

Littlehampton United Church

Mini Newsletter 33



Keeping
our church
together

The long awaited “Freedom day” came and went on July 19th. The laws that were designed to restrict the spread of Covid-19 were time limited and were not renewed. Ironically, the increase in cases of Covid across the nation and locally continues to spiral upwards and even those who have been double jabbed have been shown to still be vulnerable.

The Leadership team ask you to continue to wear your mask in church, use the hand sanitizer and maintain safe distances. If you wish to sing, please do so behind your mask. Not only do we need to keep everyone safe but people coming to church need to feel safe—and that includes those who lead our worship.

As we move into the “New Normal” - I have also heard it called the “New Different” - let us wait on God in prayer. We are called to serve God and others. We need to ask God what He wants us to be—as individuals but also as a church. We need to seek out what part we can play. When we can sing once more, I am sure we will remember the words: “Your hand, O God, has guided, your flock from age to age.” May God guide us now as we continue to be His people in Littlehampton.



General Church Meeting

To be held after the morning service on Sunday 25th July

Please note that despite the lifting of some restrictions, most safeguarding measures will remain in place. In order to conduct the meeting safely, please wear your mask and maintain a distance between yourself and others.

One microphone will be available for Naison Hove as chair of the meeting.

Another microphone will be available at the front of the church for those giving reports or wishing to speak. You may remove your mask when speaking from the front. The microphone will be wiped with a sterilising cloth between speakers. The hand-held mic may also be used but will be wiped with a sterilising cloth if passed around.

AGENDA

Devotions

Apologies for absence

Minutes of the meeting 8th March 2020 have been circulated but will not be discussed as so much time has elapsed. Most matters arising will probably be answered in the reports that follow. Space for asking questions will follow.

Pastoral Matters

Remembering those who have passed since the last meeting:

An opportunity to thank those who have stepped down following years of dedicated service:

Reports on progress developments since March 2020

The Project (John)

Mission and our Community Partners (Nigel and Sarah Smith)

Worship (Chris)

Finance

The Borehole in Zimbabwe (Naison)

Correspondence from the President of the Methodist Conference and Moderator of the URC Assembly

Election of Stewards and Church Officers. The Church Leadership Team is currently as follows (figures in brackets are dates for re-election)

Church Secretary Chris Azzaro (2022)

Church Treasurer Nigel Stapley (2021)

Senior Steward Vacant

Chair of Property Committee Malcolm Nichols (2023)

Safeguarding Co-ordinator Pauline Chaloner (2022)

Stewards John Stevens (2022)

Malcolm Nichols (2022)

Maurice Dibble (2022)

Alexander Woo (2023)

Representatives to Circuit and Synod meetings are Pauline and John (Methodist Circuit), Malcom and John (URC Synod) Naison Hove (Minister), Chris Azzaro (Church Secretary) and Nigel Stapley (Treasurer) may attend both meetings.

Re- election of the Treasurer

A.O.B.

Date of next Church meeting .

Dates for your Diary

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.

3rd and 4th December Christmas Tree Festival

Leaders of Worship in August

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).

We ask you to wear your mask

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

Despite Government pronouncements on freedom from restrictions after the 19th July, we continue with our shorter services with no singing or coffee.

Friday Morning Services

We are hoping to re-start our Friday Morning services in September. Part of the reason these were enjoyed was the opportunity to chat afterwards. We will wait and see how things develop in order to be completely safe. The Friday service is usually about 25 minutes long, well known hymns or songs, short sermon and opportunities for prayer. .

Pictures:

On the South Downs last week.



Community Partners

Our aim was to have the Coffee Lounge open everyday for people to drop by and chat. Not very long ago, the leadership Team saw this as a long term goal. However, when we received enquiries from Age UK who were looking for premises for their activities it soon became apparent that here was an organisation who shared many of our interests and concerns for the community. What was more, they wanted to open our coffee lounge for light refreshments and chat five days a week.

Many of you have noticed the banner of Age UK outside the church coffee lounge and may have wondered what happens inside. I am very pleased to tell you that between 9.30am and 2.30pm you can drop into the Coffee Lounge for tea, Coffee, Cakes and light refreshment. There will be someone there to welcome you and chat. We have invited Sarah Smith along to our Church Meeting on Sunday 25th to tell us more about what her organisation is offering.

For example, you could join a class in anything from Jewellery Art, Muscle Strengthening and Balance, several dance groups and a choir. At present all classes are £3 but in September, to get in at this rate, you will need to join Age UK. The membership fee is £35 for six months.

Please note :

There is **no charge** to come in for refreshments—just pay for what you eat and drink—at considerably less than Costa!

Our premises are also used during the week by several support groups, the Muslim group who meet for Friday prayers, Arun Care and, not least Lyn's Flower arrangers.

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

christopher.azzaro@sky.com

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome

There is also information about our church on the website: www.littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk