



**SOLIHULL**

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Serving Central Solihull, Olton and Hobs Moat  
Communities

**September 2020 Newsletter**

*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we  
shall reap, if we faint not*

***Galatians 6:9***



## **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](http://www.solihullurc.org.uk)**  
**[www.centralsolihullchurches.org.uk](http://www.centralsolihullchurches.org.uk)**

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**VACANT - Minister**

Gordon Justham - **Church Secretary & Elder**

Linda Faber - **Mission Enabler & Lettings Administration**

Maureen Butler - **Elder (worship & prayer, charities, social activities)**

Trixie Harman - **Elder (Youth & Children)**

Barrie Jones - **Elder (Property, Health & Safety)**

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

Jackie Justham - **Elder (charities, social activities)**

Gordon Laurie – **Elder**

Chris Harman - **Elder**

Liz Amos - **Treasurer**

Areas of special responsibility are listed in brackets.

## Regular Sunday worship is beginning again from 6th September

### WHAT TO EXPECT AT CHURCH

If you decide that it is the right time for you to return to worship at church you will notice some changes there.

You are asked to wear a face mask unless you have an appropriate reason not to. At the doors there are hand sanitiser units for everyone to use as they enter. There are markings on the floor 2m apart helping people remain appropriately distanced. You are asked to sign in just in case 'track and trace' is triggered following any meeting or service.



Hand sanitiser unit ready for your arrival.

For Sunday services you are asked to place your offertory in the basket by the door as you enter. You will be directed to a seat at an appropriate distance from someone else. There are no cushions on the pews - if you need one you should bring one from home. There are no books so everything you need will be on the Notice sheet as well as certain items being on the screen if that is appropriate for you.

Our raised stage area at the front is sufficient distance from the congregation that whilst leading worship the worship leader will not have to wear a face mask which we hope will help with audibility, clarity, facial expression and lip reading.



Removing the cushions from church as we prepare to welcome you back in a safe environment.

Once they leave the platform they too will put on a mask.

Disappointingly we ask you not to have conversation with others inside the church and there should be no physical contact between households such as handshakes or hugs. Smiley eyes and waving is acceptable and encouraged.

For September there will be no communion or live singing, though we will be including music in the services. We plan to hold a communion service in October.

The service will be shorter than usual to reduce the risk of disease transmission and potential exposure should anyone unwittingly be a carrier.

We would be greatly helped if you could indicate whether you are planning to attend in person worship services. Let us know either by email (solihullurc@gmail.com) or tell the person who is your pastoral contact when they phone you this week.

**Linda Faber**

**The Lectionary readings for Sundays in September are as follows:**

**6 September:** Matthew 18.15-20; Ezekiel 33.7-11; Psalm 119.33-40; Romans 13.8-14

**13 September:** Matthew 18.21-35; Genesis 50.15-21; Psalm 103.(1-7),8-13; Romans 14.1-12

**20 September:** Matthew 20.1-16; Jonah 3.10-4.11; Psalm 145.1-8; Philippians 1.21-30

**27 September:** Matthew 21.23-32; Ezekiel 18.1-4, & 25-32; Psalm 25.1-9; Philippians 2.1-13

**The Worship leaders for September are:**

<b>6 September</b>	Mr Ian Carnell
<b>13 September</b>	Mr Gordon Justham
<b>20 September</b>	Rev Mary Burgess
<b>27 September</b>	Mrs Linda Faber

Please note that there is no Communion Service in September. The final Sunday in September will be our Harvest Festival (non-perishable goods only please).

**Gordon Justham**

**ARE YOU A PATIENT PERSON?**

Are you a patient person? I know I am not. I want quick results and no waiting. However I have learnt with the passing years that waiting and being patient brings greater rewards.

One of my favourite Bible characters is Elijah, the Old Testament prophet. You can read his story in 1 Kings 16 v29 – 2 Kings 2 v12. It is possibly because I have been fortunate enough to sing in Mendelssohn's oratorio 'Elijah' with a large choir, orchestra and soloists. The beautiful music brought his fantastic and dramatic story to life.

