

# CONNEXIONS

The magazine of  
**Lavington**  
United Reformed Church  
**Bideford**  
[www.lavingtonurc.org](http://www.lavingtonurc.org)



**MAY 2022**

**40p**

## MAY DIARY

Sun.	1st	11.00am	Family Worship – The Elders
Sun.	8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship – Mrs Jill Davis
Sun.	15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship & HC - Mrs Alison Biggs
Thu.	19 <sup>th</sup>	various	Spring Cleaning – <a href="#">details on page 3</a>
Sun.	22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship – Revd Colin Biggs
Wed.	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Elders Meeting
	26 <sup>th</sup>	12 til 2pm	Ascension Day at High St Methodist <a href="#">all details on page 3</a>
Thu.	26 <sup>th</sup>	various	Spring Cleaning – <a href="#">details on page 3</a>
Sun.	29 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship – The Minister

## 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



Dear Friends,

Let me begin this month with a thank you for the unanimous call for me to serve as your Minister. Muddiford URC have also agreed a unanimous call. Having accepted the call, we are now looking for a suitable date for my induction service. The proposed date is 10th September. initially I had hoped that Lavington would be the venue but I've discovered that the Bideford Carnival has been agreed for that same weekend which will undoubtedly cause problems with access and parking. Therefore, it seems more sensible to hold the induction service at Muddiford and they will make special arrangements to ensure sufficient parking is available. The service will also be broadcast via the internet for anyone who would like to join us online.

My permanent appointment gives the opportunity to build upon the past three years of service at Lavington and to enable the ongoing development of our congregation. I'm delighted with the progress that has been made over the past three years and look forward to working with you all to see the kingdom of God grow in Bideford.

It was great to see so many people join in with both the Maundy Thursday service and the Good Friday Walk of Witness this year. After several years absence, it was good to restart these traditions and the ecumenical service at St Mary's Church was a good conclusion of the Walk of Witness. The Salvation Army officer, Mark Read gave an inspiring sermon, with various church representatives taking part in the worship.

As we continue through the year may we be inspired by the good news of the resurrection and the power of the cross. We continue to pray for peace in our troubled world and for an end to all conflict, whilst continuing to welcome refugees in our community.

Every blessing

Rob

## EASTER AT LAVINGTON

On Easter Day led by Rev John several years last able to be Easter and his come this year, appreciated by us On Palm Sunday reminded to of flowers to empty cross on looking at the can see we had do so.

As is our custom first hymn we *high the cross*

it again this Easter Day, Ricky was able to walk around the church with the fully decorated cross lifted high for all to see.



our service was Robinson. It is since John was with us at being able to was much all.

folk had been bring a couple decorate an Easter Day and cross here, you many flowers to

at Easter, the sang was "*Lift* and as we sang



Shown here is one of the two advertising areas outside our church.

Here you can see another beautifully decorated cross where during the earlier days of Easter week stood an empty cross with a crown of thorns and a purple robe.

In the photo bottom left, is one of two planters we have purchased; one for each outside area to try to make those areas in the street look attractive throughout the year.

During the service, a small foil covered easter egg was given to each person in the congregation. John invited us all to unwrap the small egg eat it if we wished to and try to keep the foil in one piece. We were then invited to make the foil into a cross so that as we took the communion bread and wine, we each had an individual cross in front of us.

It was difficult with such a small piece of foil and the photo below shows a few that I managed to salvage before they were destroyed. You can pick your own favourite!!!



*Editor*

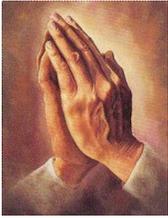
### **SPRING CLEANING**

We haven't been able to have any Church Cleaning Days for some time, but they are a very real help in getting those "little extras" done that can't be covered in the regular cleaning schedule. So, we're planning to have 3 "cleaning parties" this month, hoping that this will offer a choice of dates and times convenient for folk to join in.

These dates are **Thursday May 19th, 10.00 - 12 noon and 2pm - 4pm**, and **Thursday May 26th, 9.30 - 11.30 am** (this is Ascension Day and we're joining our friends at High Street Methodist Church from 12noon to 2pm for a Bring-and-Share Lunch, followed by a short service).

None of the cleaning jobs are heavy-going and some of them can even be done sitting down! All necessary cleaning materials will be provided (not forgetting coffee and cake!)

