



SOLIHULL

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Serving Central Solihull, Olton and Hobs Moat
Communities

June 2022 Newsletter

*“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in
whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”*

– Philippians 4:11



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

Gordon Justham - **Church Secretary & Elder**

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

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

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

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

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

Ian Carnell – **Elder**

Howard Cotes – **Elder**

Gordon Laurie - **Elder**

Liz Amos - **Treasurer**

Areas of special responsibility are listed in brackets.

The Worship leaders for June are:

5th June	10:00am	Mr Gordon Justham (includes communion)
12th June	10:00am	Mr Ian Carnell
19th June	10:00am	Revd Nick Stanyon
26th June	10:00am	Mrs Linda Faber

THE LECTIONARY

Readings for Sundays in June from the Revised Common Lectionary are as follows. Please note that worship leaders are not obliged to follow the lectionary but you may be interested to know what the lectionary readings are for the specified Sundays. The readings in bold are the gospel readings for the day.

Gordon Justham

5th June Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.24-34,35b; Romans 8.14-17;
John 14.8-17,(25-27)

12th June Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5.1-5; **John 16.12-15**

19th June Isaiah 65.1-9; Psalm 22.19-28; Galatians 3.23-29; **Luke 8.26-39**

26th June 1 Kings 19.15-16,19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5.1,13-25;
Luke 9.51-62

FOREWORD – FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

We must all have been thinking about the countries suffering from the effects of wars around the world at the moment, and in particular in Ukraine. I went to a talk at the Catholic Church in Dorridge about the situation in Ukraine. The talk was given by a man from that church, and he had recently returned from Ukraine. He had taken a van load of donations, including clothing, food and medical supplies and ‘cash’, to help displaced families escaping from the horrors in their home towns.

He described the crowds at the railway stations, mainly women and children, who had only what they could carry. He gave the example of people who could not afford to buy food or to use the toilets (for which there was a charge), because they had no cash, since money donated was not made available to those individual people in these difficult situations.

When we say the Lord’s Prayer, we ask that our sins should be forgiven. Forgiveness can be at a number of levels such as national (between countries), local (between neighbours) and personal (family). In order to have genuine forgiveness there needs to be a means of reconciliation, i.e. forgiveness by both parties.

In Ephesians 2, we can read that God has brought peace by making Jews and Gentiles ‘one’ people. He will bring peace and even though we cannot see that at the moment, we must have faith and continue to pray for all those affected by wars and strife throughout the world. Without reconciliation, forgiveness is just part of the solution, and yet reconciliation is the hardest part to achieve without God’s help.

Let us pray for the end of conflicts in all parts of the world, for forgiveness, and most of all for reconciliation.

Trixie Harman

JUNE 2022 DIARY DATES

- Saturday 4th** Saturday Café – 9am
- Sunday 5th** Sunday Worship with communion led by Gordon Justham. Pentecost. This will be Gordon’s last time leading worship before he moves next month – 10am
- Monday 6th** Moments Dementia Group – 10am
- Monday 6th** Job Club – 10:30am
- Thursday 9th** Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall
- Thursday 9th** Singing for Pleasure - 2pm in the Hall
- Saturday 11th** Saturday – 9am
- Sunday 12th** Sunday Worship led by Ian Carnell – 10am
- Monday 13th** Moments Dementia Group – 10am
- Monday 13th** Shout Out for the Girls – 10am
- Monday 13th** Job Club – 10:30am
- Monday 13th** Elders Meeting – 12:15pm
- Tuesday 14th** Leisurely Lunch – 12:30pm
- Thursday 16th** Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall
- Thursday 16th** Singing for Pleasure - 2pm in the Hall
- Saturday 18th** Saturday Café – 9am
- Sunday 19th** Sunday Worship led by Revd Nick Stanyon. Father’s Day – 10am
- Monday 20th** Moments Dementia Group – 10am
- Monday 20th** Job Club – 10:30am
- Thursday 23rd** Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall
- Thursday 23rd** Singing for Pleasure - 2pm in the Hall
- Saturday 25th** Saturday Café (under assessment to see if it’s worth continuing) – 9am
- Saturday 25th** Issues Women Face – 6:30pm
- Sunday 26th** Sunday Worship led by Linda Faber. National Weekend of Invitation – 10am
- Monday 27th** Moments Dementia Group – 10am
- Monday 27th** Job Club – 10:30am
- Thursday 30th** Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall
- Thursday 30th** - Singing for Pleasure - 2pm in the Hall

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

I am delighted to have had more than one offer for someone to become the new safeguarding officer. Thank you to those who offered.

We are working on the application with a person who has some experience in this area, though none was needed as training is provided, and look forward to her taking up this new role which is essential for the running of our church and mission projects.

