



SOLIHULL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Serving Central Solihull, Olton and Hobs Moat
Communities

April/May 2024 Newsletter

*“And with great power the apostles were giving their
testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great
grace was upon them all.”*

Acts 4:33



SOLIHULL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Based in the town centre, Solihull URC seeks to minister and witness to the local community, the wider town and the areas of Olton and Hobs Moat where we have formerly had a worshipping presence.

We share our mission with other Churches and are in partnership with others in the community. We invite you to join us as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

www.solihullurc.org.uk
www.centralsolihullchurches.org.uk

LEADERSHIP TEAM

VACANT - Minister

Ian Carnell – Elder (Chair of the Elders, Worship & Prayer)

Gordon Laurie - Church Secretary & Elder

Liz Amos - Treasurer

Linda Faber - Mission Enabler & Lettings Administration

Howard Cotes – Elder

Bev Hands – Elder (Children’s work)

Barrie Jones - Elder (Property, Health & Safety)

Elaine Jones - Elder (Administration, Data protection, Catering)

Areas of special responsibility are listed in brackets.

APRIL 2024 DIARY DATES

Monday 1st – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 1st – Job Club – 10:30am

Sunday 7th – Sunday Worship led by Ian Carnell, followed by Annual Church Meeting (ACM) – 10am

Monday 8th – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 8th – Job Club – 10:30am

Tuesday 9th – English Conversation Café – 12:30pm

Tuesday 9th – Leisurely Lunch – 12:30pm

Thursday 11th – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

Thursday 11th - Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room

Saturday 13th - Saturday Café – 9am

Sunday 14th – Sunday Worship led by TBC – 10am

Monday 15th – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 15th – Shout Out for the Girls workshop – 10am

Monday 15th – Job Club – 10:30am

Tuesday 16th – English Conversation Café – 12:30pm

Thursday 18th – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

Thursday 18th - Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room

Saturday 20th - Saturday Café – 9am

Sunday 21st – Sunday Worship led by Rev Dr Rodger Charlton – 10am

Monday 22nd – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 22nd – Job Club – 10:30am

Tuesday 23rd – English Conversation Café – 12:30pm

Thursday 25th - Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

Thursday 25th - Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room

Thursday 25th – Solihull Churches Against Homelessness (SCAH) AGM - TBC

Saturday 27th - Saturday Café – 9am

Sunday 28th – Sunday Worship led by Linda Faber – 10am

Monday 29th – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 29th – Job Club – 10:30am

Tuesday 30th – English Conversation Café – 12:30pm

MAY 2024 DIARY DATES

Thursday 2nd – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

Thursday 2nd - Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room

Saturday 4th - Saturday Café – 9am

Sunday 5th – Sunday Worship and Communion led by Ian Carnell – 10am

Monday 6th – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 6th – Job Club – 10:30am

Tuesday 7th – English Conversation Café – 12:30pm

Thursday 9th – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

Thursday 9th - Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room

Saturday 11th - Saturday Café – 9am

Sunday 12th – Christian Aid Sunday Worship led by the Elders – 10am

Monday 13th – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 13th – Shout Out for the Girls workshop – 10am

Monday 13th – Job Club – 10:30am

Tuesday 14th – English Conversation Café – 12:30pm

Tuesday 14th – Leisurely Lunch – 12:30pm

Wednesday 15th – Churches Together in Central Solihull Prayer Lunch – 12:30pm

Thursday 16th – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

Thursday 16th - Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room

Saturday 18th - Saturday Café – 9am

Sunday 19th – Sunday Worship led by Ian Carnell – 10am

Monday 20th – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 20th – Job Club – 10:30am

Tuesday 21st – English Conversation Café – 12:30pm

Thursday 23rd - Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

Thursday 23rd - Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room

Saturday 25th - Saturday Café – 9am

Sunday 26th – Sunday Worship led by Linda Faber – 10am

Monday 27th – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 27th – Job Club – 10:30am

Thursday 30th - Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room

ROTAS

Please sign the rotas at the back of church if you can serve in any of the following roles. Thank you to those who have volunteered:

Sunday Welcome (2 people needed each week)

Serving Coffee (2 people needed each week)

Providing flowers for the Communion Table

Please consider if you can learn how to serve in any of these ways for the first time. If you have no previous experience in serving in any of these ways, we would be more than happy to help you.



