



# SOLIHULL

## UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Serving Central Solihull, Olton and Hobs Moat  
Communities

### July/August 2023 Newsletter

*"But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst.  
Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of  
water welling up to eternal life."*

***John 4:14***



## **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**

**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**

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

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

Areas of special responsibility are listed in brackets.

## **JULY 2023 DIARY DATES**

- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>** - Saturday Café – 9am  
**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Sunday Worship and Communion led by Ian Carnell – 10am  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Job Club – 10:30am  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>** – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>** - Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room  
**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>** - Saturday Café – 9am  
**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship led by Linda Faber – 10am  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** – Shout Out for the Girls – 10am  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** – Job Club – 10:30am  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>** - Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room  
**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>** - Saturday Café – 9am  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship led by Ian Carnell - 10am  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>** – A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon – 2:30pm  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Job Club – 10:30am  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Churches Together Prayer Lunch – 12:30pm  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** – Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Meeting Room  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Sunday Worship led by Elisa Gusmao – 10am  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Job Club – 10:30am  
**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship led by Linda Faber – 10am  
**Monday 31<sup>st</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

## **AUGUST 2023 DIARY DATES**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship and Communion led by Ian Carnell – 10am

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship led by Elisa Gusmao

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship led by Linda Faber - 10am

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday Worship led by Dr Rodger Charlton – 10am

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup>** – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

## **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.

**A PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
SUNDAY 16TH JULY AT 2.30PM**

This will be a light-hearted event presented by the Singing For Pleasure Group in the Church Cafe. There will be a chance for anyone in the audience to tell a funny story, read a poem, sing a song or play an instrument. Also join in with some singing. The afternoon will be followed by tea/coffee and cake. There will be a retiring collection for a charity.



More details to come. Many thanks.

**Janet Ince**

**AWAY DAY AT HOME**

We had an 'Away Day' in our own church in the middle of June which gave those who took part the opportunity to share ideas and encourage one another. There was an air of excitement and positivity floating about on the following Monday as those who had been there shared their enthusiasm for the vision of the future that we had talked about. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other better and enjoy each other's company too.

Thank you to all those who took part and we will be implementing lots of the ideas and we will be shaped by views shared, going into the future.

**Linda Faber**

## **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**

## **CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING**



Thank you to all those who have made donations to Christian Aid Week. I am pleased to be able to report that £250.00 was raised.

**Myles Ensor**

## **LEPROSY MISSION SERVICE ON SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER**

Please support this wonderful charity and hear all about their work in many different parts of the world. The service will be led by Guy Willcocks who is the area organiser.

**Janet Ince**

## **LEISURELY LUNCH**

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

on

8<sup>th</sup> August at 12.30 pm

£4.00

ALL ARE WELCOME

### **MENU**

Coronation Chicken

Salad

New Potatoes

.....

Rhubarb Tart

.....

Tea or Coffee



Please book by contacting Elaine 0121 744 6067 or email

[vej46@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vej46@yahoo.co.uk)

**By Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023**

**THERE IS NO LEISURELY LUNCH IN JULY**

## **ENGLISH CLASSES**

We are pressing ahead with our proposed English conversation classes for people who want to develop English as a second language. The sessions will be led By Tim Freeman (from the Job Club) and myself and we are looking for people who will join a rota to chat to those who come along on a given topic of the day.

If you could come to chat with, or maybe even befriend, some of these overseas residents on a monthly, or more frequent basis, I would be glad to hear from you. We will also have some input from Elisa who has some experience of learning, and teaching, English as a foreign language. The classes will only meet during the school term time and will begin in September.

**Linda Faber**

## **THANK YOU**

I would like to thank particularly Liz and Linda for all their extremely hard work that went into recouping over £18,000 for our insurance claim for loss of income during the Pandemic.

Yes, it has taken all this time of going over lettings, invoices, church offerings and many other aspects of our loss of income. We are so fortunate to have such capable and willing members of our congregation.

Many thanks to you both and others that may have helped.

