

Littlehampton United Church

Mini

Newsletter 42



Spring has arrived in Littlehampton

As the spring flowers arrive in our gardens and the warmth of the sunshine encourages us to enjoy the outdoors once again, we thank God for all the good things in our lives.

Sadly, events elsewhere in the world do not echo our optimism. As the situation in Ukraine gets worse, there is so much for which we must pray. War hurts civilians, leaders must make wise decisions, and families face leaving their homes, divided as men stay and fight. Lives, which until recently were happy and peaceful are now in turmoil.

What can we do?

We can pray!

Saturday 26th March Churches Together in Littlehampton

Prayer for Ukraine

In the grounds of St Catherine's Church at 2.00pm

Please note that the car park at St Catherine's will not be available .

**The Following two Statements were read out in Church on Sunday 20th March
And also at Emmanuel URC, Worthing, and St Andrews URC, Rustington.**

A statement from Revd Bridget Banks, Moderator of Southern Synod of the URC

Over a period of 4 months, I received two serious allegations of the same nature against your minister, Rev Naison Hove. Following the URC's disciplinary procedure for ministers (known as 'Section O') and after taking careful advice, I wrote to Naison on 12th January 2022 suspending him from active ministry whilst the allegations were investigated. I then informed the churches in the pastorate that they were, for the time being, to refrain from all contact with Naison.

Following the set procedure, a 'Mandated Group' was duly formed, which carefully investigated the allegations. They have now reported back to me that they found no evidence to support the allegations. The matter is now at an end and so is the investigative suspension of your minister. You and he are now free to renew contact and rebuild your relationship.

I fully appreciate how difficult these two months must have been for Naison and his family and also for you, the Elders and members of your church, and the other churches in the pastorate. Personally, I will continue to pray for you, and for Naison and his family, as you seek to move forward with the life and witness of your fellowship after this difficult time.

A statement from Revd Naison Hove, minister of this church.

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the difficulty you all had to go through for the last two months, given the circumstances that had nothing to do with the pastorate churches. I want to register my thankfulness for the prayers you all offered for me. I also want to acknowledge the work you have done without me as your minister during this period. Thank you.

Secondly, because of what has happened and given the unsettling brought by these difficult circumstances, I have taken the opportunity to review my ministry in this pastorate.

After careful reflection and prayers in the light of what has happened, I feel this is the right time for me to move on. I will be starting to seek a new pastorate.

I understand that the elders of each church will now be working with me to establish the best way to re-build our relationship for the time that remains to us. I continue to hold your church and the other churches in the pastorate in my prayers and I look forward to seeing my sisters and brothers again over the next few weeks.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 9th April Edwin James Festival Choir - See Norman Redington for information

Maundy Thursday 14th April Tenebrae Service at St Andrew's URC at 7.30pm

Good Friday Littlehampton Churches Together walk of witness and Sea Front Service

Saturday 23rd April 2nd Hand Book Sale in aid of The Friends of the Mombasa Children

10.00am—1.00pm Refreshments, Jig-saws CD's Over 1500 books including many children's books.

News of the Family

Lyn Rendall is awaiting a knee replacement.

Val's hip replacement operation was postponed again. Her new date is 11th April.

Alison is awaiting surgery. .

Please remember all these people in your prayers.

If you have information or news concerning church members, please pass it on to John Stevens who will see that it is circulated so that they be included in our prayers.

Leaders of Sunday morning Worship in March/April

Sunday 28th March Revd Mike Lewis

Sunday 3rd April Lynne James

Sunday 10th April Revd Tony Brazier

Sunday 17th April Nigel Stapley Easter Sunday

Sunday 24th April Chris Azzaro

Friday mornings at 11.00am A short service followed by Tea/Coffee

1st April Karyn Hinks

8th April Norman Croft

15th April (Good Friday) To be announced - probably with Littlehampton Churches Together

22nd April Chris Azzaro

Remember to keep yourself and others safe in church

With the number of new covid cases still very high in Arun 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).

Wearing a mask or visor is not compulsory but we think it safer if you do,

Do not come to church if you are feeling unwell