

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 worthip God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all

Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

https://gurc.net

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The United Reformed Church

The Chronicle

Winter 2020/21

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



Unto us a boy is born



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/about-sunday-worship and on our Church App.

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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2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

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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Archives:
History in Pictures; Ministers; Birth, Marriage & Death Records
Top Menu Bar under 'Archives'

Solution to Sudoku on page 23

6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4	9
3	8	9	1	6	4	5	7	2
7	2	4	5	8	9	1	6	3
5	7	1	8	3	6	9	2	4
8	4	2	7	9	5	6	3	1
9	6	3	4	1	2	7	8	5
4	3	7	9	5	8	2	1	6
1	9	6	3	2	7	4	5	8
2	5	8	6	4	1	3	9	7

Answers to crossword on page 12

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

The Chronicle
Goring United Reformed Church
Winter 2020/21
Vol.77 - No. 665

Front Cover:



Unto us a boy is born.
King of all creation,
Came He to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.

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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



Welcome to the Winter edition of Chronicle.

We have already altered the clocks at the end of October, now it gets darker an hour earlier. Coincidentally the weather seems to instantly change as well, wind and rain have marred the half term break. In addition, we have entered another period of lockdown.

Winter, the name comes from an old Germanic word that means "time of water" and refers to the rain and snow of winter. But I often get corrected when I think of November and even early December as being winter. In the Northern Hemisphere Winter is technically from the winter solstice (year's shortest day), December 21 or 22, to the vernal equinox (day and night equal in length), March 20 or 21, The really low temperatures associated with our winter occur mainly the further north you go, but global warming is drastically altering that.

We usually miss the extreme weather down here in the South of England. However, in the UK the winter of 1946–1947 started out relatively normal but became one of the snowiest UK winters to date, with nearly continuous snowfall from late January until March. Many people were shut in their homes, travel was limited, road and rail transport disrupted, supplies ran low as people hoarded the essentials and many jobs were lost. That is so hard to imagine now. I hope we never get into that situation again!

We arrived in Great Baddow two weeks after D-Day in 1971 from Welwyn Garden City, and the church was in the middle of a two year interregnum and during that time the members and Deacons had extended the church building. Which must say something about the church itself. There were 51 members in 1971

Rev Ken Pryor was ordained and inducted as minister in 1973 and one of my treasured possessions is his letter of acceptance of our call to be Minister. (I was joint Church Secretary at the time.) Some may remember that Ken has conducted worship in our church here in Goring, some years ago.

Eileen and I and our two sons and our cat moved to Worthing in 1979 and one week later Ken and his wife Rose moved too, to minister in the Medway towns. Theirs was a real team ministry and with their daughter Jennifer and son Tim they made a wonderful family. Whilst at Great Baddow Ken also had responsibility for Writtle URC and covered many many thousands of miles annually in his car visiting and meeting around the county.

Before Ken arrived, and during his time with us in Great Baddow and at various times during subsequent decades, I have given an address when I've asked the question "Is the Church effective?" Unfortunately on most occasions the answer tends towards "No". But not at any time in Ken Pryor's ministry! The area had a very well organised three - monthly Preaching Planning meeting with the 10 small churches that were around Chelmsford. One member from each meeting together to plan the coming three months in detail and the following three months in outline. In that way even the smallest chapel had one of the three ordained ministers for their Holy Communion services. Eileen and Ken also started a very busy and thriving Pilots Company. During those years there was a Provincial Day Out held in Ely Cathedral, and flower festivals organised by the ladies.

Amongst our most beautiful services were Christmas Midnight Communions.

When Ken and Rose left Great Baddow URC the membership was 85, and the church was the only one in East Anglia with an actively growing membership.

So on Saturday 3rd October we had a sad journey down Memory Lane but with many happy memories. Our boys were 12 and 10 when we left and they too had contributed much to our lives in Great Baddow.

The church has been sold to the Octavia Schools organisation. This consists of several schools at the present time in various parts of London. They provide "outstanding" schooling for 5 to 16 year olds who have special needs. I'm very pleased to think that they will continue to contribute much to the life of Great Baddow.

Wilfred Rhodes

Great Baddow, Essex

Saturday 3rd October 2020.