**Member of the congregation**



## PASTORAL LIST

Please see the pastoral list for the congregation below. This is so everyone is aware who their pastoral carer is:

<b><u>Elaine</u></b>		<b><u>Barrie</u></b>		<b><u>Howard</u></b>		<b><u>Gordon</u></b>		<b><u>Bev</u></b>	
Lanica	Agnew	Joseph	Beasley	David	Cooper	Irene	Bound	Ailsa	Betts
John	Agnew	Joe	Ganjavi	Peggy	Crosby	Howard	Cotes	Alec	Betts
Marynol	Agnew	Helen	Haden	Janet	Ince	Linda	Faber	Eric	Ewing
Marian	Clarke	Gweno	Nichols	Gordon	Laurie	Steve	Faber	Elisa	Gusmao
Ernie	Greer	Brian	Parkes	Paul	Shaw	Rita	Routley	Bridget	Goudie
Peggy	Greer	Shirley	Parkes			Keith	Tandy	Jean	Mackie
Margaret	Smith							Melanie	Tilman
Sheila	Wade								
<b><u>Bridget</u></b>		<b><u>Gweno</u></b>		<b><u>Trixie</u></b>		<b><u>Janet</u></b>		<b><u>Irene</u></b>	
Beverley	Hands	Gerry	Candy	Maureen	Butler	Liz	Amos	Ian	Carnell
Chris	Harman	Enid	Cnapman	Julia	Ensor	Jeanne	Brown	Joyce	Blunt
Trixie	Harman	Pat	Gloag	Myles	Ensor	Caroline	Clarke	Anne	Cherry
Jean	McGregor	Barrie	Jones	Ryan	Ensor	Beryl	Nix	Helen	Motl
Sheila	Schwartz	Elaine	Jones	Marcia	Leon	Adam	Pearce	Nigel	Motl
Diane	Smyth	Sue	Plant	Pedro	Leon	Rosalind	Smart	Pauline	Motl
				Sam	Mills			Ron	Webb
				Stuart	Mills				

**Elaine Jones**

## TOWARDS A THEOLOGY OF CHURCH GROWTH

Continuing through the book 'Towards a theology of Church growth' this month we look at chapter 4 titled 'The Ecclesiology of Acts' by C. Kevin Rowe. I will share a few paragraphs that caught my attention and some questions about how we might think about, and use, what we read.

"[Acts] is about how to be a Christian in a world that did not know what being a Christian was. That is the Ecclesiology of Acts: a way of reasoning, and habit of being, that makes Christianity a visible human witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in a world that did not know him."

**QUESTION FOR SOLIHULL URC:** To what extent do you think you live in a world "that [does] not know what being a Christian" is? What ways of reasoning and habit do we have that are distinct from the non-Christians around us?

Acts 19 v23-41 is about a riot in Ephesus and the story tells us about two people. Demetrius, who was a silversmith who made statues of gods, caused a riot complaining about Paul because so many people were becoming Christians and his livelihood was under threat. The other person is the town clerk who quietened the crowd saying that Ephesus [Ephesian culture] was so great nothing could undermine her. C Kevin Rowe says, "Should we follow Demetrius (the Christians are culturally destabilising and are therefore politically problematic) or the Ephesian clerk (the Christians are no worry to us)? To which voice in the narrative should we listen? With few exceptions, modern scholars have sided with the Ephesian clerk: the Christians do not fundamentally threaten larger cultural patterns and can even make rather good citizens.

The problem with this reading is that Demetrius is actually right. ...Jesus and the Ephesian god Artemis are not compatible."

**QUESTION FOR SOLIHULL URC:** To what extent does our message and practice as Christians conflict with the culture we live in? Are we impacting the non-Christian culture around us or are we easily ignored?

**Please take the time to share your thoughts about these questions, with the Elders.**

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT MAKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS SERIES OF ARTICLES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN A GROUP TO TALK THROUGH SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND WE WILL SEE IF THERE IS A VIABLE OPPORTUNITY.

### **CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION**

The Christian Resources Exhibition is a 'trade' show where people with anything and everything to do with church and mission exhibit their wares, to sell stuff or just inform the wider church about what they do. There will be everything from banners to Bibles, heating to seating, puppets to pulpits all with stands. There is a full list of exhibitors of the CRE website. There are going to be about 150 stands included.

This year they are coming to our doorstep, for the first time, to Cranmore Park in Shirley on 8th and 9th of November 2023. The Elders are going on the 8th so if anyone else wants to go, let me know asap and I can include you in the group ticket. Group ticket prices are £3 per person, or if you are buying individually £4 in advance, or tickets are £8 on the door.

