



SOLIHULL

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Serving Central Solihull, Olton and Hobs Moat
Communities

October 2022 Newsletter

“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

Romans 8:24-25



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

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 Laurie - 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)

Ian Carnell – Elder

Howard Cotes – Elder

Liz Amos - Treasurer

Areas of special responsibility are listed in brackets.

OCTOBER 2022 DIARY DATES

Sunday 2nd - Sunday Worship with communion led by Ian Carnell – 10am

Sunday 2nd - URC 50th Anniversary Celebration Lunch—please sign up if you want to attend for catering numbers

Monday 3rd – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 3rd – Job Club – 10:30am

Monday 3rd – Elders Meeting – 12:15pm

Thursday 6th – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

Thursday 6th - Singing for Pleasure - 2pm in the Hall

Saturday 8th - Saturday Café – 9am

Sunday 9th – Sunday Worship led by Ian Carnell – 10am

Monday 10th – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 10th – Job Club – 10:30am

Tuesday 11th – Leisurely Lunch – 12:30pm

Thursday 13th – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

Thursday 13th - Singing for Pleasure - 2pm in the Hall

Saturday 15th – Church Away Day – Atherstone, Warwickshire - 10am to 4pm

Sunday 16th – Sunday Worship led by Linda Faber – 10am

Monday 17th – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 17th – Shout Out for the Girls – 10am

Monday 17th – Job Club – 10:30am

Thursday 20th – Tots and Tales – 10am in the Hall

Thursday 20th - Singing for Pleasure - 2pm in the Hall

Saturday 22nd - Saturday Café – 9am

Sunday 23rd – Sunday Worship led by Nick Stanyon – 10am

Monday 24th – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 24th – Job Club – 10:30am

Thursday 27th – No Tots and Tales

Thursday 27th – Singing for Pleasure – 2pm in the Hall

Saturday 29th – Saturday Café – 9am

Sunday 30th – Sunday Worship led by Mary Burgess – 10am

Monday 31st – Moments Dementia Group – 10am

Monday 31st – Job Club – 10:30am

ROTAS

Please remember to sign up on the rotas at the back of the church.



NEW ADDRESS

Gordon and Jackie Justham's new address in Yorkshire is:

26 St Richards Road,

Otley,

West Yorkshire

LS21 2AL

Phone: 01943 328214

AWAY DAY

Our Church Away this year is going to be on Saturday 15th October 2022 from 10am-4pm. Please make sure you have got the correct date in your diary as I have managed to publish the wrong date on several occasions.

We will be meeting at Trinity Church, Atherstone (URC/Methodist) Coleshill Road, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 1BW. It is about half an hour away. There is a sheet at the back of the church with instructions about how to get there and the programme for the day. Please let me know if you are coming so I can plan the resources. You need to bring your own lunch but other refreshments will be provided.

Parking is at the Cattle Market Long stay carpark, off Station Street CV9 1DD a very short walk from the church. It is a pay and display carpark, charging £3 for a stay of over 4 hours. There is a possibility of some on street parking if you care to search for it. The church has no car park.

If you would like to come along, and need a lift, please let me know.

Linda Faber

THE MAKER

On a recent visit to Edinburgh we came across an Arts and Crafts shop which proudly displayed the following wording in a large arc across the window:

Every Penny Spent In This Shop Goes Directly To The Maker.

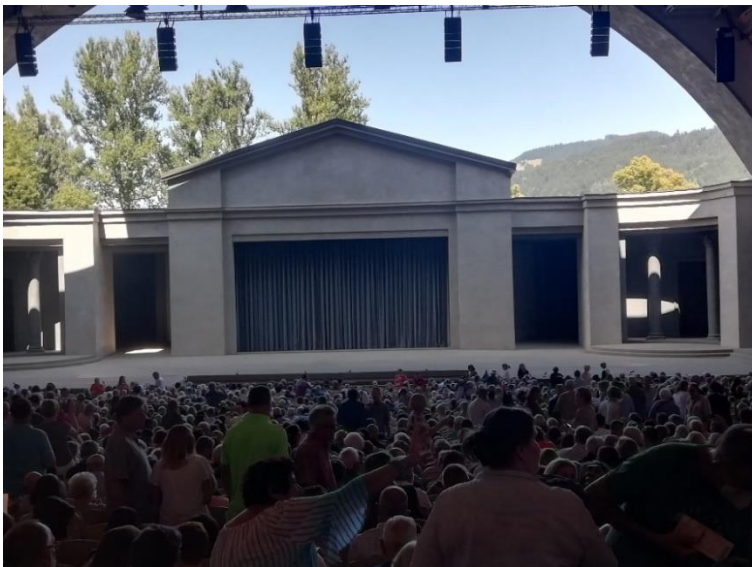
Appropriate that it is right next door to Church of Scotland Offices!

Gordon Laurie

OUR VISIT TO OBERAMMERGAU

On the 15th August Maureen and I travelled to Munich and from thence to the Passion Play at Oberammergau which is held every ten years at the beginning of each decade. It wasn't possible in 2020 because of covid so it was delayed until 2022. I had first been 42 years before but it is certainly an experience of a lifetime!

According to legend, the Passion Play originated in the 17th Century. In 1632 the Black Death was rampant in the nearby villages and desperately the people of Oberammergau tried to protect themselves against the disease and posted guards all around the village, but the plague still arrived at a church fair when a local man named Kaspar Schisler brought the plague into the village. Confronted with this tragedy, the people asked for God's help, solemnly vowing in 1633 to stage every 10 years the pious "Play of the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ". Apparently, no one died of the plague from that day on.



Since then, the people of Oberammergau have been performing the play every ten years. For 200 years, the plays were performed in the cemetery in front of the parish church. However, more and more people started coming from all over the world to see the play so in the 19th Century it was moved to the place where the Passion Theatre now stands.

The impressive massive scenes call for up to 800 actors on stage at the same time. A new hall had been built in 1900, holding over 4000 spectators and the stage measures 45 metres wide and is one of the largest open-air stages in the world.

Only the citizens of Oberammergau who were born there or have been living in the village for at least 20 years have the right to participate – be it on stage, in the wardrobe department, tailoring or in the fire service (!) so almost the whole of the village was involved.

Between the scenes, moments from the Old Testament come alive as theatrical tableaux of related situations from earlier times and serve as meditative points of reflection throughout the play which also includes a large choir, orchestra and soloists.

The play this year was premiered on May 14 and ends on October 2nd. It is acted every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



We sat for two and a half hours for the first half, during the 3-hour interval we enjoyed a cooked dinner in a local restaurant and then went for a further two and a half hours for the second half. It was acted in German but we were given an English translation to follow which states:

“The people of Oberammergau have tackled the Passion Play of 2022 with the same enormous commitment as they have done in the decades before. They know their duty. They keep the vow of their ancestors in a way that fulfils the aim of the promise at that time, namely, to strengthen confidence and faith for the future. So, the play is not a ‘popular theatre of bygone times’. It is a ‘theatre of the people for the people’ that seeks to convey hope.”

Ian Carnell

DINING OUT LUNCH

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

on

11TH OCTOBER AT 12:30 pm

£4.00

ALL ARE WELCOME

MENU

LASAGNE

SEASONAL VEGETABLES



.....

TREACLE TART WITH CREAM

.....

TEA OR COFFEE



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

By Thursday 6th October 2022

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: Sudan

Sudan has taken significant steps towards religious freedom—but the battle is not over.

Thirty years of Islamic law are coming to an end, and Christians from a Muslim background no longer face the death penalty for leaving Islam. But stigma doesn't end overnight, and these believers still face extreme persecution from their families and communities. They may be attacked, ostracised or discriminated against if their faith is discovered. Many still keep their faith secret, for the safety of themselves and their family.

