



**South  
West  
Hants  
Group**



# CONNECTIONS

**October/  
November 2018**

**[www.swhg.org.uk](http://www.swhg.org.uk)**



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**



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**SERVICES**



**AVENUE ST ANDREW'S**

**OCTOBER 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>
7 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Communion Service led by Rev. Sarah Hall.
14 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Service led by Mr Alan Jenkins.
21 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Harvest Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
28 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Breakfast Church.
	11am	Service led by Community Minister Pat Oliver.

**NOVEMBER 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>
4 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Communion Service led by Rev. Michael Pernt-Weigel.
11 <sup>th</sup>	10:50am	Remembrance Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
18 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Family service led by Community Minister Pat Oliver.
25 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Breakfast Church.
	11am	Service led by Rev Sarah Hall. Followed by Church Meeting with Elders Election.



***SERVICES***



**CHANDLER'S FORD**

**OCTOBER 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Service led by Rev Keith Hawton.
	5pm	Prayer Meeting.
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Parade Service led by Mr Chris Noyce.
	6:30pm	Joint Evening Service with the Methodist Church.
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	9:30am	Communion Service led by Rev Bill McCrea.
	5pm	Prayer Meeting
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.

**NOVEMBER 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Café Service led by Community Minister Pat Oliver.
	5pm	Prayer Meeting.
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Remembrance Service led by Mr Alan Jenkins.
	6:30pm	Joint Evening Service with the Methodist Church.
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Communion Service led by Rev Mark Robinson. With Elders Elections.
	5pm	Prayer Meeting.
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	9.:30am	Service led by Rev Gwen Collins.



**SERVICES**



**FREEMANTLE**

**OCTOBER 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>
7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Service led by Rev Wendy White.
14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Service led by Rev Sarah Hall.
28 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Service led by Rev Bernie Collins.

**NOVEMBER 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>
4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Remembrance Communion Service led by Rev Sarah Hall. Followed by Annual Church Meeting with Elders Elections.
18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Service led by Rev Wendy White.
25 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Service led by Dr Richard Jurd.



# **SERVICES**



## **ISAAC WATTS MEMORIAL**

### **OCTOBER 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>
7 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Harvest Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.
14 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Service led by Rev Sarah Hall.
21 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Service led by Rev Bill McCrea.
28 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Communion Service led by Rev Mark Robinson.

### **NOVEMBER 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>
4 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Service led by Rev Sarah Hall.
11 <sup>th</sup>	10:50am	Remembrance Service led by Mr Chris Noyce.
18 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Service led by Rev Bill McCrea.
25 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Communion Service led by Rev Mrk Rodinson. Followed by Church Meeting with Elders Elections.



## **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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. On **Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> October** they will be filling shoe boxes to send abroad and on **Wed 7<sup>th</sup> November** Sue Hill will give an illustrated talk 'Beauty through the lens of a camera'. All welcome.

**Lunch Club** meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month at 12.30 pm for lunch together. Please contact the church office if you are interested. Next lunches are **Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> October and Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> November**.

**Film Show** will be on **Wed 10<sup>th</sup> October and Wed 14<sup>th</sup> November**. Do come and join us followed by light refreshments afterwards. 1.45 pm. All are welcome.

**Avenue Singers** normally meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the month from 7 – 8 pm in the Concourse. New singers always welcome. A wide variety of music is covered and you don't have to be an expert - just enjoy singing. They will only be meeting on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> in October** but will continue on **Wednesdays 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November**.

**Amnesty International Group** meets monthly on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 8.00pm. All are welcome to come along. They will meet again on **Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm** in the Concourse.



## **SOUTH WEST HANTS GROUP CONNECTIONS**



**Church Social Group** usually meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month for fun and friendship at 7.30 pm. Next meetings will hopefully be **Thurs 18th October and Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> November**. Topics to be agreed shortly. All are welcome.