Please let Jill Davis know if you can join in on any of those sessions so that we can plan the best use of time. Thank you. *J*



w/c 1<sup>st</sup> - This day is traditionally known as May Day. It is also a Public Holiday in the UK and the time of the year when the natural world is at its most resplendent. Let us give thanks to God.

w/c 8<sup>th</sup> Dear Lord, today is Vocations Sunday, when we should be thinking about whether we have a call to serve You in specific ways: either as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, Lay Preacher, Elder, Junior Church Leader or in some other way.

w/c 15th

Christian Aid Week begins today. The focus this year is on the people of Zimbabwe, who have suffered much under the dictatorship of Robert Mugabe and it still remains one of the poorest countries in the world. The New Testament says that prayer and almsgiving are two of the most important functions of a Christian, so please pray for poor people everywhere and give as generously as you can when you see the Christian Aid envelopes.

w/c 22nd

Later this week is Ascension Day, when we commemorate the occasion when Jesus finally departed this earthly life, and ascended to heaven, so that His Spirit might descend at Pentecost and be shared throughout the world with everyone.

w/c 29th

Dear Lord, the war in Ukraine continues, and as it unfolds, the horrors being perpetrated by the Russian Army are becoming increasingly apparent. Thank God for those people all over Europe who have given a temporary home to those Ukrainian refugees seeking safety and shelter outside the Ukraine. May we applaud the heroism and stoicism of the Ukrainian people and pray that Vladimir Putin will be brought to book for his heinous crimes against humanity.

We ask all this in Jesus' Name. Amen

C

## **FAVOURITE HYMN: TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE**

This simple hymn was written by Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79). Born in Astley, Worcestershire, she was the daughter of a clergyman, who unfortunately had an accident involving a carriage just after her birth and had to resign from his living, devoting the rest of his life to church music, becoming a notable church musician.

Frances was a gifted child, reading the Bible by age 4 and composing hymns from age 7. She was educated at Mrs. Teed's School in Worcester, but later she went over to Dusseldorf in Germany, where she became proficient in several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She lived the typical life of a Victorian spinster, doing good works, writing hymns and poems and generally dedicating her life to Jesus, her Lord. This hymn describes how a Christian should employ all his faculties in the service of God, in the way that Frances did herself.

She also wrote many other hymns, including 'Who is on the Lord's side?' for which she also wrote the music. Unfortunately, she always had a frail constitution and died aged only 42, at Caswell Bay on the Gower Peninsula in Wales, where her father had recently moved.

During her own life, she insisted that the hymn be sung to her father's composition '*Patmos*', specially composed for the hymn, but we sing it mostly now to the tune 'St. Bees' by John Bacchus Dykes. The tune was written when the composer was residing for a short while at St. Bees School for Girls in Durham. He was improvising on the piano before choir practice, when the girls commented on how much they liked the tune. The same tune is used to accompany several other hymns, but is largely associated with this one.

For everyone who has become a new Christian or is wavering in the faith, read or sing this hymn.

The tune written for the hymn *Patmos*, has not been in Congregational hymnbooks or Rejoice & Sing.

C

## FIT FOR A QUEEN

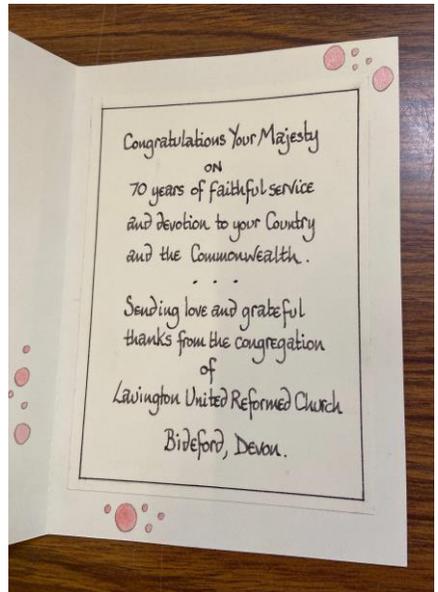
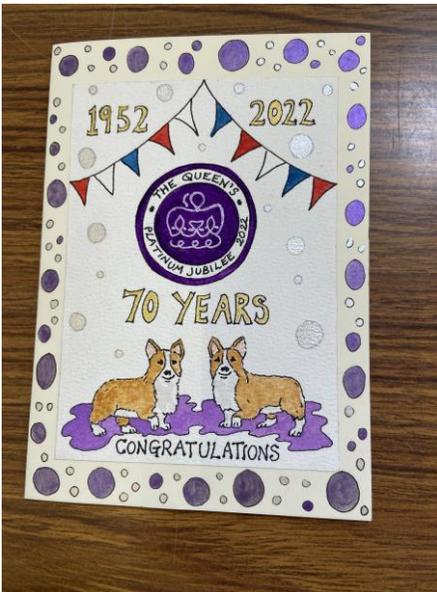
Recently the elders decided that we would send a card to our Queen on behalf of Lavington to congratulate Her Majesty on her Platinum Jubilee on the throne.

Then J had a brainwave, (its true) - what if we asked S if she would design and produce the card for us? which she has done beautifully.

For the benefit of those who can no longer get to church the photos below show the card for you all to admire.

We will be sending it to Her Majesty in the next couple of weeks so that she will get it on time. The celebrations begin on Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022 and will continue over the weekend. The date 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1952 was when her father, King George VI, died unexpectedly.

*Editor*





Well, here we are in the merry month of May! May is a very quiet month for birthdays; in fact there is only one. Would any of you would like to have a second birthday which we could call an honorary birthday and you can stay at the same

age!

Who is the lucky person this month? Why its R H on 28<sup>th</sup>.

R we all send you many happy returns of the day with our love and good wishes.

### **FUTURE MINISTRY AT LAVINGTON**

At an extraordinary church meeting in April it was unanimously agreed to call the Revd Rob Weston to be our minister on a 30% shared scoping with Muddiford URC.

Both churches have issued a call and Rob has accepted that call. He will continue as our Interim Minister until the end of August and take up this new role on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. We look forward to celebrating this new chapter in the churches' life with Muddiford URC at a future induction service.

*Alison, Church Sec.*

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

Before Covid we'd been holding Fellowship Lunches on Pentecost Sunday. This year Pentecost falls on the weekend of national celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee when all sorts of events are taking place. So, we're planning to hold a special Jubilee Celebration Fellowship Lunch after morning service on Sunday June 19th.

Full details and booking forms will be available in next month's Connexions.

*J*

### **KEEP SMILING**

Teacher: Now Sam, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

Sam: No Sir. I don't need to, my mum's a good cook!

*C & L*

## MAY 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.

1 <sup>st</sup>	_____
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J D
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J C
22 <sup>nd</sup>	_____
29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J P

### SIDESMAN DUTIES

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs A B / Mrs L C
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs C W / Mr P J
15 <sup>th</sup>	Revd C B / Mrs E B
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs A B / Mrs L C
29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J C / Mrs H M

### VESTRY DUTIES

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs J D
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J P
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J C
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs A B
29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J P

### COMMUNION

Preparation	15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J D / Mrs A B
Servers		Mrs J P / Mrs J D

### BIBLE READERS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs S M
8 <sup>th</sup>	Revd C B
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J D
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs A B
29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J C

### OFFERTORY STEWARDS

Mrs A B / Mrs L C

## MAY ROTAS

	KITCHEN	TEAS / COFFEES	REFRESHMENTS
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	JD AB	LC KQ	JS JW
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	JD JS	HM JP	JC AB
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	JD JP	SH JB	JC JS
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	JD AB	LC HM	JC JP
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	JD JS	AB JW	JC HV

---

## UKRAINE APPEAL

You will remember that a few weeks ago we held retiring collections on two Sunday mornings so that any of us that wanted the opportunity to donate money to the Ukrainian Appeal could do so.

The total raised by our donations amounted to £295.10.

The elders decided to make this amount up to £500 from church funds.

This amount has now been donated from Lavington.

*Colin, Church Treasurer*

---

## THANK YOU

I would like to say, thank you very much to friends for their kindness and support when my son N had surgery last month. N had a Pacemaker fitted and with the latest technology and via his mobile, he can now be monitored and treated wherever he is in the world via Bluetooth. What a marvellous medical achievement. Thank you again,

*MM*

## NEWS of the LAVINGTON FAMILY

**H M** had a bad fall after leaving Tuesday Café and had to wait a long time for the ambulance. Thankfully after a check - up and no broken bones she was allowed home but was badly shaken and bruised. It was good to see her back amongst us recently. We were delighted to welcome **M T** back to worship on Easter Sunday, it was lovely to see your smile amongst us again.

**G M** has been unwell and we hope that you will soon feel better and be back with us again.

We are glad to hear that **P G** is now home from hospital but has an appointment there next week to see what progress has been made. He and E send good wishes to Lavington friends. We hope you will soon feel much better P. We send our good wishes to you both. **P C** is continuing to make slow progress at home with the help of her carers and the medical services. Briefly **B C** had another spell in hospital but is home again with his family and dogs. Take care B and we send you our best wishes. **J and R's** future son-in-law **M** had an emergency stay in RD&E hospital recently when a nasty throat infection closed his airway. A worrying time for the whole family but we are pleased he is now fully recovered.

**L G** has felt unwell for a few days culminating in a fall. She is bruised but thankfully nothing broken. We send our love and wish you a speedy recovery L.

We continue to remember our minister **R and family** in our prayers as his mother **P** has been in Derriford hospital for a few weeks and has now been transferred to a local home for care and recuperation.

Recently **A T** took part in the British/English Gymnastic competition and came 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 4<sup>th</sup> in the individual pieces. Well done A. All the best for the London Open event in May.

Our prayers and love go to all within our fellowship who are unable to join us for worship, those concerned about family, friends or themselves at this time. May you know the peace, joy, love and hope God can give.

A



We held a coffee morning at Bideford Baptist Church on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, with a raffle. At the time of writing the amount raised was £196.40, with more to come in.

Christian Aid Week begins on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. This year we will be focussing on Zimbabwe. At Lavington, we will be leaving envelopes in the church pews on 15<sup>th</sup> for you to put any donation in. On the following Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, please put your donation in the envelope provided and put it in the offering bag when the offering is taken. Thank you.

Christian Aid gives emergency aid to poor countries, but also seeks to give long-term help where it is needed. Please give as generously as you can.

C

**In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's.**

The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict and drought have robbed Jessica of the power to provide for her children.

7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe and around the globe. Without the fertilizer and food – like wheat and cooking oil that Ukraine and Russia produce - vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger.

Jessica says, “my children crave a decent meal, but I can’t provide…… it pains me to send them to bed hungry.”

Jessica is hungry – for a good meal, to earn a decent living, to provide a more hopeful future for her family but she’s anything but helpless. Hope is in her eyes.

She smiles with love for her children as she stirs a single bowl of porridge for them. This one bowl of porridge is all she and her family can have today.

Like many women in rural Zimbabwe, 7 out of 10 rely on farming for income and food. She toils on, but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land. Once before when things were desperate, Jessica asked her neighbours for food but she came away with nothing.

**In Christian Aid Week, please help turn hunger into hope.**

## PREMISES NEWS

We continue to make progress in the upstairs rooms; two of the rooms have been completed with fresh coat of gloss paint on the woodwork and the emulsion on the walls.

Our plumber, Steve Flood, will be busy in the coming months as he has agreed to carry out the following work: remove existing hot water cylinder and associated pipework and link kitchen supply to the existing hot water tank, to supply and fit one radiator in the ladies WC, to supply and fit a radiator in each of the three upstairs rooms and a towel rail in the upstairs WC. He will also update the toilet, basin and pedestal. The upstairs rooms will be connected to the existing heating system with a new control panel; this will run as a separate zone. Steve will add the pipework through loft space and into floor void to each radiator as necessary and alter the hot, cold and waste water pipework in first floor cloakroom as required.

In order to allow for access to the upstairs rooms for those people with disabilities we are still investigating the cost of a chair lift and potential grant funds that might be available to support this installation.

Outside the church we have two new planters, near the front doors of the church. These are planted up with spring flowering bulbs which are looking good. Soon we will be adding some flowers for the summer.

The commercial dishwasher has made a huge difference on a Tuesday, providing a quick and efficient method of cleaning up the crockery and cutlery after cafe each week.

*R*

### **50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT**

Along with others URC members we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formation of the URC on Saturday 6 August from 3pm - 6pm at Lavington. The afternoon will include a quiz, food, and a short worship time. Please put this date in your diary now, it will be lovely to have everyone together on this day.

*R*



God of peace and justice  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide all their decisions.  
Above all, we pray  
for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

AMEN

Archbishops of Canterbury and York



*Here are the words of the Ukrainian National Anthem which Sally played for Sabrina's service a few weeks ago.*

The glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet died,  
Luck will still smile on us, brother Ukrainians.  
Our enemies will die, as the dew does in sunshine,  
And we too brothers will live happily in our land

*Chorus*

We'll not spare either our souls or bodies to get freedom  
And we'll prove that our bodies are of Kozak kin.

## WELL DONE TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Impressively every church region in the country has signed up to become an Eco Diocese ahead of 2030 net zero carbon target.

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich and lead bishop for the environment, said: *"Having every diocese sign up is a statement of intent from all of us as we take seriously the need to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss today. A Rocha UK's Eco Church and Diocese scheme is a great tool which enables local churches at every level of their climate justice journey to engage with environmental issues. We know that climate change and biodiversity loss impact us all - especially the world's poorest countries. As Christians, we must make real differences to our lives to care for God's creation and limit the impact of the climate emergency."*



In addition, every United Reformed Church Synod has also signed up to become an Eco Synod, with West Midlands Synod being the first to gain the Bronze Award. The South Western Synod now has over a third of churches signed up and is well on the way to the Bronze Award.

