

# CONNEXIONS

The magazine of

**Lavington**

**United Reformed Church**

**Bideford**

[www.lavingtonurc.org](http://www.lavingtonurc.org)



**JUNE 2022**

**40P**

## JUNE DIARY

Sun.	5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Pentecost Worship – Mrs Jill Davis
Sun.	12 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship & HC – Sabrina
Wed.	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Elders Meeting
Sun.	19 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship – the Minister
Sun.	19 <sup>th</sup>	12.45pm	Church Family Jubilee Lunch
Sun.	26 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship – Mrs Helen Potter

## WEEKLY ACTIVITY

Tuesdays 10am – 1.00pm Tuesday Café and lunches

### Mission Statement

Lavington's mission is to seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness encompassing the love of Christ and to share this through worship and service.



We are a Fairtrade Church

### Answers to May Fun

1. Class
2. Rush
3. Coat
4. Air
5. Corner
6. Violet
7. Model
8. Caster
9. Die
10. Single
11. Grape
12. Crisis
13. Label
14. Ego
15. Tape.
16. Edge
17. Taker



Dear Friends

June 2022 is a month for celebrations! We start the month with an extra-long Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate the Queen's amazing Platinum Jubilee. She is the longest serving monarch in the history of Great Britain and I would guess that this record might never be broken. Queen Elizabeth has demonstrated a great dedication to her duties throughout the past decades and has held firmly to her faith. The Jubilee weekend coincides with another festival time for us as Christians as we celebrate Pentecost and remember in particular the Holy Spirit arriving on the disciples and huge crowds gathered in Jerusalem.

We sometimes forget that the apostles were celebrating a Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot when the Holy Spirit descended on them. The Holy Spirit sounded like a very strong wind and it looked like tongues of fire. The apostles then found themselves understanding people from many countries, even though they were speaking in foreign languages. This continues to be my prayer, that people of different nations will seek to understand one another and find peaceful solutions to the current crises. I don't know how you all feel about the Ukrainian situation but I'm extremely concerned that our media coverage shows very little about attempts at peace talks between Ukraine and Russia.

One story in the news that caught my attention was the young man called Max Woosey who has been busy raising money for North Devon Hospice by camping in a tent in his back garden. Max has now exceeded 600 nights under canvas! The 12-year-old from Braunton was awarded the British Empire Medal for raising nearly £700,000 and inspiring people around the world with his exploits during lockdown. In a world in which there is so much news causing anxiety, this is a wonderful story of dedication and service.

On 19th June I look forward to joining you for morning worship followed by a church lunch. It will be good to see you then. Don't forget we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church on





The Christian Aid Committee held its first face to face meeting in two years at Bideford Baptist Church on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Since our last Zoom meeting in February St. Mary's Church Bideford have raised £616.17 from the filling of Smartie tubes. Lindsey Brading, our Secretary, raised £262.40 from the sale of simnel cakes she had baked for Easter. The final total for the coffee morning we held at the Baptist Church on April 21<sup>st</sup> was £213.40. All this added up to £1091.57 which was sent to the Ukraine Appeal.

Some late feedback from the showing of the film *"Thank you for the Rain"* had been received and an appreciation that the committee had arranged it. It was reported that some had started to make changes to their everyday lives to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels as a result.

We have had a new treasurer since the beginning of 2022.

With regard to Christian Aid Week, (May 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>) John Wilmut, a Christian Aid speaker, gave a talk at Northam Methodists on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> and then several committee members went to Lindsey's house for a light lunch to which Mr Wilmut was invited..

Lavington's contribution to Christian Aid Week was to put envelopes in the church pews for donations for two consecutive Sundays in May. The result will be reported in the Summer magazine.

It is hoped to arrange an ecumenical supper instead of a Safari supper in the summer. Please watch this space for details in due course.

Various other suggestions have been made for fund-raising events through to year end, but nothing that I can report here at present.

C

Who was the best comedian in the Bible?  
Samson. He brought the house down.

## GOD SAVE OUR GRACIOUS QUEEN



How do we appraise the extraordinariness of Kings and Queens if by birth they are already endowed with influence and status? With Kings and Queens we are forced to use a different standard to gauge their greatness and that standard hinges on how they dutifully behave in accordance to their noble calling of leading and serving their subjects.

The highly respected Queen Elizabeth II is indeed extraordinary, not only by birth, but by the way she lives up to the expectations and challenges of her noble stature as the constitutional Queen of 16 sovereign states including their territories and dependancies and as the titular head of the Commonwealth of Nations. We also know that from a young age she has had a great faith. In her Christmas broadcast 2002 she said *"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings and to put my trust in God....I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel."*

Even at the young age of 14, she calmly inspired the nation when she said in a live radio broadcast during the height of World War II: *"...In the end, all will be well for God will care for us and give us victory and peace."* This message readily gave hope to children who had been evacuated from their homes due to the unremitting bombings during the infamous German blitz.

Her extraordinariness lies in the fulfilment of the promise she made on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, wherein she declared that *"...My whole life whether it be long or short, will be truly devoted to the service of the great imperial family..."*





On Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, when she will have reigned over us for seventy years, the only time in British history a monarch has achieved this accolade. We pray that she will keep well over the whole period of celebrations and continue to reign over us for as long as her health allows.

w/c 5<sup>th</sup>

Today is Pentecost, commemorating the occasion when the disciples in Jerusalem were imbued with the Holy Spirit and went on to proclaim the gospel to the rest of the world. Let us pray that we may be similarly imbued and enthused with the Holy Spirit, so that we too can proclaim the gospel to others.

w/c 12<sup>th</sup>

Let us pray for all those who, even at this time of year, with warmer weather and lighter evenings, are unable to get out and about, because of illness or infirmity. Perhaps they find staying at home every day tedious and lonely. Let us also pray for those who can get out but have nowhere in particular to go or anyone to meet. May the church be part of the answer to their problems.

w/c 19<sup>th</sup>

Today is Father's Day. Though not a Christian festival, in 1908, a West Virginian church held a service honouring fathers, after 362 were killed in a mining accident nearby. Though the service was never repeated at this church, the idea caught on and Father's Day is now celebrated in many countries every year. We thank God for fathers and the special gifts they bring to family life.

w/c 26<sup>th</sup>

Let us continue to pray for all those still being killed or injured, caught up in sieges or displaced as refugees in the ongoing war in the Ukraine and other countries where fighting is taking place. May God help them all.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, who came to save us. Amen. C

## PREMISES NEWS

Some good news about our premises, for a change! We have received the report from Hiax Preservation. You may recall that we asked them to investigate the flooring in the hall which is a bit bouncy in places. The good news is that there is no wood rot, the flooring just needs some additional strengthening.

The Elders have confirmed with our plumber that we wish to proceed with the installation of the heating system in the upstairs rooms, the removal of the redundant immersion heater and the addition of a radiator in the ladies toilet.

Another room upstairs has been painted, which just leaves one more room, the bathroom and the corridor. Thanks again to all who have contributed to the redecoration of these rooms.

*Rob*

### **ECO CHURCH NEWS: CHURCHES COUNT ON NATURE JUNE 4th-12th**

We're encouraging churches of all denominations to take part in 'Churches Count on Nature' (4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June) by recording nature in their churchyards, green spaces and burial grounds. During 'Churches Count on Nature', the Church of England is running a complementary [series of webinars](#) for anyone interested in different aspects of nature, ecology, churchyard management, and outdoor worship.

Helen Stephens and Andy Lester from A Rocha UK will be speaking as part of this online programme. In particular, Andy will be speaking on '[Urban Hope - how to create space for nature in a small space](#)' which will take a creative look at how to make the best use of small areas.

View the webinar programme and book your free place by following this link: <https://arocha.org.uk/event/>

Rob Weston, Green Apostle for South Western Synod

## JUNE ROTAS

### MINISTRY of FLOWERS

We thank those who are providing flowers for our sanctuary this month and those who arrange them if asked to do so.

<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Pentecost
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	_____
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs M T
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	Mr R Q

### VESTRY DUTIES

<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs J C
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs J D
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs J P
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs J D

### SIDESMAN DUTIES

<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Mr C W / Mr P J
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs L C / Mrs H M
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs A B / Mr C W
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs J C / Mr P J

### COMMUNION

Preparation	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs H M / Mrs E B
Servers		Mrs J P / Mrs J D

### BIBLE READERS

<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs J P
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs H M
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs A B
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	Mrs J D

### OFFERTORY STEWARDS

Mr & Mrs R C



You are warmly invited to

## **Lavington URC's Jubilee Lunch**

**19<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 12.45pm**

***Please tick your choice of main course.***

Coronation Chicken ..... Roast Beef .....

