



# **SOLIHULL**

## **UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Serving Central Solihull, Olton and Hobs Moat  
Communities

### **October 2019 Newsletter**

*And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in  
the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of  
the mountains were seen.*

***Genesis 8: 5***



## **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 formally 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**

Chris Harman - **Treasurer & 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**

Areas of special responsibility are listed in brackets.

Quite a number of years ago I went on holiday with friends to the Bernese Alps and saw the Jungfrau Mountain in its grandeur and free from cloud. We even took a journey by train to the top.

A well-known Scottish Minister was on holiday in Interlaken and was impressed at the great view of the Jungfrau. But the day after his arrival, the mist and clouds came down and the mountain was hidden and for a few days it could not be seen, and disappointed tourists on day trips arrived and went away again without a sight of the Jungfrau. They would gaze up – it wasn't there.

But the Minister knew it was there, because he had seen it and he knew it was real. He knew it was only a matter of time before the weather changed and the mountain would be clear again.

Likewise, there may be times when God seems to be obscured from view, times when we feel He is remote from us, when the clouds come down and surround us. One day, the clouds will disappear and it be clear again.

The disciples waited and they received the Holy Spirit, they received all that they needed to live their lives. They waited and trusted God to supply their needs.

May we learn to do the same in our churches and in our homes. God has not changed. He has promised to give us the support we need for our road ahead.

**Enid Chapman**

## DIARY FOR OCTOBER

<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Tots & Tales <b>1:30pm:</b> Singing for Pleasure @ Solihull URC
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9am-12:</b> Saturday Café
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Communion – Ian Carnell
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Moments
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Tots & Tales <b>1:30pm:</b> Singing for Pleasure @ Solihull URC
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am-4pm</b> Away Day@ Lillington Free Church
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Café closed due to Away Day
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Worship – Gordon Justham
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Moments <b>12:30pm:</b> Elders Meeting
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Tots & Tales <b>1:30pm:</b> Singing for Pleasure @ Solihull URC
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9am-12:</b> Saturday Café
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Worship – Linda Faber
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Moments
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Tots & Tales <b>1:30pm:</b> Singing for Pleasure @ Solihull URC
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9am-12:</b> Saturday Café
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Worship – House Group
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am:</b> Moments
<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30am:</b> Messy Church
<b>Thursday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>1:30pm:</b> Singing for Pleasure @ Solihull URC

*All regular groups meet as usual. Please see your group leader for further information and ask them to put specific dates in the newsletter each month. Don't forget to use the calendar at the back of church.*

## **AWAY DAY – NOT LONG NOW**

We are looking forward to our church Away Day which will be on Saturday 12th October at Lillington Free Church near Leamington Spa starting at 10am until 4pm.

The theme for the day is “A church between” and you may like to bring along your Bibles as we consider some lessons from the early church that might be for us too.

We would like to know how many people are coming so please make yourself known to Linda beforehand if you are attending. We are not taking a coach this year so if you are able to give a lift to another, or if you need a lift, please sign the form on the table at the back of church. We hope that as many people as possible will come and join in.

## **HOBS MOAT**

At the time of writing we are on the cusp of the closure of the Hobs Moat building. There is no doubting that the closure is an emotional moment for many of those who have happy memories there, just as it was for those who had previously worshipped at Olton when that building closed.

Solihull United Reformed Church was formed before I came here but I believe there were thanksgiving services when the congregations left the buildings and these too were a part of the tapestry of the many moments of ministry and worship that make our church what it is today. God opened a new chapter, that is firmly established now, and I hope we are filled with eager anticipation of what He plans for our story next. **Linda Faber**

## **CHURCH TREASURER**

Our church treasurer Chris Harman is stepping down at the end of the year (having been trying to do so for the last 2 years) and we must find someone to take on each of the tasks which he currently undertakes. Chris has done a marvelous job over the last few years and we are very grateful for all that he has done.

Chris has produced a list of all the things he has done as treasurer which is available to be sent to you by email or a paper copy can be collected from the office. There are many jobs on the list and they do not all have to be one person. In fact many of the tasks are administration related and do not have to be done by 'the Treasurer'. Could you take on one or two of the tasks? Please give this prayerful and serious consideration.

Nevertheless, even if we can find a person or two to take on some of the administrative tasks, we still need a church treasurer: a role which is vitally important for the life of the church. The treasurer does not need to be an Elder but will need to report to Elder's and Church Meetings about the church's financial affairs. The treasurer does not need to be a qualified accountant but ideally should be comfortable with "figures". There is plenty of help available. If you feel that you could undertake this vital role then please have a chat with Chris. We have been very grateful for his service. I am sure he will be very grateful if you could find a way to take over as Treasurer. Thanks  
**Gordon J – Church Secretary**



**COACH TRIPPERS UNITED  
WINDSOR CASTLE  
Thursday 17th October 2019**

We are sure that you need no introduction to Windsor Castle. We shall enter Windsor as a group and any extra tickets will be purchased at that time. It is important that we stay together as a group on entry so please do NOT go wandering off.

Guided tours are available at no extra cost but you must make sure you keep your tickets handy. The income from your ticket contributes directly to The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity. The aims of the Trust are the care and conservation of The Royal Collection.

This will be a great day out and very popular. There will be 47 seats available and priority will be given to regular trippers.

