



**South
West
Hants
Group**



CONNECTIONS

**April /
May 2019**

www.swhg.org.uk



The
**United
Reformed
Church**



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SERVICES



AVENUE ST ANDREW'S

APRIL 2019

Date	Time	Service
7 th	11am	Communion Service led by Rev. Mary Thomas.
14 th	11am	Palm Sunday Service led by Rev Sarah Hall.
18 th	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
21 st	11am	Easter Sunday Communion Service and dressing the cross led by Rev Sarah Hall.
28 th	9:30am	Breakfast church.
	11am	Service led by Mr Alan Jenkins.

MAY 2019

Date	Time	Service
5 th	11am	Communion Service led by Rev. Mark Robinson.
12 th	11am	Service led by Rev Gwen Collins.
19 th	11am	Family Service led by Rev Sarah Hall. Followed by Church Meeting.
26 th	10.30am	Group Anniversary Service at Freemantle URC led by Rev Nigel Uden – Moderator of General Assembly.

Funnies...

Dear Algebra, please stop asking us to find your X, She's never coming back and don't ask Y!!!

As a scarecrow people say I'm outstanding in my field. But Hay, it's in my jeans!

What is Red and smells like Blue Paint? Red Paint!

What is a foot long and slippery? A Slipper!



SERVICES



CHANDLER'S FORD

APRIL 2019

Date	Time	Service
7th	9:30am	Café Service led by Rev Sarah Hall.
	5pm	Prayer Meeting.
14th	9:30am	Palm Sunday Service led by Rev Mark Robinson and the Worship Committee.
	6:30pm	Joint Evening Service with the Methodist Church.
18th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service with the Methodist Church.
21st	9:30am	Easter Sunday Communion Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
	5pm	Prayer Meeting.
28th	9:30am	Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.

MAY 2019

Date	Time	Service
5th	9:30am	Service led by Rev Bernie Collins.
	5pm	Prayer Meeting.
12th	9:30am	Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
19th	9:30am	Communion Service led by Rev Sarah Hall.
	5pm	Prayer Meeting.
26th	10:30am	Group Anniversary Service at Freemantle URC led by Rev Nigel Uden - Moderator of General Assembly.

Funnies...

I waited and stayed up all night and tried to figure out where the sun was. Then it dawned on me.

How does NASA organize a party? They planet.

What did the left eye say to the right eye? Between you and me, something smells.



SERVICES



FREEMANTLE

APRIL 2019

Date	Time	Service
7 th	9:30am	Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
14 th	9:30am	Palm Sunday Communion Service led by Rev Sarah Hall.
21 st	9:30am	Easter Sunday Service led by Rev Sarah Hall.
28 th	9:30am	Service led by Rev Gwen Collins.

MAY 2019

Date	Time	Service
5 th	9:30am	Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
12 th	9:30am	Communion Service led by Mrs Irene Carroll.
19 th	9:30am	Service led by Mr Chris Noyce.
26 th	10:30am	Group Anniversary Service led by Rev Nigel Uden - Moderator of General Assembly.



 **SERVICES** 

ISAAC WATTS MEMORIAL

APRIL 2019

Date	Time	Service
7 th	11am	Service led by Mr Chris Noyce.
14 th	11am	Palm Sunday Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
21 st	10.15am	Easter Sunday Communion Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
	11am	All Age Easter Sunday Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
28 th	11am	Service led by Mr Chris Noyce.

MAY 2019

Date	Time	Service
5 th	11am	Service led by Rev Sarah Hall.
12 th	11am	Service led by Rev Tjarda Murray.
19 th	11am	Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
26 th	10.30am	Group Anniversary Service at Freemantle URC led by Rev Nigel Uden - Moderator of General Assembly.

Funnies...

Two donkeys are standing at a roadside, one asks the other: So, shall we cross? The other shakes his head: "No way, look at what happened to the zebra."

What does a nosey pepper do? Gets jalapeno business!

