

# CONNEXIONS

The magazine of

## Lavington

United Reformed Church  
Bideford

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



OCTOBER 2020

40p

## PROVIDING OUR OCTOBER SERVICES

Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Service – Revd R Weston
Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Service – Revd Colin Biggs
Sun. 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Service – Revd Rob Weston
Sun. 25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship – Sabrina Gröschel
Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Family Worship – Sabrina Gröschel



After six months of Covid-19 restrictions we are still learning and adapting to a new pattern of life. Many of us have felt frustrated by the impact on our daily lives, our holiday plans, our worship life - there are few areas of life that have been unaffected. Planning our church life together has never been so difficult, especially as we have had to react (sometimes overnight) to new announcements or advice from our Government.

Yet even in this time of trial, I see hope. Our Church Meeting is the decision-making body within our denomination, it is the place where power is held. This is an important aspect of our ecclesiology (our way of being the church). The church is not a dictatorship of the Minister or of any Elder; for the Minister and Elders are servants of the Church Meeting. Both Minister and Elders are chosen and appointed by the Church Meeting. They can make recommendations, but it is the Church Meeting that makes decisions, which is why our AGM in October is so important.

At our Church Meeting in October we will formally receive the reports about the past year. We will be able to thank the faithful servants of our church who are retiring from various roles and we will be able to welcome new Elders and new office holders. I'm particularly pleased that we have been able to find a new Church Secretary (Alison Biggs) and a new Treasurer (Colin Biggs) both of whom are well known to you, as they both lead worship on a very regular basis. I'm also expecting that we'll be able to appoint at least one person (maybe more) as Elder, to replace those who have recently stepped down from this role.

It is in these developments that I see hope, even though the church in Bideford has been unable to worship following our normal pattern, we have continued to share in fellowship due to the commitment of so many people. As from October 4th we will be able to safely gather together and we will be able to continue to provide worship opportunities for everyone at home. Whilst we have been away from the building, our contractors have been making the stone work watertight, checking the lightning conductors and removing the shrubs from the spires!



## A HYMN FOR HARVEST

At this time when we are not allowed to sing in church, I thought I would print a harvest hymn for you so that you can sing it at home with much gusto and having all the words in front of you!

Whichever one I choose, I won't please everybody, but I know that you will all know this old favourite!

Come ye thankful people, come!  
Raise the song of harvest-home,  
All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker doth provide,  
For our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come,  
Raise the song of harvest-home!

We ourselves are God's own field,  
Fruit unto His praise to yield,  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown:  
First the blade and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear;  
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,  
And shall take His harvest home;  
From His field shall in that day,  
All offences purge away;  
Give His angels charge at last  
In the fire the tares to cast  
But the fruitful ears to store,  
In His garner evermore.

Even so Lord, quickly come  
To Thy final harvest-home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There for ever purified,  
In God's garner to abide;  
Come, with all Thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious harvest-home!

Henry Alford 1810 – 71

## APPOINTMENT

It is reported in the URC's monthly magazine *Reform* that Revd Robert Weston has been elected to the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FoR's) board of trustees this summer, thus adding a second URC affiliated board member.

Anne Parker who attends South Leeds URC, is the charity's vice-chair. FoR is an international and ecumenical charity equipping Christians to promote nonviolence.

*Ed.*

## SPOTLIGHT ON LAVINGTON STEEPLES

Thanks to some ingenious steeplejacks, Lavington URC has been featured on the local television news! Some of you may have seen the video clip taken by one steeple jack, as it was published on Facebook in addition to the *Spotlight* TV broadcast! For those who haven't seen, it showed the steeplejack checking the lightning conductor and he confirmed that the steeple was also in good condition. I'm not sure how many of you have a 'head for heights' - not many of us would want to be so high up above the church I suspect! However, the views from the top of the spire are wonderful, especially on a clear day.