SATURDAY CAFÉ

Having told the ballet parents with regard to the café 'Use it or lose it,' they are currently using it and it will stay open for the remainder of the school year, still under review. But its continuation is reliant upon us finding some more volunteers to help run it.

Will you join a rota to staff the café once every 4 or 5 weeks? You will work with another volunteer and between you, you will set up the café counter, serve the refreshments, clear the tables/wash up, and tidy up afterwards. This takes about 3 hours on a Saturday morning when it is your turn. There is opportunity to build relationships with regular customers and the profits help support other projects that we run from the church.

Linda Faber & Elaine Jones

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

It is never too early to start collecting things together for the Christmas shoebox gifts. In each month Link To Hope suggest something that we can get so that we spread the cost of our gifts. This month of June they suggest that we collect or buy Elderly gifts. Suggestions are: mugs, spoons, cutlery, sensory items, reading glasses, head scarves.



MOVING ON

Jackie and I are returning to Otley, West Yorkshire.

During my career, as an actuary advising employers regarding their occupational pension schemes, I was relocated twice. First from Scotland to West Yorkshire and then to the West Midlands. We have lived in Knowle for nearly thirty years. None of our immediate family are local and, since my retirement six years ago, we have thought about downsizing.

In early April an opportunity arose to sell our house which then focussed our minds on where should we move to. The upshot is that we have decided, as we move into the next phase of our lives, to return to Otley as this will be close to our eldest son, daughter-in-law and our two granddaughters. We also have some very good friends in Otley who continue to worship at the Bridge Church URC in central Otley.

We will of course be further away from our youngest son and his girlfriend who live in Southampton, but virtually the same distance, as the crow flies, from our other son, daughter-in-law and grandsons in Shanghai. We have enjoyed our time in the Midlands and have made some good friends locally both inside and outside of church. It has also been a pleasure for us to worship at and to serve the church locally for many years.

When it comes to the actual time to move, I am sure it will be a wrench for both of us and we will miss you all. However, we will be closer to the hills and dales and, as they say, Yorkshire is God's own county!

Gordon Justham

LEISURELY LUNCH

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

on

14TH JUNE AT 12:30 pm

£3.50

ALL ARE WELCOME



MENU

CORONATION CHICKEN

NEW POTATOES

SALAD



.....

YOGHURT JELLY PIE AND ICE CREAM

.....

TEA OR COFFEE



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

By Thursday 9th June



CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

A big thank you to all to all who helped on our book stall and those who came and supported us at the Coffee Morning. From book sales on the day and subsequent sales and donations we raised £105.00. For those who are still scratching their heads, here are the answers to this year's quiz:

Round 1: General knowledge

1. What was the most popular girls name in the UK in 2019? **Olivia**
2. What was the old name for a Snickers bar before it changed in 1990? **Marathon**
3. What is the smallest planet in our solar system? **Mercury**
4. Who was the youngest British Prime Minister? **William Pitt (The Younger)**
5. The six main stars of Friends appeared in all 236 episodes. Who is the next most regular character to appear in the show? **Gunther (151 episodes)**

Round 2: Family and kids

1. The song How Far I'll Go features in which Disney film? **Moana**
2. In Thomas the Tank Engine, what colour train is Percy? **Green**
3. In Harry Potter, what animal represents Hufflepuff house? **Badger**
4. From what country does Lego originate? **Denmark**
5. What is the name of the tree that produces conkers? **Chestnut Tree**

Round 3: Christian Aid

1. In what year was Christian Aid founded? **1945**
2. In what year did the first ever Christian Aid Week take place? **1957**

3. What was Christian Aid first known as before adopting its current name? **The Inter- Church Aid and Refugee Service**
4. In what London borough is Christian Aid's head office located?
 - a. Wandsworth **b. Lambeth** c. Westminster
5. How many people in Zimbabwe has Christian Aid's work assisted (so far) in being more resilient to the climate crisis?
 - a. over 12,000 people b. over 18,000 people **c. over 27,000 people**

Round 4: Geography

1. What colour is found on 75% of the world's flags? **Red**
2. Which seaside is home to the longest pier in the UK? **Southend-on-Sea**
3. What is the world's most spoken language? **Mandarin**
4. Sofia is the capital of which country? **Bulgaria**
5. Which country has the longest coastline in the world? **Canada**

Round 5: Sport

1. Which tennis Grand Slam is played on a clay surface? **The French Open (Roland Garros)**
2. Who won the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2019? **USA**
3. In which athletics event is 45 metres the maximum permitted run up? **Pole Vault**
4. In which year did the first London Marathon take place? **1981**
5. Who won sport personality of the year for 2021? **Emma Raducanu**

Round 6: Climate change

1. Where is the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP27 climate talks, due to take place? **Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt**
2. Which iconic New York landmark is completely powered by wind? **Empire State Building**
3. What major tech company became carbon neutral in 2007? **Google**

4. A documentary narrated by David Attenborough released in 2021 showed the impact that lockdowns across the world (due to COVID-19) had on the climate and in nature. What is the documentary called? **The Year the Earth Changed**
5. True or False: Wasting less food is a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? **True**

Myles Ensor

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IS A GLOBAL REALITY

At least 340 million Christians around the world experience systematic discrimination, unfair treatment and persecution. That means 1 in 8 Christians are affected by 'extreme', 'very high' or 'high' levels of persecution in 74 countries.

