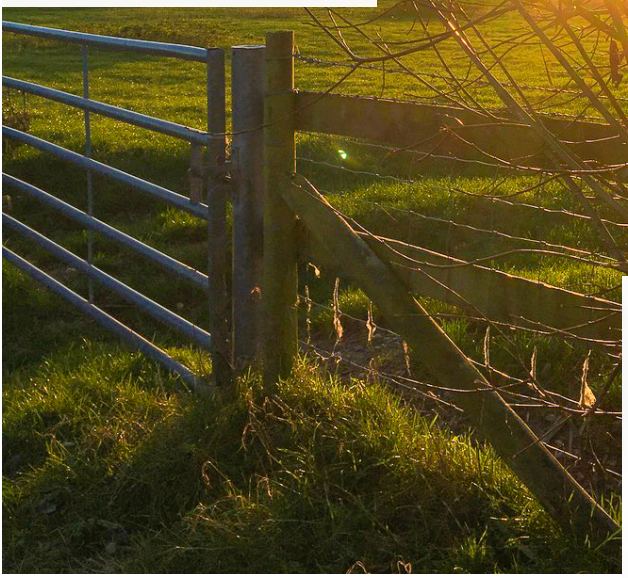
The Chronicle

Spring 2021

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

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Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

10.30am Morning worship - with Holy communion on first Sunday in month.

- Family service monthly as announced
- Junior Church

All services at 10:30am are live streamed and recorded for later viewing on our website https://www.gurc.net/ and on our Church App.

Goring United Reformed Church

The Chronicle

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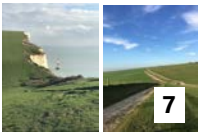
Vol.78 - No. 666

Front Cover:

Sunrise on Christmas Morning
Chalkstone Trail
Cocking to West Dean (North of Chichester)
Photo by Caroline Hibbs



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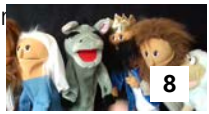
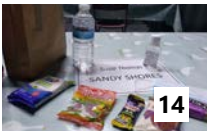
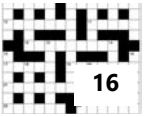






Disclaimer: Whilst great care is taken to acurately reproduce articles presented for the Chronicle, mistakes sometimes do occur. Please note that the views expressed in the following pages are not necessarily those of Goring United Reformed Church.

From the Manse

We are moving ever closer to the great celebration of Easter. When writing this article, the big question was, will we open or remain closed for Easter? So, things were still very uncertain. But we remain focused on our shared Lenten journey. Lent has traditionally been a time to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Also, to fast or give something up and to change one's life direction as needed. We have certainly had to give up many things over the past year. The forty days before Easter are a symbol of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness before he began his public ministry which led to his crucifixion. In addition to going deeper within, it can also be a time to live and talk about hope, especially in times of darkness and despair which many people experience in our time. The basis of our hope is the great love God shows for us at all times, especially through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for our salvation. In our churches there needs to be a sense that God is drawing us through these times.

I think at this dark period of pandemic we need to be searching for the light and reflecting the light.

During Lent, we are invited to search deeply within our minds and hearts and to look at our own hopes for our own lives and for our world. People often ask: " How can we have hope in times like these?" If we watch TV or read the daily paper, there are endless stories of suffering, loss, a great lack of respect and tolerance, shattered hopes and dreams for many families. On the other side of the coin, we see people reaching out in care and compassion, working to change systems and structures that dehumanize, and sharing their resources with those most in need. Good news can come out of the chaos we find ourselves in. We can always rely on God's promise to be with us every step of the way and to never let us walk alone. We know that where God is, there can always be hope. Lent can be a time when we listen more deeply to hear and respond to the voice of God within and around us. Jesus prayed in his deepest time of despair and it gave him strength to continue the journey.

How can we promote and share our hope? We can do this by believing that even in the darkest times, God's hand will always hold and support us. It is believing that there is something new, something more behind the dark cloud that will bring sunshine to our lives. Hope is in the waiting and expecting.

We never give up even when there seems to be no visible sign that things could or will be better. Isaiah. 43: 2 tells us "When you pass through waters, they will not swallow you up. When you go through rivers, they will not sweep over you. ....."

As we journey with Jesus, we all experience life's challenges. We have the power of the Spirit and are sent to reflect God's healing, forgiveness and hope to all we meet.

We reflect on God's plan for our own lives and for our world and see how we can contribute to making that plan a reality. No matter what the challenges, nothing is impossible with the power and grace of God.

Cont'd from page 3

I remember back to the woman who made my rainbow banner I mentioned in one of my services. She had experienced much pain and suffering in her life.