Last month we published a list of all the work that the contractor was planning to do on the church building and it was quite a list. We are delighted to hear that the work is almost completely finished. There may still be some finishing off at ground level to improve the earthing of the lightning conductors. We are just waiting to hear from the architect who was due to make a site visit this week to inspect the works.

Hopefully, we will see the scaffolding removed in October and we should be able to return to the church sanctuary for our worship.

*Rob*



This is not a brilliant photograph because it was a dull day but it is real; no trick photography here! What a wonderful record to have of this amazing event!

*Ed.*

### **MORE GOODIES FROM JILL**

Following on from Jill's offer of making cakes for us last month to raise some monies for Lavington, it continues for October as well.

In addition to cakes, Jill is offering homemade lemon marmalade, orange marmalade and blackberry and apple jam, in 1lb jars priced at £1.50 per jar. All Covid safety and hygiene procedures have been followed.

Orders or enquiries can be phoned through to me Jill Davis on 479373. The delivery of all orders will be discussed with your individual requirements. Payment can be either the correct amount or a cheque, payable to Lavington URC, Bideford and handed to me in an envelope.



w/c 4<sup>th</sup>

We thank you God for creating a world so abundant with life, some of which we humans use for food and which we harvest at this time.

Because of Covid, we cannot hold our normal Harvest Festival this year, although the church will be open, but may we still think of all those people in our country both adults and children, who cannot afford to eat properly but are reliant on Food Banks for their provisions, or go without. Also, those people in other countries, especially in the Yemen, who are caught up in war and famine and who are gradually starving to death.

w/c 11<sup>th</sup>

We have been warned before Lord, about the way we are destroying or polluting the world's natural resources, but still we go on. The deforestation of the world's tropical rainforests, the pollution of the air with greenhouse gases, the destruction of marine life with millions of tons of plastic and the wanton killing of the world's wildlife. Which generation will it be that sees the end of the world and the demise of mankind?

w/c 18<sup>th</sup>

At the time of writing, it looks as if we are going into a second lockdown with the Covid virus, after a brief respite during the summer. If so, may we all act responsibly during this time, predicted to last six months, and not get too downhearted at the prospect of more social distancing and isolation. May we keep in touch and together as a church and pray that the virus leaves us unscathed.

w/c 25<sup>th</sup>

The pandemic is leaving us with plenty of time on our hands. May our minds never be empty and our hands always full, when there is God's Word to be read or His Work to be done in the church or in the world at large. God has a project for everyone. Amen.

*Chris*





The year is passing quickly. That's what I feel, anyway. Here we are coming into autumn and Christmas looms. But before that, there are lots of birthdays and anniversaries to celebrate.

Here they are –

A Y	8 <sup>th</sup>
P F	10 <sup>th</sup>
J W	20 <sup>th</sup>

It's all girls together this month and we send you our love and wish you all very happy days' celebrated with family and friends.

I must mention P F this month because she will be receiving a telegram from the Queen, I hope! P will be 100 years young on 10<sup>th</sup>. For those who don't know P – or Mrs F as I always call her – she is an old Lavingtonian who was still attending Tuesday coffee mornings until recent years. She has *Connexions* every month and supplies the church flowers on a Sunday each year. I visit her or have a chat on the phone and she always has Lavington at heart. I think I must be getting older too because I can remember Mrs F's mother!!

Mrs F, we are so happy for you on this momentous birthday, we send you our love and wish you every happiness and good health through the coming year.



For our wedding anniversaries we have,

H and J M	11 <sup>th</sup>
J and R C	14 <sup>th</sup>
L and C W	18 <sup>th</sup>

L and C will be holding extra special celebrations this year because it is their Ruby anniversary (40<sup>th</sup>). It is a great pity that because of restrictions, you cannot celebrate as you would wish. However, we send you both many, many congratulations! Go for Gold!

To all of you we send our love and wish you happy days spent in celebration.

