

OCTOBER SERVICES

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

Sun 3rd Oct – Rev Gwen Collins*

Sun 10th Oct – Rev Sarah Hall*, followed by Church AGM

Sun 17th Oct – Mr Chris Noyce*

Sun 24th Oct – Rev Sarah Hall*, including Holy Communion

Sun 31st Oct – Rev Wendy White

Sun 7th Nov – Rev Jenny Mills (URC national Secretary for Learning)

For online worship go to:-

- <https://www.facebook.com/isaacwattsmemorial>
OR
- 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 for URC worship.

ISAAC WATTS MEMORIAL CHURCH



MESSENGER



OCTOBER 2021

www.isaacwatts.org.uk
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EVENTS/MEETINGS

Wednesday 20th October – 7.30pm Prayer Group – in the James Hall
– all are welcome.

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.

Our monthly Community Lunch and Community Fellowship Meeting will return in November.

Cover Picture: *Our sister church at King’s Road, Chandler’s Ford had its final service of celebration at the start of September. This is the external view of the church as it has been latterly. Photo: Editor’s Collection*

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Dear Friends,

What strange times we live in, as we adjust to getting back to a sort of normality, only to be faced with shortages and panic buying (have you spent many minutes trying to get fuel when you went to fill up “normally”?). Perhaps we are feeling a bit frustrated, wishing things could get back to normal, so we can recapture lost ground, and press on to other things. This is only natural. As Christians too we want to get on with God’s purposes for our lives, and for our lives together as the Church, and not be held back. Well, priorities have been altered and refocussed but we do need to make sure we are pursuing the right objectives in the best way that we can!

In worship at the end of August and start of September I referred to this as doing a bit of Spiritual Cleaning, when we took the opportunity to look at some ideas from the book of James. During the Reformation this book received criticism for its emphasis on actions that demonstrate faith, as opposed to the idea of being justified (made right with God) by faith alone in Paul’s letters (see Romans 3:28 and Galatians 2:16).

But in reality the two complement one another: whilst we are made right with God through faith in Jesus, it is also the case that faith calls us to do something about that. We cannot call ourselves Christians if we do not try to act as God’s people. James’ words, first written for the early church, remain timely today.

Firstly a reminder that every good gift comes from God (chapter 1 verse 17). Whatever happens, let us hold on to this. God is good and gracious and however we feel we need to remember that and respond in love towards one another, just as God shows love towards us.

Secondly we are to set aside prejudices and opinions that get in the way of treating everyone equally (chapter 2). This also requires an openness to one another, and we need be patient. As it says in chapter 1, verse 19 “Everyone must be quick to listen, but slow to become angry”. We have had to be patient for a long while now, but a little more patience whilst we listen to one another will not hurt us.

Then there are the words that we use. In chapter 1, verse 26, James mentions the need to control our tongues, and follows this with

further exposition in chapter 3. Often, we think of this passage as referring to the corrosive effect of gossip and misinformation, a problem in early churches and subsequently too. However it also applies to us when we wish to convey our point of view, remembering that it is not just what we say, but how we say it. The atmosphere is febrile at the moment and it can be easy to rush in with our point of view disregarding others. As we move forwards we need to use the skills of diplomacy, listening carefully as well as speaking with tact, understanding different views. We *will* navigate our way into a different normality and the time for changes *is* here, but the latter will not be properly achieved by hasty words and ill-conceived action.

So let us be kind to one another, look out for others and listen carefully, for we serve the God who not only speaks to us, but who speaks to and through those around us.

Chris

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Thoughts and prayers continue to be with those recently bereaved, as well as those who have had or are awaiting medical procedures. It is good to report that Peter Minard has made good progress and feels very much better than formerly. Please continue to pray for the members of Chandler's Ford URC as they look to move to other churches.

As ever if you wish to talk to someone, or have someone pray for you, you can always contact Sarah or myself.

MESSAGES OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who attended the thanksgiving service for Malcolm, it was so good to see so many friends there. Also a big thank you for all the donations to the Mountbatten hospice. These amounted to over £700.

I would also like to thank everyone for the many cards I received during this sad time and also for the support and friendship. It is much appreciated and I am very blessed to have so many friends. I know that Gurnam and other friends join me in thanking everyone for making this thanksgiving service so special.

God bless you all,

Jill Budd

David and I would like to thank the many friends who sent greetings and congratulations on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

We spent a very happy day with close family and five friends. As a matter of interest, two of those friends – Brian Robins and Valerie (nee Wright) attended Young People's Fellowship in 1954. They celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary next year.

Jenny Lewis

COMMUNITY LUNCH

As many of you will know we intend to resume serving lunches from the second Monday of November. However we recognise that the serving team are no longer in a position to offer a three course meal every month. So November's lunch will take the form of a soup and sweet. An exception will be December however when it is intended to provide a Christmas dinner.

