



Please take a copy

TAUNTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MAGAZINE

NO. 589

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Taunton United Reformed Church



NOVEMBER 2021 Magazine



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From the Editor



The theme I suggested for this month's issue is **Courage**. I have to decide on the theme more than a month ahead. I want to offer a catalyst to encourage you to think about contributing, but I do not want to deter anyone from sending in material on other subjects. Well, I should not worry about that for, such is the way of the spirit, this magazine could easily have also have the theme Travel. Just look at the colour pages where, come to think of it, there is evidence of church folk having the courage to use public transport and mix with numerous others.

With the humble awareness that God may have something different in mind, I am proposing that the theme of the December issue will be **Hope**. As always, all contributions, whether on the theme or not, are welcome. Then we will see what happens!

A few people have been asking why they do not feature in Birthday Corner. I publish the birthdays, but never the years (Kay last month was an exception), of folk in our congregations or still receiving our magazine. But, to do so, I need to know when your birthday is and Meg Cardy needs to have a written record that you agree to this personal data being shared. Some people do not want others to know, and that is perfectly fine; we do not insist. If you think you have have been left out, you know what to do. If there is anything else missing from the magazine, this might be an oversight on my part or it could be because I have not been told.

During the pandemic I have not been including copies of rotas for church flowers, Sunday morning tea and coffee, and stewarding. These showed how many people were involved in the routine life of the church before it was disrupted by Covid-19. If wisdom and government regulation allow, we will be getting back much more to how this used to be in the new year. I am aware that we have lost some regular contributors to these tasks and a new one has emerged, that of hosting the Zoom service (see the foot of page 28). So now is the time to think about volunteering.

Finally, a reminder that it would be good to have other contributors to this magazine, not least for the regular daily prayers feature. You do not need to write a lot. So think about taking a turn, write what is on your heart and do it your way.

Peter Henderson

Cover image: the COP26 logo, Crown copyright, used with permission

Forthcoming Church Services

Unless stated otherwise services are on Sundays at 10:30am at the United Reformed Church, Paul Street. Sunday services are also accessible via Zoom; please ask the Church Secretary for an invitation.

- 7 November Morning worship led by the Revd Viv Henderson (includes The Lord's Supper)
- 14 November Worship for *Remembrance Sunday* led by the Revd Clare Callanan
- 21 November Morning worship led by Mrs Jo Morling
- 28 November Morning worship led by the Revd Ray Adams
Advent Sunday
- 5 December Morning worship led by the Revd Revd Phillip Jones (includes The Lord's Supper)

Weekly Activities

at the time of publication these are:

Wednesdays 9:30am - 12:30 **Work-Wise** in the church hall: offering support with all aspects of job seeking

Tuesday coffee mornings and prayers are on hold till the new year.

Other Notable Dates

- Sunday 31 October *UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) opens*
- Monday 1 November *All Saints' Day* - see page 10
- Mon-Tue 1-2 November *COP26 World Leaders' Summit*
- Thursday 4 November **Elders' meeting**
- Thursday 11 November *Armistice Day*
- Fri-Sat 12-13 November *COP26 Closure of Negotiations*
- Monday 15 November **Magazine deadline**
- Saturday 20 November Three Churches meet Green Apostle (see page 8)
- Sunday 28 November *Jewish feast of Hanukkah begins in the evening*

Pastoral letter



Dear Friends

November is a month of Commemoration and Remembrance. It also acts as a catalyst setting in motion new life and new beginnings with the anticipation and expectancy of the start of the Season of Advent. Also this year, as we are all aware COP26* is being held in Glasgow and I hope and pray that there is a feeling of anticipation and expectancy from all the countries and delegates involved and that

firm commitments will be made to help protect and save God's World. We all have a part in this. 'Words, words, words we're so sick of words, show us action now!' (misquoted from a well known musical). The winners of the first Earthshot environmental prize, whose aim to inspire innovative solutions to the most pressing environmental challenges currently facing the planet, has been announced. The five winners each have interesting ways to find a solution to the challenges the environment face. The winners can be found online**.

The work of our church is moving forward, the formation of Pastoral Bubbles is complete. Some of the Bubbles have already met for coffee, and a pub lunch. Our thanks go to the Pastoral Group led by Rev Janet Sowerbutts for all the work in setting the Bubbles up. The Worship Group have looked at different ways of leading our weekly worship.

As reported at our Church Meeting, a resolution was passed, in line with the URC constitution, that for this year the Election of Elders will now take place at our January 2022 meeting.

In October 2022, the URC will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and at the Synod meeting (16th October), they requested ideas from churches of how the Synod could celebrate this day. Ideas of how our church can celebrate would also be welcomed by the Worship Group and Elders.

