles with a hot buffet.

Photo by Chloe

Church Website

Did You Know

1. From the front page of our website you can reach the current Sunday Service, Welcome, Members'Area, and Diary of Events, as well as our new Safeguarding pages.
2. You can search for past week's services from the top menu bar, under 'Worship'

Walking 600 Miles - for the fun ?

After the first lockdown Graham asked for news of what we had been doing during the imposed house arrest that the whole world was experiencing. What DID we do with ourselves then and during the time later when we were allowed out but not to socialise?

Well we, that is David and I decided to go for a walk! Not just an afternoon stroll, oh no not nearly challenging enough. Many of you know that we embarked on walking the Monarch's Way a 600ish mile long national footpath which allegedly was the escape route of King Charles II in 1651. It passes Findon Church and goes up through Nepcote. I say 600ish because some information says 615 and some 625 miles. Just to keep you reading I shall tell you how far we walked later.

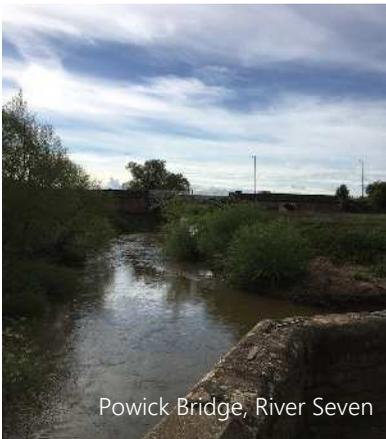
The background to this tale; King Charles II lost the battle of Worcester in September 1651 and to avoid death by Oliver Cromwell and with the help of sympathisers he went North to return to Scotland but didn't get any further than the Wolverhampton area. The route then comes south via Stratford-upon-Avon and on to Charmouth then along the South of England from Dorset to Sussex where from Shoreham he boarded a boat to France.

We didn't walk the route in the correct order as we completed the last leg across the South of England first because it was near home. Covid rules were that we were not to travel too far away from home. So during the latter part of 2020 when we were allowed we completed the first 200 miles. It was probably the best thing we could do to keep fit and healthy in

the time of social distancing as we didn't meet many people on the trail. We were self sufficient with food and drink on our backs and using 2 vehicles to ferry ourselves around, taking one to the end of the days route and one to the beginning, walking in between. On this first leg, we experienced some very steep hills and the most beautiful views, from The Trundle

behind Chichester our 360 degree view took in the Isle of Wight to the west and the 7 Sisters to the East, its not often you can see both ways but we did that day. Its a climb I would really recommend. The most challenging hills on this leg were the cliffs at Charmouth it is also part of the South West Coastal Path. They were steep to climb up but so much worse coming down I resorted to slowly sliding down on my derriere, I learnt that my knees may not be up to it!!!

Well the South was complete in 2020 so we waited for Spring 2021 to begin again, this time doing it in the same order as the King from Worcester and finishing in Charmouth. Starting at Powick Bridge which is the site of the Battle of Worcester to Stratford-upon-Avon via Boscobel.



Powick Bridge, River Seven

Most of the trail on this leg was along canals in the West Midlands which are really beautiful and very easy walking.

We were beginning to see a pattern of the Kings route it was always away from towns and villages and also always passing country churches where he could rest perhaps.

He took refuge in Boscobel House, North West of Wolverhampton where he hid for a few days in a priest hole hidden in the house. This was also the place where he hid in an oak tree while soldiers were searching the house and grounds. An oak tree is still there but it is a great granddaughter of the original!

All the time his friends and servants were working hard for him trying to find an escape route.

We continued on the trail from the West Midlands south to Stratford along canals and crossing motorways and across farmers fields.

One of our day's walk on this part of the journey was 17 miles going through one of the longest canal tunnels in the country.



The Netherton Tunnel is 2768 metres long or 1.72 miles. It was pitch black with 3 openings for air but so overgrown they didn't offer any light, thank goodness for torches. There was a safety rail so no falling into the murky water! I was quite convinced we were in an episode of *Midsummer Murders*!!

It was exciting but frightening too. The King left the West Midlands with the help of another sympathetic family as the servant of a woman who was going to visit her sister in

Bristol via Stratford, well that was his excuse! It was where he had been promised help and possibly a boat, which was sadly not forthcoming. It's 2022 now and we continued to Stratford, like the King, and they were really lovely walks. Moving on through Gloucestershire in gorgeous weather was a joy.

Then on to Somerset; it was a bit of a disappointment as the farmers don't keep the paths open becoming very difficult to get through; hard going. Mind you having said that some of the views are so beautiful they take your breath away.

