

CONNEXIONS

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



OCTOBER 2021

40p

OCTOBER DIARY

Sat.	2 nd	2.30pm	Decorate the church for Harvest
Sun.	3 rd	11.00am	Harvest Festival – Mrs Alison Biggs page 8
Mon.	4 th	5.00pm	Harvest Tea Party – see details page 10
Sun.	10 th	11.00am	Family Worship & HC – Sabrina Gröschel
Sun.	17 th	11.00am	Family Worship - Revd Colin Biggs
Wed.	20 th	2.00pm	Elders Meeting
Sun.	24 th	11.00am	Family Worship – Mrs Jill Davis
Sun.	31 st	11.00am	Family Worship – Mrs Paula Littlewood

WEEKLY ACTIVITY

Tuesdays 10.00am – 1.00pm Coffee mornings 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



**DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR ON
SATURDAY OCTOBER 31st**



Dear Friends,

During October we often focus our worship and our prayers on the world as we celebrate One World Week. This year's One World Week occurs just before the COP26 United Nations Climate Summit, which as we know takes place in Glasgow in November 2021. Britain is hosting this Conference which will be attended by national leaders and delegations from around the world. The aim is to build on the 2015 Paris Agreement with more ambitious commitments and measures to reduce carbon emissions and stop further climate change - so that all our children and future generations can enjoy a future in a sustainable world. Many children, inspired by Greta Thunberg, understand the urgency and have been pressing us adults to get on with it!

On October 3rd we will be celebrating Harvest with a special Harvest service and on 4th with a Harvest Tea party together at church. This year's Harvest charity is Self Help Africa, which is a leading international development charity with an expertise in small-scale farming and growing family-farm businesses. Self Help Africa is motivated by injustice, by their expertise in small-scale agriculture and family-farm business, and the opportunity they have to help small farmers change the lives of their families. In this time of global pandemic, it is important that we pray for and support financially those who are less fortunate than ourselves, for this is at the heart of the message of Jesus 'to love one another as we love ourselves'.

As we go through the season of autumn, with the leaves of the trees changing through the beautiful colours of yellow, orange and gold - let us give thanks to God for the world's harvest that provides food for our plates and strength for our bodies. Let us also give thanks for the joy of fellowship and the support of our church in all the seasons.

Every blessing,

Rob

PEACE AND CONFLICT

Many of you may be unaware of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FoR), which was established in 1915. Here is a brief summary of the early days of the organisation:

‘On the eve of the First World War, the former chaplain to the German Kaiser, a Lutheran called Friedrich Siegmund-Schültze (born in 1885) and an English Quaker, Henry Hodgkin parted at Cologne Station with the words, “**We are one in Christ and can never be at war**”. Henry Hodgkin, followed up this commitment by organising a conference (attended by 130 Christians of all denominations) in Cambridge in December 1914. It was here that the visionary statement, known as the Basis of the Fellowship, was drafted. By November 1915, over 1,500 members were meeting in 55 local branches in the UK.’

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is now an international movement with branches in many parts of the world including America and Africa. Rob Weston has been a member of the UK based Fellowship of Reconciliation for over thirty years and during one of the Covid lockdowns, was elected to the board of trustees. The trustees come from a number of different denominations and Rob is currently the only URC member. Having only met with the other trustees via Zoom, Rob was pleased to finally get a chance to meet face to face, at a vision day held in Birmingham in August.

The FoR has always emphasised the need for peace, recognising that war is not the best solution for conflicts especially when we consider the global fallout that we would face if modern nuclear weapons were ever deployed. The FoR website states:

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is a community of people who are inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ (Jesus of Nazareth) to oppose war and work together to build a world order based on love.

Our Mission: to grow and resource the community of Christians committed to nonviolence; challenge militarism; embody peace and reconciliation.

HOLIDAY AT HOME



Here is the final *Holiday at Home* meeting at Muddiford URU and as you can see, this group are enjoying their cream tea and fellowship together. I couldn't get every table in the photograph so I've chosen one that shows the largest group of people.

J had generously allowed 2 scones per person – and they were big - with plenty of jam and cream! Naturally, as you would expect, there was a great deal of discussion as to whether the jam and cream should be applied in the Devon tradition or the Cornish method. The count is still out on that one, but I know which I prefer!!