SYNOD REP

We still do not have a Synod Representative. The purpose of the role is to keep us in touch with what is happening in the wider church, help us to access resources and personnel that we could make use of, and to attend the Synod meetings only a couple of times a year.

Could you take on this role to keep us in touch with the wider church? Please speak to Gordon Laurie if you are interested in finding out more.

Linda Faber

SATURDAY CAFÉ URGENT REQUEST

We have had an excellent response for volunteers over the last seven years, and I would like to thank them for their support. However unfortunately we are in need of more help, especially if anyone is on holiday or is unable to cover. We usually work in pairs and training will be given.

We have found it very rewarding, enabling us to have conversations and build relationships with those who use the café. The café is open every Saturday during term time from 9 - 11:30am. If you are able to come and join us and help to keep the café open, please contact me and I will talk to you about the details. Many thanks.

Elaine Jones

SOLIHULL JOB ADVICE GROUP

Solihull Job Advice Group meets every Monday morning at Solihull United Reformed Church from 10.30am until 12.30pm. We are an informal, friendly group and offer help on all aspects of job seeking. Do join us for a free coffee, a chat and help with your job application.

Trixie Harman

SUNDAY 7TH APRIL

Please note there is no communion during the service on Sunday 7th April.

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

If yes, why not come along and join our friendly SINGING FOR PLEASURE group.



We sing a mixture of popular, folk, classical and sacred songs. We meet in the church cafe on Thursday afternoons at 2pm. Usually we sing for about an hour and then we have refreshments and a chat. Most of all we have fun while making music.

It only costs £2.50 which includes the music. Why not try it. No audition needed. Free taster session. Please see me for more details.

NB Singing for Pleasure will not be meeting Thursday 28 March and Thursday 3 April.

Janet Ince

THE LEPROSY MISSION – COFFEE MORNING

Please join me for a coffee morning to raise funds for this worthy cause on:

Friday 12th April

From 10.30 – 12.30

At 19 Raddington Drive, Olton, B92 7DU

Homemade cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received.

Anne Cherry

DINING OUT LUNCH

Come and enjoy a leisurely lunch and a chat in our café style restaurant

on

Tuesday 9th April at 12.30 pm

£4.00

ALL ARE WELCOME

MENU

Chicken Chasseur

Seasonal Vegetables

.....

Apple Pie and Custard

.....

Tea or Coffee



Please book by contacting Elaine 0121 744 6067 or email
vej46@yahoo.co.uk

By Thursday 4th April 2024

DINING OUT LUNCH

Come and enjoy a leisurely lunch and a chat in our café style restaurant

on

Tuesday 14th May at 12.30 pm

£4.00

ALL ARE WELCOME

MENU

Minced Beef Pie & Gravy

Seasonal Vegetables

.....

Fruit Crumble and Custard

.....

Tea or Coffee



Please book by contacting Elaine 0121 744 6067 or email

vej46@yahoo.co.uk

By Thursday 9th May 2024

SHINE YOUTH - AFTERNOON TEA

Shine Youth are holding an afternoon tea on Sunday 21st April.



The event is from 2 - 5pm and every £5 for coffee / tea and cake (and any other optional donations) will be match-funded.

Shine Youth is a Christian charity in Solihull with whom volunteers from many of the local churches provide listening and mentoring support to 11 - 18 year olds experiencing mental health and wellbeing difficulties like anxiety and bereavement. They are fundraising to continue and to expand this work as it is in high demand in schools and at their Youth Wellbeing Cafe in Shirley. Delicious homemade cakes will be enjoyed in the beautiful Wren Hall on the Warwick Road not far from Knowle. Plenty of free parking is available.

Many thanks,

Cheryl Hawkins
Shine Youth CEO

MINISTERIAL UPDATE

As mentioned at the Church Meeting on 4 February, a meeting took place on 19 February involving as many representatives from the 7 Churches who make up the South East Birmingham and Solihull grouping who could make the date. This had been convened by our WM Synod Moderator to explore the options going forward as regards the provision of a Stipendiary Minister to serve this group of Churches.

