



West Street News JUNE 2016



**The quarterly magazine of the
United Reformed Church, West Street, Dorking**

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

West Street, Dorking

A Church with a Welcome
and a

Clear Christian Message

We are so glad that you have picked up this magazine

Our Church Community is made up of people of all age groups who come from different walks of life. The diversity is fascinating. This being so, we have sought to develop the life of the Church, so that as many different needs as possible are catered for.

Here you can come to worship God.
Here you can meet with Jesus Christ, who is the
Head of the Church – because He lives in the
hearts of His people.
Here you can find companionship and build
lasting friendships – and so much more.

The opportunities for children and young people are
particularly good at West Street

Our Chaplain, Church-Community Worker and Elders are
available to help you.

An Emergency Prayer Chain operates for anyone who feels
they need prayer for any reason.

See the Weekly Leaflet, or ask for a WELCOME PACK,
or visit our website on www.dorkingurc.org.uk for more details
of our life and work

CHAPLAIN'S CHATTER

This will be the last time I write in West Street News as lay chaplain. It has been an immense privilege and pleasure to have been responsible for the worship and spiritual life of the church during our vacancy; as well as heading the mission work in the trial for Chris Currie's role for three years before then. I feel very blessed to have experienced the opportunities I have had in both roles. It has been such a delight to have led worship at all the significant services through the year; to have blessed and baptised; (soon) to have married couples and blessed marriages; and to have been engaged in so many aspects of church. Through this article I wish to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged me through this time, which is almost everyone I can think of! You have all been so kind and in many cases very forgiving of my sometimes unorganised and hectic approach!

But our Christian journeys continue and things never remain the same. For us as the church we look forward to greeting our new minister – David Bedford, and his wife, Lorna. David is currently the minister of St Andrew's URC, Canterbury. He comes to us as an experienced minister whose previous pastorates have experienced growth and a deepening of discipleship. I am sure David will wish to explore with us different ideas and through his experience suggest new ways of doing things. He has told us that one of the aspects that attracted him to our church was our plan for growth and the willingness to embrace change we have already demonstrated; for example, by appointing Chris as our Church-Community Worker. My personal prayer is that David leads us to both deepen our personal faith and love of God and to bring others to know Him as our Lord and saviour.

As many of you know my response to God's calling leads me to training for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in a non-stipendiary position. From the end of September, I will commence a series of placements at various other churches

and community ministries. These will be coupled with weekly visits to Westminster College in Cambridge during term time. In June 2018 I shall be in a position to see where God calls me next to serve Him. Given the large number of local opportunities that exist for service Jane and I do not foresee moving away, but at the moment we are content to leave everything in God's hands. Jane has been using the wonderful analogy of eating a Toblerone bar and breaking a piece off at a time before considering the next piece. So it is twenty months of training first!

As I write this I have just finished Terry Virgo's book - 'God's Lavish Grace'. Virgo uses the analogy in Deuteronomy 32: 12 of the parent eagle encouraging its young to learn to fly. He speaks of the discomfort of the eaglet as it is encouraged to leave the comfort of the nest and the fear of the consequences which may follow. But all this is done in the best possible interests of the young bird and in the reassuring knowledge that the help of the parent eagle is never far away. Let me pray that both as a church and as individuals when we are encouraged to leave the familiar nests we occupy, although we may do so with some uncertainty and trepidation, we do so confident that God our Father is with us and the safety of his spreading wings is ours.

Ted

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MISSION

The latest Mission Committee meeting spent some time looking back over the church's social programme for the year so far, the Socialeyes events that comprise Out and About, and Oasis. This was part of an ongoing process looking at different aspects of our church life and clarifying where they sit in relation to the Growth Plan we have committed to. Time is spent looking at achievements and what our expectations of them are, and are not, in terms of 'evangelism'. It has become known as the 'Stepping Stones' item because it recognises that our various activities serve quite different purposes in

terms of the way we engage with people and seek to share a journey of faith with them. Some are quite rightly aspiring to provide a positive and welcoming 'low threshold' experience of a Christian community, their primary objective not being to provide a bridge into faith, but a step towards it and, making sure we have suitable stepping stones in place to nurture further steps on that journey, is the purpose of the Stepping Stones discussions.

