

Littlehampton United Church



February 2025

Newsletter

Greetings to All

How good are you at remembering names, or recognising faces.? As a result of teaching in Worthing for 21 years I often encounter people who ask me if I remember them from school. I usually have to ask them their name. My excuse is that they looked very different at 16 years old than they now do as an adult. Actually, I'm just not good at remembering names, or recognising faces.

Last Friday morning , we read the Bible passage from Luke's gospel chapter 4, where Jesus returns to his home village of Nazareth. His reputation as a healer has gone before him. The folk in the synagogue are astounded when he announced that events foretold by the prophet Isaiah are happening right there and then. He is the one of whom the prophet spoke:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Isaiah 61 , 1 and 2, 58: 6)

The congregation saw Jesus , the son of Joseph the carpenter, not the promised Messiah. They recognise the boy they knew well, but not the man who now stood before them as the Son of God.

The incident went from bad to worse. Jesus quoted an old saying "A prophet is not without honour, except in his home town" and illustrated it by recalling how Elijah was sent to a non-Jewish widow during a time of great famine, or Elisha who cured a Syrian leper, ignoring those of his own country and religion.

This did not go down well. In fact , Jesus was taken outside by the crowd who had the intention of killing him. The people of Nazareth had recognised Jesus but had failed to appreciate that the boy they thought they knew was now a man who brought God's message of love to all the world.

Chris

Preachers and services in February

Sunday services will be led by Trinity Church under the leadership of Martin Garratt

Note: Meet in the coffee lounge from 10.00am for tea/coffee. Service commences at 10.30am

Friday services are mainly be taken by Chris Azzaro, Norman Croft or Nigel Stapley

The Friday morning service will start at 10.30am and will last for about 40minutes. Tea/Coffee is available before and after the service. Donations for the refreshments support the Feeding Programme at Unity School, Mombasa.

Friday 7th February Nigel Stapley

Friday 14th February Norman Croft

Friday 21stFebruary Chris Azzaro

Friday 28th February Chris Azzaro

March—to be announced.

Sunday services at St Andrew's URC commence at 10.30am, refreshments follow the service.

9th February Norman Croft

23rd February Chris Azzaro

16th February Polly McLelland

2nd March Norman Croft (Communion)

Other Dates for your diary:

Trinity Church will be presenting an Alpha Course next week.

They will also be starting a youth Club on Friday evenings. Please pray for both activities, you are of course, welcome to join the Alpha Course, perhaps not the Youth Club! It's been a long time since a Youth Club was held in our church so please hold it in your prayers.

Alpha Course Starting Tuesday 11th February at 6.30pm

Each evening starts with a meal (Free) followed by a video and chat.

Explore and discuss questions about Faith, Life and God.

Friends of the Mombasa Children

Volunteers will be selling goods at the **Charity Market Stall** (Outside Sainsburys) on 21st February and 28th March. Between 9.00am and 3.00pm Offers of help will be welcome, and if you are around at 8.00am, help setting up tables would be most welcome.

Curry Night. Thursday 13th March 7,00pm at Monsoons's in Rustington.

Tickets are £25 each available from Chris or phone Karyn 07949 460366. Buffet style supper—eat as much as you like, raising funds to maintain the Feeding Programme at Unity School, Mombasa.