

Littlehampton

NEWSLETTER

United Church

Methodist/United

Reformed

1 High Street

Littlehampton

West Sussex BN17 5EG



September - October 2017



From our Minister, Norman Croft:

Jeremiah was called by God to be His prophet to Israel at a crucial time in the nation's history, When the nation was deliberately turning from God. (Sounds familiar?) His ministry was lonely and unpopular, causing him grief and disappointment. Yet despite this, Jeremiah found strength and courage to do the job God had given him. We can, if we want, make changes to our world. To do so we need to develop the same relationship that Jeremiah had with God. So let us look at what we can learn from scripture about Jeremiah and his growing relationship with God. (See Jeremiah Chapter 1) As with us, sometimes he felt hopelessly inadequate for the task, and like a child, wanted to run away from the situation. So how did God respond?

He equipped him

God gave Jeremiah the tools he needed to complete the tasks that God had in mind for him. (verses 5 and 9) So with all his servants God provides the gifts and equipment necessary to tackle the job in hand.

God was present with him

God sent Jeremiah out and promised always to be with him. (verses 7 and 8) When God gives us a job to do He answers our inadequacy and weakness with His strength.

God gives us authority

God gave Jeremiah the authority to speak for Him. (verse 10)
Our message for the world comes with the authority of God Himself.

God gives assurance

God kept watch over Jeremiah all the time. (verses 11 – 12)
We can be sure that God is still keeping watch over us and our world today.

God gives understanding

God showed Jeremiah He understood what he was up against. (verses 13 – 16)
Likewise, God knows what is happening in our world and He understands the pressures we are working under, and so, likewise, will offer us the support we need.

The secret of Jeremiah's life despite his fears and doubts and the opposition he experienced, was that he found in God the strength to fulfil the mission to the world that he had been given (verses 17 – 19)

All this can be true in our lives if we, as Jeremiah did, hand our lives over to the Lord!

“Tea & Chat Club”

- Every Tuesday 10am – 3pm in the Church Hall, Littlehampton United Church
- Our aim is to provide a social environment for adults. A regular meeting place where everyone's viewpoint is respected.
- We are open from 10.00am to 3.00pm. You are welcome to drop in for a chat and a cup of tea or stay all day. (Our daily rate is £2.00) Drop in tea & coffee is available at 50p.
- Our current programme includes varying crafts, quizzes, games and demonstrations and talks.
- If you require more information, please ring Carol on 782876 or Christine on 717942

Open Hands Prayer Group

At 64 The Haven

Contact Val Azzaro 718070

Next meeting 19th September

23rd October

We, here in Littlehampton are so blessed to have Val leading the Open Hands Prayer Group. All are made welcome as we come together and bring to The Lord our concerns for the Church Family and our need for His help to make the right choices and decisions for the future ministry of this church.

In a cluster of 5 churches working together with 2 ministers to lead the group, it is so important that we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and enable us to work together in harmony.

Left to our own devices, all thinking we know best, how could we be sure of doing the Lord's will and not our own?

We must be filled with His love to work together, so come and join us in prioritizing our prayer life.

May our Lord's will, and His will only be done in our church, our town our homes and our hearts.

Monday Home Group

Contact Alison Spencer 715711

Next meetings 11th September

9th October

Items for the Magazine

After a few rather “thin” editions of the magazine, this month we are well supplied with articles. Thanks to all who have contributed. However, a space filling picture, from the last edition aroused considerable interest.



The steam locomotive is on the Vale of Rheidol Railway at Devil’s Bridge near Aberystwyth . Our Minister suggested a regular feature of the magazine could be “Identify this place” and he submitted this picture: Where is it?



The Editor would like to remind you that articles of general interest, Photos, Holiday Reminiscences, are always welcome.
(preferably by email)

The closing date for the November/ December edition is 12.30pm
on Friday 20th October

Please note – future pictures will not all be of railway engines!

Wednesday Fellowship

We chose the hottest day of the year for our end of session lunch. Sixteen members sat down to fish and chips, followed by some delicious cold desserts, these together with jugs of iced water were much appreciated.

We have continued this year with our fortnightly meetings and have enjoyed a varied programme of speakers and more informal members afternoons. We have supported the Gideons, Royal British Legion and Methodist World Missions through the Easter Offering Envelopes. Four of our members were able to attend the dedication service at Westergate in June. This was the final service held by the ladies of the United Area. Over the years we have enjoyed both the annual services held at different churches and the open days which have enabled members to join in various activities and a time of worship and fellowship.