It was felt that the primary objectives for our social programme are to provide positive experiences of a Christian community, and to nurture a sense of belonging to our particular Christian community – but for that to succeed, our Christian identity does need to be clearly displayed. With that in mind, two large feather banners sporting the recently approved church logo are in the process of being acquired and will hopefully be with us in time for the Church Family Trip to the Seaside in July, and many other events to come. It was also felt that we should deliberately, but appropriately, try to weave a stronger Christian element into our social activities and at the very least aim to start or finish with a prayer or blessing, and find ways to include grace with meals.

Given that identifying gaps in our programme is central to the Stepping Stones process, exploring suitable ways to fill them is something that naturally follows the discussions. One increasingly apparent gap is a suitable programme for older children and their families that tend to drift away from activities like Messy Church; another is a more regular programme than the current Second Sunday Sessions on offer to the young people that worship with us on Sunday mornings. To address this, a Children's and Young People's Planning Team has been proposed, to define our vision for nurturing an ongoing journey of faith and providing imaginative opportunities for that to happen at various times, using the Upper Room as a base for projects. Anyone with an interest in sharing that journey with children and young people would be most welcome on the new team!

Chris Currie

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

21ST TO 30TH MARCH 2017

In April the Revd Stephen Thornton came to West Street and spoke to a number of people who were interested in the above pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2017. Following that session, at the time of writing, seven members from West Street have booked to go. The ideal party size is around sixteen and it is hoped we can achieve the majority of that number from this church.

The trip is based in Jerusalem and Galilee. All travel, admissions and meals are included in the cost and we will be led by Stephen Thornton who has taken over forty other groups on a similar pilgrimage over many years. The weather in March should be clear and warm and ideal for touring. There will be a certain amount of walking involved. The itinerary includes: The Mount of Olives, Jerusalem Old Town, Gethsemane, an excursion to the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley, Jericho, Nazareth, Capernaum and even a short boat trip on the Sea of Galilee.

If you would like to learn more, there are plenty of brochures available and there is also an 8 minute DVD to watch.

(See picture on back cover)

John Quincey



Sea of Galilee

HOLIDAY AT HOME

We are preparing for another great 'Holiday at Home' this summer. From 22nd to 26th August, with help from St Paul's, The Christian Centre and Dorking Quakers, we will be providing a 'holiday' here in Dorking for people who might not otherwise get away. This year's programme has the title of '*By Royal Appointment*', taking our royal heritage as its theme in celebration of HM the Queen's 90th birthday.

As in previous years, interesting free talks and activities will take place in the Main Hall and Little Chapel, with coffee and our popular afternoon teas available every day. The Christian Centre will serve lunches and there are two exciting trips which can be booked in advance – a half day cruise on the Thames, and a day outing to Brighton Pavilion with a farmyard 'picnic' on the way.

This event is becoming an annual favourite amongst many of our local residents, and we are already receiving enquiries about our programme. Everyone is welcome – and it's a good opportunity to make new friends and get to know others in the local community. Brochures with all the details will be available from June, around the church, on the website, and from the Christian Centre. You can just turn up for free daily sessions, but lunches & trips do need to be booked in advance.

Feel free to ask Chris Currie any questions: 07771596654





Notes from the Church Meeting

Printed copies of the minutes of the March Church Meeting are available from the holder on the Church Notices board in the Main Hall.

At that Meeting we confirmed the appointment of Liz Roger as the Elders' Meeting Secretary. Ted Bellingham had been acting in this capacity pending an appointment - this in addition to his other roles including that of Lay Chaplain.

Since that Meeting, the Vacancy Committee has interviewed a candidate for the position of Minister of the Dorking URC and Gomshall URC Pastorate. The members of the Committee felt, unanimously, that the candidate should be invited to 'preach with a view', and he accepted the invitation. As I write this, the 'preach with a view' is to take place on Sunday 22nd May, followed by lunch and a Question and Answer session to enable members to get to know the candidate and for him to get to know us.