It will be good to be together again – please pray for support for the lunches and that new helpers may be attracted to the serving team also.

ELDERS' ELECTIONS

Nominations of people to be elected to serve on the Elders' Meeting for up to three years from January 2022 need to be with Richard by Sunday 31st October. Any Church Member can serve in this capacity but they do need to be nominated by someone (and asked for their permission beforehand to ascertain if they wish to stand!). Please think and pray about this matter. The Elders serving currently are:-

Serving to the end of 2020 (but extended to end of 2021 due to Covid) – James Renshaw, Mandy Renshaw, Richard Wake
Serving to the end of 2021 – Dave Doswell
Serving to the end of 2022 – Irene Noyce, Sarah Wood

Therefore Richard and Dave are standing down but could be re-elected. Mandy has chosen to take a break and will not be seeking re-election this year. James too reaches the end of a double term of service. Our thanks go to all four, and those who continue to serve, for their efforts, especially during the period of difficulty that we have just had.

OUR AGM

You will be pleased to know that it is intended to recommence Church Meetings with our AGM, following morning worship on **Sunday 10th October**. Please attend if you can. We do not anticipate a lengthy meeting, but it is important to ratify accounts and decisions that have been made by the Elders on your behalf.

I'M WALKING 62 MILES WITH OLLIE (THE DOG) IN OCTOBER

This October, having been inspired by a book I read recently about 4 ladies rowing the Atlantic (something I will never be doing) and also a friend who recently threw himself out of a plane (albeit attached to a parachute but something else I am unlikely to ever do!) I have stayed firmly within my comfort zone and will be walking 62 miles with Ollie and probably the children and Mike to help raise money for Cancer Research UK.

As many of you know I have worked for the last 12 years in clinical research and part of that has been in the area of cancer, namely at UHS. I was privileged to work with the phase I (drugs that go into humans for the first time) nursing team at UHS who are a dedicated early phase nursing team funded by CRUK. They nurse very sick cancer patients who themselves have been brave enough (in my opinion) to sign up to an experimental research study knowing that it may never do them any good but hopefully benefit people in the future.

My target is roughly the cost of the time for 1 day's care from 1 nurse. Generally these patients are looked after by 2 nurses each day they are at the hospital and these visits can be up to 12/14 hours. Arduous for both the patients and the nursing team.

I hope you are able to support my walking, the nursing team and charity for the very important work they do however small and very much appreciate any donations you can give.

Please visit my fundraising page (see below) I will do my best to update this page with progress and will no doubt keep my instagram account topped up with walking pics too.

Thank you very much in advance of anything you can donate.

Jill Doherty xx

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jill-and-ollies-fundraising-page>



NEWS ROUNDUP FROM AROUND THE URC

Faith leaders have joined together to demand climate action ahead of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow. The Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration, signed by representatives of religious communities across the United Kingdom, calls for people to be “advocates for justice” ahead of the COP summit. The Revd Clare Downing and Peter Pay, Moderators of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church (URC), the Revd Paul Whittle, Moderator of the URC National Synod of Scotland, and the Revd David Coleman, URC minister and Chaplain to Eco-Congregation Scotland made the declaration alongside leaders of every major Christian denomination and representatives from Baha’i, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities.



Concerns raised over new Police Bill

The Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, joined more than 350 church leaders and representatives of civil society organisations in writing to the government over concerns about the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.



New £1million faith group fund



The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government has announced a new £1million fund as part of a new deal between faith groups and the government to build on the success of the role faith communities played during the pandemic. The aim of the fund is to help faith groups deliver projects to provide community wide services open to all the local population.

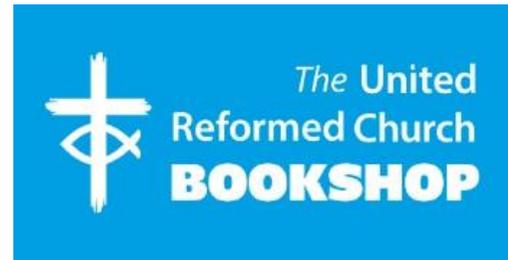
Resource Centres for Learning

Please pray for all Resource Centres for Learning (RCL) students and staff who will shortly begin the first term of the 2021-22 academic year, and for the Revd Rosalind Selby, Principal of Northern College, who is leading the new Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers course, on behalf of the RCLs, and the participants of that course.



Help raise vital funds for Haiti

More than £500 has been raised for the URC's Haiti appeal. On 14 August, the country was struck by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake followed by Tropical Storm Grace two days later. Thousands died and many more were injured and lost their homes. The Commitment for Life team hopes to raise £2,000 for the appeal. Can you help? If so, please donate.