Eileen and I had a rather sad day. We attended a funeral at 2.00pm. There were 28 of us there. The Moderator of the Eastern Synod, the Rev Canon Paul Whittle preached the address and the service was conducted by Rev Paul Stein. He is minister of Christ Church in Chelmsford.



Great Baddow URC, Chelmsford

The funeral was the closing down of Great Baddow United Reformed Church, and we were members there from 1971 to 1979.

The season of winter is associated with a time of dormancy, particularly in relation to crops; some plants die, leaving their seeds, and others merely cease growth until spring. Many animals also become dormant, especially those that hibernate. It seems we have already gone through a time of hibernation earlier in the year, the first Lockdown.

It was the 23 March 2020 that Boris Johnson told the country that people 'must' stay at home and certain businesses must close, travel was limited. It was like most of the nation was hibernating back in spring; storing up toilet rolls, pasta and tinned tomatoes for the uncertain period of isolation that lay ahead. During this time jobs and livelihoods were and are still being lost. Not to mention the many thousands who lost their lives. For me the whole year has blended into one uneasy season of discontent *(though it can be ... 'made glorious summer by this Son of God') *.*

The church year was undefined with a reduced ability to celebrate Easter, Pentecost, Harvest. At this time, I have absolutely no idea what Christmas will be like.

Perhaps it will be a slower calmer time. A time to really reflect on the meaning of our celebration. Instead of rushing round the shops and partying, a time to be still.

A time to take stock and be thankful for what we have rather than what we lack. There may be many restrictions imposed for our good and we may find it to be a cold dark season, but the light of Jesus will shine through.

There will always be hope for a brighter day. We don't know how long this shadow of Covid19 will hang over us but there is always sunshine after the rain. What about George Matheson's beautiful words in the hymn, "O Love that will not let me go:" in particular the phrase - I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain. That morn shall tearless be. What a great image. A reminder too of God's covenant promise made to humanity after the flood.

The experience of faith in Matheson's hymn refers to a basic sense of trust that we must have in the process of life, one that with Jesus we can hold both the light and the dark, the joy and the pain.

Mary Connelly

I have one sentinel only this year in my Red Hot Poker planter instead of six. He has made up for the lack of others by growing to six feet tall. Next to him, my tiny twig of Buddleia has grown to three feet, with two strong shoots alongside. I have hopes that the New Year will see more than one tiny flower this winter. Meanwhile, other flowers are filling their pots and still giving pleasure to the people who pass by my house.

In this time of viral infection we wonder what the next plague will be. One lockdown was enough to cause muscles and joints to seize up and malfunction. Apathy soon sets in; disinclination to go out increases as the weather gets colder, and so the deterioration continues.

It was not only people who found the time difficult, but my tomatoes too. The young plants were doing well and getting ready for the Church plant sale in May. But there was no sale this year. I did throw the weaker plants away, but the rest went into Gro-bags in the back yard. There were more than usual, of three kinds. They flowered well, fertilized and fruited well. A colour started to develop, but the sun was lower in the sky, not giving sunshine at that end of the yard more than an hour or so during the day. They seemed to find it difficult to ripen. The weather turned colder.



Little Fishes

Little Fishes returned in September to an almost normal routine. It was lovely to welcome our returning children, some of whom we'd not seen since March and also meet lots of new families. The children settled in very quickly and have been busy playing, creating, singing and generally having fun.

We have been able to have our 2nd playground resurfaced and its looking fabulous, well worth the wait.

We have also invested in a large six seater buggy (we call it the bus) which enables us to take six smaller children out safely, it does attract a lot of attention, please give us a wave if you see us out and about in Goring.

COVID has limited some activities but we have had two visits from reptiles which included a massive snake and a very pretty tarantula, fascinating to the children and the staff.

As I write this the nation is going back into lockdown but childcare is exempt which places a great deal of pressure on the staff, please do remember us in your prayers, your support is much appreciated. *Val Gill*

The Bus

Fifty Golden Years

September 1970 - September 2020



Mr & Mrs Alan & Alison Westcott Heston Parish Church, Middelsex

When we learned of Hilary and Graham celebrating their Golden Wedding in August, we knew that we were in 'good company' as our 50th anniversary was not many weeks later - on 5 September 2020.

