

# CONNEXIONS

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



**OCTOBER 2022**

**40p**

## OCTOBER DIARY

Sat.	1 <sup>st</sup>	2.30pm	Decorate church for Harvest
Sun.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	Harvest Festival – Sabrina Gröschel
Mon.	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5.00pm	Harvest Tea Party – see details page 10
Sun.	9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship & HC – Revd Colin Biggs
Sat.	15 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	One World Event Lavington, details page 14
Sun.	16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship – The Minister
Wed.	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Elders Meeting
Sun.	23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship – The Elders
Sun.	30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship – Mr Eric Moore

## WEEKLY ACTIVITY

Tuesdays 10.00am - 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

In October we celebrate the season of harvest and the autumn colours have returned. Every autumn I know I will need to sweep the leaves from our courtyard and soon I will be climbing up my ladder to clear any leaves that have fallen in the gutters. I also know that we will be able to enjoy walks in the woods through drifts of fallen leaves, crunching under our feet.

This autumn we will all be thinking about the current fuel crisis which has been causing everyone to look at their energy consumption and this is something we will need to explore at Elders' and Church Meetings. Given the size of our sanctuary and the difficulties in heating this space (and the increased cost of electricity) it might be wise to move our worship into our hall for the winter months. It is also a wise time to look again at any energy saving measures that we might be able to take, such as insulating loft spaces and installation of secondary glazing. Although these measures will require an initial outlay, they will save us significant amounts on our future fuel bills.

As I reported last month, I've been to see the local Christian charity based in Lower Meddon Street, called Wings. I'm hoping that we will be able to find ways to support the growing Ukrainian community in North Devon. The Ukrainian Conversation Café in Tavistock URC has continued to provide support for Ukrainian families and I have met many people who are making very good progress in learning English. Hopefully I will have more to report in the coming weeks.

The sudden death of Queen Elizabeth has marked the end of an era. Her face, her presence, her being there, have been part of all our lives for so many years. For most of us, she has been the only Monarch we can remember. She has been part of our lives, our imaginations, our sense of who we are. However, I think it is fair to say that Queen Elizabeth will be remembered as one of the first to say that the God whom she worshipped and to whom she committed her life in service, the God in whose name she was anointed in a holy place, this holy God, is with us and the whole earth is filled with God's glory. As we go forward in faith, may we draw strength from that same holy God who has called each one of us and in whom we can trust. Every blessing, *Rob*

## ROB'S INDUCTION – MUDDIFORD September 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

The new Joint Pastorate of Lavington (Bideford) and Muddiford took effect on this date and it was a day to remember for the congregations of both churches. On that day the Induction of Revd Robert Weston to the pastorate took place at Muddiford church. The congregations of both churches were present as were Synod representatives including the Revd Ruth Whitehead, Moderator who presided. Also attending were friends of both congregations including some retired URC ministers living in the area and lead worship at both churches.



Inductions are usually lengthy services because as well as a normal service of hymns, readings and prayers, there is the Induction itself. I would describe it as the “holy business side” of the service, including the Presentation of the Candidate, a Statement from the Candidate, and the reading of the Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC (RS 761), Affirmations, Promises and finally the Declaration of Induction. This part of the meeting culminated with the Moderator extending to Rob the “Right Hand of Fellowship” which formally cements the Induction in the URC tradition.



The **Right Hand of Fellowship** is a ritual intended to welcome a new member into the fellowship of a congregation or to welcome a new Minister into the fellowship of a pastorate. It is based on Paul’s letter to the Galatians, where Paul says that three disciples of Jesus “*gave me and Barnabas their right hands of fellowship*” During the proceedings a symbolic gift from the joint pastorate was presented to Rob. In this case a Dartington glass bowl with a candle. The candle to signify Christ, The Light of the World.

The inscription on the bowl reads –“*The Induction of the Revd Rob Weston Lavington and Muddiford URC. 10.9.2022*”. on the back of the bowl is the URC logo.

Following the Induction, a wonderful lunchtime buffet was served in the schoolrooms when such a happy social time took place. All in all – a very good start for the new pastorate.