She said: *"I wake up every morning and give thanks to God for whatever the day will bring. I know that God's outcome will be the best outcome. I walk through the day with confidence, trust and hope."*

She was a witness to living a hope-filled life. She could often be heard singing to herself, her favourite hymn being 'Great is thy faithfulness'.

During Lent, let us open our minds and hearts to the transforming power of God's presence and grace. We try to empty ourselves of our self-righteousness and pride and see how we can respond to God's call in new ways by placing ourselves in God's hands.

Through God's transforming power we will bring renewed hope into our own lives and our world.

May all that we have experienced together through these difficult times strengthen us for the days ahead. To God be the Glory!

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 7.00pm: Rev Andrew Sellwood:
Seda Meal in the Sanctuary, live streamed and recorded for later viewing

Good Friday 10.30am: Mrs Hilary Redman.
Service recorded from home for viewing at any time from 10.30am

Easter Sunday 10.30am: Rev Andrew Sellwood
Service in the Sanctuary, live streamed and recorded for later viewing

Caroline Hibbs

Looking for inspiration and patterns……

Someone once said to me that looking for inspiration is like wading in mud. My first thought was 'what a ridiculous thought' but after pondering over it I realised …. that is exactly what it is. During this time of Covid 19 it has been difficult to think of anything else with every media platform full of it and rightly so but it does get in the way of any other thoughts. Keeping to the government guidelines at all times this household has been going for long walks, from our doorstep, on the South Downs, and my word we have really waded in a lot of mud.

The photo on the left, below shows the river bank of the Sussex Ouse … on the right the river and on the left a flooded field, the river water had to have somewhere to go! The mud does tend to force you to look down at your feet and where you are putting them!

But .... force yourself to look up ... and immediately you will see beautiful patterns everywhere. The sky .... its light, the clouds and the colours forever changing. The trees in winter enticing us to think of spring with the buds quietly waiting for their moment to flourish, even when they are covered in haw frost.

I constantly find I am looking for patterns wherever I go, the ancient church in a tiny East Sussex village and the other end of the scale the rusty detritus in a farm yard. The sun rising and peeping over the downs or looking out to sea to the horizon as the sun slowly appears.

There are patterns wherever you look if you have the time to gaze.

Artists have painted the South Downs for many years and the artist Eric Revillous famously painted the Downs in East Sussex, the open fields, pathways, fields, pasture and the cliffs looking down to Beachy Head lighthouse to name a few. His work is full of patterns and if we take time we will see them too. So never mind the mud, put on your boots and just go and be inspired.

I am reminded of the poem 'Leisure' by W H Davies ...

What is this life if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep or cows,

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care.

Caroline Hibbs

Children's Work over Christmas

As our usual children's activities couldn't go ahead this year, we had to think outside the box slightly. So, we did things a little differently.

Our Christmas Eve nativity, which has been a fixture of Christmas for many years became an online affair.

The puppet club spent many happy (if a little cold) hours filming their nativity play in Worthing. This all had to be done in a socially distanced way, so instead of all getting together, different people were involved in different areas. Huge thanks go to Amelia, Joe, Chloe, Mary, Chris L, Nathan, Eileen, Paul, Geoffrey, Ryan, Graeme, Val, Hilary, and Wilf for their work recording the audio tracks, and to Amelia, Chloe, Hilary, Mary, Nathan and Val for puppeteering in all weathers. Also massive thanks to Paul, without whose technical expertise this venture would have fallen flat very quickly. If you missed it, you can find the video on the Church website under Worship/Recordings tab, or on our YouTube page.

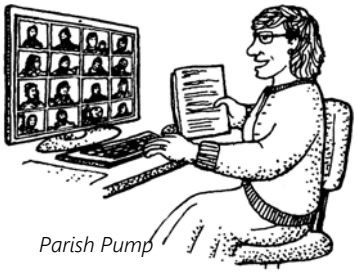
Our other event which was run by Faith In Kids, was a bake along session. The children were sent the ingredients to make gingerbread and were invited to an online baking session where they could bake their own nativity set and learn about the nativity story at the same time. Ed, from Faith In Kids talked about the different characters in the story and about God's great gift to us, whilst Martha (a one-time Great British Bake Off winner) talked the children through how to make their gingerbread.

The puppets will be back at Easter, so make sure you keep an eye on the website for their next performance.

Mary Redman

I wonder how many of us would have heard about 'Zoom' meetings in the Church more than 12 months or so ago.

- or, how about Social Distancing!
..... and wearing masks!



Parish Pump

Census in Bethlehem?