---

### A PRAYER FOR ASCENSION DAY – May 26<sup>th</sup>

Our Lord has returned to his throne in heaven.

He is seen no more on earth.

Yet he lives

And is with us now and for all eternity.

We are in the presence of our ascended Lord.

We celebrate the mystery of our glorious King.

## LAVINGTON'S VISITOR BOOK

I wonder if any of you have ever looked through our Lavington Visitor Book?

The Book is in the vestibule for visitors to our church – either on Sundays or Tuesdays – to sign. Of course visitors can sign the Book at any time but it is mostly those two days when the church is open.

Below is a flavour of the lovely messages written in this Book by visitors but of course, because we have been closed for so long during the pandemic, some of these comments were made before the pandemic.

From Barnstaple	<i>"Thank you for your warm welcome"</i>
From Westward Ho!	<i>"lovely clean church"</i>
From Redhill	<i>"A very warm welcome"</i>
From Keswick	<i>"Lovely to be back"</i>
From Warwick	<i>"Lovely, quiet and welcome"</i>
From Nottingham	<i>"A new start"</i>
From Derby	<i>"The friendliest church we know"</i>
From North Wales	<i>"Interesting chat about its history"</i>
From Iceland	<i>"Beautiful church, lovely people and we were friendly welcomed by the elders"</i>
From Runcorn	<i>" beautiful windows"</i>
From Instow	<i>"The music brought me in"</i>
From USA	<i>"Uplifting &amp; Biblical"</i>
From Manchester	<i>"Lovely church, people and service. Thank you for making us so welcome"</i>
From N Wales	<i>"Lovely honest service"</i>
From Finland	<i>"A warm and welcoming atmosphere welcomed us in your beautiful church"</i>
From Dorset	<i>"Perfect peace"</i>
From Coventry	<i>"What a find. Thank you"</i>
From Hereford	<i>"Lively and uplifting Service"</i>

If you ever find yourself in a different church, remember that they too will probably have a *Visitor Book* in which you can record your visit and any words of appreciation.

*Editor*

## GOODLIVING - CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

20b Mill Street Bideford

- Large selection of Bibles, Hymnbooks & Books
  - CDs & DVDs
  - Large selection of Gifts
  - Christmas and Greeting Cards
  - Sunday School & Youth Group Material
  - Alter Candles
  - Communion Wine & Wafers
- Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
9.30am- 4.30pm Saturday 9.30am – 4pm.  
Tel; 01237 422213  
e-mail [goodliving@btinternet.com](mailto:goodliving@btinternet.com)
- 

### **NOW THAT I'M OLDER, HERE'S WHAT I HAVE DISCOVERED**

- I started with nothing and still have most of it.
- My wild oats have turned to prunes and *All Bran*
- I finally got my head together but now my body is falling apart.
- Funny I don't remember getting absent minded....
- It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
- I wish the buck did stop here.... I could sure do with a few.
- If all is not lost, where is it?
- It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere
- It's hard to meet expenses .... they're everywhere
- These days I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter .....  
I go somewhere to get something and then wonder, what am I here after?

# FUN PAGE

## Link Words this month

1. Second – Struggle – World (5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Hour – Job - Sugar (4) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Frock – Hanger – Under (4) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bag – Base – Fresh (3) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Shop – Stone – Street (6) \_\_\_\_\_
6. African – Shrinking – Ultra (6) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Railway – Role – Super (5) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Fore – News – Sugar (6) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Away – Cut – Hard (3) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Cream – File – Handed (6) \_\_\_\_\_
11. Juice – Seedless – White (5) \_\_\_\_\_
12. Identity – Management – Point (6) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Luggage – Record – Wine (6) \_\_\_\_\_
14. Alter – Boost – Trip (3) \_\_\_\_\_
15. Deck – Magnetic – Video (4) \_\_\_\_\_
16. Cutting – Knife – Leading (4) \_\_\_\_\_
17. Care – Risk – Under (5) \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers to April Fun

1. San Hosea
2. Russia
3. San Francisco
4. Ipanema
5. Italiano
6. Dover
7. Texas
8. China
9. Waterloo
10. Bohemian
11. Irish
12. Bethlehem
13. Kingston Town
14. California
16. Skye
17. Pennsylvania

## **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.

---

**The June issue of Connexions is due out on  
Sunday May 29<sup>th</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 May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Connexions* is edited by Janet Palmer  
and printed by Jenny and Ricky Cawsey