

## **NOVEMBER SERVICES**

Services are led by members of the Group Ministry Team\* except where noted. Worship at Isaac Watts is weekly as follows:-

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Nov – Rev Jenny Mills (URC national Secretary for Education and Learning)

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Nov – **10.50am** Remembrance Service led by Mr Chris Noyce\*

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – Rev Sarah Hall\*, including Holy Communion

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Nov – Rev Edward and Mrs Jean Symmons, followed by a Church Meeting

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Dec – Toy and Gift Service (with a baptism) led by Rev Sarah Hall\*

For online worship go to:-

- <https://www.facebook.com/isaacwattsmemorial>  
OR
- [asauroc.org.uk](http://asauroc.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



**NOVEMBER 2021**

**www.isaacwatts.org.uk**  
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## Ministers

Rev. Dr. Sarah Hall, Tel: (023) 80768004,  
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Rev. Mark Robinson, (On Sabbatical leave until 13-12-21)

## Church Secretary

Mr R. Wake  
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## Church Treasurer

Ms S. Wood  
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## Lettings Officer

Mrs M. Renshaw  
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## Gift Aid & Offertory Env. Scheme

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## EVENTS/MEETINGS

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November – 12.30pm Community Lunch**, soup and sweet.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November – 7.30pm Prayer Group** – in the James Hall – all are welcome.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December – 12.30pm Community Christmas Lunch**, advanced notice, please let Iris know if you will be attending asap.

**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 exact meeting dates) please speak to BB Company Captain Mr Doswell (tel: 023 80872648) or GB Group Leader Mrs Naomi Howard (tel: 023 80873769).

**Fridays** - 2pm Badminton/Social Group in Church Hall

*Due to Covid-19, the Thursdays – 10.30am to 11.30am, Nibble and Natter in the church is suspended, but will resume when circumstances permit.*

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Dear Friends,

In November our minds turn to remembering. This year is more poignant than most following the events of the last eighteen months. Perhaps there are things that we would rather forget and do not wish to remember?

However, experience shows that at times we need to deal with those things that trouble us. And remembering also gives us opportunities to take stock. At one level we can reflect on personal sacrifices made on our behalf on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of this month. We will also remember those we have lost in recent times, as well as being reminded of those who went before us some time ago (since recent loss tends to remind us of earlier loss).

We also have the opportunity to reflect on the mark left upon us by those who have gone before and be thankful. We owe our freedom to the sacrifice of others, whilst those who have passed on more recently leave us with memories of their qualities and experiences that have rubbed-off on us: for whilst we may feel loss we can also start to reflect on the enrichment that comes from others and, as Christians, from knowing God.

As Christians we are part of a higher purpose and on a journey to, for and with God. Our lives are founded not on ephemeral possessions but on the long-term purposes of God. And God never lets go of people. In John 14: we read "There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you". In verse 6 we read "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". All who have placed their faith in God through Jesus continue to live, even when we can see them no more for a time, just as we are promised a lasting place with God too.

We are therefore encouraged to live in service, remembering the two great commandments, to love God and one another (Matthew 22:37-39). And we journey together, in one another's company, for we can achieve more working together as a church, worshipping together and praying together. So, as we move on from times of isolation, let's endeavour to meet together when we can, to worship, pray and encourage one another in the service of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **NEWS OF THE FAMILY**

Very good news to report is the safe arrival, early in the morning of Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October, of Elliott Alan Jack Brown, a son for Sarah Wake and Charlie Brown and a first grandchild for Pam and Richard Wake. Sincere congratulations go to all concerned. Elliott weighed in at 7lb 15oz.

Please continue to pray for the Murray family. Janet has now moved to a nursing home, close to daughter Kathy, whilst Angus is making progress back to full health.

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

## **REV MARK ROBINSON**

Most of you reading this will know by now that Rev Mark Robinson has received a call to minister to and within the North Lea Valley Group of United Reformed Churches in East Hertfordshire. His wife, Rev Tessa Henry-Robinson (minister to the eastern Southampton churches) will also be moving, to the East London Group of United Reformed Churches. We wish them both well in their new endeavours.

The move is anticipated to take place in the New Year, so we will have a short period to say our farewells to Mark when he returns from sabbatical in mid-December. Please pray for Mark, Tessa, their new pastorates, and the pastorates that they are leaving, asking for God's presence and guidance.

## **SERVICE NOTES**

Please support our services this month. We are very pleased to welcome **Rev Jenny Mills, national URC Secretary for Education and Learning on 7<sup>th</sup> November**. It is a special occasion to have someone from the national URC leading worship, so do please support this service (and Jenny is a good speaker too!).

Do not forget our **Church Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November**. There are important matters to catch up with, so please do attend. Church Meetings are seldom long these days, but are useful to attend to stay informed about developments and to have your say.