There is to be a Special Church Meeting after the service on Sunday 29th May, at which members will decide whether to call him to the Pastorate.

When you read this it will all have happened!

Leslie Mitchell
(Church Meeting Secretary)

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‘Global Justice Now’ (formerly the ‘World Development Movement’), has produced a report about the TTIP.

This is a new trade deal that is being negotiated between the USA and the EU. Several Churches and Christian campaigns have joined the criticisms of the TTIP, along with aid agencies, charities and groups representing some of the world’s poorest people.

The TTIP aims remove non-tariff barriers to trade. There is little obstacle to trade between the USA and the EU at present – tariffs are at an all-time low. But corporations, on both sides of the Atlantic, want to remove other rules and regulations. Many poorer countries enjoy preferential access to the EU market, but the TTIP threatens to undermine the benefits of that access and make it more difficult to export to the EU. It may become the global standard for trade deals in the future and more power will shift to corporations away from elected governments.

The TTIP and similar deals (such as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada) give corporations a new way of imposing their will, called the Investor-State Dispute Settlement Mechanism (ISDS). The ISDS is a legal system that allows corporations to sue governments if they think legislation will damage future profits. It is a system that has been implemented in other trade deals previously and has been seen to bring injustice. For example: Veolia, a waste and energy company, sued the Egyptian government for introducing a minimum wage; Phillip Morris, a tobacco company, has sued the Australian government for introducing plain packaging on cigarettes, and the Uruguayan government for printing a health warning on

cigarette packets. Multinational food and agriculture companies are lobbying for TTIPs so that they can challenge government regulations concerned with food safety and the welfare of farm animals.

Many Christians are concerned that TTIPs will benefit the very wealthy at the expense of the rest. The report suggests some ways in which we can express our concerns:

- Pray for those who are campaigning against the TTIP and similar deals
- Write to your local MP, council and paper to express your opposition
- Keep yourself informed and share ideas for action – more information is available from the ‘Church Notices (not specific to Dorking URC)’ board in the Main Hall.

Leslie Mitchell
(Commitment for Life Co-ordinator)

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THINK, PRAY, VOTE: EU REFERENDUM RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

The ‘Joint Public Issues Team’ of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, with the support of the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office, has produced a series of briefing notes concerning the EU Referendum. The notes, entitled “**Think, Pray, Vote**” can be downloaded from www.jointpublicissues.org.uk by clicking on ‘Resources’ then ‘EU Referendum’ and downloading the text version.

The notes cover the topics ‘The Single Market’, ‘Sovereignty and Subsidiarity’, ‘The Free Movement of People’, ‘Work and Benefits’, ‘Peace and International Relations’, ‘Care for the environment’ and ‘Agriculture and Food’; and include background information, issues for debate, and questions. They can be used for conversations with groups or for

personal reflection. (If you are unable to download the notes and would like to see them, you are welcome to borrow a printed copy which is available from the 'Church Notices (not specific to Dorking URC)' board in the Main Hall.)

Leslie Mitchell

**ANNUAL TRIP TO THE SEASIDE
SUNDAY, 17TH JULY 2016-05-28**

Everyone is invited to join us – we leave West Street at 12 noon on a coach arriving at *Goring by Sea* to have your own picnic lunch.

Games and activities will be available; otherwise you can have time to yourself

We plan to arrive back at West Street at 6 p.m.

Why not Come and Join us ?

Contact : chris.curriedorking urc@outlook.com : Or call 07771 596654 : Or facebook at www.facebook.com/dorkingurc : Or just add your name to the list in the Church Main Hall



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

The New Year might seem a long way off, but at a recent Socialeyes planning meeting the idea of a New Year's Eve Party at church was suggested. If this is something you would be interested in, please let Chris Currie, or any other member of the Socialeyes planning team know. If there is sufficient interest we will include it in the programme

**1816 DORKING BRITISH SCHOOL -
2016 POWELL CORDEROY SCHOOL**

Did you or any of your family go to this school? If so, do you have any photos or other mementos which you could lend for an exhibition at our church to mark this anniversary, as it was on our premises that the school started 200 years ago.