What do you call a fake noodle? An Impasta

What do you call an alligator in a vest? An Investigator

What happens if you eat yeast and shoe polish? Every morning you'll rise and shine!

What's the difference between a guitar and a fish? You can't tuna fish.

IMPORTANT DATES

What's happening at Avenue St. Andrew's...

Health & Fitness meet Mondays weekly at 1.45 pm in the Concourse. Aimed at the 60+ they are a very friendly group and would welcome newcomers.

Avenue Café is open every Tuesday from 10.30 am until 2.00 pm. Coffee, cake and light lunches are available. All are welcome to come along.

Wednesday Club meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. On Wed 3rd April 2019 there will be a talk by **Pamela Warner—'A Spare Time Hobby'**. On 1st May **'Skincare for the summer'**. All welcome.

Lunch Club meet on the 2nd Thursday in the month at 12.30 pm for lunch together. Please contact the church office if you are interested. The last lunch is on **Thurs 11th April 2019**.

Film Show will be meeting on **Wed 10th April & Wed 8th May 2019**. Do come and join us followed by light refreshments afterwards 1.45 pm. All are welcome.

Avenue Singers meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the month from 7 – 8 pm in the Concourse. New singers always welcome. A wide variety of music. You don't have to be an expert - just enjoy singing. They will meet on **Wednesdays 10th, 24th April & 8th and 22th May 2019**.

Amnesty International Group meets monthly on 2nd Thursday of each month at 8.00pm. All are welcome to come along. Their next meetings will be **Thurs 11th April & Thurs 9th May 2019 at 8 pm** in the Focus room.

Church Social Group usually meet on 3rd Wednesday of each month for fun and friendship. Next meetings are **Tues 16th April at 7.30 pm "A**



SOUTH WEST HANTS GROUP CONNECTIONS



Talk on Zimbabwe” by Maureen Paine and Wed 15th May 2019 and Wed 15th May 2019 'Beetle Drive'. Why not come along and join us.

Scrabble Group meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Concourse. All are welcome. Next meeting will be **Wed 24th April and Wed 22nd May 2019 at 1.45 pm.**

Boys’ Brigade Friday evenings – for all ages from 6 – 8.30 pm. All are welcome. They meet during Term Time only.

Breakfast Church normally takes place every 4th Sunday in the month. Why not join us to discuss and debate the Bible, faith and its impact over a light breakfast. Next meeting will be **28th April.** Do join us.

For more information on any of these activities contact Church Office on 023 80 678787

Interested in classical music?

The Ealing Symphony Orchestra will be putting on a concert at Avenue St Andrew’s on 19th October. Please note the date and encourage your friends to attend. This will be in aid of Avenue 2020 – our turret appeal.

Funnies...

What do you call a pile of kittens A meowntain

What do you call a baby monkey? A Chimp off the old block.

Did you hear about the race between the lettuce and the tomato? The lettuce was a "head" and the tomato was trying to "ketchup"!

Did you hear about the hungry clock? It went back four seconds.

Why can't you give Elsa a balloon? Because she will Let it go.

Did you hear about that new broom? It's sweeping the nation!

What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter? An irrelephant.

What's happening at Chandler's Ford...

Craft & Coffee – every Tuesday morning from 10 – 11.30 am

Ladies Fellowship – 17th April, speaker Mr David Dunsire and on 15th May, speaker Mrs J Robert-Jones on 'One Community', both meetings at 2.15 pm in the Frith Hall. All ladies welcome.

Men's Breakfast – on Saturday 6th April and 4th May at 8 am. Full English breakfast followed by a Christian/topical discussion. All men welcome.

Housegroup – meets fortnightly on Monday evenings. See Martin Waldron for dates.

Prayer Meeting – on 1st and 3rd Sundays at 5 pm.

Church Meeting – Sunday 28th April at 11 am after Morning Worship followed by a light lunch.