My sister's grandson wanted to know if she had to go to Bethlehem for the census. I said to my sister, "You can't drive and haven't got a car so if you are thinking of going by donkey you had better start off now 'cos it could take some time." - There is a donkey sanctuary at the end of her road! I wonder how many months it would take to go from Leeds to Bethlehem by donkey?

Thank you to Carole Culliss for this little tit-bit

What's On at Goring URC?

Are you making good use of our on-line calendar? You can find it from the front page of our website: https://gurc.net or on our App. I know there is not much happening at the moment, but ...

Currently it shows details of the Easter day, Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services. Also dates for the Wednesday Lent Bible Studies by Zoom.

Soon we hope there will be many other activities as lockdown rules ease.

It will be much appreciated if you would kindly let me know if you have any additions, or see any errors or ommissions.

If you are responsible for producing programmes or publications,please check the dates, they are there to help you. *Graham Redman*

Easter Hope

"So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark." These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon on Easter Day 2020. Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus' body. 'But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.' (Mark 16:4). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus' death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: Where is God in all this?

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:6).

The women had forgotten Jesus' promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus' resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder! We can trust Jesus' plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can't return to the way they were: "There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God." (Justin Welby).

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the eternal promise of Easter

Parish Pump
Articles for Church Magazines

Appearing on TV

No, not on Crimewatch!

2020 was already quite a surreal year, but became even more so when I found myself on national television!

The starting point was when a former colleague of Dad's asked him to ask me if I'd join his two person team in an attempt to be picked as contestants on BBC2 quiz show "Only Connect". I said 'OK' not really expecting anything to come of it. But we passed the written application stage and were invited to London for an audition with the production team. John and Martin had reached this stage twice before with two separate team-mates - apparently I had been selected for attempt number 3 due to my being a female with a northern accent!

The audition lasted about 8 minutes and we got the first 4 questions wrong (it IS a hard quiz!) but clearly either everyone else was worse or my northern accent swung the day, and we were invited to be on the actual show.

Covid scuppered the 1st recording dates, but in early August we found ourselves in an industrial estate on the outskirts of Cardiff. Ooh, the glamour!

Due to Covid, the makeup artist couldn't come near us, so that gave me something else to worry about! As it turned out, all eyes were on my team mate John, who hadn't realised that we would be visible full-length and had worn 2 different length tops and a pair of shorts! Comments from strangers on Twitter afterwards invariably involved the words "Worzel" and "Gummidge" ....

There was no studio audience - there never is, even in non-Covid times - and the TV studio is basically just a room.
The production team were very friendly so the whole thing was remarkably stress-free. (It helps that you are never singled out for question answering - it's very much a team game)

We lost by 1 point - after a really long delay whilst they checked and re-checked.

It was slightly contentious - the host had accepted an answer not on her card. "Things that crackle" - should have been 'radios' and she accepted 'reeds'. Then there was a couple of hours hanging around before the repêchage - which we also lost, despite host Victoria Coren Mitchell seemingly giving us the benefit of the doubt at every possible opportunity - possibly feeling a bit guilty about "Cracklegate"! BBC budget being what it is, there was no extra night in the hotel and we made it back to Worthing just before midnight.

It's difficult to know how different the experience would have been in non-Covid times. For example, I'd like to think that I'd have been allowed in the front seat of Martin's car - although it could have been worse, at least I was in the back seat rather than the boot! It's possible that Victoria Coren Mitchell just appears and disappears for the actual recording but she would probably have posed for the official photograph - on this occasion we were all photographed separately and put together digitally.

Each team member had their own trestle table with a pack of wipes, hand gel, energy bar, Tangfastic sweets ... And lunch, which we had pre-selected. Black Forest gateau, prawn linguine and garlic bread for me - most of which I was too nervous to eat. With that and the lack of coffee, it was little wonder that I lost focus for game 2!

Finally, here are some "Only Connect" style questions ...

What have the following got in common?
Haggai, Ruth, Numbers, Job

What is next in the sequence?
Mathew, Mark, Luke, ???

Photo by ©Susie

Picture left: Random tweets (from Twitter) on the evening of the broadcast

Can you fill in the plague type with the vowels removed and words squashed together?

LCSTS

WTR TRND TBLD

BLS

D RKNSSF RTHRD YS

Susie Thomas

The Chronicle Summer 2021

The closing date for the Summer magazine articles is 1 May 2021

You can submit articles in any of the following ways :-

The Form on our Website

E-mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk

Post to Graham Redman at 5 Salvington Hill, BN13 3AT

However, it would be most helpful if you could submit articles before this.

