The magazine of
Lavington
United Reformed Church
Bideford
www.lavingtonurc.org

SUMMER 2022

40p
JULY DIARY 2022

Sun. 3rd 11.00am  Family Worship & HC – Mrs Alison Biggs
Sun. 10th 11.00am  Family Worship – Mrs Jill Davis
Wed. 13th 10.30am  Joint meeting with Methodists followed by Elders Meeting
Sun. 17th 11.00am  Family Worship – Sabrina Gröschel
Sat. 23rd 10am – 1pm  Summer Fayre
Sun. 24th 11.00am  Family Worship – Revd Colin Biggs
Thu. 28th TBA  C Aid Supper –
Sat. 30th 11.00am  Church Meeting–hot drinks from 10.30am
Sun. 31st 11.00am  Family Worship – The Minister

AUGUST DIARY

Sat. 6th 3pm – 6pm  URC’s 50th celebrations
Sun. 7th 11.00am  Family Worship & HC – Revd Colin Biggs
Sun. 14th 11.00am  Family Worship – Mrs Alison Biggs
Sun. 21st 11.00am  Family Worship – Sabrina Gröschel
Sun. 28th 11.00am  Family Worship – Mrs Jill Davis

Tuesdays 10.00am-1.00pm  Tuesday Café & Lunches Closed Aug. 16th & 23rd

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 your support and prayers, following the death of my much-loved Mum, Pauline. We held a special service at Plymstock United Church to celebrate her life on Monday June 20th and it was so lovely to see the church full of friends and family. Mum had been very involved in the life of the church and her deep faith meant that she was always helping others. It was wonderful to be joined by people Mum had worked with in many different places and times of her life.

During the service we included several hymns that were part of Mum’s journey of faith, some reminded us of the 1980s and others were more recently composed. Once again, I thought about the importance of hymns and worship songs in our memories and our lives. I hope you also recall special hymns from various times in your life, if so please do complete the special form in this month’s magazine. You will see that there is space for you to list three favourite hymns. You can choose hymns from anywhere at all, even if you’ve only heard it on Songs of Praise but we do need the title and author (or a full set of words if it is very unusual).

Thankfully our faith can give us hope and comfort even as we grieve the loss of loved ones. The God who created each one of us, is with us throughout our life, at the point of death and in whatever lies beyond this life. Let us hold onto the hope of resurrection, as we pray for all who mourn their losses.

Every blessing, Rob

EDITOR’S COMMENT

This edition of Connexions is a joint issue for July and August. This year I have tried to put all items for July in the front part of the magazine and keep the August items etc in the second part, starting from page 10. It doesn’t always work but I think it might this year!
The next Connexions will be the September edition available on August 28th.
JUBILEE LUNCH

On Sunday June 19th we held our Jubilee lunch after morning worship when a good time was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately it clashed with Father’s Day which also included Grandads. Also on the day, several folk were not well enough to attend. We had a choice of 3 main courses - beef, pork or Coronation chicken and 2 puddings – Queen of puddings or the winner of a national competition to produce a pudding for the occasion, the Platinum Jubilee pudding. Following our meal, Colin proposed a toast to our Queen which we drank with Elderflower cordial before having our hot drinks. The hall was suitably adorned with bunting and table decorations of small Union flags and appropriately coloured napkins.

Clearing up afterwards has become easier since we purchased a dishwasher – now called Betty. This was the first time Betty had been used for a larger amounts of dishes and she came up trumps! It made the event much more pleasurable too.

We thank J D very much for suggesting a special lunch and for doing most of the preparation and cooking. There is no end to her talents, enthusiasm or stamina as I’m sure you realise. Fortunately there were those who could do all the waiting, serving and clearing away after each course and helping with the dishwasher etc.

Unfortunately my photographic devices (2) let me down on the day so no photos, I’m afraid.

Editor

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

The Minister and Elders are considering re-starting the serving of Coffee following Sunday morning worship. However, this cannot happen without the required number of volunteers to prepare and serve on a rota basis. If you think you can help, please would you let J know as soon as possible, please. Many thanks.

J
HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH DISCUSSIONS

As we heard at our extra Church Meeting on June 19th, we have been approached by our friends at High Street Methodist Church as they would like to discuss possible ways for us to work and worship more closely together so we have arranged a joint meeting to explore the options on Wednesday July 13th from 10:30 until midday. There are many ways we could work together; from a simple building sharing agreement to a full Local Ecumenical Project (LEP). We could worship together as one congregation once a month, every week or not at all. We will look together at the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. Nothing has been decided and this meeting is a discussion meeting only. After the meeting both congregations will have time to think and pray about the way forwards.