Blankets made from knitted squares and knitted scarves have been donated to Link to Hope for their work in Eastern Europe. If any readers have left over knitting wool, we can make good use of it. This year we have started a new venture, saving 5p coins, our jar realised a total of £30 which we sent to MAF for their work in remote areas of the world.

We have welcomed four new members to our group, but sadly have had to say farewell to Richard and Maureen. Both have supported the fellowship over many years and will be missed.

New members or visitors are very welcome,

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|------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Programme: | Sept 6 th | Come and Share |
| | Sept 20 th | Holy Communion |
| | | In the church with Revd. Norman Croft |
| | October 4 th | Presentation by Chestnut Tree House |
| | October 18 th | Fruit and Vegetables in the Bible |
| | | Auction for mission |

News from Monica Noble and family

Hello! I am Rosemary, Monica's daughter, and on the last two occasions that Mum has got to services I have been the one in charge of her wheelchair. Mum continues to enjoy hearing news and reading this publication but has admitted that she probably will not be able to be with you physically to worship again, although she remains very much with you in thought and prayer and as a member of your church. Her home, for almost two years, has been St Joseph's Nursing Home at the end of East Street, where visitors are always welcome.

This newsletter will continue to be of great importance to Mum as my husband Nick and I set off on a Big Adventure: we are moving some 700 miles north to live on the Orkney Islands off the north coast of Scotland. It is an area that we love and we hope to make the move in September - yes, just in time for the long, dark winters! We will, of course, be back regularly to visit Mum but please do keep her in your prayers as we move away. She knows all about it and, in many ways, is surprised that we didn't do this some thirty years ago! The landscape of Orkney is soft and undulating, very like the South Downs. It is not at all mountainous like the Highlands.

As I write this I have made an interesting discovery! I have attended both the Catholic Church and St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, the capital of Orkney, but the greatest number of cars are generally outside the Peedie (small) Kirk, opposite the great, red-stoned Cathedral building. Checking the Peedie Kirk out on-line I find that it is the world's most northerly URC church at 59 degrees north! I shall visit and report back, to Mum and to you all too.

With very best wishes

Monica Noble and Rosemary Moon.

Dates for your Diary

| | |
|---|---|
| 24 th September | 10.30am Harvest Festival |
| 1 st October | Morning service followed by a quiet afternoon “In the footsteps of Christ” |
| 15 th October | Choir Sunday with Rev Dawn Carn |
| 11 th October | London City Mission 7.00pm at Parkside |
| 1 st December | Friends of Mombasa Children: Supper and concert with the Shelly Singers. |
| 8 th /9 th December | Christmas Tree Festival with the Friends of Mombasa Children |
| 17 th December | Service of Lessons and Carols. |
| 24 th December | Midnight Christmas Communion Commencing 11.30pm |
| 25 th December | 10.00am Christmas Family Celebration |

Littlehampton Association of London City Mission

Annual Meeting

Wednesday 11th October
Parkside Evangelical Church at 7.00pm
All Welcome

Pictures from the Holiday Café



WEEKLY/MONTHLY PROGRAMME

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Monday | <p>Home Group meets on 2nd Monday each month. Contact: Alison & Peter Spencer. (715711)</p> <p>Open Hands Prayer Group meets on 3rd Monday each month. Contact: Val Azzaro (718070)</p> |
| Tuesday | <p>Tea & Chat every Tuesday 10am – 3pm in Church Hall. Contact: Carol Taunton (782876)</p> |
| Wednesday | <p>Wednesday Fellowship meet fortnightly at 2.30pm Contact: Stella Lansdale (715465) All welcome</p> |
| Thursday | <p>Choir Practice 7.30pm each week. Contact: Jean Parker (715313)</p> <p>Arun Care – Drop in Centre 1pm – 4pm</p> |
| Friday | <p>Friday Service 11.00am in the church Tea/Coffee served in the church after the service. Contact Chris Azzaro (718070)</p> <p>Leadership Team Meeting on 2nd Friday each month.</p> |
| Saturday | <p>Coffee Lounge Open 10am – 11.30am on most Saturdays</p> |

Harvest 2017

Our Harvest Festival, this year, will take place on 24th September and will be led by Rev Norman Croft

As ever, we hope to have a floral display at the front of the church, and perhaps, this is a suitable opportunity to say *thank you* to our excellent and talented team of flower arrangers.