Bible Crossword

1		2		3		■	4	5		6		7
	■		■		■	■	■		■		■	
8					■	9						
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
10							■	11				
	■		■	■	■		■		■	■	■	
■	■	12		13						14	■	■
15	■	■	■		■		■	■	■		■	16
17		18			■	19		20				
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
21							■	22				
	■		■		■	■	■		■		■	
23						■	24					

Answers on page 20

Crossword Clues

Across

1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Je 36:25) (7)
10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
12 Repossessed (Gen 14:16) (9)
17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
19 'Moses was not aware that his face was _because he had spoken with the Lord' (Ex 34:29) (7)
21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
23 The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
7 He reps (anag.) (6)
9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
15 The human mind or soul (6)
16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — '
(Graham Kendrick) (6)
18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Parish Pump

A Letter from Mary Connelly

Time has raced by since I left Worthing, three years ago. A lot has happened and a lot has not happened in my new life.

For myself, I have not been dismayed by the prospect of having to stay indoors away from other people. The hermit life can be appreciated. When one has had a very full and noisy life, then a little quietness and freedom to do what you like, when you like, to expand or contract, or to be creative or lazy, is very welcome.

However, as with many other people, my solitude does not mean that I have not had some influence outside of the house, thanks to television and the Internet. When the vaccinations began, BBC Look North, (East Riding and Lincs) asked for emails from anyone who had their vaccination to tell of their experience. I did, and then had a request for an interview. I was a bit irritated, as I had spent week writing a little poem with a wry look at the visit to Beverley Racecourse, which I attached to the email and no one, mentioned it. (Yes, Vic Joy, I have at last been to the racecourse!) I felt I couldn't be bothered, but my son, James said, "You might as well do it. If nothing else, it's another experience."

So, on the Monday afternoon, I sat in front of my laptop and for several minutes, spoke to a blank screen on Zoom.

The next day, a severely edited version appeared on the news, but ok. Next day, Beverley East.Riding Facebook had people asking about that old lady who made them laugh so much!

Then there was speculation as to where I might live according to the clues in what I said and whether I might be 'the lady with the windows'. "No," they said, "She's called Mary." It's getting sorted out.

I am aware that it was a selfish point of view and I feel sorry for the people who are confined and don't have a family to care, or as much to do as I have, or the number of interests to keep themselves busy. That must be very disheartening. Please pray for them.

I share with you the thoughts that went through my mind while I sat waiting for my vaccination and waiting afterwards to leave. I think some of the others sitting there wondered why I was smiling to myself.

I also share the thoughts that I wrote down when asked 'What does getting the vaccine mean to you for the future?" When you are getting as old as I am, I suppose it does get quite close and personal. My thoughts change and develop daily, but there is a physical limit to how much can change.
'The spirit is willing… etc.'

My love to you all.
(Josephine) Mary Connelly.

"It's not quite as bad as it looks – they're only withholding payment until we publish our expenses."

Parish Pump

Answers to crossword on page 16

ACROSS:

1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delilah.
10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered.
17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur.
22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN:

1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war.
6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer.
13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche.
16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

In the Editor's Garden: The promise of Spring

Weekday Activities

All weekday activities are suspended until further notice due to Covid-19

Please refer to our website for up to date information
https://www.gurc.net/coronovirus

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The Chronicle costs approximately £1.50 each to produce. Whilst no charge is made for the magazine, the Church would be very grateful for any donations given to help towards its cost of production.
There is a box provided for such purpose at the back of the church, or contributions may be made by post to Mrs Susie Thomas (address above). Thank you.

The CHRONICLE

https://gurc.net/chronicle **chronicle@gurc.org.uk**

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Goring United Reformed Church is part of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom. At the beginning of 2018, a Joint Pastorate was formed with Sompting United Reformed Church with whom we share Ministry.

The United Reformed Church has over 1600 churches in England, Scotland and Wales with a total membership of about 46500.

It has over 1300 congregations, and 608 active ministers. It was formed in 1972 when the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of England and Wales united, and it was joined by the Reformed Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and the Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000.

The churches of Emmanuel in Worthing, Sompting, Goring and Littlehampton are part of the 'Worthing Cluster' and United Reformed Church Southern Synod, whose affairs are governed by General Assembly.

It was early in the 1930s that Worthing Congregational Church in Shelley Road began planning to build a new church in the rapidly growing area to the west of Worthing. The present building was opened in September 1961 when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall. This first building was opened in 1948.

Other churches in Goring with whom we share the Christian faith are English Martyrs Roman catholic Church, St Mary, St Laurence & St Richard Churches of England, New Life Baptist Church and Bury Drive Methodist Church.

We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all

Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

https://gurc.net

Also find us on Facebook and our Mobile App

The United Reformed Church