Please order online using the URC Bookshop's new easy-to-use website www.urchop.co.uk or by calling 020 7916 8629.

It is 50 years since the URC came into being. Recognising this significant milestone, **Jubilee: Freed to Live!** is the theme for the 2022 URC Prayer Handbook. Available in A5 standard and A4 lectern editions. £5.49-£10.99 +p&p.

Now available - the **2022 URC Diary**, 50th anniversary, limited edition. Now with year planners from 2023-2025 along with the usual notable dates for the URC and the wider Church, Assembly officers, Assembly committee details, useful addresses, Synod information, diary from August 2021 to June 2023, year planner from 2023-2025, world map and UK map. Available in a black or blue pocket diary or an A5 blue diary. £6.99-£9.99 +p&p.

Love Came Down At Christmas

Pack of 10 x 16cm square foiled Christmas cards. Can be posted using a standard first or second class stamp (not Large Letter). Printed on FSC paper. Inside the greeting reads: 'Wishing you Peace and Joy this Christmas.' The Bible verse is: 'In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.' 1 John 4:9 (ESV). Printed in the UK on high quality card. These cards support various Christian charities. £4.49 +p&p.



Synod news

Eastern Synod

The Revd Lythan Nevard was inducted as Moderator of the Eastern Synod at a service at Stowmarket URC on 4 September. Lythan said: "I'm really looking forward to meeting the people walking the way of Jesus across the Eastern Synod, hearing their stories and working together to respond to the challenges of life, Church and mission today."



Mersey



More than 150 people attended the induction of the Revd Geoff Felton as Moderator of the URC Mersey Synod last month. Geoff said: "I'm looking forward to leading the Mersey Synod through these post-pandemic years –

years that will help shape the Church of the future and its witness to a world in need of hope and love."

HARVEST AT IW

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Church for Harvest and for the thoughtful and provocative display news items that a number of you put together. Various facts and figures included how modern construction projects calculate the carbon costs of different engineering options (if you wonder how that is done, see Sarah Wood).

Commitment for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Why Poverty? It is important to understand the context that fosters inequality in Central America. The poorest are embedded in systems of governance that are repressive and violent, fostering a growing divide between rich and poor. The space for civil society to address these issues is shrinking. In El Salvador and Guatemala, says a Christian Aid Ireland report on adaptive programme management, the focus is on mitigating the effects of gang violence, especially on women and children, against a background of extreme inequality and high-level corruption.

The primary goal of our partners in the region is to help remove barriers to the full realisation of the human rights of poor and marginalised groups. They pay particular attention to reducing gender inequality, and your support for Commitment for Life plays a vital role in achieving these aims. Thank you!

Harvest Service Commitment for Life has produced a lovely harvest Service, focussing on leaving legacy. Watch out for Roo Stewart's brilliant children's song! You can download the video and full service text on our website.

Prayer Time All of creation praises you, O God! You fill us with love and the good things of the earth. Help us share your legacy of love with the whole world, through Jesus. Amen.

Commitment For Life Team

FUTURE SUGGESTIONS

Following on from the Thought For The Month, if you have any suggestions for improvements that we could make at Church (however small or large) do please let me know.

Chris

IN MEMORIAM: WENDY ANSELL

Wendy's funeral was held on Monday 20th September. Wendy had been a stalwart of our congregation in recent years supporting Church events and attending worship regularly.

She did not have an easy life. Adopted at an early age, she later met her birth mother, but preferred to call her adopted mother, Kay, mum. Indeed, so devoted was Wendy to her adopted mother that in her mum's latter years at a local nursing home she would visit her on a daily basis. On adoption Wendy gained a sister, Pamela, eight years her senior and the two were in regular contact throughout their lives.

Whilst still young Wendy was involved in an accident and was in a coma for some time. Throughout her life she struggled with bi-polar disorder. Son Martin remembers little of the lows as a boy, but recalls the highs and her enthusiastic dancing (causing the neighbour to bang the wall to get her to turn the music down!). It was through dancing that Wendy met her future husband, Ron, at a disco and the two were married in 1974. Martin was born a few years later. As a mum Wendy was very supportive of her son, but allowed him plenty of freedom to play as a boy, getting dirty and learning to take risks in the process! She also had a keen sense of humour, appreciated by her son and those who knew her.

Wendy enjoyed family life, and was close to her in-laws and Ron's sister Barbara, who lives nearby, and to Barbara's family. Later on she was very pleased to welcome Alice to the family as her daughter-in-law. Wendy enjoyed her home and the garden, which Ron had laid out. She was also a great cat lover, ending up with her neighbour's two cats when her neighbour moved to Totton - the two cats had lived with Wendy for years in any case!

