



# SOLIHULL

## UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Serving Central Solihull, Olton and Hobs Moat  
Communities

### February 2023 Newsletter

*"I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every  
man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his  
deeds."*

***Jeremiah 17:10***



## **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 Laurie - Church Secretary & Elder**

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

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

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

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

**Ian Carnell – Elder**

**Howard Cotes – Elder**

**Bev Hands - Elder**

**Liz Amos - Treasurer**

Areas of special responsibility are listed in brackets.

## **FEBRUARY 2023 DIARY DATES**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>** – Funeral of Marian Vining at Solihull URC – 11:30am

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday Café – 9am

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship with Communion led by Ian Carnell -  
10am

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** – Job Club – 10:30am

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** – Elders Meeting – 12:15pm

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** – Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Hall

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday Café – 9am

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship led by Elisa Gusmao – 10am

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Shout Out for the Girls – 10am

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Job Club – 10:30am

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>** – Leisurely Lunch – 12:30pm

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** - Singing for Pleasure - 2pm in the Hall

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>** - Saturday Café – 9am

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship led by Rodger Charlton – 10am

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>** – Job Club – 10:30am

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Pancake Party in the Hall – 3pm

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship led by Blair Kessler - 10am

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>** – Job Club – 10:30am

## **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.

## **FIRST AIDER**

URC guidelines require each church to have a designated first aider. At the present time we have no such person. If anyone has a current first aid qualification and would be willing to be named as the designated first aider it would be helpful if they could let Linda or one of the elders know. If you do not have a current or previous first aid qualification, but would be interested in obtaining one, then again, if you speak to Linda or one of the elders, the church would be willing to cover the costs of the training course. The role is notional rather than onerous and would not require attendance at additional church functions.

**Bev Hands**

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

The next World Day of Prayer is on Friday 3rd March. There will be opportunity to pray at any time of the morning or early afternoon at St Alphege using prayer stations of the type that we laid on when we hosted the event last year.

I have met with Diane, the community worker of the Methodist church, and we have planned what the prayer stations for the day will be. If you would like to help put the prayer stations together, please let me know. It is our intention to get each church in Solihull to present a station each, but that means that we will be responsible for one too.

The world day of prayer material this year is provided by the women of Taiwan on the theme of "I have heard about your faith" from Ephesians ch 1 v15-19. This has influenced the focus of the stations and some of the ideas for presentation and interaction. We won't be using the service they provide but there will be 20 minutes of prayers led from the front in the middle of the day for those who would like some community guided prayers as well as the opportunities to pray alone. Come and speak to me for more information.

Do you know people who have got out of the habit of going to church who used to? This might be perfect for them. They don't have to engage with formal church but it is an opportunity to come into a building again and reawaken their faith and engage with God in a way that is bigger than their internal conversation with God.

St Alphege Church will be open for this for private prayers, using the prayer stations for inspiration and ideas, from 10am - 2.30pm with 20 minutes of prayers from the front at noon.

**Linda Faber**

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to David and Gerry Candy who recently welcomed their first great grandchild, a boy named Isaac.

**Gweno Nicholls**

## **NYE FAMILY**

The Nye family were regular members at Olton URC for many years before moving to the Wilmslow where they attended the United Reformed Church. The family have notified us that David Nye died peacefully in hospital after a short illness on 20th December 2022.

**Rita Routley**

## **THANK YOU**

Solihull and Birmingham Women's Refuge thank you all very much for your wonderful Christmas gifts. They exceeded all expectations and were so very grateful. Thank you.

**Elaine Jones**

## **CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD**

Money collected through the church Christmas card and the Christmas offertories has been added to our gifts for our two charities this year. Thanks to all those who contributed to these.

We have used the Christmas card for a number of years, asking people to sign with their Christmas messages for others to read. For a few years we have used the same card which was lovingly made by Marian Vining, one of the many ways that she used her creative gifts to bless this church over the many years she was involved here.

