

KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Minister

Revd. Mark Fisher 07950399615 0121 291 4726
mjf.urc@me.com

Church Secretary

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

Website

www.solihullurc.org.uk

Hall Lettings in Hobs Moat, Olton or Christ Church –
details are on the website.

Generations Project - enabling the Church in care homes

www.generationssolihull.org.uk
generationssolihull@icloud.com

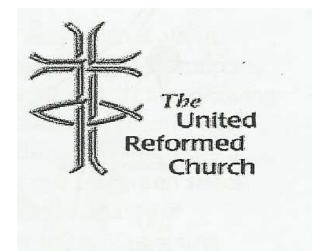
Moments - a dementia cafe

Mondays 10am—12 noon@ Christ Church
Details from Mark Fisher - contacts above

SOLIHULL

United Reformed Church

Christ Church - Hobs Moat— Olton



JULY/AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

Always pray to have eyes that
see the best in people;
a heart that forgives the worst;
a mind that forgets the bad
and a soul that never
loses faith in God.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Material for the September edition is due to
Marian Batten 0121 689 8213
mborchard@blueyonder.co.uk
by **Sunday, 21st August**, please.





SOLIHULL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

An amalgamation of three fellowships - Hobs Moat, Olton and Christ Church - Solihull URC seeks to continue serving the three communities in a different way. Sunday worship is focused at Christ Church, but opportunities at other times and in other places are being explored and developed.

Prayer is at the heart of what we are doing, as our desire is to fulfil God's calling to us as a Christian fellowship.

We invite you to join us on the exciting and challenging journey we are on, and look forward to seeing you in the future.

Our aims for the kind of society we want to live in remain the same. People disagreed whether the kinds of issues we will continue to face – climate change, peace and security, sustainable agriculture, welfare, trade and the movement of people – would be better dealt with by being in or out. We have voted for out. But the aim of pursuing a just society has not changed. After months of sometimes damaging debate we must recommit ourselves to work together for the common good.

Many of the issues we face cannot be effectively addressed in isolation from our near neighbours or indeed worldwide partners. While the structures may change, our work towards justice and peace must continue alongside our European sisters and brothers.

We believe that every human being is made in the image of God. Any narrative that undermines this, or promotes division and discrimination, runs contrary to the values of God's Kingdom. Our prayer is that we might turn away from the language of fear or self-interest and recommit to this sense of our common humanity.

We now face an inevitable process of change, and with that will come uncertainty. As a people of faith, we can draw strength from recognising that God's purposes prevail beyond any political alliance or union. As God's Word expresses the intent that every nation shall be blessed, we have a place within the wider world that includes a responsibility towards those who are the most impoverished and needy.

As the implications of this historic decision continue to emerge, we call upon those who lead us to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly in the ways of God's Kingdom.

*God of every nation and people,
At this historic moment we pray for all who are affected by the
decision that we have made.*

*Where the narratives of political debate have caused harm and
division
help us to reclaim the true values of our shared humanity.*

JUBILEE DANCERS

Do you enjoy sequence dancing? The Jubilee Dancers have a happy afternoon from 1.30 - 3.30pm every Wednesday at Olton URC, for the price of £3 which includes tea and cake.



If you would like to join them just turn up, or contact Betty Dixon on 744 8565 for more information.

A REFLECTION FOLLOWING THE REFERENDUM

The Joint Public Issues Team of the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, and the Church of Scotland offers the following reflection and prayer on the result of the EU referendum.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

This week the people of the UK have made the significant decision to leave the European Union. Across our communities, including in churches, some will face this with dismay; others with celebration. We are already seeing some of the political consequences, including the decision by David Cameron to stand down as Prime Minister later this year.

The pattern of voting has revealed differences within the British people which will be interpreted in various ways. These should not become the tools of division, but spur us to find the common resolve and respect to overcome them. Together we are facing a time of significant change.

Whatever view we might hold about the referendum result, this is a time to recognise that the wellbeing of the UK and its people does not solely depend on its place in the European Union. Fairness and justice for all were never going to be the automatic consequences of being inside or outside a particular institution. They will only become realities if, as a country and as citizens, we intentionally pursue them both at home and abroad.