Funnies...

What gets wetter the more it dries? A towel.

Where do crayons go on vacation? Color-ado!

Why did the belt get arrested? He held up a pair of pants.

What did Bacon say to Tomato? Lettuce get together!

What is it called when a cat wins a dog show? A CAT-HAS-TROPHY!

Why did the picture go to jail? Because it was framed.

What stays in the corner and travels all over the world? A stamp.

Why did the computer go to the doctor? Because it had a virus!

What belongs to you but others use more? Your name

What's happening at Isaac Watts Memorial...

APRIL

- 8th 12.30pm Community Lunch - contact Mrs Eve Scally on 80323602 for more details.
2.00pm The Community Fellowship - Wendy Simmonds. Her topic is Postural Advice & Therapy Demonstration.
- 17th 7pm Prayer Meeting in the Vestibule Room. All are warmly welcome.

Boys' and Girls' Brigades meet on MONDAY EVENINGS DURING TERM TIME - Contact Mr D Doswell on 02380 872648 or Mrs N Howard on 02380 873769 for more information.

Badminton Group meet FRIDAY Afternoons between 2pm-4pm. Contact Marilyn Cousens on 02380 778585 for details.

MAY

- 4th 10.30 to noon FLOWER FUND COFFEE MORNING - see advert for more details.
- 13th 12.30pm Community Lunch - details as above.
2.00pm The Community Fellowship - Entertainment by Cheryl Brennan
- 15th 7.30pm Prayer Meeting in the Vestibule Room. All welcome.

Boys' and Girls' Brigades and Badminton details as above.

Funnies...

Why do fish live in salt water? Because pepper makes them sneeze!

Why did the man put his money in the freezer? He wanted cold hard cash!



**Flower Fund
Coffee Morning
Isaac Watts
Memorial
Church
Winchester Road
Southampton
May 4th
10.30 to 12.00
Cake stall
Jewellery stall
and more**

Isaac Watts Memorial Church

Winchester / Luccombe Road

Music for a Summer Evening

with

The Courtyard Quintet

and

Solent Accordions

Wednesday June 12th 2019 at 7.30 pm

What's happening at Freemantle...



Badminton/Table Tennis – Monday from 7.30pm.



Guides meet Thursday Evenings – Contact Janet Weafer 023 8049 3826 for more details. (Term Time Only)

Brownies meet Monday evenings – Contact Miss L. Travis 023 8178 6386 for more details. (Term Time Only)

Repair Café – 1st Saturday of the month **10.30am to 1pm** - Small electric / clothing / jewellery items can be repaired for a small donation at our Repair Café each month. We also have a café providing lovely homemade cakes and teas and coffees. Always on the 1st Saturday of the month. You are very welcome to come just for a cuppa and see what we do!!

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Dear Friends

Here's your starter for ten: Biblical Teaching is a...?

'Holy Habit!' I hear you cry.

Or you do if you worshipped in any of our churches on the first Sunday of February, or came to our first Holy Habits bring-and-share discussion on the first Sunday of March. As you'll already be aware, there's ten Holy Habits, from the beginning of Acts, which we will be reflecting on at the beginning of each month through this year. Just in case you've forgotten a few, here's the list: biblical teaching; fellowship; breaking of bread; prayer; giving; service; eating together; gladness and generosity; worship; and the making of more disciples. Nothing new or ground-breaking: just aspects of the Christian life we want to become embedded in our lives.

But what's so good about habit? When life feels a drag, when we're just keeping on keeping on, we may yearn for something new and different to remind us of God's love, not just boring old habits, whether it's reading our Bible notes first thing each morning or saying our prayers last thing at night. But the power of habit lies in the way it helps us do something, for good or ill, without having to think about it too much. And the list above is surely full of good things we *do* want in our lives.