At one point in his life Elijah's spiritual and physical strength had been strained and he was left in the grip of depression, fear, and disappointment. In one of the lovely solo pieces the angel sings to Elijah 'O rest in the Lord. Wait patiently for Him and He shall give thee thy heart's desires'. The angel encourages Elijah to keep to his path and not worry but trust in God. Later God also speaks to Elijah, not in a spectacular way, but out of the stillness. Self-pity is dealt with, a sense of proportion restored and the path ahead mapped out.

At this uncertain time of Lockdown let us all try to be patient, reading his word, praying for each other and our church. God will reveal his plans in some way. So let us be patient and ready.

May God bless you all,

**Janet Ince**

### **CHURCH CLEANING**

Bridget has expressed a wish to step down as the co-ordinator liaising with the cleaning company who clean our premises. The role involves communication with the cleaners regularly either in person, by phone or through notes left for them. Cleaning products and loo rolls also need regular ordering as is necessary to ensure stocks are sufficient. Please speak to her to find out about the role.

We thank Bridget for her faithful service as the co-ordinator of cleaning services. It is another of those essential roles which can remain unnoticed by many but from which we all benefit. Thank you Bridget.

### **CHURCH PREMISES INTO THE FUTURE - updated**

The Elders have been looking again at the idea of renovating, or redeveloping, our church premises. Having explored renovating, redeveloping seems the most sensible option to resolve all our known issues, but no decision has been made yet. The decision will be made at a Church Meeting.

We would like to put together a 'wish list' for each of the groups which we organise ourselves. I asked last month for group leaders to let me know requirements. I have had two replies. I would still like to hear from those involved with children's work and Saturday café, and if anyone is involved with any of the Churches Together projects that we

facilitate in any way could you have a discussion with that group/group's leaders I would appreciate it.

We cannot promise that you will get everything, but it is a starting point. Consider how much space you use and whether you could use more or less. How much storage space do you need? Ideally does that need to be close by or would further away be acceptable? Do you have, or desire, special furniture or equipment which needs storage? Would outside space be useful? What would need to be included in that space? How close does a kitchen need to be? Does the inside or outside space need to be secure from people wandering through? Think carefully about how you operate. Would a different space enable you to do things better? What would help? What do you like about the current facilities? What do you really find unhelpful or off-putting? Please pass your thoughts to me or one of the Elders.

**Linda Faber**

### **JILL LOUGHSCOTT**

It is with sadness to tell you that Jill Loughscott died on 23rd July 2020.

Jill was a very active member of Olton URC and assisted in the Junior Church for many years and had a very strong faith. She and Robin made the transition from Olton to Solihull URC until they moved to Kenilworth Church approximately three years ago, where she and Robin were married many years ago, and so completed the full circle. Jill suffered with Parkinson's disease for over twenty years but carried her burden with dignity and always a smile.

She was such a kind, quiet, sincere and thoughtful "Lady" and will be sorely missed. Jill's final resting place will be in Oxfordshire.

**Elaine Jones**

## **'SEPTEMBER'**

Lo! a ripe sheaf of many golden days  
Gleaned by the year in autumn's harvest ways,  
With here and there, blood-tinted as an ember,  
Some crimson poppy of a late delight  
Atoning in its splendour for the flight  
Of summer blooms and joys-  
This is September.

**Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942)**



### **A Covid blessing**

**God be with you, together or alone;  
Outside the house or in your home.  
Keep you well and virus free;  
Soothe your mind, so peacefully.  
May those around be calm and kind,  
So worries can be left behind:  
Then, as you reach your evening rest,  
Sleep in God's love, forever blest.**

*Carol Andrews*

## LITERATURE

How can we keep passing on the Gospel message and the story of Redemption during this time where we are encouraged not to mix with other people?