We also have one **nomination for the Eldership**, that being Richard Wake, our Church Secretary. Our elders need your support, so please pray for Richard and the other elders too.

Our service on **5<sup>th</sup> December will be the Toy and Gift Service** and as ever **gifts will be going to the Southampton City Mission**, whose Christmas Complete project will be running once more, to give presents to children in families who might otherwise have nothing. On this occasion we are looking forward to the **infant baptism also** of Charlie Barber, a second son for Rob and Nicky, and we will have a few extra guests in attendance. Do please support the family at this special service.

## **GIRLS' BRIGADE**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of October our Girls' Brigade Company were happily able to share with Rose as we celebrated her 50 years' service in the Girls' Brigade.

Rose has been sent a congratulations certificate and badges from Girls Brigade Central office to mark this special occasion. Also, Laura has now been appointed as a leader, and is able to continue working in the company while studying at Southampton University.

Naomi Howard  
(The best wishes of the Church go to both Rose and Laura too – Ed.)

## **CHURCH OFFICERS AND POSTS 2021**

Serving Elders	Mr D Doswell, Mrs I Noyce, Dr J Renshaw, Mrs M Renshaw, Mr R Wake (Secretary), Ms S Wood (Treasurer)
Non-serving Elders	Miss J Budd, Mrs K. Cole, Mrs C Cox, Mr H Docherty, Mrs J Findlay, Mrs I Minard, Mr. C. Noyce, Mrs M Noyce, Mrs R Ovey
Boys' Brigade Company	Captain: Mr D Doswell Officers: Mr M. Howard, Mr A. Oakley Instructor: Mr A Etherington Chaplain: Mr C Noyce

Girls' Brigade Company	Group Leader: Mrs N Howard Lieutenants:, Mrs R Doswell, Mrs T Oakley Chaplain: Mr C Noyce	Church Gardening Co-ordinator	Mrs I Noyce
Junior Church	Mrs. H. Miles, Mrs J Doherty, Mrs N Barber, Mrs M Renshaw, Mrs G Wilkinson	Church Maintenance	Mr C Noyce, Mr D Noyce
Cradle Roll Secretary	Mrs J Findlay	Messenger Editor	Mr C Noyce
Community Fellowship	Mrs I Minard	Authorised person (weddings)	Mrs M Cousens Mrs J Findlay
Safeguarding lead Deputy	Mrs M Renshaw Mr C Noyce	Reform Magazine	Dr J Renshaw
DBS authorisers	Secretary (ex officio) Mrs R Doswell	URC Wessex Synod	Dr J Renshaw
Social Group	Mrs M Cousens	Churches Together in Shirley	Mr D Doswell, Mrs R Doswell
Stewards	Convenor: Mr C Noyce Mrs M Cousens	Southampton Council of Faiths	Vacancy
Organist	Dr David Findlay	<b><u>FROM THE SYNOD</u></b>	
Pulpit Supply	Mrs M Cousens	The Wessex Synod met together on Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> October, at High Cross URC, Camberley, with many there in person and some, like myself, watching on Zoom. Following the opening, ministerial moves were noted and 60 years of ministry by three different ministers were celebrated.	
Communion Preparation	Rota	Of particular note to churches was a consultation that is being launched with regard to stipendiary ministerial deployment. The Synod is looking to reduce to about 26 ministers by 2026 (currently there are in the mid-30s in total, a figure that regularly changes due to retirements, moves etc), with a further potential fall by 2031. The latter is by no means certain, however. These are in consequence of changes in paid ministerial numbers across the URC previously noted in these pages. Churches are being asked for responses by the end of January, with proposals then being formulated by June and specific consultations over the summer, for final approval by Synod next October. Some questions discussed in groups were as follows:-	
Flower Rota Convenor	Mrs E Scally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your local congregation for? What is its purpose and vision?</li> <li>• When you think about your community are there other organisations who might share this purpose and vision and with whom you might partner?</li> </ul>	
Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs J Findlay		
Offertory Envelopes Scheme	Secretary: Mrs J Findlay Recorder: Mrs P Wake		
Lettings Officer	Mrs M Renshaw		
Community Lunch Caterer			

**WESSEX SYNOD**  
**BIG** 2022  
*Day Out*

**Saturday**  
**7th May 2022**

**Hollycombe**  
STEAM IN THE COUNTRY

Attractions for everyone, Largest Traditional Steam Fairground in Britain, Steam Railways, Listed Woodland Gardens including an Azalea Walk, Treasure Hunt, Reflective Labyrinth, Live Brass Band, Synod Marquee and Activity Field with Interactive Zones and Workshops, Refreshments and Worship.

Save the date, more information including booking information in the new year.