So what now?

The votes have been cast and counted. Within the fellowship there will be those who are delighted at the outcome, those who are heartbroken, and many somewhere in between.

Wherever you stand on the result, it is what it is. Now we need strong leadership to show the way to live a life of hope and compassion.

What has really troubled me has been the dreadful negative campaigning on both sides. Words of bile and hatred have characterised both sides, and that has permeated through from the politicians and campaign managers to the people at large. Now is the time to renew our compassion and commitment to work for the common good. Now is the time to reject messages of division. The Church is founded on unity. Let's show the world how to live.

'Our' Syrian family will be arriving within days (as I write) – although let's be careful to offer them welcome and support without trying to 'own' them. We can, and must, embrace the Other – whether the Other comes to us from another country or another political standpoint.

The Emmanuel Ecumenical Centre in Redditch (a URC-Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership) has just celebrated their 40th Anniversary. At the opening of their Centre, the people made a number of dedications. One was a commitment to hospitality as follows:

"We are called here to a life of hospitality. There are many organisations which come with their gifts and graces, problems and needs, to which we shall gladly offer our home. There are many other guests of differing ages and origins, creeds and customs, nationalities and denominations, who God seeks to bind into one family in Christ. We offer to God the work of all who in any way contribute to the welcome of the Centre, those who administer it and those who clean it, those who receive strangers and those who provide refreshments. Let all who call this place their home know themselves to be called to show hospitality to others according to the Grace of our Lord Jesus

Christ. To this work we offer ourselves."

These words seem appropriate for Solihull URC too. What do you think?

Steve Faber, Synod Moderator.

STORY ROOM NEWS

The Story Room is soon to be refurbished and we have ambitions to launch it into regular use in September. The room is going to need to be made visually inviting and needs equipping before then. There will be many things that we are looking for people to provide over the coming months and an up-to-date list will be on the table at the back of church. We are currently looking for the following:

- **Large picture frames** (minimum size 2' x 1.5' (60cm x 45cm), the bigger the better; no glass required; we need 22 of them!)
- **Children's toys for babies and under 5's.** Must be in excellent to brand-new condition, with nothing missing or broken. Nothing fabric/woollen. (eg. Bricks; garage; cars; kitchen/food toys and many others).
- **Pebbles** from your garden—must be smooth all over, ideally with one flattish surface, no smaller than a £2 coin, no larger than a tennis ball, colour doesn't matter.
- **Plain polycotton or cotton fabric.** We are looking for pieces big enough to make story-bags, toy-bags and dressing up clothes. Old sheets are fine as long as they are not threadbare.
- **Knitting wool.** Any colour or thickness.

Please hand them to Linda Faber.

Pre-school Story Group

In September we are going to start a story-based Parent and Toddler group in our new Story Room. It will meet during the school term times on Thursday mornings (10am-11.30 plus set up and clear up time either side). We are looking for **anyone who might be interested in joining Judy Fisher and Linda Faber in running this group**—either every week or less frequently as part of a rota. Please speak to Judy or Linda.

ZIMBABWE - Stories for Change 123

Although children look happy when having their photo taken they would far rather be at school with friends. However, their parents, if they have any, cannot afford school fees. Sadly, school is not always free as in this country. Instead, the children help by carrying heavy containers of polluted river balanced on their heads. This is used for washing and sometimes drinking as clean drinking water is not available. The land is very dry at present awaiting the rains but look at the splendid recent photo of a friendly chameleon changing its skin - how cool is that! Zimbabweans say this is a good indication of rain, essential for growing maize, their staple food.



Johnson Simpson. ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS (Zimbabwe)

Commitment for Life Prayer

We pray for the children of Zimbabwe at this time of extreme drought, and give thanks for the early signs of life-giving rain.

Climate Week of Action - 8th to 16th October

Join with organisations in the Climate Coalition for a week of action to celebrate the people, places and things we want to protect from climate change.

