

## MAY SERVICES

This month in-person worship for the churches of the South West Hants Group is resuming alongside online worship. The following details are shown in good faith, but are subject to change.

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Online worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Mark Robinson.

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> May – **Worship at Isaac Watts Church** to start Christian Aid Week led by Rev Mark Robinson (Rev Sarah Hall will lead an act of worship online)

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> May – Worship at Avenue St Andrews Church for Christian Aid Week led by Rev Sarah Hall (Rev Mark Robinson will lead worship online)

Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> May – **Pentecost Worship at Isaac Watts Church** led by Rev Sarah Hall (there will also be services at Avenue St Andrews and Chandler's Ford) with online worship from URC Daily Devotions

Sun 30<sup>th</sup> May – Online Group Anniversary Worship led by Rev Clare Downing, Moderator of Wessex Synod and General Assembly

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Jun – **Worship at Isaac Watts Church** led by Rev Sarah Hall (and Rev Mark Robinson online. An in-person service at Chandler's Ford will be led by Mrs Sue Scott)

If you need a minister, please phone (023) 80575909.

For online worship go to:-

- “Rev Sarah Hall” on YouTube or
  - [bit.ly/revdmark](https://bit.ly/revdmark) to join Rev Mark Robinson – please note this latest online address
- OR
- [asaunc.org.uk](https://asaunc.org.uk) (the website of our sister church of Avenue St Andrews) to download the service script or download the audio as an mp3 file.
    - OR Telephone Church – dial 023 82352055 to hear the online service on your phone. Calls charged at the local rate.

You can also go to [dailydevotions@urc.org.uk](mailto:dailydevotions@urc.org.uk) for URC worship.

# ISAAC WATTS MEMORIAL CHURCH



# MESSENGER



MAY 2021

[www.isaacwatts.org.uk](http://www.isaacwatts.org.uk)  
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### Ministers

Revd. Dr. Sarah Hall, Tel: (023) 80768004,  
[sarah.hall.swhg@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.hall.swhg@gmail.com) (Day off Thursday)

Rev. Mark Robinson, Tel: (023) 80575909,  
[mark.robinson.swhg@gmail.com](mailto:mark.robinson.swhg@gmail.com) (Day off Monday)

### Church Secretary

Mr R. Wake  
Tel: 80392055

### Church Treasurer

Ms S. Wood  
Tel: 80772451

### Lettings Officer

Mrs M. Renshaw  
[lettings.iw@gmail.com](mailto:lettings.iw@gmail.com)

### Gift Aid & Offertory Env. Scheme

Secretary  
Mrs J. Findlay  
Tel: 07912 656062

### Messenger Editor

Mr C. Noyce, Tel: 80781972, [ropleynoyce@googlemail.com](mailto:ropleynoyce@googlemail.com)

### EVENTS/MEETINGS

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May – 7.30pm Prayer Group** – please let me (Chris Noyce) know beforehand, contact details above, and I will send you a Zoom link.

*Due to Covid-19, the following activities are suspended at the time of publication, but will resume when circumstances permit:-*

**Mondays in termtime – Boys' and Girls' Brigades** from 6pm to 8.45pm (separate sections for different age groups from ages 5 to 18). For more details (including of when the Brigades restart) please speak to BB Company Captain Mr Doswell (tel: 023 80872648) or GB Group Leader Mrs Naomi Howard (tel: 023 80873769).

Thursdays – 10.30am to 11.30am, Nibble and Natter in the Church

Fridays - 2pm Badminton/Social Group in Church Hall

Our monthly Community Lunch and Community Fellowship Meeting continues to be suspended also.

### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Dear Friends,

This month at Pentecost we're celebrating the birthday of the Christian church. And, coincidentally (or not? I wasn't around when the original decision was made), this month we'll also be celebrating the anniversary of our own South-West Hants Group. If only all restrictions were lifted, we'd have a great excuse to do wild and dangerous things like blowing out candles and sharing cake!

The main thing about a birthday, to state the painfully obvious, is that each time you mark it, you're a year older. When we're children, that's really something to celebrate: we're now taller, stronger, able to try out and achieve so much more than before. In the middle years, they may just seem irrelevant - we're that much older, but so what? In later life, though, birthdays may call to mind time past as well as time to come, and act as a challenge to us to make the most of today.

As congregations and as a group pastorate celebrating our birthday, we are invited to look back over the last year and consider how things have changed in our following of Jesus since this time last year. And this year in particular, we don't need to look too deeply to see the changes time has wrought! This time last year, we were just getting to grips with the unknown menace of Coronavirus; just getting over the disappointment of not being able to celebrate Easter together; just beginning to struggle with Zoom and other previously unknown ways of communicating from afar.

Through more than a year since last Pentecost, our Elders and Pastoral Carers have done a herculean job in keeping our spirits up and keeping each congregation together, through phone calls and letters and emails, garden visits and waving through the windows. Each of your churches has had hard choices to make, working out how to nurture your members in your own context. But now, a year later, we're resurrecting the Ministry Team, to help us remember how to be one group of three churches who work together, not just three congregations who happen to share ministers.

As churches who love to gather in Jesus' name, we're joyfully preparing to meet for worship at Pentecost in practical ways: by cleaning our buildings, by reviewing the ways we can register for

services and generally by reminding ourselves of all we need to do to go on keeping each other safe. It's an opportunity to prepare ourselves spiritually, too: to ask ourselves, how in these days is God calling us to be church, individually, as congregations and as a group?

One possibility that has been in my own mind recently is to share ways we can react to the increasingly urgent question of climate change, whether it's considering locally if Southampton Airport at Eastleigh and the folks living under its flight path are really in need of an extended runway, or looking internationally as the UK prepares for the COP-26 climate conference in Glasgow in November. How is that part of our Christian calling? To state the obvious again, our earth is a good deal older than the South-West Hants Group, than any of us individually and even than the whole Christian church, yet it is not beyond God's care or outside our responsibility as God's children. To quote Psalm 24, *The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.*

Earth Day has passed this year, but it's not too late for us to work together to celebrate and to protect our earth, God's creation and our home.

Sarah Hall

### **NEWS OF THE FAMILY**

Thoughts remain with Malcolm Green as he receives continued care and treatment, and with Jill Budd and Malcolm's other close friends. They are also with Peter Findlay and his parents David and Veronica and the rest of the family. Peter, who has been studying at Sheffield, has been receiving treatment for a tumour.

Congratulations go to Dave and Pam White, following the arrival of another granddaughter, Bo.

Remember also that if you wish to talk to someone, or have someone pray for you, you can always contact Mark, Sarah or myself.

### **MESSAGE OF THANKS**

Iris and Peter Minard would like to thank all our friends at Isaac Watts

for all the lovely cards and good wishes on the occasion of our Platinum Wedding Anniversary. 70 years is quite a milestone and we hope to continue to be together for many more years. Iris would also like to thank everyone for their cards and good wishes on the occasion of her 92nd Birthday. It was so lovely to hear from so many friends. We had a lovely week end with Heather and Trevor, they tried to make the most for us due to the current situation. We hope that our lives will soon be back to some normality when we can all meet again. Here's looking to the future,

Best wishes Iris and Peter.

### **VALE KENNETH MOULTON LESLIE 1924-1996**

News recently received concerns the passing of Ken Leslie on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021, aged 96. Ken and his twin Alan (who died some years ago) were among the first children to attend our church after it opened in 1932 as the Winchester Road Congregational Church, their mother Mabel (1901-1997) being one of our founder members and a notable carer of, and visitor to, those in need in the congregation (often with church flowers as she was Flower Convenor for 45 years!). Indeed, in their early years the boys often accompanied their mother as she visited members of the congregation, and they lived a short distance from the Church at 296 Winchester Road. Both boys attended King Edward VI School (until 1942) and were evacuated with it to Poole, Ken becoming Head Boy (he kept in touch with the school thereafter and was a regular at Old Edwardian reunion events, being the oldest surviving ex-Head Boy latterly). He won a scholarship to read history at The Queen's College, Oxford, but this was soon interrupted by war service in the army, including in the Ardennes and the Mediterranean, before his degree could be resumed in 1947.

Ken was married to Shirley in 1956 and they had two daughters, Caroline and Sarah. Work took the family abroad from 1961, living variously in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. When he retired in 1986, Ken and Shirley came to live in Winchester, where they could be closer to Mabel (and attended Isaac Watts occasionally for special anniversaries etc.). In fact it was to be a busy retirement since Ken served two terms as a Hampshire County Councillor and they frequently travelled, often to visit their daughters and grandsons in Melbourne, Australia.

Shirley died in 2018 and Ken moved to a room at a home in Headbourne Worthy. A memorial service will be arranged at a later date by his two daughters. Thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Ken's brother Alan also served as an officer in the army during the war. He studied engineering at university and married Olwen. They did not have a family, and latterly lived in Norfolk. Olwen died many years ago, and Alan some years later.

I am grateful to Jenny Lewis and to the Spring 2021 edition of The Edwardian (a magazine produced by King Edward's) for much of this information.

### **FORTHCOMING WORSHIP...**

You will note the return of in-person worship this month – see the service schedule elsewhere in this edition for exact details in May. There will be **in-person worship for all group churches here on 9<sup>th</sup> May, and at Avenue St Andrews on 16<sup>th</sup>**. Then **all three churches will host in-person services on 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Worship on 30<sup>th</sup> will be online to avoid capacity issues at our churches because it will be led by our own Moderator (and current co-Moderator of General Assembly) Rev Clare Downing.

Online worship will continue to be provided at other times too. As before with in-person services, **it is best to book to reserve a seat where only one church is hosting worship** at a time (our address is [isaacwattschurch@gmail.com](mailto:isaacwattschurch@gmail.com)), although in the case of Isaac Watts this will not be necessary on 23<sup>rd</sup> May when all three churches host a service.

Provisional plans for June, see **in-person worship scheduled at Isaac Watts for 6<sup>th</sup>** ed by Sarah (Mark will lead an online service and Sue Scott an in-person service at Chandler's Ford); an online communion service on the 13<sup>th</sup>, in-person worship at Chandler's Ford led by Sarah on 20<sup>th</sup> (with Mark leading online). The 27<sup>th</sup> will see in-person worship at Avenue St Andrews led by Mark (with Sarah online). These June plans are subject to amendment as "unlocking" progresses but show how the needs and requests for online worship, as well as in-person, are being considered.

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: May 10<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> 2021**

There is to be a Christian Aid Week service held at Isaac Watts on 9<sup>th</sup> May, with all due Covid precautions in place of course.

We have some gift envelopes available for you to use if you wish to give a donation that day, or post it yourself to Freepost Christian Aid. Donations can also be made at [caid.org.uk/caw21](http://caid.org.uk/caw21) or by phoning 0845 7000 300.

There is so much need all over the world; please give if you are able and remember Christian Aid in your prayers.

Irene Noyce



### **A message from Christian Aid...**

As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. You've already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours. Now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far.

Your love protects. From storms, from drought, and now from Covid.

Your love protects our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness. Your love protects with soap, clean water and medical supplies.

By supporting us this Christian Aid Week, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today.

Christian Aid Week is a joyful celebration of our potential to change the world through our gifts, prayers and actions. Together, we raise funds to support our poorest sisters and brothers around the world.

Poor communities are hit hardest by coronavirus. It is affecting families living in overcrowded refugee camps, and many vulnerable people who have no water to clean their hands. With your support, we can limit the impact of the virus, with life-saving soap and water.

Furthermore, the ongoing climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day.