50 The United Reformed Church  
The United Reformed Church Wessex Synod

*A great day out for all the family  
and for all ages*

- What is the role (if any) of a “minister” in supporting your local congregation’s purpose and vision?
- How important is it to your vision that your church has a “minister” in

the traditional pattern of deployment and can you imagine alternative ways of having a minister serve your congregation?

Resources are available for churches to use and we will discuss this at the next Church Meeting(s).

After lunch delegates were reminded of the Synod Day out, which will be on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Hollycombe (see full page) and well worth attending if you can.

Ministry and Mission (MAM) payments were discussed. Clearly with changes to deployment there may be some change to the formula for calculation in the future, although existing procedures continue to apply until that time.

The Revd. Stephen Ansa-Addo then presented the Consultation Overview Document produced by the General Assembly’s Legacies of Slavery Task Group. The Task Group had been asked to report to the Missions Committee on three areas – Apology – should the URC offer an apology for our antecedents - Reparation – and White Privilege? Their report of November 2020 had been presented to Mission Council and then to General Assembly in 2021. Points made included:-

- a) Commonly held views – I wasn’t there, I didn’t do it, it’s a shameful part of history. Another commonly held view – What is the problem – we live in a multi-cultural society, don’t we?
- b) But racism and systemic racism can still exist and remain embedded, especially in a multi-cultural society. There is a need to move from being “Not racist” to “Anti-racist”.
- c) “Many people live carrying the pain of racism, many have died still carrying that pain.”
- d) What’s it got to do with the URC? - The problem is never just out there in the world, but very much in the Church too. Too often we are not only a mirror to society, but a mirror of society.
- e) The Task Group have a number of scriptural references underlying their considerations:

Love your neighbour - who does Jesus say is my neighbour (Luke 10:25-37)?

In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek (Gal 3:28).

Perhaps repairing justice, the Zacchaeus model, rather than reparation as such (Luke 19:1-10).

f) Appended to the document in the Synod papers was a draft "Apology and Confession by the United Reformed Church" which the Task Group is seeking consultation with the wider church (including local congregations) prior to the Group bringing such to General Assembly 2022.

Mr Ansa-Addo invited Synod to consider the questions:

- 1) How do you respond to what you have heard in this presentation?
- 2) How happy would you be to endorse the apology as it currently stands?
- 3) Do you feel there is anything missing from the work to date?
- 4) Synod broke into informal discussion groups.

Following conversations between Synod members, the Clerk asked for responses from the conversations to be given today or emailed to her so that she may forward these to the Task Group.

Closing worship was led by the Children and Youth Development Officers. With next year being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the URC, Synod was led in reflecting on our part in the life of the Church going forward. The reading was 2 Timothy 1:5 onwards. Members of Synod were invited to take a card and share the questions thereon with churches – Who are you? – What is God calling you to? – Where has God placed you to serve? What will you do next?

(Summarized and abridged from the Synod Minutes)

### **THE SUNDAY LINK**

If you would like a **hard copy** of the **Sunday Link** (or know someone who might) then please let me know: I am sending these out in batches for each month.

Chris

### **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)  
 Joan McGavin (elder and member at Avenue St Andrews)  
 Chris Noyce (non-serving elder and member at Isaac Watts)  
 Mandy Renshaw (elder and member at Isaac Watts)

### **ACCOUNTS UPDATED**

Thanks to our Treasurer, the latest accounts are below.

<b>ISAAC WATTS CHURCH ACCOUNTS 6th April 2021 to 5th October 2021</b>			
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Envelopes	£2,749.30	M & Ministry	£7,280.00
Loose cash	<u>£943.00</u>	Heat & light	£1,788.00
sub total	£3,692.30	Maintenance	£1,844.52
Communion collect	£0.00	Water	£75.37
use of premises	£7,941.00	Insurance	£1,867.27
Messenger	£20.00	Pulpit	£90.00
Special Events	£0.00	Music	£130.00
Badminton	£150.00	Cleaning	£1,859.64
Donations received	£1,119.30	Group Expense	£1,324.00
Tax rebate	£1,945.18	Messenger etc	£54.16
Interest	£0.00	Stationery	£0.00
Other	£230.00	Giving to others	£80.00
		Other	£250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£15,097.78</b>		<b>£16,642.96</b>
Income-spend difference	-£1,545.18		
Bank A/C on 5-10-21	£85,758.77	On 6-04-21	£87,386.00

Of Note:-

- Gift Aid tax rebate received for 2018/19 of £1,945 – please note we still await rebates for 2019/20 and 2020/1
- Building insurance paid of £1,867
- Rental income for the latest two months of £4,398, which is more than the first four months of the year

### **CLOSING DATE FOR DECEMBER 2021/ JANUARY 2022**

#### **MESSENGER**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

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