As usual the coach will leave at 8.30 prompt from West Warwicks Sport and Social Club in Grange Road and will cost no more than £35 including a tip for the driver. To book a place ring Val on 0121 706 9687 at least one week before the trip. Cancellation costs will apply.

**COACH TRIPPERS UNITED AGM  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

Don't lose the opportunity to come to the AGM with your ideas for next year's trips. All ideas welcome. This will be held at 12.30 for a 1 o'clock free buffet lunch at West Warwicks Sport and Social Cub in Grange Road.

## OUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU, YES YOU

Alan Kembery every month puts out a rota for several duties that need filling for the continuation and smooth running of the Church worship.

Apart from the duty elder and communion anyone who is able could assist in any of the other duties, welcome, reading, Sunday Club and serving coffee. These duties should not be dependent on the elders. The time will come when if the rota has no volunteer's to help with the coffee, then there will not be any.

It is worth mentioning that there are other rotas covering Saturday morning coffee, the provisions of flowers, and maybe others. A glance at the lists will show that many of these jobs are carried out by a fairly small group of volunteers. We should take care not to overburden these willing members.

Please give this careful consideration and make Alan's and the elder's responsibility a lot easier and fill in the rota which is always at the rear of the church.

Many thanks, **The Elders**

## ALPHA COURSE

We held the first session of the Alpha course on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September but no one from outside the church came along. Although there are many good and valuable themes in the course that are helpful to those of us who already call ourselves Christians it was felt that this was not the point, and there was insufficient people, and reason, to meet again. This being so the course has been cancelled. We discussed whether single day, or evening events might be a better option to investigate next. **Linda Faber**

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS**

The following two couples celebrated "special" wedding anniversaries during September:-

Iris and Ron Webb reached their 65th Wedding Anniversary on the 11th.

Beryl and Graham Nix reached their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 19th.

**Congratulations, Love and Best Wishes for the future from your friends at Solihull United Reformed Church.**

### **‘STOP PRAYING, AND ACT’**

This article is taken from the URC Reform magazine

Climate change has brought about a great deal of disturbance to our way of life as Tuvaluans. Tuvalu – a small Polynesian island country to the north of Fiji, with no mountains – is on the brink of extinction. The increased frequency and the intensity of cyclones and longer droughts are serious threats to the very livelihood of Tuvalu and its citizens. We are not only observing rising seas during high tides but also the bubbling up of seawater from the ground. The detrended pattern of rainfall will pose a great challenge to the agricultural sector as it will disturb our traditional stable root crops and livestock, forcing our people to rely heavily on imported foods for survival. One risk of this imposed practice is to health, as people will not choose quality food but the low-cost items. They are no longer concerned about food safety, but simply the availability of food on the shelves.

While we continue to engage and negotiate at the United Nations for a fair and equitable deal on climate change, we have lived with its negative effects for many years and continue to do so. The unjust and

unfair economic models constructed to uphold the interest of the capitalists benefited only a few, while the rest suffer. We continue to lift our voices to God: Why us? What have we done wrong? Why do we have to suffer the actions of the west? Our contribution is next to nothing, yet we are being called the first to disappear from the face of the earth.

Cyclones cause many internal displacements. In March 2015, Tuvalu was hit by tropical cyclone Pam, forcing 71 families (40% of the population) of Nui Island to relocate further inland. Severe storm surges unearthed graves, exposing human remains. All of the vegetation – including traditional crops – was affected as the waves seeped through the whole island and lasted for almost a day.

What action should we take in response to the climate crisis? Not only governments and international agencies, but Churches too around the world must have a serious obligation. They must divest from banks and corporations that contribute to climate injustice. Recognising the 'other' is vital. Adopting the culture of simplicity is paramount, to ensure our survival. We must not continue using 'prayer' as a way of avoiding our moral obligation. We need to stop praying, and act, as we are facing the greatest moral threat human kind has ever faced in history.

**Maina Talia is Climate Change Officer for the Christian Church in Tuvalu**

### **UNION THEATRE**

Union Theatre's next production, a witty dramatisation of Roald Dahl's modern fairy tale "The Witches", will take place at St James the Great, Church Road, Shirley on 7 – 9 November. There are four performances: one each evening at 7:30pm and a matinee at 2:30pm on the Saturday. Tickets are priced at £12 (£10 children and concessions). A family ticket £40 is also available and there are discounts for large group bookings. Tickets are available from Gordon or Jackie Justham or via the box office on 0121 705 6762.

## GENERATIONS PROJECT

Many thanks to the generous members of the congregation who gave £30.00 towards buying knitting wool for Hampton House residents, most grateful, **Bridget.**



## CELEBRATING MOMENTS 4TH BIRTHDAY

On September 2nd, MOMENTS DEMENTIA GROUP celebrated its 4th Birthday. Mark Fisher initiated this idea and we are happy to say that we are thriving! Both Volunteers and "friends" meet on a Monday morning for 2 hours. We have made many friends over the past 4 years and these sessions have become communal with any other groups that attend on a Monday joining in with barbecues and singing sessions.



Please pray for our continued success and enjoyment in looking after Dementia sufferers and their carers.

**The "Moments" Volunteers.**

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

### **Moments**

Mondays 10am—12 noon@ Central Solihull

## **NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Material for the November edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

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

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