People all over the UK will be organising events in their local areas to engage their MPs. Please do get involved. If you're interested in attending or organising an event, please see **Gerry Candy**.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

Our last session before the summer break will be our concert at the Stroke Club on Wednesday 20th July. We will start again on Thursday 8th September at 2pm. We are always ready to welcome new members.

Janet Ince

AGAPE - Update from Javad Shapouri

It was really encouraging for me and my family to join your congregation and share my testimony and my ministry with you on Sunday 12th June. As I explained to you, my ministry is among Farsi speakers with a Muslim background (mostly Iranian refugees who are newcomers to the UK). I'd like to update you through this page and also praise the Lord for His work through our ministry in the UK. Please keep our ministry in your prayers. Thank you.

During the year of 2015, 151 Farsi speaking Muslims came to know and follow Christ through our ministry in the UK. We know that some of these new believers share their faith in Jesus with their relatives and friends in Iran, and some of them also follow Jesus now. During the first half of the year 2016, by God's grace in our ministry, 170 Muslims came to Christ and they started a new life in Him. This happened through our Bible studies, English language classes (provided for them by our team) and also through our Iranian Sunday services. Please remember these people in your prayers, ask God to protect them and give them strength to follow Him even in difficult times.

From 27th June until 13th July our team are going for a training course that's being held in Budapest. During this time, we will have more opportunities to worship God, learn new things through His word and get to know new people with different ministries in other parts of Europe. Please keep us in your prayers.

How Can I Help?



Javad & Maryam Shapouri
28 Dingle Lane
Solihull
B91 3NG
Mobile: 07456515515
E-mail: javadshapouri@agape.org

Give Online:
<http://give.agape.org.uk/shapouri>

Thinking caps on please

We are trying to think of a **catchy name** for the Pre-schoolers Story Group. Ideally it would have some reference to the idea that it is a story-based group and some reference to the fact that it is for pre-school aged children. Catchy—witty—alliteration—play on words: **suggestions please!** Pass your ideas to Judy or Linda.

Make and Mend Group

We have launched the Make and Mend Group that Mark sometimes spoke about before his sabbatical. This group is for anyone who might be interested, whether from the church or not. The group will offer **opportunities to make or mend things** which are useful to the church and its groups **or bring along your own project to work on in company over a cupper and biscuit**. There is opportunity to make some planters for the church garden/patio area. There are many things which can be made for the new Story Room. Do you paint or draw artistically? Can you wield a saw or screw-driver safely? Can you knit, crochet, sew or embroider? Can you paint the picture frames asked for above? What other skills could you offer? Do you have friends who might be interested? - invite them along. Please speak to Linda Faber for more information. **Wednesdays 10am-12noon (school term times) in the Activity Space.**

Schools

We are currently developing interest amongst our contacts in local schools for using the Story Room and Activity Space which is being met with enormous enthusiasm. We would love to have a list of people who would be willing to be called upon as **volunteers to facilitate school visits to the church**. These visits will be during the school day. If you might be interested in helping in any way such as making refreshments, preparing/cleaning up rooms, telling stories, making things with small groups of children, etc, please let me know.

Linda Faber—Solihull URC Mission Enabler
e-mail: linda@faberfamily.org.uk
Text: 07765 476008
Phone: 0121 705 0177

DIARY for July and August – Worship, Prayer and Events

July 1	10am Community Prayers @ Olton
July 3	10am Holy Communion @ Christ Church (Ian Carnell)
July 4 1	10am Moments Café @ Christ Church
July 4	10:30am Job Club
July 7	2pm Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat
July 9	2.30-5.00pm Garden Party @ 64 Widney Manor Road
	
July 10	10am Worship @ Christ Church (Rev M Wallace)
July 11	10am Moments Café @ Christ Church
July 11	10:30am Job Club
July 14	2pm Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat
July 17	10am Worship @ Christ Church (Dr Adrian Chiles)
July 17	11:30am Church Meeting @ Christ Church
July 18	10am Moments Café @ Christ Church
July 18	10am Job Club
July 18	7:30pm Elders' Meeting @ Hobs Moat
xxJuly 20	10:30am Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat (at the Stroke Club)
Jul 24	10am Worship @ Christ Church (Blair Kessler)
July 25	10am Moments Café @ Christ Church
July 25	10:30am Job Club
July 26	10:30am Messy Church @ Christ Church
Jul 31	10am Worship @ Christ Church (Mrs Heather Alford)
Aug 1	10am Community Prayers @ Olton
Aug 1	10am Moments Café @ Christ Church
Aug 1	10am Job Club

Q is for Quiet—Find somewhere quiet for a special prayer time, it helps us to listen as well as talk. Try reading your Bible, as God often speaks through the Bible.