The congregation celebrated Kay's 100th birthday, and sang Happy Birthday to her via Zoom. The following day I took her a card and outdoor plant from us all. In pride of place was the birthday card from the Queen. She could not tell me, as yet, how many cards she had had, but there were a lot. You will be glad to know that Postman Pat has been completed.

As we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, we give thanks to God for being able to celebrate, and to know in the coming months there will be more to celebrate through His love.

Yours

Sue



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

For more details see
<https://ukcop26.org/the-conference/presidency-programme/>

** Details of Earthshot prize winners can be found at
<https://earthshotprize.org/>
(also at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthshot_Prize)

Praying through the week

Sunday	Give thanks for being able to worship freely Pray for those who worship under restrictions or in secret For those unable to be in a congregation due to work For those who worship on their own
Monday	Everyone in paid employment. For volunteers For those who are unemployed For those who are retired
Tuesday	For students of all ages For teachers, lecturers and ancillary staff For all educational establishments
Wednesday	The leaders of all nations, the governments and opposition The Queen and the Commonwealth
Thursday	For the many faith communities around the world Those who are unbelievers
Friday	For the environment For our place in this world and the universe
Saturday	The Family: The Church family, The Community family, Our family

Prayer suggestions this month are offered by Sue Ingham

There are also suggestions for prayers relating to COP26 to be found in three 'COP on' notes on pages 19, 22, and 26.

Revised Common Lectionary for forthcoming Sundays

7 November	14 November	21 November
1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44	Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37
28 November Advent Sunday	5 December	12 December
Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

PASTORAL TEAM

Our aim is to foster care and concern for each other in the congregation.

However, If you have a emergency and need help or concern, do not hesitate to contact a member of the Pastoral Team.

Mrs Isobel Tosh Robb, Mrs Meg Cardy, Dr Eryl Harris,
Mrs Sheena Helliard, Miss Sue Ingham, and Revd. Janet Sowerbutts.

Church Family News

Love Musgrove's 2021 Celebration evening

A delightful evening was hosted by the Castle Hotel. It was to bring together those who had supported the charity *Love Musgrove* and the NHS in Somerset during Covid-19. Janet and I were invited as we had arranged for cards to be given to the Covid wards and for bathroom gifts to be collected for the staff on behalf of Taunton URC. It was a big thank you to you and other groups like us.

Janet and I found ourselves chatting to reps. from Taunton netball team who made their donations to *Love Musgrove* and members of the Trust. Local fundraisers opted for a variety of challenges including a half marathon. Money raised included a gift from the NHS 'Thanks to captain Sir Tom Moore' fund which was able to buy 150 radios, iPads/tablets for covid patients, complete the appeal for the maternity unit and transform the Eliot Ward. Some new projects for Musgrove Park Hospital will be made available to the public soon.

Janet & Sheila

Three Churches' to meet Green Apostle

Our three churches have arranged a meeting with one of the United Reformed Church's 'Green Apostles', people appointed to support churches in being more environmentally responsible.

The Rev Chris Baillie from Bridgwater will lead a meeting on Saturday 20th November to talk with churches about how they can work towards a more climate-friendly life. The meeting will be at Temple Methodist Church, in the morning at a time to be confirmed,. All are welcome.

QUOTES Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. *Joshua 1:9*
Courage is knowing what not to fear *Plato*

Social and Arts

Thanks to Frank Callanan for giving us a fine start to the autumn programme. It gave us a memorable insight into the family life for those serving in the military.

On **31st October** we welcome Jill Young , a volunteer with the Somerset Heritage centre. Her topic is the meaning and history of nursery rhymes. Following tea and coffee in the hall we will have a snack lunch before the talk.

Please let Janet or Sheila know if you would like lunch.

Jill will bring a friend who is also a volunteer from the Heritage Centre. They regularly take groups around Taunton to look at its history. The Paul Street church features in their talks and walks but as yet they have never seen inside the church. We will put that right for them!

On 5th December: Lunch at the Winchester Arms Trull at 1:15.
A Sunday roast with a vegetarian option.

It will be a Christmas celebration. £10.99 one course, £14.99 two courses

Please sign up in the hall or telephone Janet & Sheila on 617411.
Transport will be arranged.

Birthday Corner

We offer greetings to Paula Powell whose birthday is on 10th November.

May God bless you and make this day special.



Denis Newman - by his family

Looking back at how Denis coped with his many health problems with so much courage, I have often wondered "Where did he get this courage from?!" He continued DIY to do projects on the bungalow even though his eyesight was failing and his breathing was becoming difficult. He occasionally led worship until 2019 which was a challenge but Denis was always prepared for a challenge.