We look forward to many years of Rob’s ministry among us and to sharing with Muddiford.

*J P*

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We are now whizzing through the year now, aren’t we!  
Amazingly our friend Phyllis Fisher will be 102 years old this month and we warmly congratulate her on this achievement and send her our love and good wishes.

Only one other birthday this month, that of Jenny Dix who will be ???  
Jenny, we send you love and best wishes too.

P F	10 <sup>th</sup>
J D	28 <sup>th</sup>



Now then as for anniversaries this month we have two.

The first is a very special one for J and R C.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> can you believe they are celebrating their Golden anniversary? 50 glorious years – no, she didn’t say that, I did.

But I’m sure she would say so!

Anyway, J and R your Lavington friends send you many congratulations and love on this milestone occasion. Enjoy the celebrations!

The other anniversary couple is L and C W. We don’t know which anniversary it is for you both but again your Lavington friends send you congratulations and love. Enjoy your celebrations!

*Editor*



w/c 2<sup>nd</sup>

Let us thank God for the long life of Queen Elizabeth II, for her dedication to duty and for being such an excellent exemplar of the Christian faith. May she now join her beloved husband, Philip, in heaven, to be greeted by God and choirs of angels singing her praises. Our condolences go out to her many family members. We pray that King Charles will be blessed with a long and happy reign.

w/c 9<sup>th</sup>

At the time of writing, 10% of Pakistan is under water, with 35 million people affected by the floods. Let us pray that the aid agencies, governments of the world and we individually will do what we can to alleviate the homelessness, insanitary conditions and disease which is bound to follow.

w/c 16<sup>th</sup>

Just as Jesus went about healing and casting out demons, so may our own NHS carry out the same sort of work in the present day. Let us pray that Covid and the flu will not be too much of a problem this winter, and that the new government will start bringing in the reforms necessary to keep staff happy and help patients to get well.

w/c 23<sup>d</sup>

Today is Bible Sunday, when we give prominence to the book on which we Christians should be basing our lives. It is not the easiest book in the world to understand, which is why private or group study is important. There are many wonderful and surprising things within its covers. Seek, and ye shall find.

w/c 30<sup>th</sup>

This is the Sunday on which we celebrate All Saints Day when we remember all those who have contributed in some way to the building up of the faith throughout the ages, whether they be known or unknown, long dead or still alive within our memories.

We ask all this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

C

## A TRIBUTE TO OUR LATE QUEEN ELIZABETH II



Service. Faithfulness. Stability. Constancy. Just some of the themes in the tributes to her late Majesty that seem to hark back to an earlier age.

And yet Queen Elizabeth II was very much a Monarch for modern times. All those who had the privilege of meeting her remark on her 'approachability', her readiness to make all she met feel at ease and relaxed in her presence. Her father and mother began that move towards an

'open' monarchy as they walked with the country through the Second World War, but Elizabeth opened her presence, as she opened her heart, to all she met in a way that previous Monarchs could never do. Her reign was, in part, a symbol of the increasing equality within society, of class as in so many other ways.

The home movies we have seen from her younger days have shown us a real mother rejoicing in family life, a real family enjoying holidays away from everyday life, a real marriage based on love and trust, a real woman sharing a joke. We have glimpsed an ordinary human being – but alongside that picture we have always been aware that she was a Queen, given the responsibility to care for a whole nation, a whole Commonwealth of nations and, as such, she could never be just an 'ordinary' human being.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in her life of service, gave us someone to rely on, in good times and bad. She shared our joys and sorrows as she shared hers with us. She emphasised stability in order to build for the future. Her faithfulness, both to God and to her vows, provided the foundation for her life-long commitment to her people.

She has shown us what it means to be a Monarch in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and also, what it means to live a truly Christian life, whatever our rank or station.

Paddington got it about right. "Thank you, Ma'am . . . For everything."