But maybe it depends on which Habit we're talking about. Some may be things you already love doing. You may be always looking out to see how you can help others. Maybe you love feeding other people, and eating together is the way you always do things. Or maybe you're a great encourager, sharing your gladness in life with others. Then you're *already* practising a Holy Habit! Whenever you do it, and offer what you do to God, that'll feed your faith. And when you go through tough times – as we all do – those life-giving habits will help you get through.

So far, so good. But depending on your personality, some of them will be harder to practise than others. If you're an extrovert who loves company, the thought of going off by yourself to pray may be scary. If you're an introvert whose batteries are charged by being alone, the idea of sharing your private trust in God with others may ring alarm bells. And the thought that one of the 'not me, ask somebody else!' practices in that list could become *your* habit may be hard to imagine. But it happens!

Since my sabbatical two years ago trying out new forms of exercise, to my surprise I've stuck to my pre-breakfast walk three times a week, alongside two weekly exercise classes. I don't always do it quite right; there are times when it's a 10-minute rush rather than a 30-minute saunter. But I could never have foreseen the pleasure I get from loosening my muscles, or striding out first thing, or I'd have taken up regular exercise years ago. And the time I take on my walks looking around at growing things or reflecting on my life helps me reflect on the question that's always at the back of my mind, but often doesn't elbow its way to the front: how can I pay attention to the God who loves to be with me? For that's what all the Holy Habits boil down to.

What about if we've lost a Holy Habit, and feel embarrassed about getting back into it? Well, Lent is an ideal time to start again, gently. In April, our Habit will be fellowship. I'm looking forward to exploring it – in your company!

Sarah

INTRODUCING OUR NEW **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** **WORKER...**

My name is Beccy Gange. I have been appointed as the new Community Development Worker for the "Joining Hands across the Common" project.

I will be working with both Andrew St. Andrew's and Freemantle United Reformed Churches. As well as continuing the existing community groups, I will be contributing ideas to further develop these services and to identify new opportunities to help better support the community. Through my close contact and knowledge of external agencies and with an accountable and safeguarding focussed work ethic, I will be actively sourcing the resources needed to help deliver these services.

I have a strong passion for working within the community. I started out on my path as a volunteer family support worker for the Surestart centres and through this opportunity I was able to develop my skills and experience in my field. I have completed the level 3 Community development course provided by TWICS which subsequently enabled me to train as a EPEC facilitator. In addition to my role as Community



SOUTH WEST HANTS GROUP CONNECTIONS



Development Worker I also deliver a weekly course in “Being a Parent” and help run a local Youth club on a volunteer basis.

I live in Southampton, with my husband, and am a mother to 5 children and 4 grandchildren. I am a practicing Nichiren Buddhist and hold a faith position of Young Women’s District Leader for Bassett District in Southampton. I practice a faith which is based on establishing the principles of the dignity of life in society through working for the happiness of oneself and others. I encourage and support interfaith connection and dialogue and through my experiences I have a good knowledge of religious and cultural appropriation.

My mission and vision is to enable people from all aspects of society to develop their full potential by means of one-to-one encouragement and by helping provide the necessary tools to positively affect change in their lives.

So In bringing my experiences of helping the community, my commitment to forging bonds of trust and friendship, and joyfully walking the path of my passion and mission - I am very much looking forward to working with everyone at the project.

MORE DATES & INTERESTING ARTICLES

Host Families needed from 6th - 18th July for French students attending a course at Richard Taunton Sixth Form College. For further information, please contact Alison on 07776 207768 or alison.spottiswoode@gmail.com.

SYNOD REPORT

The Wessex Synod met in Basingstoke on Saturday March 16th. It was a wet day, so a country walk or working in the garden was impossible and the only distraction for some was Wales playing to win the Grand Slam.

After lusty singing and inspiring worship together we settled down to business. The Spring Synod is always devoted to approving the various committee posts, hearing reports from them and voting through various decisions. This took most of the morning, although we did hear interesting things about our Synod's links with the wider church – in Zambia and France and also with the Waldensian church. I knew little about this church which departed from Rome two hundred years before the Reformation and still exists in Italy.