Sudoku

6	1			7				
					4	5		2
				8				3
	7		8			9		
		2				6		
		3			2		8	
4				5				
1		6	3					
				4			9	7

Solution on page 28

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The Chronicle Spring 2021

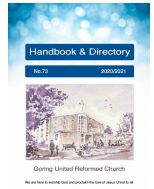
The closing date for the Spring magazine articles is 1 February 2021

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



The Handbook and Directory

has been republished to No. 73 2020/2021

Changes are always being made, and are updated on our on-line version as they occur.

Continued from page 19

Refugees in Worthing

Also on the website, you can sign up to receive news and/or prayer updates. If Goring URC are providing online church services, we have recently produced a 5 minute video introducing our work, or we have people on the team willing to talk to the church if that would be helpful. So do ask if the church would like to connect with us more.

I hope this information is helpful to you. You can also contact the refugee resettlement team at West Sussex County Council for more information.

We work closely with them. Just phone the switchboard at county hall.

Gay Jacklin
Worthing 4 Refugees Lead *Submitted by Wilfred Rhodes*



'Hope' Photo by Christina Shearer Taken 25 October

Regular readers of ***The Chronicle*** may recall that our family from Jersey and from Mexico were all staying with us for Christmas 2019 and realising that we would not be able to be together in September due to school and work commitments and the distances involved, we decided to celebrate early at that time in December – and thank goodness that we did!

However, the Jersey branch of the family invited us to visit them in September as the island was 'open' and after testing immediately upon arrival and the results being 'negative', we were free to enjoy Jersey's delights. This we definitely did in glorious weather, whilst always remaining extremely careful when out and about.

On the actual day we undertook a country walk (2.5 miles each way) along an old railway track, now for cyclists and pedestrians, and which ends at St. Ouens bay where La Corbiere lighthouse is situated. The three children were on their scooters or running beside us and we all enjoyed the many varied sights and things to discover and explore along the way.



There is a restaurant overlooking the lighthouse, rocks and long bay, with the other Channel Isles on the horizon and here we partook of a delicious lunch accompanied by those stunning views. There was much fun and laughter as Alan and I reminisced over the past 50 years and remembered family happenings and stories to pass onto the next generations.





It was a good thing that it was a long way back to the car to enable us all to 'walk down' our celebratory meal and the children certainly slept well that night after all the fresh air and exercise!

Since then we have been presented with a wonderful album compiled by Karen & Chris and full of photographs over our 'fifty golden years' as they have entitled it.

We will certainly have many happy hours looking through it over times ahead.

Alison Westcott.

Sudan was the country identified as the most in need of MAF's services, and Stuart based himself there, each adventure bringing its own unique blessing, helping to sow a million Gospel seeds.

From those small and struggling beginnings in post-war Britain MAF now flies to more than 1,400 remote locations across 26 developing countries – more destinations than any other airline in the world.



Cessna 208B at Lydd Airport in 2019

The aim of MAF is always: 'To see isolated people physically and spiritually transformed by God's love' Today MAF pilots fly to areas almost unreachable by road, carrying medicines, Bibles, other goods, doctors, pastors and patients.

Stuart's lifetime commitment to MAF continued until his death in August this year at the age of 98. He described himself simply as an ordinary man serving an extraordinary God. But he was far from ordinary, he was a man chosen by God for an enormous task. MAF has gone from strength to strength, reaching the lost, the lonely and the languishing. In 2016 Stuart King wrote the following prayer, encapsulating all that MAF holds dear:

'Lord, thank you for your peace, protection and provision.
We pray that MAF will always have:
One purpose – the glory of God
One pathway – the will of God
One passion – the love of God.
In Jesus' name, Amen'

Photographs by coutesy of MAF
Eileen Rhodes

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Flying For Life

This year 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). There was to have been a national celebration in London in the spring, but due to the COVID 19 lockdown this could not take place. As a supporter I was hoping to be there and to meet Stuart King, co-founder (with RAF colleague Squadron Leader Jack Hemmings) of MAF in 1945.