If so, please contact Kae Wickes or Chris Currie

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NOTES

The picture on the front cover is provided by Mike Shaw.

Thanks go to Maureen Flood who proof read this issue

Produced by Val Longhurst

Material for the next issue of West Street News should be available by **Sunday, 14th August 2016**

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OASIS PROJECT

The stall at Open Doors is doing well, but stock is running low. Any donations of items for sale (not clothing) are most welcome, i.e. jig-saws, books, bric-a-brac. Contact: **Barbara Phillips**

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The Oasis program is in the process of being finalised as we go to press. Subject to confirmation we are hoping to increase the frequency of the meetings with an 'Oasis in the Living Room' on the fourth Monday of each month, in between the existing pattern of second Monday meetings.

**Pizza and Pudding, Picnic Party
In the Church Gardens
4 – 8 pm Saturday 25th June**



Come and join us for a selection of Pizzas
Create your own Ice Cream Sundaes
Games and Activities for All Ages

£2 per person (under 5s free)



Signup sheet in the Main Hall or on Facebook
Any questions - speak to Chris Currie:
chris.currie.dorkingurc@outlook.com 07771596654

GOMSHALL NEWS

"I am the light of the world." John 8:12

Just recently I have been considering, Sunday by Sunday, the use of metaphor in the Gospels to emphasise the essential truths of Our Lord's message. These "I am" statements are very evocative and illustrate the saving Grace of Jesus in succinct and powerful ways. "I am the bread of life" - "I am the gate for the sheep" - "I am the good shepherd" - "I am the true vine" Each of these little nuggets conveys a living picture that is easy to grasp and to understand. Each statement underlines succinctly the overwhelming love of God for his Creation and for us, his followers.

"Bright Hour" this month (Wednesday, 15th June at 2.30pm in the Chapel) will be a quiz presented by Norma Cloudsdale. Do join us if you can - you know there will always be a great welcome. And, remember, in July we shall be meeting for our annual cream tea - put the date - 20th into your diary. We meet, as usual, at 2.30pm in the Chapel before crossing the road to "Gomshall Mill".

"You call me teacher - and that is what I am." These were Our Lord's words to his disciples as he washed their feet before the Passover feast. At this time of change as we search for a new Minister to lead us - or, perhaps, as we prepare to welcome a new Minister into our midst - we need to pause and to ponder afresh the wonderful words of Our Lord which so simply encapsulate the love that surrounds us all.

As ever with love,

David Beard



WELLiFARE

The Well-Fare mission to support the BMK School in Uganda was 10 years old in May 2016. In this time we have raised over £100,000. This money has been used to drill the original borehole; build classrooms; install solar power; provide adequate toilets; erect playground equipment; develop a dairy farm; buy school books and writing materials; sponsor secondary and college students; as well as paying yearly subsidies for teaching staff salaries. What the future of the school would have been without this support is impossible to say. What can be said is that the school currently continues to provide an education for a thousand children in this remote rural area of south-east Uganda.

We still are uncertain as to whether or not a Rotary grant of circa £30,000 will be forthcoming, but this is increasingly unlikely. Nevertheless, a plan is in place to spend from current money available about half this amount on further developing the farm. But we should quickly add that our involvement at the school cannot be measured solely in financial terms. Well-Fare has been and continues to be a wonderful expression of God's love and demonstration of Christian values in practice. The adoption of the Christian faith, by the founder and director of the school and his wife in response to our involvement at the school, being a primary example.

However, having headed this mission since the start, Jane and I feel it is time to hand over these particular reins. Others on the Well-Fare Committee have also served with us. So we would encourage others to come forward to take over. Please feel free to speak to us or to any of the Committee. There is nothing to say that the current format of Well-Fare has to continue and it may be that a fresh approach to what is the international mission of the church would be valuable. We look forward to the discussions that may follow.

Ted & Jane

Emmaus



**Is there a God?
How can I know what He is like?
What is a Christian?
Who is this Jesus?
Who is the Holy Spirit?**

If you ever wonder over questions like these, you will probably be interested in the Emmaus Sessions we are planning for the autumn.

