

Littlehampton United Reformed Church

Newsletter

September 2025



Dear Friends

The lectionary Bible Readings have recently focused on the letter entitled “Hebrews”. Even if you are not an expert, or very familiar with this letter, you may well recognise several verses from Chapters 11 and 12.

Chapter 11 begins with a definition of faith “*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see*”. The writer then goes on to give multiple examples of folk from the Old Testament who demonstrated their faith by living their lives according to that hope, even though the final outcome was not seen. The letter is written (we don’t know by whom) to Jewish converts to Christianity, so those readers would be familiar with the stories and characters quoted. Having reflected on the past, the writer then exhorts his readers with, what was then, an up to date, analogy. Even one with which we are familiar in the 21st Century.

Chapter 12 is set in the context of a race. Whether it be the Littlehampton Run-Fest or an international athletics event, the idea of a running race is familiar to us all. Verses 1 –3 tell us to keep our eyes of the goal, but don’t miss the point about spectators:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

The ancient stadium in Athens, originally built in 330BC held 40,000 people. The rebuilt version is usually seen on any broadcast coverage of the start of the Olympic games—it is where the Olympic torch is lit and sent on its journey to the next host country.

As we run our own race, take heart from the idea in chapter 12 verse 1—a great cloud of witnesses is watching and encouraging us to reach the finish line. They are cheering us on. With our eyes fixed on Jesus and with the examples of those who have inspired us on our way, we will persevere and not lose heart.

Chris

Services and Preachers in September

Sunday services are held at No 1 High Street, Littlehampton, led by Trinity Church under the leadership of Martin Garratt. Meet in the coffee lounge from 10.00am for tea/coffee. The service commences at 10.30am.

Friday morning services at No 1 Littlehampton

The Friday morning service starts at 10.30pm and usually lasts about 35 minutes. Tea/Coffee is available from 10.00am and also after the service. Donations for refreshments support the feeding programme at Unity School, Mombasa, Kenya.

Friday 5th September	John Carr
Friday 12th September	Karyn Hinks
Friday 19th September	Chris Azzaro
Friday 26th September	Nigel Stapley

Sunday services at St. Andrew's URC , Holmes Lane, Rustington.

Services commence at 10.30am. Tea/Coffee follows the service

- 7th Revd. Nigel Stapley.....Holy Communion
- 14th Mr. John Carr
- 21st Mrs. Polly McLelland
- 28th Revd. Norman Croft...Harvest Festival, Bring and share lunch

October

- 5th Mr. Chris Azzaro.....Holy Communion

Taize Prayer at No 1 High Street

The next Taize Prayer will be on Sunday 7th September commencing at 6.00pm

Taize Prayer is a simple, meditative form of evening worship that involves music,

Prayerful silence and short readings, designed for all Christian Faiths.

Summer Collection for Littlehampton & District Foodbank

The recent collection allowed a donation of 164 kg of food and toiletries, which is equivalent to a cash value of over £450! To this was added a cheque for £200, as agreed at the last Church meeting.

Sam, the Foodbank manager said, "The donations from St Andrew's URC and Littlehampton URC are very much appreciated (and often eagerly anticipated, as you have a great knack of donating just as our stores are getting low!)."

Copies of the thank you letter and certificate are on display in both Churches.

The next collection will be as part of our Harvest offering in September. Donations of cash or goods can be made on Sundays 7th, 14th & 21st September.

On a personal note, can we thank everyone for their tremendous support for the Foodbank collections.

John & Victoria

Dates for your diaries

Venue—St Andrew's URC

- Sept. 1st Healthy Ageing 2 – 4pm
 15th Healthy Ageing 1 - 3pm
 16th Singing at Aster Grove 2pm
 17th Church Meeting 11am
 28th Harvest, Bring and share lunch
Dec. 5th-7th Christmas Tree Festival

Concerning the Christmas Tree Festival

This event has two aims: to raise money for the work of the Friends of the Mombasa Children at our school in Mombasa, and to bring people into the church where they will receive a warm welcome and hopefully, wish to come again.

I am now in the process of writing/phoning/emailing people who may be interested in taking part in the tree festival. This includes all the users of both churches, but if you would like to enter a decorated tree on behalf of yourself or organisation to which you belong, please contact me. (07779788686 or Christopher.azzaro@sky.com)

"Decorate a tree in a way that that says something about your group or organisation. Trees can be any size up to 2m (6 ft) high. Battery lights are preferred by mains power is available. You are welcome to display a notice about your organisation or work that you do. Exhibits will need to be in place before 2.00pm on Friday 5th December. The church will be open for setting up on Thursday 4th and the morning of Friday 5th. "

Chris

Fairtrade Fortnight 2025 September 22 to October 5

***Commitment for life* supports Fairtrade Foundation, which is one way in which your congregation can bring about justice as part of the global fair-trade movement.**

Fairtrade Fortnight was established in 1997 and is the longest-running awareness campaign for fair trade.

This is a two-week campaign dedicated to raising awareness about fair trade. It encourages consumers to make ethical choices when purchasing products.

The event highlights the importance of fair wages, ethical sourcing, sustainable farming practices, invest in communities and businesses, and improve living standards.

Fairtrade works with farmers and workers in more than 1,900 producer organisations across 68 countries.

Harvest Prayer

Lord of the Harvest, you are the creator of the world, and everything we see causes us to praise you.

We praise you for the harvest of the land, the sea, and sky.

We praise you for our harvest of food.

We praise you for the harvest of industry.

On this harvest day, we remember the farmers who work tirelessly on the land.

On this harvest day, we remember those in the global south who are facing challenging times with climate disruption and unfair prices.

On this harvest day, we give thanks for the work of Fairtrade Foundation as they seek to raise awareness to fair trade and bring justice to some of the poorer parts of the world.

Amen.

Resources: Check the website: www.fairtrade.org.uk/what-is-fairtrade

Ways in which you can support:

- **Choose Fairtrade Products:** Look for the Fairtrade logo on products such as coffee, tea, chocolate, bananas, and clothing. Use your *Commitment for Life* [key fob](#) as a reminder to buy Fairtrade products.
- **Host Fairtrade Events:** Organize events in your community or workplace to raise awareness about fair trade.
- **Educate and Advocate:** Learn more about fair trade and its impact on producers. See www.fairtrade.org.uk/what-is-fairtrade
- **Buy Fairtrade Gifts:** Consider purchasing Fairtrade gifts for special occasions. These gifts not only delight the recipient but also support fair trade producers.
- **Worship:** Consider integrating Fairtrade into the life of your place of worship and become a Fairtrade Place of Worship see bit.ly/4fmp7sk Hold events during Fairtrade Fortnight or create a display or a Fairtrade theme