

Littlehampton United Church

Mini Newsletter 32



Keeping
our church
together

Pictures from Zimbabwe

On page two you will find Naison's report on the successful work on the bore-hole project—with more challenges to come. Here are a few of the pictures received.



Can you help by joining the team of door stewards on Sunday mornings.

In view of the uncertainty of how things would work when services restarted, the Leadership Team took on all the duties of welcoming. Now, to keep everything running smoothly we invite people to volunteer to join the welcoming team. If you can offer to welcome people at the door, please let Chris know.

Thank you for Digging Deeper Appeal!

Please accept my modest word of gratitude and thankfulness for the overwhelming response to the “Water Appeal project” that we published in the “Reform” magazine of March 2021.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Reform magazine readership, who have generously dug deep and supported this cause beyond words. As I once said, in my local pastorate newsletter, thanking the membership for the initiative. Their support to provide clean water to strangers who are ten thousand miles away is beyond words. This project is a result of my visit to Zimbabwe in May/June 2021 that followed up now to supervise work and I am glad the trip was a success.

This is what we mission beyond borders and living the true Gospel Christ. So far two boreholes have been installed, one is manual and the other is solar powered. The solar system has a 5000 cubic litres volume tank connected to it. The solar system water well pumps and fill the tank in 1hour 30minutes and people come in the morning to draw water thereafter. All this was made possible because of people’s kindness and generous giving.

While I was still in Zimbabwe this time I encountered, yet another heart rendering episode when a school head from a nearby primary school, 10 kilometres away from the installed boreholes came to me, pleading and wishing the second borehole would have been installed at the school where there is equally dire need for water. This school is called **Mbirashava** Primary school 10 kilometres from **Murambi** village. This is the school where I did my primary education and has a student population of 300 pupils plus 10 teaching staff. “The provision of clean water for this school will be a dream come true for these children,” said Mr Fredrick Dube. Mr Dube the school head could not hide his emotions as he was expressing this appeal to me. One minute I experienced the challenges of servanthood and sometimes God gives us eyes to see the needy when we personally do not have the ability or the means to do anything. Just like Ezekiel who was sent to the people of Israel with the word of God but with no means or ability to control or determine their responses. For all I am doing here is to tell you what I have seen and heard and I pray that God will speak to his people just as he has spoken before.

Once again, I thank you kindness, generosity and support. Water is life!

May God bless you.

Naison M. Hove

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 25th July Church Anniversary and Church Meeting. This will be a low-key event this year. Our own Minister, Rev Naison Hove will be leading the Anniversary Service with communion. This will immediately be followed by a Church Meeting. The agenda will be published shortly. Minutes of the last church meeting—held just before the first lock-down are being sent out with this newsletter.

Sunday 26th September 3.00pm A Thanksgiving service and celebration of lives lost during the Pandemic. An opportunity to meet together, circumstances permitting. Probably at Emmanuel Church.

12th September 10.30am Christ Church, Chichester, are intending to hold an outdoor service in Priory Park. They are inviting other churches to send a few representatives to help swell the numbers.

Leaders of Worship July and August

July 4th	Rev. Naison Hove
July 11th	Chris Azzaro
July 18th	Lynne James
July 25th	Rev Naison Hove (Communion Service)
1st August	Nigel Stapley
8th	Malcolm Lindo
15th	Rev. Naison Hove (Communion Service)
22nd	Wendy Corney
29th	Chris Azzaro

Remember to keep yourself and others safe in church

With the number of new covid cases rising rapidly in Arun (and across the UK) we need to be very careful when we meet together.

Please remember to keep at least 1.5 m apart from everyone else (apart from your own family).

Wear your mask

Wait until you are outside in the open air before chatting.

We wait to see what the Government will allow after 19th July in the meantime we continue with our shorter services with no singing or coffee.

Friday Morning Services

We are hoping to re-start our Friday Morning services towards the end of August—assuming we are allowed to serve refreshments afterwards. We are awaiting Government advice .

From the Methodist Conference. The decision to allow same sex marriages to take place in Methodist Churches has been reported by the news media. In URC churches it has been up to congregations to make this decision.

A pastoral letter from the President and Vice-President following the Methodist Conference vote on Marriage and Relationships

We wished to take this opportunity to write to you after the Conference voted on the resolutions contained in the marriage and relationships report.

We very much appreciate that these decisions will stir up many different emotions for our siblings across the Connexion. There will be some who will be deeply hurt and others who will rejoice by what has been decided.

Our Presidential theme this year is God's Table: An Invitation for All, and God's invitation is for every single one of us. The Methodist Church has held tension for many years and as a Church and a family, we must do all we can to live with contradictory convictions.

This work was first reflected on back in 1992 and we have been on this journey together since that point. During the past years we have continued to listen to and to pray for each other and remaining true to what God is saying to us. We must remember in all this, to continue to hold each other in prayer, and to support each other as we find a way forward, respecting our differences.

It is perhaps helpful to remember that there are other issues, some of them discussed at the Conference, on which we hold differing and sometimes strong opinions. We live with them and we do not allow them to impair our communion with each other. We respect each other's consciences, we exercise judgment in when to speak and when to be silent, and we hold one another in prayer. We do all this not for our own sake but for the sake of Christ and the sake of the world which urgently needs to know the power of Christ's reconciling love.

Our prayer for you, beloved siblings, is that in joy or sorrow, in pain or excitement, we might continue to live within that reconciling love.

The Revd Sonia Hicks
President of the Conference

Mrs Barbara Easton
Vice-President of the Conference

This newsletter was edited by Chris Azzaro, who can be contacted on 01903 718070 or by email:

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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