Pray

- Praise God for the steps towards religious freedom in Sudan!
- That Christians from a Muslim background would be able to withstand opposition.
- That Christians would have opportunities to show the love of Jesus to their communities.

Linda Faber

UPDATE

Dear Friends,

It only seems like yesterday that I was with you all at Solihull URC, so it's hard to believe it is already two months since I moved here to Essex. I would like to express my sincere thanks for the beautiful hydrangea and lovely card presented to me at my last Sunday service. I'm pleased to say the shrub has now adjusted to its new surroundings after having to battle the excessive heat we experienced in July and August!

Thank you also for the many cards and good wishes received. I feel very much at home here and am so blessed to have the love and support of my family close to hand, including considerable practical help. I have also received a very warm welcome at the local LEP URC/Anglican church which I've attended a few times, as well as the chapel where my daughter attends.

I have very fond memories of the many years my dear husband David and I spent at Hobs Moat and latterly at Solihull URC and the many strong and lasting friendships forged along the way. If any of you are in this part of the country in the future then please do get in touch, you would be assured of a very warm welcome. My new address is: 10 Wilkinsons Mead, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6QF, tel. 01245 601841.

With my thanks and love to you all,

Sylvia Lidsey

ECO CHURCH

Winter is on the way and I wonder if you are one of the many people in our church who enjoy doing jigsaws, perhaps more so in the long evenings than when we are more out and about in the lighter summer evenings. Jigsaws are a great eco friendly activity especially if you choose to borrow one or buy one from a manufacturer such as Gibsons. They are a manufacture taking steps to reduce the impact their products have on the environment. They have reduced their box size which not only reduces the amount of materials needed but there is a lesser impact on the environment through transportation. They have replaced plastic bags with paper wrappers and have replaced their shrink wrapping with stickers to keep the boxes closed before you buy them. They have a commitment to ethical employment as well taking a stand against modern day slavery. What other businesses do you know who are making an especial effort to improve their environmental impact?

Can I remind you that there is a jigsaw 'library' in the café where you can borrow a jigsaw and return it once complete. If you have jigsaws that you have finished with please consider donating them to the church for others to do.

Linda Faber



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 October they suggest that we collect or buy sweets and chocolate. They need to have a best before date after June 2023.



Anne will be getting the new leaflets soon to help you put your boxes together. Please look out for them or let her know that you would like to receive one.

Linda Faber

FUNDRAISING APPEAL

I'm running the NICE 10k race on Sunday 30 October, taking place in Cannon Hill Park.

For those who aren't aware, NICE (National Institute of Conductive Education) are a charity based in Moseley providing a range of flexible services, such as physical therapy, to adults and children with movement disorders. Harry, our eldest, has attended services at NICE since 2020, and has benefitted greatly.

NICE organize an annual 10k race every year, and I'm taking part to help support the charity with their work. If you would like to make a donation towards their work, please let me know either in-person, or call or email me. My details are at the end of the newsletter.

Thank you,

Stuart Mills

TOTS AND TALES

Tots and Tales is our parent and toddler group which meets once a month on a Thursday morning. We have had a few of our regular members go off to start forms of child care or nursery this September so we are in need of some new members.

This term we have started on a theme of parts of the body and each week our Bible story and craft are linked to that theme. We have begun with Jesus healing a deaf man and we made noisy shakers where we filled plastic bottles with some pasta and then stuck stickers on the outside for decoration. Then we had the story of Jesus healing the disabled man who could not get into the pool at the temple from the beginning of John ch5. We made foot shaped 'stained glass' windows, sticking bits of tissue paper on to sticky backed plastic.

We have had few new people come along and have a look and we hope that they will return and become good friends and part of the group.

Linda Faber and Maureen Butler

KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Minister

VACANT

Church Secretary

Mr. Gordon Laurie

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

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Material for the November 2022 edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

stuartkmills@gmail.com

by Sunday 23rd October please.