I imagine we would have heard from him and others about those early days and the small and struggling beginnings in the aftermath of World War II.



Stuart King in Miles Gemini aircraft in 1947

So how did it all start?

Stuart was Chief Technical Officer at RAF Duxford, but he had a vision of using aircraft to bring HELP, HOPE and HEALING to those in need. He gave up his career to pursue this and joined other Christian airmen to establish MAF, with the aim of reaching the earth's remotest communities, using aviation and technology.

His first pioneering flight with his colleague Jack Hemmings was in a tiny 2-seater Miles Gemini from Croydon to East Africa, 4,000 miles away. With little more than a map and a compass they followed the River Nile as their guide across Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Kenya and the Belgian Congo.



Christmas Day

When did we get the date for Christmas fixed?

The church in Rome began formally celebrating Christmas on December 25 in the year 336, during the reign of the emperor Constantine.

As Constantine had made Christianity the effective religion of the empire, some have speculated that choosing this date had the political motive of weakening the established pagan celebrations.

It did, many were wiped out. One in particular the cult of Mithras. Apart from the slaying of bulls, a sacrifice had to be made on behalf of the followers, its followers worshiped a 'sun' god (or son of god), took a ritual bath before they could be a member and had their main celebration on … you guessed it December 25th.

Andrew Sellwood



Christmas Services

Please keep an eye on our website for up to date information on Church services during the Christmas period as Government restrictions may or may not apply.

Journeys or Lockdown this Christmas?

Christmas is a busy time for travel, as many of us venture a great distance to see family or friends again. But this year coronavirus has put an end to all that. Seeing all our loved ones this Christmas will be difficult, if not impossible. Soon we may not be travelling anywhere very much at all.

Have you noticed that the Christmas story is about journeys? It begins with Mary and Joseph travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Then, some shepherds receive news from an angel about a special birth. They travel through the night, across dark fields and down unlit streets to search for the baby Jesus.

After this, in an eastern country some wise men see a new star, one that heralds a new king. They leave home and set out with only the star to guide them, and their faith to reassure them that Someone special is waiting at the end of their journey.

All these travellers must have wondered what really lay ahead. Nothing was fully understood, carefully planned for, or safe. They all travelled with questions and uncertainties. But God had come unexpectedly into their lives, and suddenly they were given new roles to serve Him. Despite worldly circumstances that could have crushed them, they stood firm and trusted God all the way.

These travellers' tales tell us that God may suddenly enter into our familiar, or this year, unfamiliar circumstances. He may come in surprising ways, to prompt us into new avenues of service. At first His call on us may be uncomfortable and challenging.

If our response is anything like Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and wise men – to be obedient to His call in serving, witnessing and worshipping, we shall be greatly blessed and rewarded.

We are all on life's journey. If we travel with God, He will be faithful and lead us to His heavenly Home.

Parish Pump

Refugees in Worthing

This is a message I received from "Worthing 4 Refugees", which is connected with the Maybridge Community Centre. I had asked of them whether refugees were still being settled in the area. This is their answer. Wilfred Rhodes

The government's resettlement scheme announced in 2015 had a target to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK by 2020. West Sussex County Council voluntarily signed up to this scheme to resettle 240 individuals or 60 families. Both the local and national targets have just about been met. This included refugee families resettled by local charities, a scheme that the Home Office created from a Canadian model. This scheme is called Community Sponsorship, and is how Worthing 4 Refugees has been involved in refugee resettlement locally.

Recently the Home Office introduced a follow-on scheme to enable refugees from any part of the world to be resettled here into the future, so there is a commitment going forward. In addition, the Home Office has announced that any refugee families resettled using Community Sponsorship will be in addition to government targets for the first time. This is exciting news going forward and enables local grassroots charities to make a real difference to the lives and numbers of refugee families who are able to resettle in the UK.

However, since March, no Syrian refugees have been resettled because of Covid-19, and there is no date to restart the scheme. So we are concerned about the refugees waiting in hopeless situations, some in refugee camps, who are not able to start their new life moving forward.