**Linda Faber**

# Solihull URC Pancake Party

**In this building.  
All Welcome.**

Tuesday 21st February  
3pm– 5pm



Or just come and eat

Please collect your  
TICKETS from the office

**or** push a note under the office door with your  
name and the number of TICKETS to be reserved\*

Please feel free to invite  
family, neighbours and  
friends. Children must be  
accompanied by an adult

**or** email [solihullurc@gmail.com](mailto:solihullurc@gmail.com)  
to reserve your TICKETS\*

**Adults £1.50, Children Free**

\* come along and collect your tickets on the day

## **TOWARDS A THEOLOGY OF CHURCH GROWTH**

I have been reading, and have been inspired by the book, “Towards a Theology of Church Growth” edited by David Goodhew. You might be saying to yourself in a slightly sarcastic tone, “that sounds like a page-turner”, but it is a very rich book which has encouraged me a great deal. It is a collection of essays by theologians and practitioners from a whole host of theological persuasions, sharing from scripture, church tradition and practice, some insights into a vital part of church life, the need for growth.

I have shared some of the things that I have been enthused by in a few services over the last few months already. After these things have been included I have had comments about how they have given you things to think about too, and how encouraging some of you have found the ideas. Whilst I have built on what I have learnt and applied it to us, there is much that can give us all things to think about from the original articles. With this in mind I am planning to include in this newsletter some of the bits and pieces that I have made note of as being particularly interesting or helpful, so that you can have a think about them yourselves. I will start next month but a few thoughts from the introduction by Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to think about in the mean time:

“It has very often been true in the Church that to say one thing is automatically interpreted as meaning that you are denying another. I fear that a book about church growth automatically signals, to some, that the writers are not concerned with the Kingdom of God or with spiritual depth.” This is not the case.

“For far too long the very term growth has been resisted in some quarters.”



[In this book] “the reader is drawn back to the face of Christ, who alone is the reason for growing churches. Church growth begins with the fact that God reaches out to us in Jesus Christ. Having found us and captured our horizons, Jesus liberates us into a new world in which we are irresistibly drawn to imitate that reaching out.”

**Linda Faber**

### **HOMELESSNESS WORK IN SOLIHULL – SOLIHULL LINK**

We currently partner with Solihull Integrated Addiction Service and the Borough Council to provide a premises where those who are homeless or at risk of Homelessness can get help and advice. It is called Solihull Link. I have been asked if they can extend their hours of offering this service to go on an extra hour on each of the two days they are with us, which is a Wednesday and Friday. It is great that they want to be able to extend this service to allow more people to get the help they need.

### **DRAINAGE**

The flooding problem of the drains has been solved. It turned out not to be as bad as we expected. We feared the drain had collapsed but it turned out that it was just blocked. And we discovered a manhole under the floor of the table store that we didn't know was there. You learn something new every day!

We are claiming on the church's insurance for the costs of solving the problem and getting a new carpet for the vestry as the current one is ruined with the sewage.

**Linda Faber**

## DINING OUT LUNCH

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

on

14<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30 pm

£4.00

ALL ARE WELCOME

### MENU

Toad in the hole

Creamed Potatoes

Onion Gravy

.....

Strawberry Angel Delight

.....

Tea or Coffee



Please book by contacting Elaine 0121 744 6067 or email [vej46@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vej46@yahoo.co.uk)

**By Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

## **LOCAL AUTHOR**

Some of you will know Martin Tunncliffe who worships at St Alphege and is connected to our Moments Dementia Group.

He has written a book called *The Rough with the Smooth* (copies for sale are in the office). Copies cost £10 and the profits from the sale of the book are to be given for the benefit of Children and young people through the work of St Alphege. It is a collection of thoughts and articles shared through the parish magazine and seeking a wider audience.

## **ECO CHURCH**

Looking after our environment and helping each other to think of new ways to do this is an important part of our Christian Life and Witness. I would love to have a piece in the newsletter each month on this theme but I would like someone else to prepare it each month. I don't have time to do everything, and neither should I have to—there seem to be more and more jobs that need my attention and I need to differentiate between what only I can do and what others can do as well, or better.

Please consider if you might be able to contribute a piece each month or bimonthly.

**Linda Faber**

## KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

### Minister

VACANT

### Church Secretary

Mr. Gordon Laurie

### Church Phone Number

0121 709 5505

### Website

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

### Zoom Details

Meeting ID: 865 7763 7936

Passcode: 986653

## MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Material for the March 2023 edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

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

by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February please.