**Scrabble Group** meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month in the Focus Room. All are welcome. They will meet again on **Wed 24<sup>th</sup> October and Wed 28<sup>th</sup> November 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** takes place every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month. Why not join us to discuss and debate the Bible, faith and its impact over a light breakfast. Next meetings are **Sun 28<sup>th</sup> October and Sun 25<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30 am**. Do come along.

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





## **SOUTH WEST HANTS GROUP CONNECTIONS**



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

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

**Ladies Fellowship** – 17<sup>th</sup> October with Mrs Pam Madders talking about Psalms, and on 21<sup>st</sup> November, both meetings at 2.15 pm in the Frith Hall. All ladies welcome.

**Men's Breakfast** – on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 5 pm.

**Meet Rev Mark Robinson** – on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 10 am, a coffee morning to meet our new Minister and to hear about what goes on in the life of church.

**Remembrance Day Service** - on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Please note the change of time to 10.30 am for this service only.

### **What's happening at Isaac Watts Memorial...**





**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** – 1<sup>st</sup> 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!!

## Advance Date

TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.

Community CAROLS, CAKE AND COFFEE AT 2PM in the Church.

St Marks CE School's music group will also be joining us.

Come and enjoy an afternoon for Christmas singing and enjoyment.

Irene

# **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

Dear Friends

When I was writing in this space last time we were looking at bright, sunny days with lots of daylight hours...think of all that Vitamin D! Now here we are, still with bright sunny days, but they don't last very long...by November it's long dark nights and dreary days and I just want to hibernate for a few months. That's also a bit like sticking my head in the sand when something dark or tough in my life is coming, after a lovely peaceful and unchallenging time..... but I really don't want to face it.

Do you know what I mean? I'm sure many of you will do.

So how do we help each other get to a place where it's possible to tackle that challenge...first of all we have to admit that we have a problem and I have never found that part very easy to do. I'm sure I will have bitten some heads off, behaved out of character or hidden away until someone plucks up the courage to ask what's wrong and then it all comes tumbling out. Tumbling out at the wrong time, in the wrong place and with the wrong person....or at least that's what it feels like!!

Secondly we have to accept some form of help! The telling of the story to someone else may be enough but it could be that something else is needed....maybe praying with someone that you trust, maybe seeking advice from an experienced person, maybe another pair of hands for some physical action. Or how about composing a letter to the person causing the problem and running it past someone else first to see if it really says what you want it to...being honest but not brutal, being a critical friend perhaps? I could go on....but this is all about being honest with yourself first.

And God asks us in so many ways, through passages in the Bible especially, to be honest as people of faith with each other. We can't grow in faith if we don't wrestle with our issues, we can't grow as churches if we don't grapple with 'the elephant in the room' at Church Meetings or Elders Meetings but we need to do it in safe spaces, in God's spaces made safe by God. We need to do it with respect and compassion and if sometimes our passion for an issue makes us appear rude or hurtful then we need to make sure that we are prayerful before, during and after. If apologies become needed then we don't hesitate to make them.

I have just returned from a meeting of people who are privileged to have been asked to help in the discernment process for ministerial candidates. During this process we must ask the difficult questions for everyone's sake otherwise there may be 'square pegs put into round holes' which will be damaging to others as well as to the particular individual....and it's so tempting to be 'nice!' But that isn't what God wants. God wants us to be real at all times, to be those unafraid to offer 'tough love' in difficult situations, to listen to people with problems of the sort we are uncomfortable with and get embarrassed about. Yet God will support us at these times and give us the right words, should any be needed, and most of all will help us to 'be' with the person we are beside.

So in the coming darker months and long nights try to bring God's light into your part of the community and take hold of it for yourself. Amen

## **INTERESTING ARTICLES**



# SOUTH WEST HANTS GROUP CONNECTIONS



The Church of Scotland



## Universal Credit: increasing hunger by design

### Summary:

**As Churches we are concerned that the design of Universal Credit does not sufficiently take into account the lives, skills and resources of the least well off, and as a result will lead to greater debt, poverty and exclusion. We believe it should be paused until these design and implementation flaws are rectified. The design of Universal Credit (UC) does not reflect the realities of those who must rely on it.** The design assumes substantial savings, IT access and literacy as well as monthly salaries. While these are the norm for many members of society, including those who designed UC, they are not the experience of many people who will have no choice but to rely on UC.