Rev Mike Shrubsole, the Synod's Green Apostle, spoke to us. He's really interesting and will be leading a Quiet day in the New Forest in the summer, if you want to hear more. We also heard about Tilehurst – a small church who just happened to display their Minutes on a hall noticeboard. One item caught the attention of the Brownie leader – a desire to reach out to the Uniformed organisations. She asked if the Brownies could do a Remembrance display of poppies. Gradually other organisations in the town heard of it and ultimately the "Paint Tilehurst Red" campaign began with local businesses and schools taking part, lots of money raised and the Minister interviewed by the media. We were encouraged by the idea that from small acorns mighty oaks can grow!

We had an inspiring talk by the Surrey Christian Aid organiser, who explained some amazing things Christian Aid is doing in Sierra Leone, improving the life chances of mothers and their newborn babies. This will be the focus of this year's CA Week in May.

After lunch (and a chance to meet up with old friends) our Karen Smith addressed Synod. She spoke about Hindhead URC, (her new church) and its experience with the newly designed LMMR process. (This is the way church's review what they're doing and where they want to go) She explained that over a few sessions the church family had come closer in its deliberations and had been newly enthused by the task.

After this, Synod voted to arrange another Synod Day – in 2021 and we heard challenging words from our young people. Clare Downing, our Moderator (and soon to be Moderator of General Assembly) closed the meeting with reminding us about Barnabas, who was above all, an encourager. She showed a clip from Paddington2 and compared Paddington to Barnabas – an example for us all!

Pam Humphreys

ARTICLES DEADLINE

Connections is taking a break, so there will be no further editions until someone can take on the job....

SWHG Connections



Please Please Please – Jennifer has stepped down due to other commitments, so if you would like a challenge, we need a volunteer or a team of volunteers to take over *Connections*...else there will be no other editions of *Connections*, which would be extremely sad after all the hard work the editors have put in up to now....

(Jennifer is more than willing to help talk through the process she uses with a volunteer)

PUZZLE TIME

Holy Habits

9 of these good qualities are the Holy Habits we're reflecting on as a group within the URC this year. 7 are the traditional Christian virtues – 4 cardinal and 3 theological. 9 are the fruits of the Spirit. And 4 are more modern. I wonder if you can tell which is which... and which Holy Habit I've missed out?*

E B R N R A O U F M E C A E P
P R A Y E R U O M U H O P E C
S E L P I C S I D G N I K A M
F A I T H F U L N E S S C T L
Q K O O L P B X W O R S H I P
P I H S W O L L E F S O A N G
R N B H S E R V I C E O R G E
U G E E M P A T H Y O J I T N
D B C C K I N D N E S S T O T
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N E T E M P E R A N C E F E E
C A S I G I V I N G V F T T N
E D U T I T R O F O S D L H E
H F J A R E S I L I E N C E S
E M M P H U M I L I T Y H R S

BREAKING BREAD

CHARITY

EATING TOGETHER

EMPATHY

FAITH

FAITHFULNESS

FELLOWSHIP

FORTITUDE

GENTLENESS

GIVING

GOODNESS

HOPE

HUMILITY

HUMOUR

JOY

JUSTICE

KINDNESS

LOVE

MAKING DISCIPLES

PATIENCE

PEACE

PRAYER

PRUDENCE

RESILIENCE

SELF-CONTROL

SERVICE

TEMPERANCE

WORSHIP

* Because the phrase was too long, not because I censored it!

Jokes Sources: <https://thoughtcatalog.com/brandon-gorrell/2015/03/50-short-clean-jokes-and-puns-that-will-get-a-laugh-every-time/> & <https://short-funny.com/funniest-jokes-2.php> & <http://www.jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/cleanjokes.html>