From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

**Do not forget Safeguarding Training.** Anyone working with children and adults at risk should undertake this training at regular intervals: **it is not just the responsibility of the ministers and safeguarding co-ordinators!** What better way to train or catch up with training than to take advantage of the **FREE online** training provided by Wessex Synod. Moreover you do not have to lose a precious weekend day to do so! Details of recent dates have been included in the last two Messengers and these are arranged for mid-week and evening slots.

Due to high demand, and to create additional space, safeguarding training opportunities for those in church leadership roles (elders, ministers and safeguarding co-ordinators) are being provided on further dates (elders have been circulated).

### **ACCOUNTS UPDATED**

<b>ISAAC WATTS CHURCH ACCOUNTS</b>			
<b>6th April 2020 to end 5<sup>th</sup> Apr 2021</b>			
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Envelopes	£3,705.00	Ministry & Mission	£17,472.00
Loose cash	<u>£2,793.00</u>	Heat & light	£930.07
sub total	£6,498.00	Maintenance	£6,734.16
Communion collections	£0.00	Water	£321.72
Use of premises	£4,384.50	Insurance	£1,813.88
Messenger	£65.00	Pulpit	£150.00
Special events	£0.00	Music	£494.13
Donations received	£8,978.77	Cleaning	£3,639.96
Tax rebate	£0.00	Group Expenses	£1,005.00
Interest	£160.92	Messenger etc	£107.53
Other	£0.00	Stationery	£156.96
		Giving to others	£130.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£20,087.19</b>		<b>£32,955.41</b>
Income-spend difference	-£12,868.22		
Bank Account: On 6-04-20	£20,777.15	On 5-04-21	£87,386
Building Society Account 6-04-20	£79,438.00	Closed in October, to bank account with interest added	

Of Note:-

- Some "gift day" donations were given
- Few services and heavily reduced hall lettings due to Covid
- Lettings income also decreased following the departure of Christian Aid.
- We finished the year about £12,900 lower than at the beginning. £5800 of this was from the last bill for the new kitchen.
- Bank balance has fallen by about £2,700 over two months. The accounts would have been even worse if it wasn't for donations in money and in time. The one offs include Andrew Oakley mending the hymnal (would have been over £1000 to replace), David and Irene keeping the garden going through a very dry summer, Chris spending weeks painting and redecorating in the Church and myself drawing plans and getting planning permission for the fire exit (would have been £2400). We have emptied the building society account into the bank account and plan to find another interest-bearing account soon as a replacement. There is gift aid tax rebate to come but HMRC has been slow to process this.

Finally, if you should wish to set up a standing order for your own giving, then please let me know (contact phone number on page 1).

Sarah Wood

### **READINGS THROUGH PENTECOST**

Some Lectionary readings for you to reflect upon are as follows:-

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-8; Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:7-21

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Psalm 98; John 15:9-17; Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Psalm 1; John 17:6-19; Acts 1:15-17,21-26; 1 John 5:9-13

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Day of Pentecost – Psalm 104:24-34; Acts 2:1-21; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 15:26-27 and 16:5-15

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Psalm 29; Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-17; Romans 8:12-17

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Psalm 138; 1 Samuel 8:4-20; Mark 3:20-35; 2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1

### **GROUP MINISTRY TEAM**

Most worship at Isaac Watts is led by members of the South West Hants Group Ministry Team, which comprises the following people:-

Sarah Hall and Mark Robinson (stipendiary ministers)

Bernie and Gwen Collins (retired ministers)

Leanne Langley (elder and member at Avenue St Andrews)

Chris Noyce (non-serving elder and member at Isaac Watts)

Sue Scott (elder and member at Chandler's Ford)

### **PRAYER GROUP**

Your presence will be welcome at our monthly prayer group. We are continuing to meet by Zoom, and all are welcome. If you are unable to attend but would like a person or situation to be remembered in prayer then please let me know – we have had requests on previous occasions and have always prayed for them.

Last month we offered prayers for parts of the world in particular need at the moment, for our nation, for members of our congregation and for our Church.

### **CLOSING DATE FOR JUNE 2021 MESSENGER**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021.

N.B. All uncredited items are by the Editor.