R is for Recognise—The Bible says that His people listen to His voice and follow Him. Trust this truth and ask God to help you recognise Him speaking more easily.

S is for Stick at it—There will be lots of opposition to your prayer life growing—don't give up.

T is for Try something new—If you usually pray in a particular way try something else. If you usually read prayers try reading a line and then adding another of your own before going on to read the next one. You can do this with any prayer, the Lord's prayer or a Psalm from the Bible, or a hymn.

U is for Understanding—Sometimes God will ask you to pray for something you have no details for. Pray anyway.

V is for Variety of answers—God always answers our prayers but He may not always answer with a 'yes'. Sometimes he will say 'no' or 'wait'. This is a very simplistic way of summing this up but whatever the answer, always know that God has everything in his hands and sees a bigger picture than we do.

W is for Will—There is a big difference between what God can do and what He will do. God has made a pledge to work in partnership with humanity so if there isn't a willing person to carry out His will then some things won't get done.

X is for Unknown—There will always be things about prayer that we do not know or understand, so we must keep learning.

Y is for You—God wants to hear from you as often as possible. He loves you.

Z is for Zip—It is perhaps easier to remember to pray when we need help with something but try to remember to pray when life is zipping along too.

ALPHABET OF PRAYER - Linda Faber



A is for Adoration—A good way to start prayers—just tell God how great He is and how much you love Him.

B is for Bold—God wants to hear from you so approach Him boldly.

C is for Confession—Try to say sorry to God daily for things you have done which would upset Him and for the things you have done wrong.

D is for Daily—Talk to God everyday—that is how we make good friends.

E is for Everything—There is no subject you cannot talk to God about—happy, sad, challenging or anything else.

F is for Focus—Try to develop a written plan of things to pray for regularly and use it to keep you on track as well as your going-through-life chats.

G is for Gratitude—Be thankful as often as possible in your prayers.

H is for Hear—Know that God hears your prayers when you come to Him in faith.

I is for Intercession—Intercession is the word we use for praying for others. We can pray for others known or unknown to us.

J is for Judgment—We need to be wise in our trust of God to deal with situations in the best way even if we do not understand.

K is for Kingdom—Prayers help build God's Kingdom as we tell Him we agree with what He is doing and pledge ourselves to doing what He would have us do.

L is for Language—God understands all languages on earth and many more heavenly ones as well. We can talk to Him in any language.

M is for Music—We can sing prayers to God as well as speak.

N is for Noticing—Notice when your prayers are answered, showing that God is faithful—and then remember to give thanks again.

O is for Others—pray with someone else when you can.

P is for Praise—Praise is not the same as Thanks; try to do both.

Aug 7	10am	Holy Communion @ Christ Church (Ann Tempest)
Aug 8	10am	Moments Café @ Christ Church
Aug 8	10:30am	Job Club
Aug 14	10am	Worship @ Christ Church (Rev Richard Alford)
Aug 15	10am	Moments Café @ Christ Church
Aug 15	10am	Job Club
Aug 21	10am	Worship @ Christ Church (Linda Mead, Commitment for Life programme co-ordinator)
Aug 22	10am	Moments Café @ Christ Church
Aug 22	10:30am	Job Club
Aug 28	10am	Worship @ Christ Church (Alan Cotgreave)
Aug 30	10:30am	Messy Church @ Christ Church

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 17th September - Supper and Games Evening. Come ready, at 6pm, for an evening of skittles, bagatelle, dominoes, quizzes etc, chat and, of course, supper. Tickets, priced £6, will be available from Elaine Jones, Jackie Justham and myself from the beginning of August. It will be a BYO (bring your own drinks) evening. An evening of fun for all.