*CB*

## A SIMPLE FORMULA FOR LIVING

1. Live below your means.
2. Return everything you borrow.
3. Stop blaming other people.
4. Admit when you are wrong.
5. Give the clothes you don't wear to charity.
6. Listen more, talk less.
7. Take a walk every day, 15 – 30 minutes.
8. Try for excellence, not perfection.
9. Be on time, don't make excuses.
10. Don't argue, get organised.
11. Be kind to unkind people.
12. Know when not to speak
13. Make someone laugh every day.
14. Cultivate good manners.
15. Be humble
16. Accept that life is not always fair.
17. Learn from the past.
18. Plan for the future
19. Live in the present.
20. Take time to be alone.
21. Don't worry about small stuff.
22. It's all small stuff!

*From M M*

## NEWS of the CHURCH FAMILY

It was a joy and delight to welcome **Rob** as our new Minister at his Induction at Muddiford recently; a happy occasion shared with friends from the Synod and local area. A momentous week for **Rob and Suzy** as they have become grandparents for the first time. We send congratulations to them and their eldest son Andrew and his partner Becki on the safe arrival of a son named Elias.

**E G** seems to be settling in at H following P's death and is mixing a lot with other residents. She says the food is good and has been asking about church and people. **L G** has been very poorly and following a temporary stay at H Nursing Home last month she has needed to be hospitalised for a couple of weeks. She is now much better and has been able to return home where she is having some carers every day which is helping her. **G M** is suffering again and unable to get to church; we hope she will receive some lasting treatment. We have missed **M T** from worship recently as she has Covid and it is hanging about her for too long. We hope she will soon feel a lot better.

Our gymnast **A T**, M's grandson, has now fully recovered from his foot injury and has been able to return to training and competition. He will be competing in Switzerland shortly and after that with the World Cup for gymnastics coming up very soon, he has been named as first reserve, which, considering his injury, he is very pleased about. Good luck, A, we hope you get the opportunity to compete.

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

A



## OCTOBER ROTAS

### 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.

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Harvest Festival
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A B
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs S H
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs H P
30 <sup>th</sup>	_____

### VESTRY DUTIES

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs L C
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J P
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A B
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs J D
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs L C

### VESTIBULE DUTIES

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs J C / Mrs A B
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs H M / Mrs E B
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs L C / Revd C B
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mr C W / Mr P J
30 <sup>th</sup>	Revd C B / Mrs A B

### COMMUNION DUTY

Preparation	9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J C / Mrs L C
Servers		Mrs L C / Mrs A B

### BIBLE READERS

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs J D
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A B
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J P
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs J C
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J D

**OFFERTORY STEWARDS:** Mrs A B / Miss J S

## OCTOBER – TUESDAY CAFÉ ROTAS

	KITCHEN	REFRESHMENTS	TEAS/COFFEES
4 <sup>th</sup>	J D A B	J S J C	L C E B
11 <sup>th</sup>	J D J S	J P M T	H M J W
18 <sup>th</sup>	J D A B	H V J C	J P J S
25 <sup>th</sup>	J D J S	J P J C	L C H M

### KITCHEN PRAYER

Lord of pots and pans and things,  
since I've not time to be  
a saint by doing lovely things  
or watching late with thee,  
or dreaming in the dawn light  
or storming heaven's gates,  
make me a saint by getting meals  
and washing up the plates.

Although I must have  
Martha's hands  
I have a Mary mind.  
And when I black the boots and shoes,  
thy sandals, Lord, I find,  
I think of how they trod the earth,  
what time I scrub the floor;  
accept this meditation, Lord,  
I haven't time for more.

*Anonymous*

Please join us for our

# ***HARVEST THANKSGIVING***

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 at 11am**

**Led by Sabrina Gröschel**



## **HARVEST TEA PARTY**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 at 5pm**

**Price £4**

**Please sign your name on the list in the Vestibule. JC. will accept monies.**



## HARVEST HOME

Summer is almost over and autumn's coming now  
blackberries bless the hedgerows, apples on the bough  
the days are growing shorter with cooler, darker nights  
but, as with every season, autumn brings delights.

The scent of bonfires in the air, pumpkins big and round,  
glossy conkers lie beneath the leaves falling on the ground  
throughout the land are churches with pulpits arrayed  
with dahlias and chrysanthus, garden offerings displayed.

