

# Littlehampton United Church

## Mini Newsletter 26



Keeping  
our church  
together

**Greetings to you all.** The weather has unfortunately become colder again, but the sun is out, the hours of daylight are increasing and the daffodils are flowering in the garden. While admiring our daffodils, I was reminded that had I been leading worship last weekend, I may well have mentioned St David's Day, although I would probably have regretted choosing Welsh hymn tunes after the rugby fiasco on Saturday! Reading the March issue of "Reform" magazine I recognised the words that the saint famously said "Do the little things in life". Doing small, everyday things with love is a witness to our faith and can lead to our most meaningful moments. (*John Swinton—Chapter and verse*) John goes on to illustrate how a small thing such as a smile can do so much. "There is a tremendous power in small gestures, a smile can save a life, a look can touch a soul." Love reveals itself in small things. In Ephesians chapter 3, Paul reminds us that since we are "rooted and grounded in love, we may be able to comprehend what is the breadth and length and height and depth of God's love".

### **News of the Family**

Congratulations to Brenda Chesterton on reaching her 90th birthday. On 25th February  
Please note that Malcolm, our Pastoral Secretary, has a new phone number: 07729 029467

### **Lent Cross**

So far the chalice, bag of silver coins and crown of thorns have been added.

### **Services and Bible Study on Zoom**

The code you need is 254 574 5519 password; 349515

Or you can join in by phone 0203 481 5240

Sunday services are at 10.30 am and Tuesday Bible Studies at 7.30pm.

### **Reform Magazine**

Those of you who take this magazine will have read the interview with Naison Hove on the progress of the well project and the difficulties encountered. Please contact Robert Taunton if you wish to subscribe to this magazine published by the United Reformed Church.

## *From The Leadership Team - What is our Mission?*

A year ago we held our last Church Meeting. We did not anticipate the enormous changes to our way of living that were just around the corner. We did, however listen to and largely agree with Nigel Stapley's presentation on why we need to re-examine our ideas about God, and consequently, our worship in the 21st century. When, at the end of August, we re-commenced our services—albeit with many restrictions, we were able to engage with different worshipping styles. Without singing hymns we listened to a range of music while our minds focused on pictures and art to support a theme or text. Sermons were short as we emphasised worship and prayer rather than preaching.

Your Leadership team have been challenged to think about our mission in the “New Normal”. We started from the Awayday of 2014 when we decided that being a Community Church should be an aim for the future. A huge step towards this goal was taken when we agreed to share our premises with Turning Tides. Now, with an aging worshipping congregation that is having difficulty filling leadership posts, we ask ourselves: how can we move further forward?

At our next Leadership Team meeting (probably by zoom) we will consider a document, that we hope to publish soon, to explain our ideas and a plan for the future. The following paragraph show some of our ideas on being a community church:

Our position on a prominent corner of main roads and existing links with community groups prompt us to believe that our future lies in serving this community by sharing our premises with others, who may not be overtly Christian but never-the-less share the gospel values that Jesus evidenced in his life. There is enough community involvement at present on which to build and to become a community hub. The church should be the link to bridge the gap between the groups to find a unifying bond. Jesus Christ during the three-year period of His ministry in Galilee and around the towns along the region offers good examples of bringing people together when he healed, taught and fed the hungry.

There are implications for our worship :

In order to maintain and develop LUC as a community resource which reflects the values of God's realm it will need a spiritual community at its heart, where people can meet together to draw inspiration and energy from that mystery we name 'God', finding deeper fulfilment in their (our) own lives and thereby having the resources to feed into the activity of the whole community hub. At the centre of our vision and mission is the Gospel or the Good News that touches the life of every person of the different groups.

This requires a radical rethink of what we do when we meet together as a congregation. Mainstream traditional Christian thinking and worship is clearly not finding much resonance amongst following generations. All the evidence is that we are not going to survive if we attempt to reinstate worship as we have in the past. A further weakness was that this has become, more or less, the only activity which involves the congregation. We have to ask ourselves, how community activities will reflect our worship and how our worship will involve our community.

If you have questions on any church matter that you would like the Leadership Team to answer, please contact me, as Church Secretary—details below. You will receive a reply after we next meet.

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Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome

There is also information about our church on the website: [www.littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk](http://www.littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk)