

Littlehampton United Church

Christmas Newsletter



A Christmas message from the
Moderator of the Southern Synod

Revd Bridget Banks

*Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan
² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

Dear friends

It has been yet another challenging year. Once again, it seems that we have had our roots shaken. The war in Ukraine feels so close to us. The rise in the cost of living and our fuel bills challenge us as never before. With fewer Stipendiary Ministers in the United Reformed Church, Church Life Review and our general decline, it may feel that we are living in a truly dark and tumultuous time. It is a real test of our faith to hang on and believe that God is still doing something amazing in the world when change, subversive politics and war surround us.

So, praise the Lord for Christmas where we welcome light in our darkness. We are reminded that God comes to be with us again. We don't need to be afraid of our future because we are all in God's hands. We have had to be creative in our thinking the last 2 years. As I go around the Synod, I still see signs of hope and growth. New people coming through the doors of our churches. Warm Hubs and other mission activities growing. I see people offering themselves for ministry of all types. It is very exciting. Yes, there are still places where challenges exist, but that is where God is calling us to be light.

Can I encourage you to reread the story of Jesus' birth. To sit with the passages and wonder, 'what does Jesus' arrival mean for me?' There are Advent bible studies going on all over the Synod which are a great way to engage further with this wonderful story. As in Isaiah 9:1-2 above, Christ is at the centre of Christmas which is something good to share with our congregations. Is Christ at the centre of our lives though? With Christ at our very core, we will have peace and can be reassured that we and the world are still in God's hands.

Please pray for your Ministers, Local Church Leaders and Lay preachers during this busy season. They offer such a great service for the Church. Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas. May we all catch the hope of Christ to share at this dark time. May God continue to do a 'new thing' in you and in me.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Bridget', is written over a single horizontal line.

Pictures from Crib—Fest 2022

Thanks to all the churches and organisations who lent their cribs



News of the family

Norman Redington is back in hospital while medical staff assess his condition

Brenda Chesterton has received her hip replacement and is now home.

Dates for your diary

Christmas Services

Sunday 18th December 10.30am Rev. John Scrivens

Friday 23rd December 11.00am Chris Azzaro followed by Coffee and Mince Pies

Christmas Day 10.00am with Revd Norman Croft at St Andrew's URC, Holmes Lane

Sunday January 19th A Church Meeting will follow the service.

Preachers in January

Sunday 1st January	Nigel Stapley	Covenant Service
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Sunday 8th January	David Parr	
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Sunday 15th January	Chris Azzaro	
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Sunday 22nd January	Revd Richard Tanner	
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Sunday 29th January	Revd Ian Couchman	Communion
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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:

Christmas Eve. Carol service by candle light at Emmanuel Church 6.00pm

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

Or office@westsussexcoastanddownscircuit.co.uk

Finally for 2022, I wish you a very happy Christmas and an even better New Year.

Chris