We had great weather here thankfully for us and the tens of thousands of people who descended on Worthy Farm, Pilton for the Glastonbury Festival. Just to walk through the site and out the other side was an experience, not that I could ever entertain the idea of going to the concerts with such huge crowds!!

Another odd sight we encountered in Somerset was a tiny prison; picture below.



It is said that the roof inspired the police helmet but its other claim to fame was that if a child skipped Sunday School they were locked inside for a while. Eventually we left Somerset for Dorset and arrived in Charmouth our final destination.

We were sad and happy at the same time; sad to finish but happy that we had. We were blessed with good weather and hardly any rain over 3 summers 200 miles each. We loved it, and achieved our goal; walking 604 miles. The first leg we got blisters but kept going. We bought new boots for the second and third and no blisters.



David and Caroline

We met a couple somewhere in the West Midlands who were walking from Cornwall to Yorkshire to visit their Grandchildren for half term, it had taken 2 months with another 7 weeks to go.

We also met Hannah on a gap year who was walking the route and wild camping.

We met her in Bourton-on-the-Water outside the Co-op!!! She did the whole route in 57 days, We were there to greet her at the end and buy her a lunch of just chips, she had missed them!!!

Well we did it!!!

But Finally.....

The Captain of the ship that took the King to France from Shoreham-by-Sea was called Nicholas Tetterel. An unusual name but one I had heard before, the former Boss of Mid Sussex Roofing had the same name, sadly he has died but his son Jack still runs the business and when he was putting a new roof on our bungalow I asked him if he knew the story of the King's escape.....

The Captain of that ship from 1651 was Jack's 15 times Great Grandfather. What a lovely ending.

Caroline Hibbs

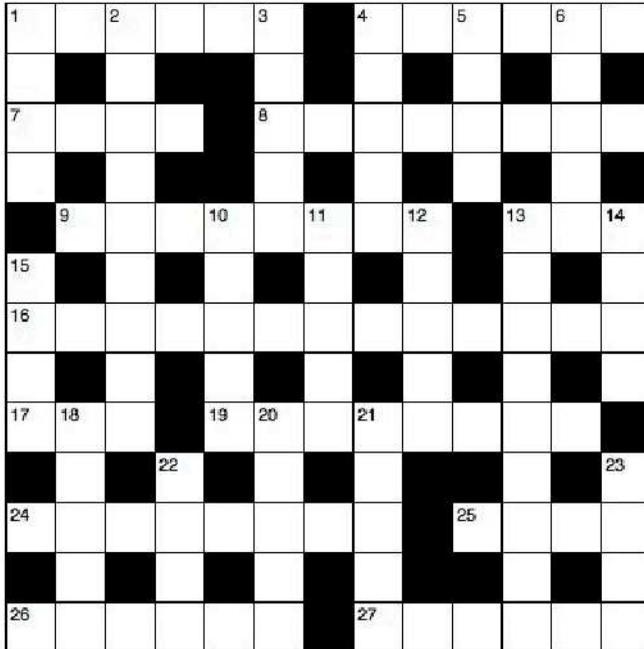
Autumn Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me'
(Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock(Luke 14:29)(8)
- 24 Disgrace(Psalm 44:13)(8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten (anag.)(5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)
- 22 Be distressed(Proverbs 24:19)(4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)



Crossword by Parish Pump. Solution on page 20

Answers to Remembrance Day Quiz on page 11

1. The two-minute silence is held on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. But at what time was the `Armistice of 1918, which signified the end of the war, signed **5am**,
2. How many horses were used by Britain in WW1? **1.2 million**
3. How many women served in the Women's Auxiliary Army between Jan 1917 and Nov 1918? **57,000**
4. How many British people were evacuated in major cities during WW1? **1.5 million**
5. How many soldiers and labourers from across the Empire and Commonwealth served alongside the British Army in the First World War? **3 million**
6. Who wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields', and what nationality? **John McCrea, Canada**
7. What does the word 'Cenotaph' literally translate as? **Empty Tomb**
8. Which of these countries was neutral in World War 1? **Spain**
9. Which building was surrounded by a sea of ceramic poppies in 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1? **The Tower of London**
10. Who lays the first wreath at the Cenotaph ? **The Queen or her representative.**

The Chronicle: Winter 2022

The closing date for the Winter magazine articles is 1 November.

Please submit articles in either 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

Crossword Solution from page 18/19

ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay.

8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act.

16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule.

24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

DOWN:1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree.