It is as a carer that Wendy will be remembered. Making light of her own health issues (she suffered from COPD as a consequence of smoker earlier in her life), she would take an interest in others. In particular and in addition to visiting her own mother daily, she would visit the late Alfred Tattersall regularly (Alfred and her mother were the same age and both lived to over 100) and took time to speak with or ask after other members of the congregation.

A common comment about Wendy was that she did not have a

cross word to say about others, remaining positive despite difficulties. And the last few years were hard, with the loss of her husband Ron, of her mother and of Alfred all affecting her. Her own health deteriorated and she had several falls in her last few months. She was ably supported by Martin and faith kept her going. On her final hospital admission, pneumonia was diagnosed and she passed-on a few days later.

Thoughts and prayers remain with her family, especially Martin and Alice, and we shall all long remember her supportive smile and friendly, caring manner.

MALCOLM IVAN GREEN 29-04-40 to 25-07-21

Malcolm was born in the early stages of World War 2, at a house in Kingsley Road, just off Foundry Lane in Shirley, Southampton, the home not just of his parents, grandparents and elder brother Dennis. Their house survived the war unscathed and continued to be Malcolm's principal residence throughout his life. He was not spared early trauma, however, as his father died when Malcolm was just eight years old. Malcolm's mother remarried a little while later, and so he gained a step-father. Formal education came through Foundry Lane Schools, and Western District Secondary School (the buildings of which ultimately became St Mark's Primary School before their recent demolition and ongoing reconstruction as a "through school" for ages 4 to 16).

Malcolm trained as a legal executive, skills that came in use in his job running an estate agents' business in Westbourne (assisted by his mother), and then when working for the New Forest District Council and subsequently at British Gas. Made redundant by the latter, he spent the last part of his working life on the front desk at Southampton General Hospital's A and E department (including working nights there).

Church became a large part of his life and he attended Millbrook (now Freemantle) Baptist Church, where he was a member for many years. However his church service began as a young boy in the 17th Southampton Boys' Brigade, starting in the Life Boys' section, where one of his officers was a certain Ray Penton (then a member at Millbrook Baptist). He was therefore one of Ray's "lads" in the period before Ray moved to our church and took on Brigade responsibility here! Malcolm's own Brigade service was considerable: he became an

officer, was later Captain for twelve years, and did a stint as Battalion Secretary. The 17th was a smaller company, akin to our own 13th, and therefore any officer there could expect to be immersed in the full range of activities, which Malcolm was, from weekday parade nights, to weekends, to camps and even canoeing: it made for a very full life outside the normal working day, but was a way in which he had a tremendous positive influence on many young lives. Fittingly the organist at his funeral, Les Pike, had been one of those boys, whose musical activities had been encouraged by Malcolm.

Here was another facet to Malcolm's life, and having learnt to play the piano and organ himself, he continued to play both for enjoyment and in service to others. He played at numerous church services, weddings and funerals (most recently that of John Ovey, whom Malcolm had known from when John had been chaplain to the 17th). This took Malcolm to a variety of other churches, and he became a very ecumenical Christian, playing (amongst others) at Freemantle and Isaac Watts URCs, and Colyton Parish Church in Devon, where he also acted as a server. The latter was a development that came from his love of East Devon as a destination for short breaks. Having first a caravan (between Axminster and Honiton) he then bought a cottage in Colyton, near Seaton, from where he went along to the local parish church and became an active part of its congregation. For the last couple of decades he would divide his time between Southampton and Devon.

Malcolm took an interest in many organisations. He was a trustee of the Barlow and Ellyett homes until a few years ago and a volunteer at Arundells, Salisbury, the home of the late former Prime Minister Edward Heath. Here he would often entertain visitors by playing Ted Heath's grand piano.

Malcolm had a warm manner and a keen, even mischievous, sense of humour that lightened the tone of many a situation. Not so long ago he complimented my father (whom he had known through BB for several decades) on a fresh jacket that my father was wearing before asking, scarcely without taking breath, which charity shop he had got it from! Malcolm would also tell stories at his own expense, such as the time when he went past security barriers at Corfe Castle in pursuit of some of his BB lads who had left the prescribed pathways, only to find himself apprehended and chastised by the security staff - his boys denied knowing him at that point too!! Or the soporific, hot afternoon business

meeting where the subject of anonymous letters that the organisation had received, and long discussion thereon, proved less than engaging to the point where, when the chairman requested his opinion, Malcolm asked who it was who was sending these anonymous letters...!

Malcolm helped a great many people and will be much missed. However his legacy lives on in the way that he enriched the lives of those who knew him and in the example of dedicated service to his Lord that he has left for us.

(I am grateful to the family of Wendy Ansell and to Jill Budd for the additional information for these two memorial pieces.)

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)

PRAYER GROUP

Your presence will be welcome at our monthly prayer group. We are now meeting in person in the James Hall, 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 NOVEMBER 2021 MESSENGER

Sunday 24th October 2021.

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