Each of the six sessions will explore different aspects of the Christian faith in a relaxed environment with plenty of opportunities to ask questions, or just sit and listen.

Times and dates will be arranged nearer the time to suit those interested in attending.

For more details, and to register an interest, speak to Chris Currie:
chris.currie.dorkingurc@outlook.com 07771596654

ELDERS' AWAY DAY 23rd APRIL 2016

The Elders' Away day was held at Reigate Park Church this year and was facilitated by Bernard Fiddler, Spiritual Director for West Kent & East Sussex Synod Area. The subject for the day was 'Growing the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit'. Through a mixture of small group work and direction from Bernard we were challenged to explore our understanding of the Holy Spirit and how we feel about communicating this in our interactions both within the church community and in our daily lives. *'Since we live by the Spirit let us keep in step with the spirit.'* Galatians 5:25. Bernard talked about the difference between Chronos time and Kairos time. This refers back to ancient Greece where the different terms were used to differentiate linear, quantitative time (Chronos) and the more qualitative Kairos - 'appointed time' which includes the idea of an opportunity or a suitable time for action – God's time).

Bernard took us through the concepts of; Incorporation (*an individual's personal journey to faith*), Information (*Head and Heart Knowledge of God – how important it is to integrate these within our personal faith journey and within our church family*), Transformation through the Fruits of the Spirit (*everyone is different and we are all called and gifted in different ways*) and Empowerment by the Holy Spirit (*actively and continuously listening in prayer to discern what is God's plan for each one of us*).

I personally found the day stimulating and challenging. For anyone who is interested in finding out more a short presentation will be made at the Church meeting in June or speak to an elder. A further day dedicated to the topic of 'listening prayer' is being organised for elders in August. We had so much fun on the day that we didn't have time to cover this topic which is an indication of how much the day was enjoyed.

Liz Roger, Elders Secretary

PASTORAL REPORT

Fanny Hughes (aged 102) died on 29th February
Pam Strudwick died on 19th March
Sylvia Back died on 30th March – she was an Elder and member of our Church for many years

Those who have been ill and are now recovering –

Brenda Thomas
Rhona Howell
Simon Ring
Doris Balchin
Daphne Etheridge
Coleen Millson

We remember friends who have undergone surgery or treatment in hospital –

Steve Williams
Stewart Thomson
Harvey and Ethan Etherington (Rosemary Russell's grandchildren)

We also remember with prayers all those who have had family concerns, bereavements and medical problems

We ask you all to pray for those young people of our church who are now sitting examinations and making decisions for their future

Pray for those who are continuing to receive care and treatment in nursing homes

Congratulations to Kathryn Wigley, daughter of Heather Lynn, on her marriage to Jimmi Cottam



OASIS 2016

Oasis is a program of relaxed social events. It is overseen by the Socialeyes Group at Dorking URC, to offer regular activities for people of all ages and abilities.

Sept 12th **'Harvests'** - Hosted by Chris Currie

Sept 26th **Oasis in the Living Room**, with James Dark - Hosted by Chris Currie **(tbc)**

Oct 10th **'Taking the Word from West Street'** with Mary Turner – Church Archivist - Hosted by Chris Currie

Oct 24th **Oasis in the Living Room**, with James Dark - Hosted by Chris Currie **(tbc)**

Nov 14th **Doodling** with Hazel McCartney - Hosted by Chris Currie

Nov 28th **Oasis in the Living Room**, with James Dark - Hosted by Lesley and Mary Mitchell **(tbc)**

Dec 12th **Christmas Tea and Celebration** - Hosted by Kae Wickes and Lynn Price

Jan 9th **'A Hobby for the Whole Family'** - Hosted by Kae Wickes

Tea, cake & a warm welcome awaits anyone coming along
Oasis is free, but donations are invited. If you have a problem with transport, please contact us to see if we can help.

Contact Chris Currie, Tel: 07771 596654

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

21-30 March 2017
with the Revd Stephen Thornton

A comprehensive 10-day pilgrimage
based in Jerusalem and Galilee



McCabe Pilgrimages

Living Jesus'
Love

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