Tuesday 18th October - a charity Coffee and Cake Morning from 10-12 in the Meeting Place.

Saturday 3rd December - I hope you are racking your brains to find something suitable for our Home grown Talent Evening. Maybe, you are already practising! Maybe you just want an enjoyable evening of entertainment. Put the date in your diary now.

Maureen Butler

ELAINE JONES – AWARD FOR SCOUTING

Ian Carnell led our service on 29th May, and in his capacity as Deputy County Commissioner for Scouting was able to present Elaine with the Bar to the Award of Merit, recognising her further outstanding service to Scouting. His citation went as follows:

'Elaine has been involved in Scouting for well over 50 years and most of those years were spent at 2nd Olton (at Olton Congregational Church – later to become Olton URC). When I arrived at the Scout Group to become the Scout Leader and the Group Scout Leader, she was already running a most successful Cub Pack. In later years she became one of the first Beaver Scout Leaders in Solihull and indeed in the country. Her Beaver Colony soon became equally successful as the Cub Pack had become. Since then she has continued to be a very active member of the Scout Fellowship and then the Scout Active Support in Solihull County, working tirelessly to support events in the County and Districts as well as at the Scout Group attached to our church, 2nd Olton.

'Elaine has been a tower of strength to other members of the Scout Active Support and gives full support and advice to them. Her thoughtfulness and Scouting ideals are an inspiration for us all. Her support in the District and County has always been commendable. She always shows enthusiasm and determination to help organise any event which has been put on, and shows gratitude for any help given to her. She is always willing to be part of the organisation of any such activities and gives her energy and time to these projects unstintingly. She takes part in a varied programme, also encouraging others to take part in County and District events such as the County Camp, St George's Day Parades and Beaver and Cub celebrations. Her previous experience as a Cub and Beaver leader has meant that her support for those sections has been particularly beneficial.

'Outside of Scouting, Elaine is an active Elder at our Church and is also a trustee of a charity called the Sparkhill Trust where she has been ac-



Silver Wedding Anniversary

Greetings to John and Marynol Agnew for 10th August . We send our love and congratulations to them on this special occasion. John has recently retired, so we wish him a long and happy retirement

Safe Arrival

Barrie and I are pleased to announce the safe arrival of our first great grandchild Harvey on the 28th of May. Thank you for your prayers, kind thoughts and good wishes over the last few weeks for our Granddaughter Natalie. Both mother and baby are doing well.

. Jeanne.

Thank you!

A very big Thankyou to all of my dear Hobs Moat friends for the beautiful flowers and very generous gifts which you gave to me when I retired as Pastoral Co-ordinator. Your kindness is much appreciated and was a lovely surprise. Love and God Bless you all.

Jeanne

We would like to thank our friends in Hobs Moat for the lovely plant, cards and good wishes on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Eric & Marcia Bignall

We pray

For all our people who need support in their time of need. May they feel God's blessing as they deal with their problems. Bless all who work in caring for the needs of others.

MONDAY NIGHT CLUB AT HOBS MOAT

Our first meeting after the summer break will be on 5th September, which will be a coffee evening and a chat. The 12th of September will be our AGM. Please come and join us and enjoy our varied programme.

FELLOWSHIP PRAYERS

Housebound

Doris Thompson, Gordon Straight, Brenda Cotes, Joan Shaw, Phyllis Macer-Wright, Vera Thomas, Alf Andrews and Jim Durant (now in Ardenlea Court)

Health issues or increased frailty

We pray for patience and perseverance as life is adjusted to cope each day: Vera Thomas, Pam Tovey, Jean and Brian Mather, Margaret Agnew, Thelma Philips, Eunice Thomson, Margaret Toogood, David Cross, Irene Lambert ad partner Keith, Beryl Pullin, Maureen Bellamy, Andrea and Phil Holt, Peggy Crosby, the Jenkins family, Thea, Brenda, Keith and Barbara, and Sheila Durant, now at home following operation on her femur.