Due to existing arrangements enjoyed by some of the Churches the initial scoping will be concentrated on Hall Green United Community Church, Digbeth –in –the –Field and Solihull. These 3 Churches will be responsible for funding ministerial expenses on a pro rata basis, possibly based on membership. The Manse at 118 Buryfield Road will be made available.

A revised and much reduced Pastorate Profile from each of the 3 Churches was urgently requested. This has been prepared by Linda and myself and submitted. Linda has the unenviable task of creating a combined profile for approval by the Ministry Development Committee so that the vacancy can be declared.

We have a new Interim Moderator, Chris Dowd. A Vacancy Call Group will be established to receive profiles of candidates and make all necessary arrangements on behalf of their Fellowship. This Group will consist of two Elders from each Church and we will be represented by Ian Carnell and Bev Hands.

A tight timescale is required with the objective being to have someone in place by September.

I will endeavour to keep the Fellowship up to date with developments.

Gordon Laurie



Coffee morning
Saturday 11th May



Books Books **Books**

CALLING ALL PAPER BACK BOOKS



Once again, Solihull URC will be supporting Christian Aid week by running a second-hand book stall at the Christian Aid coffee morning to be held at Solihull Methodist Church on Saturday 11th May 2024.

WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR PAPER BACK BOOKS. WE WILL START COLLECTING IN APRIL. PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR COLLECTION BOXES AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH OR IN THE NATTERY.

Myles Ensor

(I would appreciate any offers of help on the book stall 10-2 pm)



2023 CHURCH CHARITIES DONATION TOTALS

Please see below the breakdown of donations to our two 2023 charities. The donations were from a number of events including Singing for Pleasure and the Saturday café. The reason why Educaid Africa has a little more is because the donations from the two Singing for Pleasure concerts were specifically for the particular charities.

NICE: £793.97

Educaid Africa: £834.29

TOTAL: £1,628.26

Liz Amos

COACH TRIPPERS UNITED

At last I am able to give you the list of our coach trips this year:

Thursday 18th April - The late Peter Scotts Wetland Centre at Slimbridge



Thursday 16th May - Powis Castle and Gardens. N.T.

Thursday 13th June - Rutland Water Cruise with coffee and biscuits and Melton Mowbray

Thursday 18th July - The late Queen's Savill Garden at Windsor

Thursday 15th August - Trentham Gardens

Thursday 19th September - Belvoir Castle

Thursday 17th October - Batsford Arboretum and Moreton-in-Marsh

As usual the trips will leave West Warwick Sports Club at 8.30 and the cost (£25) will include coach, driver tip and car parking with all entrance fees extra. Booking for the first trip starts on March 1st by email please. davidargall185@btinternet.com

David Argall



FUNDRAISING APPEAL

I'm abseiling down Millennium Point to raise money for NICE!

For those who aren't aware, NICE (National Institute of Conductive Education) are a charity based in Moseley providing a range of flexible services, such as physical therapy, to adults and children with movement disorders. Harry, our eldest, has attended services at NICE since 2020, and has really benefited from their support and guidance.

NICE are organising the event on Saturday 13th April, and I'm abseiling to help support the charity with their work. If you would like to make a donation towards their work, please let me know either in-person, or email me at samjensor@gmail.com. Thank you!

Sam Mills

HONEY FOR SALE

As you will be aware, NICE (National Institute for Conductive Education) has been one of the Church charities this year. During April as a final push to raise funds for NICE before the charities are changed, I will be selling local honey made by my bees. NICE have been a tremendous help and support for Harry my grandson who continues to benefit greatly from the sessions he attends there every month.



Costs will be 454g (1bl) £7.00 for and 227g (1/2bl) £4.00.

Myles Ensor

KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Minister

VACANT

Church Secretary

Mr. Gordon Laurie – 07500 902593 – gordonjlaurie@gmail.com

Church Phone Number

0121 709 5505

Website

www.solihullurc.org.uk

Hall Lettings: 0121 709 5505

Safeguarding: Melanie Tillman - 07511 084840

Generations Project - enabling the Church in care homes

www.generationssolihull.org.uk generationssolihull@icloud.com

Zoom Details

Meeting ID: 865 7763 7936

Passcode: 986653

JUNE/JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Material for the June/July 2024 edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

stuartkmills@gmail.com

by Sunday 19th May please.