**As Universal Credit is a single payment combining a number of benefits, the accuracy and timeliness of payments is even more crucial than for the legacy benefits.** UC payments are often delayed, inaccurate and the National Audit Office indicates that this is not expected to improve.

**The monetary value of Universal Credit continues to be significantly eroded.**

The benefit freeze, cuts to work allowances, cuts to the underlying tax credit rates and a number of other detailed changes have transformed UC from a poverty reducing measure to a poverty increasing measure. 4 in 10 claimants report they are in serious financial difficulties.

**The design of Universal Credit leaves families who do not have savings with no choice but to go into substantial debt if they wish to pay their rent and feed their children.** The choice to create an inflexible monthly cycle necessitates a substantial wait for the first UC payment. A government which views debt in low income families as a key “pathway to poverty” has chosen to solve this design problem in UC by offering large loans. Repayments of these loans will make a substantial impact on a family’s ability to make ends meet for at least a year.

**Universal Credit is designed around claimants having good IT skills and ongoing internet access yet this is not true for considerable numbers of people, especially poorer and disabled people.**

**Self-employed people often do not have the regular monthly income that Universal Credit is designed around.** While in good months when income is high the UC payment is reduced as normal, in low income months a “minimum income floor” applies preventing UC from increasing to compensate as it would for employees.

**Early data on Universal Credit trials and job outcomes was based only on single people without children who were fit and ready for work.** Whilst the data for these easiest of cases is positive it tells us nothing about how UC affects the

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more complex cases of those with children, those unfit for work, or those in work but with a low income who will form the vast majority of claimants.

**Sanctions are more common under Universal Credit than the previous system.** Sanctions have become more frequent, more severe and the number of families living under threat of sanction is set to double and include working people.

**Below are extracts from the conclusions made from this Report by JPIT --  
-the Joint Public Issues Team--- of which the URC is part...Please read  
this important work on behalf of the vulnerable in our city.**

## **Conclusions (in part)**

The Churches join the growing number of charities and civil society groups calling for Universal Credit to be delayed until fundamental problems with the design and implementation have been resolved. While the Government contends that this would lead to 250,000 fewer people in work, the published evidence does not support this claim.

Evidence from Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Trussell Trust supports what has been reported anecdotally by individuals, social action projects and church leaders, which is that **Universal Credit causes many families hardship**, that landlords find it difficult to rent to families supported by Universal Credit and that the problems people are having are taking months to resolve.

The single minded focus on financial incentives has had damaging consequences. By design the poorest families are required to get deeper into debt to make ends meet and low-paid families with weekly pay-packets jobs are faced with irregular Universal Credit payments as well as the budgeting and administrative difficulties that go with it. **Universal Credit is expected to increase child poverty as financial support especially to families with children has been substantially eroded.**

**Produced by the Joint Public Issues Team**

**[www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)**

**The Yearning and the Fury**

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I imagine Him, Jesus,  
moving between places,  
(with His daft followers trailing behind,  
bogged down in denial,  
on route to their misunderstood  
destination,  
bickering about status),  
while He strode along his punishing  
journey  
constructing those parables.

There is an aching *yearning* behind  
that man's crafted stories of lamps and  
light  
and night falling.  
And of old wine, new wine, gates and  
doors,  
sheep and shepherds, fathers and sons,  
bosses and workers, us-versus-them.  
And money.  
And of being early and of being too  
late.  
Of things planting and growing -  
or not growing.  
Of soil and seeds and birds and lilies.  
We have such glimpses into the man  
through the blossoming diagrams  
He left us  
of Kingdom, Kingdom, Kingdom.