As last year we will be supporting The Littlehampton Churches Food Bank through our harvests gifts. Please look at the suggested items on the notice board in the Coffee Lounge. No fruit, Veg or other perishable goods, thank you. In recent years it has been increasingly difficult to sensibly distribute fresh produce from gardens or allotments, so please, do not feel disappointed when you don't see prize tomatoes or marrows arranged along the communion rail as may have happened in the past.

Please bring your gifts with you to church on Sunday morning when there will be an appropriate opportunity to bring them to the front of the church during the service.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 3rd September

- 10.30am Morning Worship led by Mr John Carr
6.30pm Informal Communion Service led by Chris Azzaro

Sunday 10th September

- 10.30am Morning Worship led by Mrs Lynne James

Sunday 17th September

- 10,30am Morning worship led by Chris Azzaro

Sunday 24th September

- 10.30am Harvest Festival and Communion
Led by Rev Norman Croft
6.30pm Café Sundae led by Chris Azzaro

Sunday 1st October

- 10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev Norman Croft
1.00pm Quiet Prayer Afternoon

Sunday 8th October

- 10.30am Morning Worship led by Mrs Lynne James

Sunday 15th October

- 10.30am Choir Sunday with Rev Dawn Carn

Sunday 22nd October

- 10.30am Holy Communion led by Rev Norman Croft
6.30pm Café Sundae: Sankey Hymns with Maurice Dibble

Sunday 29th October

- 10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev A Trevithick

Littlehampton United Church and The Friends of Mombasa Children



Christmas Tree Festival, 8th and 9th December 2017

Our Vision is to have a display of 10-15 decorated Christmas trees in the foyer and under the galleries in the church. Each tree decorated by an organisation of the Church, local schools, organisations that use the church, local firms or groups. Organisations, in addition to their tree, may wish to display information about themselves. On Friday evening we hope to run the festival from 4.00pm to 7.00pm and on Saturday, from 10.00am to 4.00pm

On Friday evening: Schools will be invited to sing carols.

Tea, Coffee, mince pies will be served.

On Saturday there will be recorded Christmas music in the church, refreshments in the coffee lounge and The Friends of Mombasa Children will be holding their **Christmas Sale** in the Knight Hall.

See Chris Azzaro for more information.

Another date for your diaries

The Friends of Mombasa Children will be holding their **Fish and Chip Supper on Saturday 1st December.**

This will be followed by a Concert given by the **Shelly Singers.**

“The truth is hard to swallow”

Quote from Water Aid.

The Circuit Justice and Peace Group was born in 2011 in the belief that great oaks from little acorns grow when we *Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God* Micah ch6 v8. The group defined Social Justice as an idea of creating a society based on the principles of equality and solidarity, accepting the values of human rights and dignity of every human being.

A circuit audit in 2012 showed the wide variety and commitment of members to concerns of justice without which peace cannot be achieved. That audit showed that 88 of the 271, that is one third of respondents were concerned about and/or involved with **Water Aid**, and water was 9th of 71 justice related concerns nominated across the Circuit.

In 2017/18 the J&P group is focussing on water as a justice issue and John Carr has presented a powerful report which will be shared at the Circuit Meeting on September 11th and at a circuit gathering and service planned at Westergate at 4pm on February 11th 2018, Racial Justice Sunday.

This is to “whet your appetite” and hopefully get you on board as individuals and church communities.

John’s report tells us of many gloomy stories, where governments fail and water is used as a weapon of war, but also of much technological simple advance, enabling local projects to be effective on the ground in small communities. That is where you and I come in. We can grasp the nettle by accepting the slogan:-

**It’s simple
Don’t get bogged down
Spend a penny**

**Give a penny
Flush away poverty.**

The proposed Toilet Twinning Project

As a Church community will you consider raising boxes of £60 to be twinned with an overseas community of your choice, or if you prefer, £240 boxes to twin with a school toilet? We would hope that your church associated groups such as uniformed organisations, fellowship and toddler groups might become involved.

You may like to visit the website to see projects and ideas to help us get involved www.toilettwinning.org, but if not we will have boxes and information for everyone available at the Circuit Meeting.

Just a thought:-

I can hear some of you saying we are already planning to do that, or we are already doing so much, of course we know and appreciate that from our LINKS within the churches. Thank you for your efforts, but if you can join us as a circuit, then that too will be good, perhaps via a group associated with the church, but not otherwise involved.





Littlehampton United Church

Minister
Revd. Norman Croft
01903 713506

Church Secretary and contact
Andrew Tyrrell

Find out more about what is happening at Littlehampton United Church by visiting our website.

littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/LittlehamptonUnitedChurch/

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