Squirrels scamper thru the trees, gathering winter hoard  
whilst migrating birds on pylons prepare to fly abroad  
there may be some sadness at summer days soon gone  
but bringing in the Harvest Home – autumn's blessings linger on.

*Anonymous*

## WEBSITE UPDATE

Have you visited the Lavington URC website recently? You can find the website by searching for Lavington URC or typing in [www.lavingtonurc.org](http://www.lavingtonurc.org) (Some websites end in uk but there is no uk on our website.)

I would be interested to know if anyone has any thoughts or ideas for improving our website. Why not visit some other church websites to see if we can add anything further to our existing information?

We can discuss any proposed changes at our next Church Meeting. *Rob*

## PREMISES

Our WiFi contract has been renewed and we have been transferred to a faster fibre connection. We now have a download speed of 50 mB/s rather than 18 mB/s, at no extra cost! The password remains the same.

*Rob*

## FAVOURITE HYMN: WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS AND SCATTER

This hymn sounds as though it was written in the middle of the English countryside, but is in fact of German origin. Based on a peasant song, the words were written by Matthias Claudius (1740-1815). His father was a Lutheran pastor and he was destined for the same career, but he had a bad chest and decided to pursue a career as a journalist and poet instead, editing several local newspapers and writing many poems.

The hymn first appeared in a play he wrote in 1783 about a harvest thanksgiving in a north German village, based on Psalm 144. The original hymn had seventeen verses, but it was later included in several hymn books, when it was cut down to six verses plus chorus.

The hymn was later (in 1862) translated into English by Jane Montgomery Campbell, who was very proficient in the German language and translated a number of other German hymns into English. She was the daughter of the vicar of St. James's, Paddington, but she herself lived in Bovey Tracey. Unfortunately, one day, whilst riding in a carriage on Dartmoor, she had a serious accident and was killed.

The tune, known as Dresden, was written by Johann Schultz (1747-1800), who wrote the Christmas Cantata and who was Kappelmeister to Prince Henry of Prussia. Because of new technology, the hymn can be sung to more modern words:

*We plough the fields with tractors  
With drills we sow the land etc*

The words are also wide open to parody, most famously by John Betjeman, but space does not permit me to quote it here. Nevertheless, the hymn remains a strong favourite at harvest-time or anytime.

C

*Getting another set of teeth would be much more useful at 60 than at age 6!*

## A PRAYER FOR PAKISTAN

O Lord,  
in the goodness of your constant love,  
be with the people of Pakistan  
as they face devastating floods.

At this time of great loss –  
loss of lives, homes and crops  
may we be filled with your compassion  
and moved to reach out in love.

As we stand alongside our sisters and brothers, we pray that  
they may find consolation in their sorrow,  
strength as they seek shelter and safety  
and courage to carry on.

Forgive us, O Lord,  
for our part in the climate crisis,  
and inspire us all to play our part  
in protecting the earth, our common home.

So that together we may build a world  
that reflects your glory,  
where hope drives out despair  
and all things are made new.

### Pakistan floods situation report



Source: Pakistan Government, UN, 30 Aug 2022



*from Cafod website*

**ONE WORLD WEEK EVENT**  
**LAVINGTON SATURDAY OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**3.00pm – 4.30pm**

We are hosting a special event for One World Week on Saturday 15th October here at Lavington from 3:00pm until 4:30pm.

The format will be a short time of worship followed by a Bring & Share tea in the hall. Our guest speaker will be Katrine Musgrave, our Regional Christian Aid Co-ordinator, who is an inspiring speaker.

The theme of the service will be climate justice and we will be reflecting on the impact of the climate crisis on countries and people across the globe.

It has been about three years since we were last able to celebrate One World Week, when we met in Bideford Baptist Church. We hope that this ecumenical event will be supported by many people from each of the churches in Bideford.

For further details contact Rob or your Elder.

*Rob*



The Bideford Christian Aid Committee met last week. The success of the Summer Supper was discussed and concluded that the format of holding the whole supper at one venue was the way forward at this time. The churches will take turns to host it as it is a huge amount of work for the host church.