Roast Pork .....

\* \* \* \* \*

***Please tick your choice of dessert.***

Queen of Puddings ..... Platinum Jubilee Pudding .....

\* \* \* \* \*

Tea or Coffee

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**Cost: Adults £5**

Please indicate if you have any special dietary needs.

When completed, please return **this part of the form** to **JD** (01237 479373)\_no later than Sunday 12th June 2022.

Cash payment with your order would be appreciated please.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary needs (if any):

## **NEWS of the LAVINGTON FAMILY**

**P G** is making progress and his breathing has improved. At present he isn't allowed to drive but he and E send their best wishes to their friends at Lavington and look forward to seeing them soon. We send them our love and prayers. **L G** had a fall last month and sustained bruising but thankfully no serious injuries. She is gradually recovering from this fall and we hope she will soon feel a lot better.

We have missed **J and R** from our fellowship recently as J has been very unwell with Covid. Our hope is that you will make a speedy recovery J. **B J** has been in hospital receiving treatment and gone to a Home in Westward Ho! Please pray that she will soon settle into her new surroundings. We were sorry to hear that **J G** has had a fall which has left her shaken but nothing broken. Our hope is that you will soon be fully recovered. **P C** continues to make slow progress with the help of her carers and the physios and remains positive and always pleased to talk to friends. **A M** also sends her best wishes to her friends at Lavington and enjoys sitting in the garden of her care home when the weather allows. We send A our love and prayers as we miss her from our fellowship.

We send our loving sympathy to our minister **R and his family** as sadly his mother, **P** passed away peacefully in Derriford hospital. May you be comforted by the Christian love and prayers of friends and the Church fellowship at this sad time.

**A T, M T's** grandson has had an accident and broken his left foot whilst training with the gymnastic team at Lillishall National Sports Centre. As he didn't want to remain in Shropshire for treatment, unfortunately he had to drive home on his own. It was very painful journey and it could take 6 weeks for the break to mend. He will miss the London Open and a World Cup event in Slovenia. By the time you read this A we hope the healing process has begun and you will soon be back on your feet and doing what you do best!

We send our prayers and love to the housebound and all those unable to join us for worship, those anxious about family, friends or themselves at this time. May the God of hope, love and peace be with us all.

## FAVOURITE HYMN: THE SERVANT KING

Perhaps better known as 'From Heaven You Came, Helpless Babe', this hymn was written by Graham Kendrick (b. 1950).

Born in Blisworth, Northamptonshire, Graham is the son of a Baptist pastor. He started playing the piano aged 5. As an adult, he went to Teachers' Training College where he had an intense religious experience, as a result of which he decided to pursue a career as an itinerant musician, hymn-writer and worship leader. Starting as a member of the Christian beat group 'Whispers of Truth', but later on he began working as a solo artist in the singer/song-writer tradition and has produced many notable hymns, including 'Shine, Jesus, Shine', 'Meekness and Majesty,' and 'Make Way, make way'. All his hymns are characterised by memorable tunes, striking imagery and sound theology.

The essence of this hymn is to express the paradox that Jesus is both Master and Servant. He came into the world *'not to be served, but to serve'*, and then shows how this was exemplified in the Garden of Gethsemane *'the garden of tears'* and the Cross, where he bears *'the scars that speak of sacrifice'*. By following Him, we learn how to serve and worship Him at the same time, *'each other's needs to prefer/ for it is Christ we're serving.'*

In 2000, both the London School of Theology and Brunel University awarded him honorary doctorates in divinity in recognition of his contribution to the worship of the church.

He is very prolific, and has recorded at least 39 albums, but he is not universally popular and has been called 'the king of the happy-clappy banalities', but love him or loathe him he is, according to one source, one of the most influential hymn-writers of the last hundred years.

He currently lives in Tunbridge Wells.

C

There are more than 34,000 Christian denominations in the world

## AN ALTERNATIVE READING

S writes,

I'm sure I am not the only one who is lost for words to express horror at what is happening in Ukraine.

Thom Schuman, an American Presbyterian minister, has written some powerful words inspired by 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of Paul's First letter to the Corinthians. Let's call it 1 Ukrainians 13.....