*Editor*



## NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

**J** continues to be cared for by John and the family. She has been visited by **J P** and was asking after church people. We send her and them our loving thoughts and prayers.

We send our love and sympathy to **J and R C** and the family following the peaceful death of Jenny's father. Be assured of our prayers at this sad and difficult time.

**B C** was taken ill in Bideford and taken to hospital. Following extensive tests, he requires a heart by-pass operation and remains in hospital awaiting this operation. We send him our love and concern hoping that he will not have to wait too long for treatment. We were pleased to learn that **J M** is doing as well as can be expected at this time. Others who are under the weather include **K Q** and **L W** has recently had hospital treatment. Hopefully they will soon feel better.

Many of our fellowship find the present situation difficult, particularly if they live alone. The uncertainty and isolation which the pandemic has caused has affected everyone whatever their age and health. We particularly remember those within Lavington who are housebound; **L G, M H, R P** and **C S**, wishing them well and sending our prayers as they cope with life during these difficult days.

Please stay safe supported by family, friends and neighbours and may the God of hope, love and peace be with us all.

*Alison*

*As we go to print I can report that the latest news on Kay Quick is that she has been in hospital undergoing tests. She is now staying with her daughter and awaiting the results. Kay, we hope that you will soon start to feel better.*

*Ed.*

## SEEN ON A CHURCH NOTICEBOARD

“Can't sleep? don't count sheep, talk to the shepherd”.

## FAVOURITE HYMNS: HOW GREAT THOU ART

This song began life as a poem by the Swedish poet and politician Carl Boberg (1859-1940), who was walking home from church one Sunday afternoon when he was caught in a heavy storm and had to run for cover under some trees. When he got home, he opened the window and was struck by the singing of a bird and the calmness of the sea.

The contrast between the two scenes stirred his soul, so he sat down to write a poem and called it '*O Mighty God*'. He got it printed in a local paper which he edited and a local musician matched the words to a traditional Swedish folk tune.

At a later date, it was translated into German, then Russian, where it became a favourite with the Ukrainians and where, in the 1930s, an English missionary, Stuart K. Hine, translated it into English, adding verses of his own and giving it its current title. He published it in a missionary magazine, '*Grace and Peace*', which went all over the world, including India, where a travelling evangelist - Edwin Orr - heard it being sung by a Naga choir, in the extreme east of the country. He took it back to the USA, where it was sung on the college circuit by '*Sons of the Pioneers*', a group of singing cowboys, including Roy Rogers.

The song was then picked up by George Shea, who was the soloist on Billy Graham's travelling crusades and it eventually became Billy Graham's signature tune, sung regularly live on radio and TV and reaching millions of people.

It has been recorded nearly 2000 times by various artists; most famously by Elvis Presley, who recorded it twice in 1967 and 1974 and won him a Grammy each time. In Britain, it was not well known until Billy Graham's later crusades, but now it is a firm favourite and has been voted Britain's favourite hymn on several occasions.

*Chris*

## A LETTER FROM YOUR ACTING TREASURER

The church building has been closed since mid-March until now. Because of the Covid crisis you would imagine that a closed church building would cost very little to run. For instance, the electricity, gas and water bills will be much reduced.

We derive a good income from the renting of the manse and from those church members who pay their offerings directly into the bank by standing order.

However, at the same time we have lost all of our main sources of income, in particular the money we get from the Freewill Offering Envelope Scheme – which have now begun to come in - rental of the church halls, money raised at the Tuesdays coffee / lunches, Gift Day, our Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayre. In other words, all our annual fund-raising events. All this at a time when we still need to pay into the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund every month (£1744.00) which pays all ministers stipends, retired ministers pensions, training of new ministers etc. We also have high monthly insurance to pay (£401.40). Additionally, we have been paying reduced fees to our preachers for preparing our written services fortnightly - with the exception of Rob - and the wages of our organist Sally and our cleaner, Russell throughout this period. Plus, other miscellaneous expenses.

