

# Littlehampton United Church

## November Newsletter



50th Edition

Much has been said on the art of sermon writing. When I was studying to become a preacher I even read a book or two on the subject. In those days anything less than 20 minutes was regarded with disdain. Now, in 2022, circumstances have changed. I usually aim for 7 minutes on a Friday morning and around 15 minutes for a Sunday. Which would you say is the easiest to prepare: a 7 minute talk for a Friday Morning service, or 15 minutes for Sunday Morning?

The answer is usually the Sunday sermon slot. Fitting all that could be said into a small time span, on a Friday, is not easy; it often comes down to what could be left out?



If you have read the November edition of “Reform” you may have seen the article by Paul Korensa. In that article Paul recalls Royal occasions involving Church Services, not least the Funeral of our late Queen. He points out the “*daunting platform for the Archbishop of Canterbury and the other clergy speaking that day. Yet in just 500 words over 6 minutes, Justin Welby presented the Gospel to half of God’s world. Wow!*”

In 1953 it is estimated that 227 million people watched the Coronation—many bought a television in order to do so, By the time of the wedding of Charles and Diana the viewing figure had risen to 750 million and twenty years after that, a billion people watched William marry Kate Middleton. In 2022, CNN described the viewing figures as “The end of Television”. With new ways of streaming and devices for communication, who knows how we will watch global events in the future.

But we don’t need to preach to such enormous audiences. Everyday we’ve been giving mini sermons for most of our lives. We don’t need to speak to half the planet—perhaps just half our family, a friend in need or a stranger we’ve met.. In every conversation it is the weight of our words that matter, not the quantity. Jesus said that when we are called upon to speak, God will give us the words to say. But more often than not, it is our lives and yje things we do that speak the most powerfully.

Chris Azzaro

With acknowledgement to Paul Korensa: “Do Stay for Tea and Coffee”, Reform November 2022

## A visitor from Kenya

On Friday 4th November we were treated to a video and talk about Unity School in Kenya. The guest was Mr Norbert Were (pronounced wherry), the School manager of the school we have supported through various events over many years. We were also treated to lunch with an African flavour. Thanks to Karyn who provided us with a choice of Swaheli Pilau or Chicken Pilau with rice.



Norbert told us about the great work that is happening at Unity School, excellent examination results, care for the most needy. But there are difficulties to overcome as well. Every school day, every child is given a hot meal. The food bill has increased from £600 per month to £1000. Just as in the UK, families are struggling to cope.

The aftermath of the pandemic has caused its own problems. The tourist trade in Mombasa has not recovered and many parents are still unemployed as a result.

Norbert visited several schools and churches during his visit here and received warm responses wherever he spoke. Friends of the Mombasa Children is, once again in a good position to maintain the work in Mombasa. Several events are planned locally, the next is in our church in two weeks time. See dates for your diary on the next page.



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## News of the family

Norman Redington has undergone more surgery but is now recovering. We were pleased to see him in church last Sunday.

Norman Croft has now received the surgery he has been waiting for, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Brenda Chesterton has received the hip replacement for which she has been waiting.

## Dates for your diary

Friday 2nd December/Saturday 3rd December

### **“Crib– Fest” and Christmas Sale with The Friends of the Mombasa Children**

A change from our Christmas Tree Festival as we plan a display of Crib Scenes. Assuming all goes according to plan:

Crib Fest will commence at 2.00pm when the choir from River Beach School will sing in the church. The Christmas sale will be in the Coffee Lounge, where tea/coffee and mince pies will be served. At 6.00pm there will be carol singing with Maurice Dibble in the church. Everything will finish at 7.00pm

On Saturday, the Church will open at 10.00am The exhibition will be open and sale will be open until 2.00pm. Refreshments will be available. Admission is free and all money raised will support the work of Friends of the Mombasa Children.

### **Preachers in November and December**

Sunday 20th November	Chris Azzaro
Sunday 27th November	Nigel Stapley      Communion Service
Sunday 4th December	Chris Azzaro
Sunday 11th December	Lynne James
Sunday 18th December	Revd John Scrivens
Christmas Day 25th December	10.00am At St Andrew’s Church, Holmes Lane, Rustington Revd Norman Croft will lead the Christmas Worship

Friday services will mainly be taken by Chris Azzaro.

On Friday mornings the church is open from 10.15am until 12.00 The short service is at 11.00am. Tea/Coffee is available before and after the service. Donations for the refreshments will support the Feeding programme at Unity School, Mombasa.

Other Christmas Events:

Tuesday 13th December Christmas Carol Service at Littlehampton Academy 7.00 for 7.30pm

Christmas Eve. Carol service at Emmanuel Church 6.00pm

11.15pm On-line Communion Service Please contact the Circuit Office for details 01903 242560