5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric.

13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve.

20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

New Here?

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

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

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

Weekday Activities

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

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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



Goring United Reformed Church

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

The United Reformed Church has over 1600 churches in England, Scotland and Wales with a total membership of about 46500.

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

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

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

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

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



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

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





The **Chronicle** Winter 2022/23

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



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

A Very Happy Christmas to all

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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

Safeguarding lead: Mrs Rosemary Terry and Mrs Mary Redman

Mobile: 07732 358560 Email: safeguarding@gurc.org.uk

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

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

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



The

Chronicle

Winter 2022/23

Vol.79 No. 673



Front Cover:

Designed for Christmas 2022

- 2 **From the Manse** - Rev Andrew Sellwood
 - 6 **Barn Dance** - Saturday 8 October
 - 8 **Biblical Puzzles**
 - 10 **A Motorhome called Heidi** - Val Gill
 - 12 ~~God~~ **A Dog Is For Life** - Ryan Thomas
 - 15 **Qualifications for a Preacher** - Submitted by Wilfred Rhodes
 - 16 **The Birth of Jesus** - as told in St Luke's Gospel
 - 17 **Christmas Services**
 - 18 **Chronicle Notice**
 - 19 **Coffee Morning on Friday 13th January** - Advertisement
-

The Next Chronicles: Spring & Summer 2023

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

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

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



From the Manse

Rev Andrew Sellwood

WINTER REFLECTION ЗИМНЯЯ РЕФЛЕКЦИЯ

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

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

The winter of discontent period dominated political memories of

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

As I mentioned I am writing this at the beginning of November.

Everything may have changed by the time you read this. Things can only get better as they say.

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

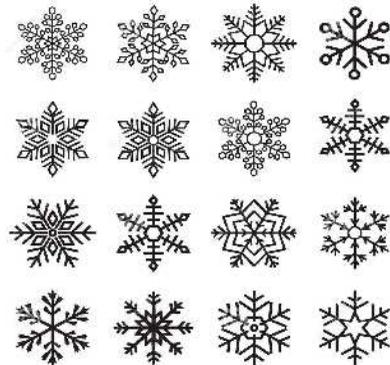
In the mornings net curtains would be frozen to the windows. I am beginning to sound like the Monty Python Four Yorkshiremen sketch when they discuss "the bad old days" and how young people don't properly appreciate what their elders had to go through (you can find this on YouTube).

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

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

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

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



Even two flakes floating side by side will each be blown through different levels of temperature, humidity and vapour to create a shape that is truly unique.

"Snowflake" has sadly also become a derogatory slang term for a person, implying that they have an inflated sense of uniqueness, an unwarranted sense of entitlement, or are overly emotional, easily offended, and unable to deal with opposing opinions ... I can't think of anyone who fits that bill!

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

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

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

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





Barn Dance Evening

8 October 2022

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

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





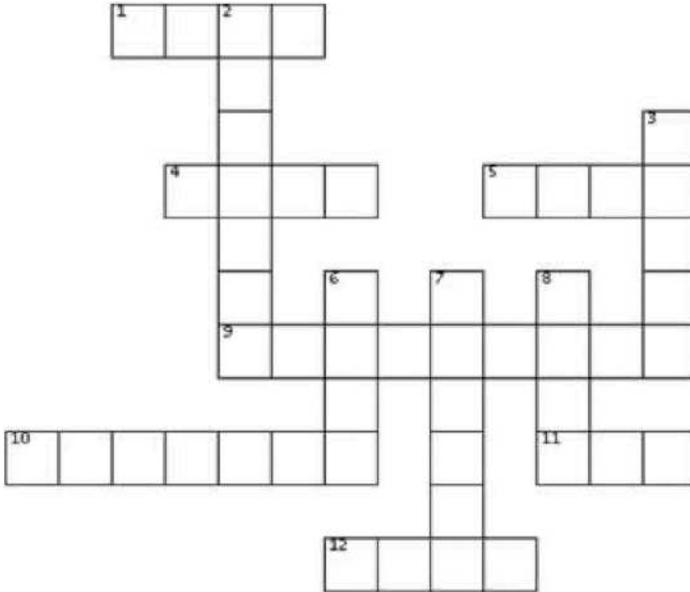
Thank you to all those who helped to clear and decorate the Sanctuary, buy and prepare the supper, advertise the event and sell the tickets. And we made a small profit. What a team! *Val Gill*