Therefore, this is a plea from your Acting Treasurer to ask that those of you who use the Envelope Scheme, but have not yet handed in your envelopes, can do so now either by bringing them to a church service, or giving them to any Elder, or delivering them to me at my home (42 North View Avenue, Bideford).

If you are thinking of paying your offerings into the bank directly by standing order in the future, could you please do so on a monthly, rather than a weekly basis, to minimise the paperwork. Perhaps you could have a word with me first.

We need and look forward to your continuing financial support.

*Chris Trigger*

## ETERNAL WALL of ANSWERED PRAYER



In about 2 years' time, drivers on the M6 motorway will see something new. A giant national Christian landmark to be built on the outskirts of Birmingham, has been given all the necessary planning permissions to go ahead.

The vision of Professor Revd Richard Gamble, says, *"I'd put it down to prayer."* Richard, a former Leicester City FC chaplain has been planning this monument since 2004 when he had a vision while carrying a cross through Leicestershire at Easter time.

To be known as *Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer*, the iconic structure will be constructed using one million bricks, each representing individual prayers that have been answered for people across the country. Additionally, using interactive technology and a bespoke app, visitors will be able to use their smart phone by holding it against any brick to read the individual answered prayers and personal stories behind them

After gaining Planning Permission, Richard Gamble said, *"It is an amazing opportunity for the British people to leave a legacy of hope visible to the UK. What we are doing is historic"*.

Of course, it has its opponents. Since 1983 the proportion of people who identify as Christian has fallen from 66% to 38%. Nevertheless, Richard has been able to assemble a network of supporters and donors including Lord Edmiston, a successful car importer, Conservative donor and evangelical Christian, who provided the 10 acres of land.









## SMILE AWHILE

Dear God,

So far today I've done alright. I haven't gossiped. I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over indulgent. I'm very thankful for that.

But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on, I'm going to need a lot more help.

AMEN

Answers to September Fun

1. St. Pauls 2. Monument. 3. Waterloo 4. Kings Cross 5. Mansion House 6. Poplar  
7. East Ham 8. Kentish Town 9. Grange Hill 10. Earls Court 11. Kew Gardens  
12. Paddington 13. Knightsbridge 14. Whitechapel 15. Wapping 16. Chancery lane  
17. Royal Oak 18. Swiss Cottage.

## NOT A WORD

They walked the lane together,  
the sky was dotted with stars.  
They reached the rails together  
he lifted up the bars.  
She neither smiled or thanked him,  
because she knew not how -  
for he was only the farmer's boy and she was the Jersey cow!



**DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR ON  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>**

### 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.

# Fun Page

All the answers are parts of the human body.

1. Ammunitions (4) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Receptacle (5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tall trees (5) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Employees (5) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Holiday requirement (6) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Shell fish (7) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Salt water fish (4) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Ships (7) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Found in marble (5) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Berries (4) \_\_\_\_\_
11. What a plumber deals with (6) \_\_\_\_\_
12. A measurement (4) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Parts of a chair (4) \_\_\_\_\_
14. Young animals (6) \_\_\_\_\_
15. Sacred building (6) \_\_\_\_\_
16. Buildings have these (4) \_\_\_\_\_
17. Musical instrument (4) \_\_\_\_\_
18. Fruit (4&4) \_\_\_\_\_
19. Scholars (6) \_\_\_\_\_
20. Personal pronoun (3) \_\_\_\_\_
21. Scholars (6) \_\_\_\_\_
22. Something sticky (3) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Bridgeland Street, Bideford, EX39 2PZ

## **Interim Minister**

**Revd Rob Weston**

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## **Church Secretary**

**Mrs Jenny Cawsey**

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## **Church Treasurer (Temporary)**

**Mr Christopher Trigger**

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## **Church & Hall Bookings**

**Mrs Janet Palmer**

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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 by  
Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>  
Telephone 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 25<sup>th</sup>**

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