One thing we can do is make use of written material. You might have a leaflet, booklet, Christian article, passage from a Christian book you will need to copy out, an internet article, message in a card- anything which you think might help or challenge someone you know to consider Christ. You might buy something in specifically.

Read through your literature and think if what you have read brings anyone to mind. You could ask God to bring someone to mind. Is this message useful to the stage of life, or situation, someone is in? Write to that person and include your leaflet or article telling them why you thought of them when you read it.

For those of you who will be coming back to church over the next few months I have at church small magazines (I ordered one each for everybody – and I plan to distribute them with the printed copies of the newsletter) which have a variety of positive Christian articles. Perhaps you could take one, read it and see if any of the articles is suitable specifically for a friend or family member, then pass it on to them. Next time you speak to them or write again, ask them what they thought about it. If they haven't read it you could gently remind them you thought they would benefit from it but don't nag.

You never know, it just might make a difference but you won't know if you don't try.

Go into all the world and make disciples.

**Linda Faber**

## **ELDERSHIP**

Trixie Harman has resigned from the Eldership with immediate effect. She has made this decision for health reasons and will continue to be involved where she can.

We thank Trixie for all that she has put into her leadership role and offer our prayers for the coming days. Thank you Trixie.

## **MISSION ENABLER**

You may know that I work 25 hours a week during the school term as Mission Enabler over which I am willing to be flexible as needed. However I do try to have regular work hours for the most part, so people know when I am usually available. My children have got slightly different school hours this year and so I am changing my work time slightly to fit in with that. I will now normally be available Monday to Thursday 8.15am-2.30pm. Some of that will be at church but I will probably continue to do some of those hours from home until things return to 'normal'. **Linda**

## **SHINE YOUTH**

Shine Youth (previously called This Way Up) is a local Christian grief counselling service for young people who operate through our local Secondary Schools. As schools recommence after lock-down Shine Youth have been called in to organize extra group counselling sessions for young people who have not dealt well with the pandemic generally or aspects of it specifically. There are many young people who have suffered with anxiety over the last months who have not got a lifetime perspective behind them to help them cope. Please pray for this organization in their work over the next few months. If you wish to support them financially they would be very grateful as they, like all charities, have been hit hard financially by the pandemic and yet their work is in greater demand. You can find more information about them at their website [www.shineyouth.org.uk](http://www.shineyouth.org.uk)

## **SOMETHING NEW FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS**

As Ian, Gordon and I spoke about what our church was going to offer when we re-open for Sunday Worship I introduced the topic of the content of our worship. I have asked that we have more intentional material and topics used in worship rather than the scattergun 'leave it to the worship leader to choose' approach that we have had. Whilst there is some merit in this approach it often leads to rather general themes and doesn't develop learning very well. I think having planned themes is a really important step for us to take to move the church forward and make it more relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. September will continue as before as leaders had already begun to plan what they wanted to talk about. From October we are going to begin series of services on themes which can be developed over the weeks or draw together related ideas. Whilst we will invite visiting speakers to join in with our teaching programme they may wish to bring something else. Information about what themes are coming up will appear in the newsletter.

**Linda**

## KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

### **Minister**

VACANT

### **Church Secretary**

Mr. Gordon Justham: 07540 289855 - 01564 776229 -  
gordonjustham@talktalk.net

### **Website**

[www.solihullurc.org.uk](http://www.solihullurc.org.uk)

**Hall Lettings:** 07925 573259

**Generations Project** - enabling the Church in care homes

[www.generationssoalihull.org.uk](http://www.generationssoalihull.org.uk) [generationssoalihull@icloud.com](mailto:generationssoalihull@icloud.com)

### **Moments (currently not meeting)**

Mondays 10am—12 noon@ Central Solihull

## **OCTOBER NEWSLETTER**

Material for the October edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

[stuartkmills@gmail.com](mailto:stuartkmills@gmail.com)

by Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September please.