If you would like to know more about the work of Worthing 4 Refugees, an inter-church Christian charity, please do look at our website:

www.worthing4refugees.org.uk

I imagine you have already done so and used the website to get in touch. If there is someone at Goring URC who would like to co-ordinate prayer for our work, I could ask our prayer co-ordinator to get in touch.

Continued on page 22

The schemes for loans and grants to churches have been reopened and the Emergency Fund is also open.

There is also a deficit on the Ministers' Final Salary Scheme, which will be discussed with the scheme's actuary early in 2021. Synod Together endorsed the recommended Synod budget for 2021.

Next, the Children and Youth Development Officer showed us a short clip of the work done by the CYDO. There is an information pack available to local churches.

The meeting then broke up into groups to discuss the future for churches after Covid. Some churches had tried social meetings on Zoom. The prospect of holding carol services outdoors was discussed. The Forest Church in the New Forest pointed out that the only way to have a gathering of 30 people outside was to take a gun and shoot a deer during the service. There were various suggestions for holding Communion services, members to bring their own elements; have 2 trays, one for glasses of wine and the other for glasses containing bread. One church had found pre-packed sets of bread and wine which the congregation could collect on the way into church. It was pointed out that a risk assessment would be needed to run social events and that back to back events should be avoided. Each group appointed a rapporteur to report back to the Synod Secretary

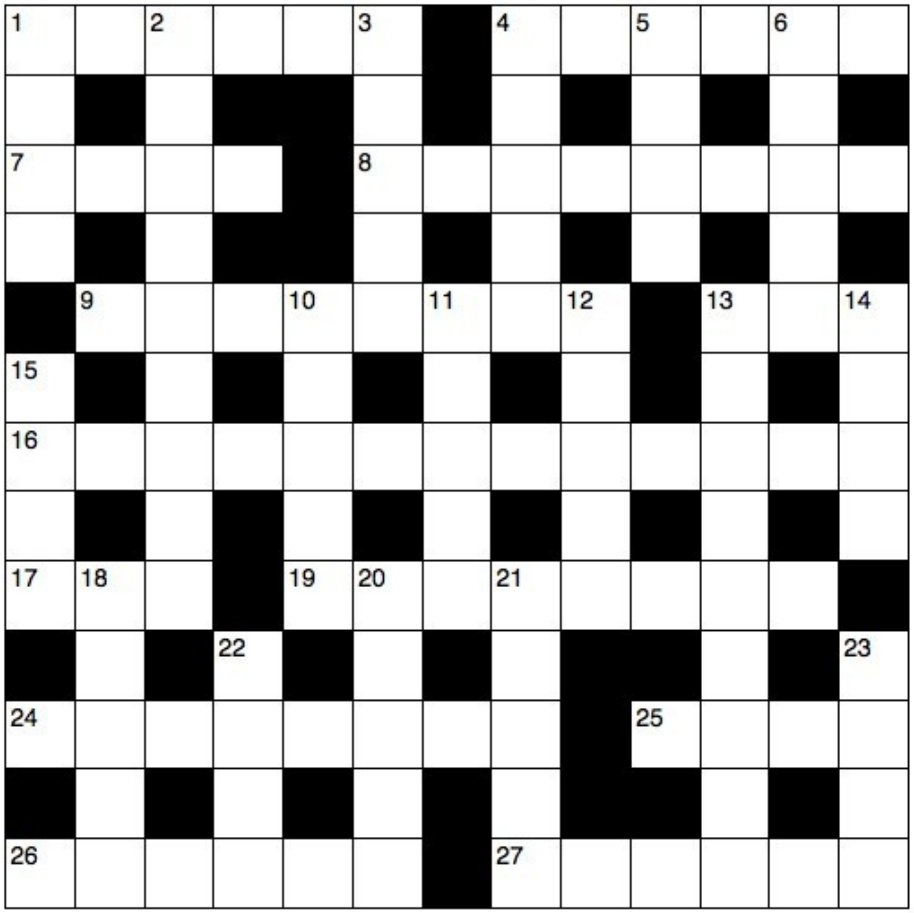
The final item on the agenda was the expression of thanks to Jubilee ministers, those who had served for more than 25 years. There were 13 in total including the Reverend John Kay who had completed 60 years of service.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm after setting the date for the next meeting, on 13 March 2021.