In hospital

Sally Lauritz (nee Payne) in Australia – following a severe stroke. We remember John and Mavis, sons Guy and Tim, in their concern for Sally.

Bereavement.

It is with much sadness that we have heard of the death of Mary Stimpson. Mary died peacefully in a nursing home on Thursday the 16th June, she was 102 years old. Mary was a cherished and long standing member at Hobs Moat and we missed her a lot when she became unable to attend our services. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary's daughter Karen and her family and all of Mary's grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral

The Funeral of our dear friend Mary Stimpson will be at Hobs Moat SURC on Tuesday July 5th at 12noon and the burial will be at Widney Manor at 1.45 pm.

Special Birthday

We send love and best wishes to Margaret Toogood as she celebrates her 90th birthday with her family on 17th August.

tive in helping to choose deserving recipients of grants, including visiting an organisation for conductive education which helps children

and adults with movement disorders.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

3 July: Isaiah 66.10-14; Psalm 66.1-9; Galatians 6.(1-6),7-16
Luke 10.1-11,16-20 10

10 July Deuteronomy 30.9-14; Psalm 25.1-10; Colossians 1.1-14;
Luke 10.25-37

17 July Genesis 18.1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1.15-28;
Luke 10.38-42

24 July Genesis 18.20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2.6-15,(16-19);
Luke 11.1-13

31 July Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14; 2.18-23; Psalm 49.1-12;
Colossians 3.1-11; Luke 12.13-21

7 Aug Genesis 15.1-6; Psalm 33.12-22; Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16;
Luke 12.32-40

14 Aug Jeremiah 23.23-29; Hebrews 11.29 – 12.2; Psalm 82;
Luke 12.49-56

21 Aug Isaiah 58.9b-14; Psalm 103.1-8; Hebrews 12.18-29;
Luke 13.10-17

28 Aug Sirach 10.12-18; Proverbs 25.6-7; Psalm 112;
Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16; Luke 14.1,7-14

COACH TRIPPERS UNITED

Shrewsbury Thursday, 21st July

Shrewsbury is one of England's finest medieval towns, with its black and white buildings and cobbled alleys and beautiful flower displays. There are many independent shops, restaurants and cafes. As well as the Museum and Art Gallery there are numerous churches, Shrewsbury Abbey and Shrewsbury Castle. You can wander down to Quarry Park and the river and watch the world go by.

At 3pm we are booked on the 'Sabrina', Shrewsbury's No.1 passenger boat for a leisurely cruise along the River Severn loop, passing St.Chad's Church, the English Bridge, the Welsh Bridge, Pengwern Boat Club, Shrewsbury Abbey, Shrewsbury School, Theatre Severn; the home of Percy Thrower, The Quarry, the Town Walls, Shrewsbury Castle;, Shrewsbury Cathedral and the Old Friary. The trip includes a live commentary, table service and on-board river maps, and lasts about 45 minutes.



The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park Thursday, 18th August 2016

The Savill Garden is recognised as one of the finest woodlands gardens in the country. It sits in the heart of historic Windsor Great Park, and with plants collected from around the world it provides a relaxing and inspiring visit. There are Hidden gardens, Summer gardens, the New Zealand garden, the Summer wood, the Glades and Azalea Walks.



In August the herbaceous borders are ribbons of vibrant colour, there are lush and shady walks in the hidden gardens, and over 700 hydrangeas in bloom in the Summer Wood. Entrance to the Garden is £8.

Plants from the Royal Gardens are on the plant terrace, and there are tempting offerings from the Royall Windsor Farm Shop, as well as a wide range of gifts for the garden and the home.

A self-service lunch, seated in a dedicated area in the award-winning Savill Building, can be chosen from any main course from the hot food counter, a jacket potato or salad from the deli bar, and a traditional homemade dessert, all served with freshly brewed filter

GARDEN PARTY



SATURDAY 9th JULY

FROM 2.30 TO 5.00

at 64 Widney Manor Road

No admission charge

But we will ask for donations to the Church charity

Cream teas + Competitions

Bring and Buy + Plants + BookStall

Parking at 64 for those who have difficulty in walking far.

Or at 68, there will be room for a few cars there.