The next event will be the Christmas Choir Concert, arranged for December 6<sup>th</sup> at High St Methodist. As some young children are involved the start time will probably be 6pm. More details to follow.

During Christian Aid Week, £855 was raised.

I am pleased to tell you that Lynda Colwill has joined me on the committee to represent Lavington. It is many years since we had 2 committee members from Lavington so it is very encouraging!

*J P.*

## THE SMALL BEATITUDES

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves;  
they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill;  
they will be saved a lot of bother.

Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses;  
they are on the way to becoming wise.

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously;  
they will be valued by those round about them.

Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown;  
you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

Blessed are those who think before acting and pray before thinking;  
they will avoid blunders.

Happy are you if you know how to hold your tongue and smile, even when  
people interrupt and contradict you or tread on your toes;  
the Gospel has begun to seep into your heart.

Blessed are you if you can be kind in understanding the attitudes of others  
even when the signs are unfavourable;  
you may be taken for a fool but this is the price of charity.

Happy are you if you can take things seriously and face serious things  
calmly; you will go far in life.

Above all, blessed are you who recognise the Lord in all whom you meet;  
the light of truth shines in your life for you have found true wisdom.

Joseph Folliet

*From J R*

## NORTH DEVON TALKING CLIMATE JUSTICE DAY 29 OCT 2022

As Christians we are called to challenge the injustice of the climate crisis. We know the next decade will be critical for us to act. Every social movement started with a conversation - these conversations stirred anger, fuelled hope and inspired people to act.

As the church, we need to have those honest conversations that spur us into action. We want to walk with you, to join these conversations and act together in the pursuit of climate justice.

So join us for a day of debate and action planning, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October, Christ Church Methodist/URC, Braunton, 10.30-3pm, Lunch and Refreshments included. Free Entry. All Welcome.

To register please email Margaret Robinson [margaret1212@outlook.com](mailto:margaret1212@outlook.com) or call 01271 624109.

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Answers to September Fun

2. Little Women 3. Thirty-Nine Steps 4. Moby Dick 5. Ivanhoe 6. Gone With the Wind 7. Catch Twenty-Two 8. War And Peace 9. Cider With Rosie 10. Rebecca 11. King Solomon's Mine 12. Robinson Crusoe 13. Wuthering Heights 14. The Cruel Sea 15. Lorna Doone 16. Jeckyl and Hyde 17. Cain and Abel 18. The Maltese Falcon 19. Great Expectations 20. Whisky Galore 21. Tales of Peter Rabbit



**DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR ON  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

# Fun Page

## WHO SAID IT?

E.G. "Nice to see you – to see you, nice" = Bruce Forsyth

1. Shut that door! \_\_\_\_\_
2. They think it's all over! It is now! \_\_\_\_\_
3. We are not amused \_\_\_\_\_
4. The lady of the house speaking \_\_\_\_\_
5. Grandma, what big eyes you've got \_\_\_\_\_
6. Final answer? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Hasta la vista, baby \_\_\_\_\_
8. Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn \_\_\_\_\_
9. Kiss me Hardy \_\_\_\_\_
10. Please sir, I want some more \_\_\_\_\_
11. Exterminate \_\_\_\_\_
12. Dr. Livingstone, I presume? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Goodnight, children everywhere \_\_\_\_\_
14. Beam me up, Scottie \_\_\_\_\_
15. I am the greatest \_\_\_\_\_
16. Boom, Boom \_\_\_\_\_
17. Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary \_\_\_\_\_
18. Your country needs you! \_\_\_\_\_
19. England is a nation of shopkeepers \_\_\_\_\_
20. Listen very carefully, I shall say this only once \_\_\_\_\_

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

Bridgeland Street, Bideford, EX39 2QE

### **Minister**

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### **Church Secretary**

**Mrs Alison Biggs**

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### **Church Treasurer**

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### **Church & Hall Bookings**

**Revd Colin Biggs**

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

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The November issue of *Connexions* is due out on Sunday Oct 30<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 October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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