Giles Wilson



Crossword



and demonstrating the Christian hope for God's world.

The search for a Racial Justice Advocate continues. Sharon Henriques has been representing Southern Synod on the national racial justice network across the United Reformed Church.

The Synod Council report also dealt with the Korean Ministries. Ms So Young's post as Mission Partner has been reviewed and it was agreed to renew her post until 2023 The Reverend Suk Lee's post is currently under review pending a decision at the next Synod Council Meeting.

The Reverend Andy Twilley's post as Training Development Officer has been renewed until 2026.

After considering the Synod Council report The Reverend Helen Warmington reported on Ministerial Supervision. After a 3 year lead-in time this will be compulsory for individuals, but not groups. Further details will no doubt, follow.

The Reverend Helen Warmington was followed by Belinda Nielsen, the safeguarding officer for Southern Synod and North Thames, who introduced and explained a short video clip reminding us of the importance of safeguarding children and adults at risk. She emphasised the need for Good Practice, Policy and Procedures. None of this was designed to trip anyone up. It is important to recognise, respond, refer and report bad practices. "Good Practice 5", a guidance note on the topic, is available to download from the main URC website. Training is mandatory for a wide range of officers. There will be a question on safeguarding in church annual returns due at the end of December.

After a short break John Denison, Synod Treasurer, took us briefly through the budget for 2021 and estimates for 2022 to 2025. As in previous years Synod is unlikely to break even without the income from the sale of redundant church buildings. The budget for 2021 envisages a deficit of £443,091. Stripping out the provision for the sale of property there is planned expenditure of about £944,091 against estimated income of about £321,00.

Unlike local churches Synod does not receive hall letting income, so has to rely on the proceeds from the sale of redundant churches.

Synod Together

Report for GURC on Synod Together "Virtual Meeting" 10th October 2020 via Zoom

There was no theme this meeting.

The meeting scheduled for March 2020 was cancelled following the outbreak of the Covid-19 corona virus so this was the first meeting of Synod Together for 12 months. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues it was decided to hold the meeting as a virtual meeting using Zoom. As the church's representative I joined the meeting as a viewer, because I had neither web-cam nor microphone. However, I found that I was able to follow the meeting and vote when necessary.

I am always surprised by the range of committees and officers working mainly behind the scenes to ensure that local churches can continue to spread the Bible teaching.

Our first task was to welcome Southern Synod's new moderator, the Reverend Bridget Banks, who was confirmed in post at the July virtual meeting of Mission Council. The Synod Together Meeting also welcomed our new Synod clerk, the Reverend Russell Furley-Smith, who had agreed to serve for an initial period of 5 years from 1 October 2020.

The Reverend Bridget Banks led the opening worship, followed by the Synod Clerk dealing with Pastoralia, the names of Members of Synod who had died since the last meeting in October 2019. We were asked to pray for them.

The minutes of the meeting in October 2019 were approved unanimously.

The meeting then moved on to consider the Synod Council report, the main themes of this were climate change and racial justice.

A report from URC Youth stated that Christians should be stewards of the planet following the principles of A Rocha. A Rocha is a charity which sees its mission as responding to the biblical mandate to care for the earth,

Crossword Clues

Across

1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
18 Narnia's Lion (5)
20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)



Joseph and his Amazing Journey

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David. Luke 2 1-4

What a year we have had!

But I suppose Joseph had had a demanding year as well. Having learned that his betrothed was pregnant due to divine intervention, he then learned of the Roman government's demand for a census.

These Bible verses show Joseph being a good citizen. Leaving home for a long journey in order to please the government would not have been welcome, but Joseph complied and obeyed the law.

This year the situation is reversed. Millions of us want to make a long journey, to visit our loved ones across the UK. But this year, because of coronavirus, the Government is asking us to stay at home.

The Romans had censuses for a good reason: to help them run the business of the empire. This Government has restrictions in place for a good reason: to help to slow the spread of a deadly virus.

Following government rules and laws it is not always easy or pleasant but as Christians we should be good citizens.

As always this is a light-hearted guide to a complicated subject. If you are going home for Christmas, get proper advice - and have a Merry one.



Parish Pump