

Littlehampton United Church

Mini
Newsletter 35



Keeping
our church
together

**Over the mountains and the sea, Your river runs with love for me.
And I will sing of when Your love came down. *Martin Smith, Delirious?***



In the last newsletter I wrote that myself and my older daughter, Maddy, were going to attempt the walk up Snowdon. This time I'm very pleased to say "we did it!!!"

On Sunday, I hope to share some thoughts together on the challenges of going up mountains and on coming down again. The elation of reaching the top is countered by problems encountered when descending. There are Biblical examples from Moses, Elijah and Jesus with his disciples. In the meantime, let me say thank you for your support and encouragement.

As my picture shows, the summit is hidden in the clouds but we also had some sun-shine. The rain arrived later. The "Miner's Track" can be seen far below where we were walking. (Along the PYG track—not a Welsh word, just the name this path has acquired) Nearer the summit, the paths join together with others and there are fantastic views if the mist clears.



St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Monthly Newsletter

August/September 2021

From the Minister's desk:

The journey to the 18th July 2021 has been long and overdue for people to get back their independence from the restrictions as a result of the lockdown. People were tired, agitated and couldn't wait for this day to come so that they could start to plan their holidays and visit families just to give their loved ones a hug and embrace each other. The longevity of lockdown has left some scares in the livelihood of many people because they lost their jobs due to nonproductivity from all sectors of societal economy worldwide. The Church has not been spared from the upsurge effects of the coronavirus that has brought the world to its knees.

As I write this letter, we have met for church meeting to plan and dream for the future after the restrictions have been lifted, with the hope that we are going to continue doing the mission of God with the "new normal" that cannot be defined because the future is unpredictable. If the virus continues to mutate, we may go back into another lockdown again.

I came out of the meeting with a strong persuasion that, at the centre of our mission thrust, we should spend more time praying together as we seek the mind of God and His will in the life and mission of the church. "A church that is praying together is a going church; a church that is not praying together is a dying church." *"My soul waits silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him," (Psalm 62:5)..* We are called to look up to the Lord in prayer and seek the face of God who is the beginner and finisher of all things. The Bible tells us that, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end (Rev. 22:12).* As we navigate our mission strategy out of the lockdown *from the pandemic of the coronavirus, let's remember our calling.* We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, people who are constantly learning from the Word of God through reading the Word and prayer.

God's blessing to all!

Naison M. Hove

An apology from the editor:

I cheated and copied Naisons's letter from the Newsletter of St Andrew's Church but I could not delate the heading. For the sake of expediency I have published the original version.

News of the Family

Malcolm Nicholls is much recovered and you may see him around the church again. He is not yet up to full strength so please remember him in your prayers.

Rev Norman Croft has also had a time in hospital and will be taking life much easier while he awaits surgery. Please remember both Norman and Jo.

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. At Emmanuel Church.

3.00pm followed by tea. (To be confirmed)

There will be a choir rehearsal for this event at 7.30pm on 24th September at Emmanuel. All singers are welcome.

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10th and 11th December Christmas Tree Festival.

Provisional Timings: **Friday** from 4.00pm the Tree festival will be open, refreshments served in the Coffee Lounge and Friends of Mombasa Children will have set up their Christmas sale in the Knight Hall.

Hoping to have some Carol singing by candle-light around 6.00pm Close at 7.00pm

Saturday: Festival open from 10.00am, Refreshments served in the coffee lounge and sale in the Knight Hall. Yet to be confirmed: A Christmas concert by the Shelly Singers in the church from 3.00pm.

Close at 4.30pm Offers of help will be gratefully accepted.

Leaders of Worship in September/October

19th September Chris Azzaro

26th September Naison Hove (Communion)

3rd October Adam Cook

10th October Chris Azzaro

17th October Naison Hove (Communion and Church Meeting)

24th October Rev Kenneth Lynch

31st October Nigel Stapley

Friday Morning Services

We are hoping to re-start our Friday Morning services on Friday 17th September. The Friday service is usually about 25 minutes long, well known hymns or songs, very short thought on a Bible reading and opportunities for prayer.

Tea/Coffee and an opportunity to chat will follow the service..