Towards the end of the afternoon, A thanked J for arranging these meetings through August which have been a great success over the 4 weeks and have been appreciated by our fellowship. She presented J with a beautiful colourful floral arrangement. A also thanked P C and H P from the Muddiford church for their help with the preparation, serving and clearing up afterwards, plus the use of their rooms.



The afternoon ended with C giving a short epilogue. He said, "we were enjoying ourselves in fellowship – but the world was not in a good place. There was, of course, Covid, but also fighting in Afghanistan and weather disasters in various countries. Did we have the right to enjoy ourselves? The Bible tells us of a God who brings joy into dark places and Jesus himself claims to come to bring joy, "*life in all its fullness*". So, as long as our joy is not at anyone else's expense, we believe we do have the right to rejoice and be glad".

Editor

OCTOBER ROTAS

MINISTRY of FLOWERS

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

3rd	Harvest Festival
10th	Mrs A B
17th	Mrs S H
24th	Mrs H P
31st	Spare date

SIDESMAN DUTIES

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

VESTRY ELDER

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

COMMUNION

Preparation	10th	Mrs J C / Mrs E B
Servers		Mrs A B / Mrs J D

OFFERTORY STEWARDS – OCTOBER

Mr & Mrs R C

FAVOURITE HYMN : GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm was born on a farm in a log cabin in Franklin, Kentucky on 29th July 1866. Of no great education himself, he became a teacher at age 16. When he was 27 he underwent a conversion experience and became a Methodist Minister, but, because of ill health, his ministry lasted only a year. He then became editor of the local newspaper and later in life, an insurance salesman.

From a young age he had written verse but after his conversion he started writing words for hymns. In 1923, aged 57, he wrote the words for '*Great is Thy Faithfulness*', whose title is a quote from Lamentations 3.22 and the rest of the hymn is full of biblical quotations.

He persuaded his friend and fellow Methodist Minister William M. Runyan to write the music to accompany it, entitled '*Faithfulness*' and to which it is inseparably bound.

Runyan died in 1957 and Chisholm 3 years later, in 1960.

The hymn became popular in this country from 1954 onwards when George Shea, who used to sing in Billy Graham's evangelical rallies, included it in his repertoire in the Haringey Crusades and even then it took a while to make it into the mainstream hymn books.

Since then it has become a firm favourite with British audiences coming fourth in the recent Songs of Praise poll of favourite hymns.

It is often compared to 'How Great Thou Art'. Both hymns were written in the early twentieth century with an emphasis on creation and both have expansive, soaring tunes.

Thomas Chisholm wrote the words to about 1,200 hymns and songs of which about 800 have been set to music.

C

Fun Page

CAKES, GLORIOUS CAKES! - Anagrams

1. SALMON DARTT (6+5) _____
2. LUSCHE BEANS (7+4) _____
3. HOT GUNDUS (9) _____
4. RICE KAFAYS (5+5) _____
5. MATT JARS (3+5) _____
6. DUKE CANDEE (6+4) _____
7. SAMOA CORN (9) _____
8. DOTHER BARS (10) _____
9. LISS WORLS (5+4) _____
10. THE ROCA COLA SLICE ((9+7) _____
11. NIM PIECES (5+4) _____
12. FLACK SPAJ (9) _____
13. CHAWI DIVI CARTONS (8+8) _____
14. STRANA DISH PIES (6+8) _____
15. WANDALTUNDTEACAKE 4+3+6+4) _____
16. DRIE EGG BRAN (11) _____
17. CUTIL FRIES (5+5) _____
18. MARESH CORN (5+5) _____
19. BELWALK TREAT (8+4) _____
20. DERACIA MAKE (7+4) _____

Answers to September Fun.

Key, Split, Apple, Break, Man, Ship, Up, Side, Cream, Start, Heart, Up, Lace, Done, Port, Night, Flag, Down, Up, Stand, Sponge, Tree.

Who's who at Lavington URC

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

The November issue of *Connexions* is due out on
Sunday October 31st

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

Before or at the latest -Sunday October 24th

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