I hope you will be able to come along and take part in these discussions.

Rob

_________________________________________________

CHURCH MEETING

On Saturday July 30th we will be holding a church meeting from 11am. This will be preceded by refreshments from 10.30am in the church halls. The church meeting is where decisions about the future of our church, its buildings, social life, activities and community involvement are discussed and voted upon. Please come and have your say or learn what is happening at Lavington.

You do not have to be a church member to attend church meetings; anyone in our congregation may attend. However, if any voting is required only church members are allowed to vote. If you are interested in exploring church membership further, please speak to Rob or Alison. This meeting is our usual by-monthly meeting, not one specially arranged because of the recent meeting with our Methodist friends. Please make every effort to attend or if you are unable to, give your apologies via any Elder.

A, Church Sec.
ST. SWITHIN

July 15th is St Swithin’s Day. St Swithin was an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Winchester and subsequently patron saint of Winchester Cathedral. He was born in Hampshire and was well known for his charitable gifts and of building churches. He died in 862. According to tradition, he had asked to be buried humbly. His grave was just outside the west door of the Old Minister, so that “the feet of ordinary men could pass over him” in accordance with Swithin’s wishes. On July 15th 971 though, his remains were dug up and moved to a shrine in the cathedral by Bishop Ethelwold. Miraculous cures were associated with the event and Swithin’s feast day is the date of his removal of remains, not the date of his death. However, the removal was also accompanied by ferocious and violent rain storms that lasted for 40 days and 40 nights and are said to indicate the saint’s displeasure at being moved. Hence the legend, if it rains on St Swithin’s feast day the rain will continue for the next 40 days. This claim has no basis in fact.

St Swithin is still seen as the patron saint of Winchester Cathedral.

Here is the traditional rhyme –

St Swithin’s day if thou dost rain
for forty days it will remain.
St Swithin’s day if thou be fair
for forty days ‘twill rain na mair’

Editor
July is a popular month for birthdays and can you believe that we are now over half way through 2022, frightening!

Here they are –

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August birthday

Hoorah, at last!
After some considerable time, we now have a birthday girl in August. G Ms celebrates hers on 4th.
To all you birthday girls and boy with summer birthdays, your Lavington friends send you birthday greetings and love.

In July, 3 wedding anniversaries will be celebrated, one is a very special one too. R and S celebrate theirs on 21st and coincidently on the same date, S and J celebrate theirs too. But the two couples were married years apart!
Now for the special one. On 24th P and M J will celebrate their Ruby (40th) anniversary. Many congratulations and love to you both on this milestone anniversary from all your Lavington friends.

In August we have another two couples with anniversaries.
A and C B celebrate theirs on 5th and H and J V celebrate theirs on 21st. Congratulations, good wishes and love to you all from your Lavington friends, we hope you all enjoy your own special day.

Editor
In the United Kingdom we have had a reasonable start to the year so far. For the first time in two or three years, we have no government restrictions to worry about and although the virus has not completely disappeared, let us pray that with the coming of summer it will help to keep it that way.

And, of course, we have had the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: The Trooping of the Colour, the Service at St. Paul's, the Concert at the Palace, and the Pageant down the Mall. Although the Queen struggled to attend some of these events, we pray that she will have several more years of reasonable health ahead of her.

However, elsewhere things have not been so rosy. At the time of writing, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is continuing - with the Russians utterly destroying everything in their path. It is difficult to see exactly what they are trying to achieve. In the meantime, both oil and food and services are becoming scarce and expensive, both at home and abroad and the cost of fuel is rising rapidly worldwide. It would seem to be in everyone's interest - particularly the people of Ukraine - for the war to end as soon as possible, so let us pray that it does so.

Also upsetting is the mass killing of schoolchildren by a lone gunman in America and the shooting of unarmed black people by the police and others. May the Senators on both sides of the House plus the vast number of people who support the owning and use of firearms in America without restrictions, think again, especially with regard to the sale of guns to mentally unbalanced people.

Therefore, via this Summer Connexions, let us focus on praying for peace in the world. We do this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

PS. And please God, may we have some good weather for the summer and let Emma Raducanu win at Wimbledon!
Summer Fayre

Saturday July 23rd 2022

10am to 1pm

Coffees/Teas

Refreshments

Cakes

New Stall

Raffle

Bric a Brac

All welcome

Gifts for all the stalls will be welcomed.
For many years the local Christian Aid committee have arranged an annual Safari Supper. During the last 2/3 years this has not been possible of course because of Covid lockdowns etc. However, this year we are intending to hold a supper but instead of walking around to other churches for each course, (Safari Supper) the event will be held in one church. So we can call it an Ecumenical Supper, if you like.

Unfortunately the local committee have not yet met to finalize the details which will be available during the coming days but as there will not be another copy of Connexions to advertise it, below are the plans already made. When all the details are decided, we will announce them in church. If you are already interested in this event, please speak to me, Janet Palmer and I will make sure you get the details.

The date is Thursday 28th July held here in Lavington halls.
The time is expected to be 6.00pm (TBA)
Lavington will prepare the main course.
Different local churches will prepare and serve the other courses at Lavington.

In the past these Suppers have been eagerly looked forward to and well supported and to get them up and running again after Covid would be great!

You will read elsewhere in Connexions that C T – Lavington’s Christian Aid committee member is going to take a break from eldership and related duties so I will be representing Lavington for him for the foreseeable future on the Christian Aid committee. It is hoped that L C will also join the committee.

We thank C very much for his dedication to working on the committee over quite a number of years as our representative. He also served them as treasurer for several years. For as long as I can remember Lavington has always had dedicated committee members to serve on the Christian Aid committee including C.  

J P
MINISTRY of FLOWERS
We thank those who are providing flowers for our sanctuary this month and those who will arrange them if asked to do so.

3rd Mrs A B
10th Wedding flowers
17th Mrs H M
24th Mrs W G
31st Mr P J

SIDESMAN DUTIES
3rd Mrs E B / Mrs H M
10th Mrs A B / Mrs L C
17th Mrs J C / Mr C W
24th Mrs H M / Mr P J
31st Mrs A B / Revd C B

VESTRY DUTIES
3rd Mrs J P
10th Mrs A B
17th Mrs J C
24th Mrs J D
31st Mrs L C

COMMUNION
Preparation 3rd Mrs J D / Mrs L C
Servers Mrs J P / Mrs L C

BIBLE READERS
3rd Mrs J D
10th Mrs S M
17th Mrs H M
24th Mrs A B
31st Mrs J C

OFFERTORY STEWARDs: Mrs A B / Miss J S
### ROTAS - JULY

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### ROTAS - AUGUST

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**Halls Closed on 16th and 23rd August for maintenance work in the halls**

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MINISTRY of FLOWERS
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SIDESMAN DUTIES

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VESTRY DUTIES

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BIBLE READERS

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OFERTORY STEWARDS: Mrs A B / Mrs L C
NEWS of the LAVINGTON FAMILY

We were sorry to learn that L G had had another fall which left her shaken but with no further injuries. We hope she feels better soon. Sadly, P G has had a fall and is in hospital again and E is receiving respite care in a Care Home. We are sorry to learn about this development and send them both our prayers and love. (We now have a contact telephone number to ring for updates). During the past month J G spent a brief spell in hospital but has improved following treatment. Hopefully you will continue to recover J. V P sends her best wishes to her friends at church as she is not well enough to worship with us. We remember V and send her our love as she copes at home with her health concerns.

Due to increasing mobility issues and other medical worries the Eldership have agreed to Cs T’s request to take a break from his responsibilities as an Elder. We hope the rest helps to improve his health in the future.

On a happy note we send our good wishes to G and M as they get married at Lavington. We wish them and their families a wonderful day and every blessing on their future lives together.

Recently a new Leisure Centre has been opened in Barnstaple and our young gymnast, A T was invited to officially “open” it alongside ‘Eddie the Eagle’, an English ski jumper and Olympian in the late 1980s. A is still recovering from a bad foot injury back in May but hopes to be fit again for an upcoming competition in Switzerland next month. Whilst injured he has missed out on vital competitions which included a World Cup Event in Slovenia. Good luck for Switzerland A.

We send our prayers and love to all our housebound folk 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.

A
IMPORTANT INFORMATION – TUESDAY CAFÉ
Closed August 15th – August 27th

We need to have some important maintenance work done to the flooring in the halls and because they are constantly in use by ourselves and hirers there is never a good time for this to be done without some disruption. However, we felt that August, a month when most groups take a break, would be the best time and we have recently been advised by Hiax builders that they can do the work during the last 2 weeks in August, commencing Monday August 15th until Saturday August 27th 2 complete weeks. Of course this means that we will need to close our Tuesday Café for a couple of weeks. Please note these closure dates and pass the information on to any folk that you know come here.

We realise that you will be disappointed that you can’t come in for coffee/lunches during this period and apologise for any inconvenience this may cause! However, we look forward to seeing you all again from Tuesday August 30th.

The Minister and Elders

URC 50th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday August 6th from 3 – 6pm Lavington is hosting an event to celebrate 50 years since the URC was formed. We have invited URC churches in the North Devon and North Cornwall areas to join us for this occasion. Churches have been encouraged to bring photos and items which highlight their churches involvement in the URC. There will be time for fellowship, memories, reflection, a faith tea and will conclude with a short epilogue.

Please join us to celebrate this milestone in the URC’s history and welcome fellow URC Christians to Lavington. We look forward to as many as possible joining us.

A, Church Sec.
CHELSEA AND PUPS

I know that a lot of you will remember Chelsea; she is the Guide Dog pup that Rob was training when he first came to Lavington in September 2019.

Rob has recently received the news that Chelsea has now had her first litter and although you can’t see the black pups in the photo very clearly, I can assure you they are there if you look for them! In total 13 lovely pups, 6 boys and 7 girls. Mother and babies are doing well!

Rob has been told that the pups will be distributed around some regions in England - including 2 here in the South West - and 2 will go to Scotland.

There is a long way and a lot of training for these pups and its possible that some won’t make the grade to be registered as a Guide Dog for whatever reason. However, let’s hope that most of them will achieve it. Then more blind people will be able to receive a fully trained guide-dog. What Blessings!

Thank you Lord for the work of Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and all who work for them in whatever role

Thank you for sharing this news with us Rob.  Editor
From J

.......to all you cheerful diners who cleared their plates at our Jubilee Lunch and to the willing and efficient team who served and cleared away despite them not having had an increase in wages for many years, thank you! Thanks to some obligingly well-timed discounts on several necessary ingredients and generous donations we have £80 to pay into our “Charity Pot”. So it’s good to know that “feeding our faces” will also help some worthy causes, if not our waistlines”

THREE FAVOURITE HYMNS

I’m sure that there are some people who only have to hear a hymn and they are transported back to a special event or a time when you sang that hymn. There are hymns from Rejoice and Sing that remind me of different places where I have worshipped, both in the UK and beyond. There are other worship songs that don’t appear in any of our hymn books but I’ve sung many different times.

I’d like to make a list of some of your favourite hymns, so please could you complete the form below and return to any of the Elders so that we can incorporate them into our regular Sunday services. If your choices are not in our hymn books, it would be helpful to have a copy of the words and we will try to find a suitable tune. If you happen to know the author please include this, but it’s not essential.

Rob

CUT HERE

Your name:

Hymn 1) ................................................

Hymn 2) ................................................

Hymn 3) ................................................
For those of you wondering about the details of the flooring work in the hall. Andy from HIAX Preservation has assessed the floor beams and they are all sound but they are supported by small walls and he is proposing to add some more walls and to pack the existing walls so that there is less ‘bounce’ as you walk round the hall. In order for this work to be done he will remove areas of floor, 3 boards wide and the full length of the Hall. To ensure that the timber continues to have a long life, they will spray any wood they have access to with Cuprinol 5-star wood treatment. Once completed they will return all the boards and leave it clean and tidy.

Rob

Answers to June Fun


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so you can cut off

the bottom part of page 15
ENGLISH TOWNS / CITIES ALL SCRAMBLED UP!

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16. YVORTCNE  _________________________
17. TMNHITONAG  _________________________
18. ILYOEV  _________________________
Who’s who at Lavington URC
Bridgeland Street, Bideford, EX39 2QE

Interim Minister
Revd Rob Weston
tel: 01566 784990
email: lavingtonurc@gmail.com

Church Secretary
Mrs Alison Biggs
tel: 01805 625632
email: lavington.secretary@gmail.com

Church Treasurer
Revd Colin Biggs
tel: 01805 625632
email: lavington.treasurer1@gmail.com

Church & Hall Bookings
Revd Colin Biggs
tel: 01805 625632
email: lavington.treasurer1@gmail.com

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

The September issue of Connexions is due out on Sunday August 28th

Please give items for inclusion to Janet Palmer or send by email to lavington.connexions@gmail.com

Before or at the latest – Sunday August 21st

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