Here it is! Ukrainians 13.

"If I talk in the rhetoric of politicians and commentators, but do not speak peace, I am a beating drum or an amplified guitar. If I know what tomorrow will bring and know the secrets of the universes and if I trusted everyone, but do not seek peace, I am empty. If I sold everything I have donated to charity and if I signed up to be an organ donor, but did not share peace with those around me, I have wasted my chance to matter.

Peace has no use-by date; peace is gentleness; peace does not want what it does not have; peace does not flex its muscles or play war games; peace does not push others out of the way.

Peace does not lust after another's country, or cling to ancient grudges; it does not pout or hold its breath and kick on the floor; it never plays tricks on someone else and refuses to raise false flags. Peace puts up with others' foolishness, sees the best in other people, seeks common ground with everyone, persists to the very end.

Peace never gives up. The politicians will disappear into history, the talking heads will run out of words; the wisdom of all the experts will turn to dust. For we do not know how the story ends, and our best guesses are just that, guesses. But when God's time finally comes, all the pieces of the puzzle will fit. When I was a child. I played war games, I watched films about missiles coming out of the air, I had nightmares of nuclear winters; but when I grew, I discovered the path of peace.



## With flowers still in mind

### GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME



Do Dahlias play tunes on their tubers?

*Do Tulips kiss with two lips?*

Do Potatoes have eyes at the back of their heads?

*Do Marrows delay till tomorrow?*

Do Daisies have chains they can pull?

*Do Daffodils blow their own trumpets?*

Do Ice Plants grow suddenly cool?

*Do Irises have contact lens?*

Does a tree need a 'feller' when down?

*Can Love-in-a-Mist ever find its way home?*

Does London Pride ever leave town?

*Can Canterbury Bells ring for service?*

Can Forget-me-nots ever remember?

*And does a Sweet Pea bring relief?*

Can Convolvulus have a convulsion?

*Can Poppies pop out for a quick one?*

And are Red Hot Pokers alright?

*Can a Bleeding-Heart plant have a transplant?*

Can Thrift ever waste any day?

*If someone can answer these questions,*

*I'll be as pleased as the flowers in May!*

*From a magazine*





# Fun Page

All the following are in one of these categories -

## **Desserts / Cakes / Puddings / Biscuits**

1. Cook perfectly \_\_\_\_\_
2. Spicy photograph \_\_\_\_\_
3. Virtuous girl \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sounds pleasant \_\_\_\_\_
5. Albert's favourite \_\_\_\_\_
6. River sediment \_\_\_\_\_
7. Death by chocolate \_\_\_\_\_
8. Ballerina's special \_\_\_\_\_
9. Gabriel's way \_\_\_\_\_
10. In perfect order \_\_\_\_\_
11. Eve's pudding \_\_\_\_\_
12. Somersault \_\_\_\_\_
13. Tinkerbell's treat \_\_\_\_\_
14. Daytime moths \_\_\_\_\_
15. Such a little thing \_\_\_\_\_
16. Wrong way up \_\_\_\_\_
17. Feline with possessions \_\_\_\_\_
18. Israeli orange \_\_\_\_\_
19. Stony cake \_\_\_\_\_
20. Richard has acne \_\_\_\_\_

## **Who's who at Lavington URC**

Bridgeland Street, Bideford, EX39 2QE

### **Interim Minister**

**Revd Rob Weston**

tel: 01566 784990

email: [lavingtonurc@gmail.com](mailto:lavingtonurc@gmail.com)

### **Church Secretary**

**Mrs Alison Biggs**

tel: 01805 625632

email: [lavington.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:lavington.secretary@gmail.com)

### **Church Treasurer**

**Revd Colin Biggs**

tel: 01805 625632

email: [lavington.treasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:lavington.treasurer1@gmail.com)

### **Church & Hall Bookings**

**Revd Colin Biggs**

tel: 01805 625632

email: [lavington.treasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:lavington.treasurer1@gmail.com)

Enquiries for weddings and baptisms are welcomed.  
Please contact Church & Hall Bookings Secretary above.

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**The Summer issue of Connexions is due out on  
Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Please give items for inclusion to Janet Palmer or send by email to  
[lavington.connexions@gmail.com](mailto:lavington.connexions@gmail.com)**

**Before or at the latest – Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Connexions* is edited by Janet Palmer  
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