Photos: Paul & Mary Redman

Biblical Weather Puzzle

Based on NKJV



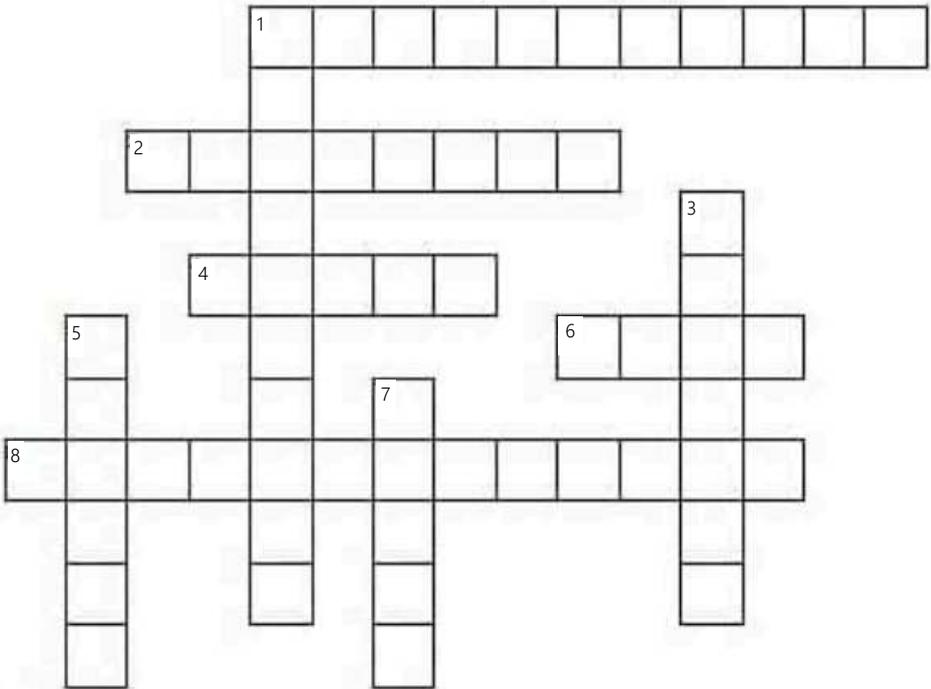
ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

The Beatitudes - The Sermon on the Mount



Across

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

Down

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

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

A Motorhome called Heidi

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

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



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



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

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

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

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



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

The Pretentiously-Titled Thomas Lectures Presents

God
~~A~~ Dog Is For Life, Not Just For Christmas

(Style Over Substance: Part II)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



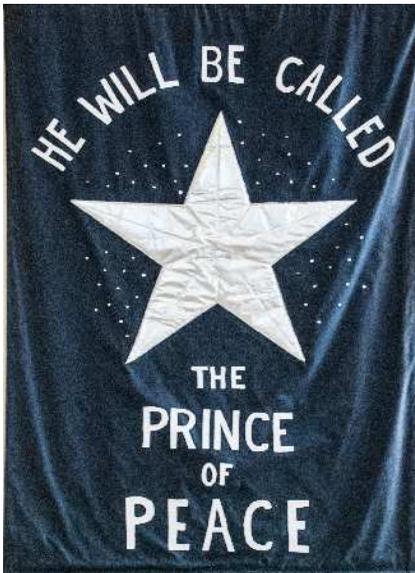
'God is for Life' Continued -

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

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

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

Ryan Thomas



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

Qualifications for a Preacher

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Birth of Jesus

as told in St Luke's Gospel (NIVUK)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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

Goring United Reformed Church Christmas Services



Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 15th December, 7pm

A traditional 9 lessons and carols service, held by candlelight.

Refreshments served after the service

Nativity Service

Christmas Eve, 5pm

A fun service aimed at young children. Come dressed up as your favourite Nativity character. Including songs by the Puppet Clubs and our Brass Band.

Refreshments served after the service

Christmas Morning Family Service

Saturday 25th December, 10.30am

A relaxed family service
led by Rev Andrew Sellwood



Chronicle Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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



Coffee Morning

in aid of

**BREAST
CANCER**

NOW The research &
support charity

Friday 13th January 2023
9.45am - 12noon

**Fresh coffee, tea and
homemade cakes**

The Chronicle: Spring 2023

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

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

Closing date: 1st May 2023

Answers to 'The Beatitudes' Quiz

Matthew 5

Across

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

Down

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

New Here?

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

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

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

Weekday Activities

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

Publications Team

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

Proof Reading: Mrs Jane Bond

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

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

2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

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

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

Thank you.

The **CHRONICLE**

<https://gurc.net/chronicle>

chronicle@gurc.org.uk



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