And then there was His fury:  
that occasionally visible contempt.  
which forced Him to turn tables,  
to overturn tables  
to rage at hypocrisy, intentional  
deafness.  
Vipers.

What a man-in-the-round he was:  
the yearning, the fury  
merely two sides of the same ache  
for that lost Kingdom coin;  
and so many Satans, too, to get behind  
him.

He is arrested today, everyday,  
by the same people.  
And loved, today, the same way,  
by we, His faithful mis-understanders,  
trailing behind him.

And how *do* you walk with Jesus?  
Do you share in the yearning?  
Do you share in the fury?

Do you get behind him?

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## SOUTH WEST HANTS GROUP CONNECTIONS



This Harvest, we stand together with women like Aster in Ethiopia, to rejoice and call for gender justice through Christian Aid's 2018 Harvest Appeal. As we celebrate and praise God for providing all we need, we also stand with our sisters whose harvests are uncertain.

For the once-overburdened Aster, life was a constant struggle, simply because she is a woman.

Farming, cooking, carrying firewood – no matter how hard she worked, she was unable to save enough money to support her family. But Aster refused to be beaten by poverty.

She came together with women in her village to set up their own shop, powered by the sun. With training from our partner, Aster and her sisters turned this shop into a thriving business that benefits her, the community and the environment.

In Aster's own words:

'Coming together as a women's group, it's like adopting sisters; another family. We share happiness and sorrow together. They share my burden and help me face my challenges.'

Solar energy has given Aster's village not just literal power – they once had no access to electricity – but also the power to change their lives. Now Aster and her sisters can save for the future, make their children proud, and challenge traditions while caring for the planet. All this in an environment where climate change hits women and girls the hardest.

Aster's sister, Ari, says: 'In the past women were not recognised and we were not free. Having money as women was difficult. We didn't have any reserves for the hard times or the drought.'

Now thanks to you, women like Aster have the power to own their own businesses, adapt to climate change, and nurture their environment for future generations. They have the power to transform their lives and communities.

'There are many members, yet one body in Christ. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.' (1 Corinthians 12:20,26)

When we stand together as one body, we rejoice to see Aster's life transformed. With your support this Harvest, we can expand on our solar energy initiatives across Ethiopia, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Honduras. Your gift will help rural women improve their lives through access to sustainable energy – £75 could train a group of women to use solar power to run their own businesses.

This Harvest, your gift goes further. Every £1 you give will be worth £5, thanks to funding from the European Union. That's five times the number of lives you can transform this year.

Together we're powerful. And together, we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

### **Our Big Shift campaign**

We know that the choices we make today can have a positive or negative impact on the future. Yet HSBC – one of the world's biggest banks – is choosing to pour millions of pounds into dirty fossil fuels around the world. These actions drive the climate change that damages God's creation and denies our sisters and brothers the chance to thrive.

Aster and her sisters are using solar power to lift themselves out of poverty. Will you stand together with Aster and speak out?

Tell HSBC to make The Big Shift away from fossil fuels and into renewable energy today.

Visit [caid.org.uk/big-shift](http://caid.org.uk/big-shift) to learn more about our campaign and take action.

## **PUZZLE TIME**

**October Eights**

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

AFTEREIGHT

APRILRAINERS

DONOTSTEAL

EIGHT

EIGHTBELLS

EIGHTDAYSAWEEK

FIBONACCI

FIGURE

FINGERS

MAIDSAMILKING

OCTAGON

OCTAHEDRON

OCTARINE

OCTAVE

OCTET

OCTOBER

OCTUPLET

ONEOVERTHEEIGHT

PAWNS

PIECESOFFEIGHT

PLANETS

ROWING

SCORPION

SPIDER

TWOCUBED

All these words have something to do with the number eight. (Apart from October, which is of course the tenth month. Blame the Romans!) If you can't work out what the connection is, ask Sarah.