**Linda Faber**

## COACH TRIPPERS UNITED 2023 ITINERARY

JULY 20TH Llangollan Viaduct boat trip

AUGUST 17TH Crich Tram Museum/Matlock Bath

SEPTEMBER 21ST Salford Quays

OCTOBER 19TH Oxford

Pick up point West Warwick Sport & Social Club, Grange Road, Solihull at 8:30am.

The cost will be £25 including car parking and driver tip plus entrance fees where appropriate in cash.

To book contact David Argall on [davidargall185@btinternet.com](mailto:davidargall185@btinternet.com) or 0121 704 4006.

**Anne Cherry**



## **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES**

You might remember that last year we put in the newsletter each month a suggested item to buy for the Christmas shoebox appeal. This was so people didn't have to buy many things all at once in the autumn. Similarly, I have put the list, with a collection box, in the Central Foyer (Nattery) so that people can make contributions all through the year if they want to. Please consider putting together a whole box of your own (leaflets are usually available in September) or contribute through this community box if you want to spread your giving.

**Linda Faber**

## **SHOE BOXES**

I have put out this year's leaflets in case people want to start collecting things when they see them. This spreads the expense and avoids a last-minute rush. The charity is hoping to make a special effort this year because of the hardship Ukraine and other countries are experiencing.

If you haven't done a shoebox before, the leaflet explains clearly how to do it. If you want to know more, please see me. Thank you in anticipation.

**Anne Cherry**

## **THANK YOU FROM ST BASILS**

You may like to know we have received the following thank you letter from St Basils:

*Thank you for your wonderful donation of £584.18 which I can confirm we have received safely, please extend our gratitude to the staff and congregation at Solihull United Reformed Church for their generosity and for choosing us as their Charity of the Year. We are always incredibly humbled to even be nominated for consideration. Without the invaluable gifts we receive from supporters like yourselves we would be unable to provide the support and housing that is lifechanging for so many of the young people we work with.*

*When St Basils was founded in 1972 we were able to house 18 young men, and provide a street outreach service and advice centre that could help around 30 young people at a time. Donations like yours have meant that we now have over 40 accommodation schemes across the West Midlands, house upwards of 600 young people each night and are able to provide the support and guidance needed for those young people to change their own lives and ensure homelessness is not part of their future.*

*Although much has changed in the 50 years since we opened our doors, today we continue to live by the philosophy of our founder, "We'll stay with each young person for as long as it takes." – The Late Revd Les Milner*

*On behalf of the staff and young people at St Basils, thank you for making that possible.*

**Liz Amos**

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

The next two years hold a couple of special anniversaries for us as a church. 2024 is the 10th anniversary of Solihull URC being formed when Olton URC, Hobs Moat URC and Christ Church, Solihull came together. Whilst this was, rightly, a slightly fluid affair of feeling the route to coming together, we would like to pick a weekend in the early spring when we will celebrate that new chapter in the church's history. Discussing what we might do is something that will be a little part of our 'Away Day at home' afternoon on 11th June.

2025 is another year to remember and we hope to make the whole year one of celebration as we mark 200 years since the founding of the non-conformist church in Solihull, of which we are the descendants. (The Olton church came about through a church split from Solihull and then the Hobs Moat Church was planted from Olton on the new housing estates of the 1950's, so both have their roots in the central Solihull church that we are once again.) Similarly, we will have opportunity to discuss this at the 'Away Day at home' afternoon on 11th June.

Please have a think about ideas that we might use to mark these events. For 2025 we would like to form a planning group to take up ideas that are offered (and add other ideas, maybe) so if you would like to be a part of this please speak up – newcomers are just as welcome as those who have been here longer. We are going to need all sorts of people with all sorts of different skills and experiences to make a truly memorable, and big, splash in the town.

**Linda Faber**

## KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

### Minister

VACANT

### Church Secretary

Mr. Gordon Laurie – 07500 902593 – [gordonjlaurie@gmail.com](mailto:gordonjlaurie@gmail.com)

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

### Zoom Details

Meeting ID: 865 7763 7936

Passcode: 986653

## SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Material for the September 2023 edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

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

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