Open Doors assembles a list of the top 50 where there is the most extreme persecution and asks us to pray for them.

This month: India

Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindus, and that the country should be rid of Christians. Extremists particularly target Christians from a Hindu background. These believers are often physically attacked and sometimes killed, as well as being under constant pressure from their family and community to return to Hinduism.

Anti-conversion laws (currently in 9 states, with more considering adoption) are also abused to intimidate Christians.

Pray

- Praise God that many are coming to faith in India through miraculous healings and courageous witness
- For protection from attack for Indian believers, particularly new Christians
- For courage, wisdom and protection for Christian partners helping those most in need

JUNE ROTAS

Please sign the rotas at the back of church if you can serve in any of the following roles to fill vacancies.

If you have no previous experience in serving in any of these ways we would be more than happy to help you.

Sunday Welcome (2 people needed each week)

5th June		
12th June	Beryl Nix	
19th June	Margaret Smith	
26th June		

Serving Coffee (2 people needed each week)

5th June		
12th June	Margaret Smith	
19th June		
26th June		

Providing flowers for the communion Table

5th June	
12th June	Maureen Butler
19th June	
26th June	

ECO CHURCH

We are going to start collecting old, finished-with pens for recycling. A bin or box will be placed in the Nattery/Central Foyer. They are being collected by two young boys who used to come to Tots and Tales and Messy Church. Their collection will result in funding to go to the NSPCC and they approached us to ask if we would have a collection point for them. They have over 100 collection points around the area and are managing to collect lots of old pens. Please could you bring your old pens of any type to church and donate them? This will be an on-going collection point.

We will also be collecting in a different box plastic bottle tops (milkbottle tops, fizzy drinks tops, tetra pack lids, etc - any hard plastic

lid). They must be clean please or the Nattery will start to smell of rancid milk etc! The collection of these will go to provide funding for a Scout group. They are being collected by a lady who comes to our Shout Out for the Girls group who's son is a scout leader. I know many of you love the Scouts so here is an easy way to support a group.

And remember that we are still collecting stamps from your letters. Don't forget to leave plenty of paper around the stamp when you tear them off. This piece of recycling raises money for the RNIB.

Linda Faber



CHURCH GROWTH (CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH)

There is a subtlety about planning to grow, sometimes called the principle of obliquity. You don't aim directly at the outcome you want—growth. Rather you aim to produce the conditions in which God is able to grow the church—quality and relevance. Churches in which quality and relevance have been improved seem able to grow naturally up to the new higher ceiling level the improvements have created. Then further improvements are required to get to the next stage, and so on.

So the way to grow is not through an endless series of gimmicks to attract people to one-off events but through a steady focus on the range and quality of church life. A growth plan may seek to improve the quality of worship services and the range of people who will fit into it and the quality of the church hall and the range of users of it.

A balanced plan will involve an intention to grow in all three aspects of depth, numbers and service to the community. Churches that grow in one aspect only become deformed, unbalanced and dysfunctional.

It is no surprise to learn that having a thought-out plan for mission grows the church. But there may be further potential because many churches still lack a sense of urgency to get better at what they do. In other sectors of life this sense of urgency drives progress or competition will swallow you up if you don't keep learning and improving. Most churches spend too little time seeking new vision, and researching new possibilities. In many manufacturing companies, for example, research and development is the main activity not a peripheral one. Few churches invest significantly in training even though their members are their main asset. Successful businesses recognise it is their people who create success and will invest in them to produce it. Finally, not many churches are good at reviewing progress and thereby completing the learning loop by using the lessons learned from review to inform future vision and strategy.

Churches of course are not businesses. But they are not less than businesses, they are more than businesses, with more dimensions to their life. Mission planning will realise its full potential when it is the driver not just of what we do but also of the desire to do it better.

What Makes Churches Grow by Bob Jackson pg 74 & 83

Linda Faber

KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Minister

VACANT

Church Secretary

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

Church Phone Number

0121 709 5505

Website

www.solihullurc.org.uk

Hall Lettings: 0121 709 5505

Generations Project - enabling the Church in care homes

www.generationsssolihull.org.uk generationsssolihull@icloud.com

JULY/AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

Material for the July/August 2022 edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

stuartkmills@gmail.com

by Sunday 19th June please.