During his life he faced many challenges, starting when he was a young boy, which I believe helped him cope with his failing health especially in his final months.

As a 10 year old boy whilst living in London his father, then aged 38 years, volunteered for the army in September 1939. His father said it would only take 6 months to sort Hitler out and he would soon be back home. (However, as we know, it took 6 years for this to happen!) Denis was instructed by his father to look after his mother and sister. During this time Denis, his mother and sister moved to Swindon, whilst his Dad continued to be away with the Army spending a lot of this time in Burma.

On leaving school at 16 years Denis went to building college where he faced new challenges on the building sites, such as building in freezing temperatures (no gloves allowed) and banter from the other workers. During his years in the building trade he spent 2 years away with the Royal Army Medical Core. This time in the Army again presented him with many challenges but Denis faced them with courage. Some of the other men teased him for reading his Bible and saying his prayers but he managed to get his own back on them by playing various pranks on them. He also made 8 parachute jumps during this time - which I am sure needed some courage.

After leaving the Army and returning to the building site he had a sense that he was being called to ordained ministry and started his 3 year training at Bible college. He joined the Wesleyan Reformed Union and this was the start of his many years as a Minister of Religion. Each church was different and presented Denis with different challenges. Supporting families with complex situations especially as a new young minister needed not only sensitivity but a great deal of courage. Among other challenges he faced was working on a housing estate in Bedford with a particular focus on work with young people and supporting them through their problems. Whilst in Bedford another challenge he took on was walking 30 miles to test out a route he had planned for a sponsored walk

for Christian Aid. Denis's ministry in Leicester and Grimsby included developing his interest in ecumenical work, and meeting the Queen and Prince Philip on board Britannia. It was during his time in Grimsby that he developed an interest in Romania which involved many visits over the coming years bringing challenges and difficult decisions, all of which he faced with the same courage and determination.

Helen, Ruth and Jean

God Took Him To His Loving Home

God saw him getting tired,
a cure was not to be.
He wrapped him in his loving arms
and whispered, "Come with me."

He suffered much in silence,
his spirit did not bend.
He faced his pain with courage,
until the very end.

He tried so hard to stay with us
but his fight was not in vain.
God took him to His loving home
and freed him from the pain.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Contributions for the December 2021 magazine should be with the Editor

Peter Henderson - 14 Somerset Avenue, Taunton, TA1 5HU

Telephone: 01823 254668 - e-mail: tauntonurc.mag@gmail.com
by MONDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2021 (or earlier) please.

The theme will be **Hope**.

The Celebration of All Saints

Monday 1st November is always the day when, each year, we celebrate All Saints' Day. I say we celebrate but often in non-conformist churches this has been something we leave to the Church of England or the Roman Catholics!

Having been a minister in three areas which have a parish church dedicated to All Saints I have been privileged, on at least five occasions, during my ministry to have been invited to preach at their Patronal Festal Service. With many Christian festivals the lectionary passages, as detailed in the Revised Common Lectionary, remain the same year upon year and, for All Saints, range from Isaiah, Psalms, Revelation and John. I have, this year for my own personal study, reflected on the set passage from Revelation 21:1-6a and in particular verse 3, "See, the home of God is among mortals".

The message of the last chapters of Revelation (20-22) is that God chooses to make his home with redeemed humanity. This beautiful vision of the new Jerusalem 'coming down out of heaven from God' illustrates God's desire for all human beings to find their true home with one another, in other words, to be saints, living icons of God's presence. This can only come about as an act of new creation. 'See, I am making all things new'. Yet the author cannot conclude the vision without declaring judgement against those who reject that call to holiness and homeliness with God and one another. Those who have betrayed God's trust cannot endure the heavenly city. So, according to the agonised logic of Revelation, even the heavenly city is incomplete without its opposite, the lake of fire, described in the verses which follow in chapter 21. This is the ultimate deterrent and safeguard. There must, according to the author (John the Divine), always be a place where destructive behaviour can be contained by destruction.

This warning note, as sounded in Revelation, may seem to be disturbing. But the finality of judgement is qualified by the inviting words of the one sitting on the throne: 'To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life'. The thirst for life will, I am convinced, always bring a response from God. The emergence of the city of God may be a certainty, but the chance for life is never withheld from those who desire it. While there is life, there is, indeed hope.

Phillip Jones

Out and About with church folk



Above: Wells cathedral, outside and in.



Left: Golden Eagle over Falkirk

Below: Stirling Castle

Image credits:

Wells - Clare Callanan

Scotland - Peter Henderson

Liverpool, Chester & Port
Sunlight - Sheila Rudofsky

Portugal - David Langmead





Above: *The Last Supper in Chester cathedral*

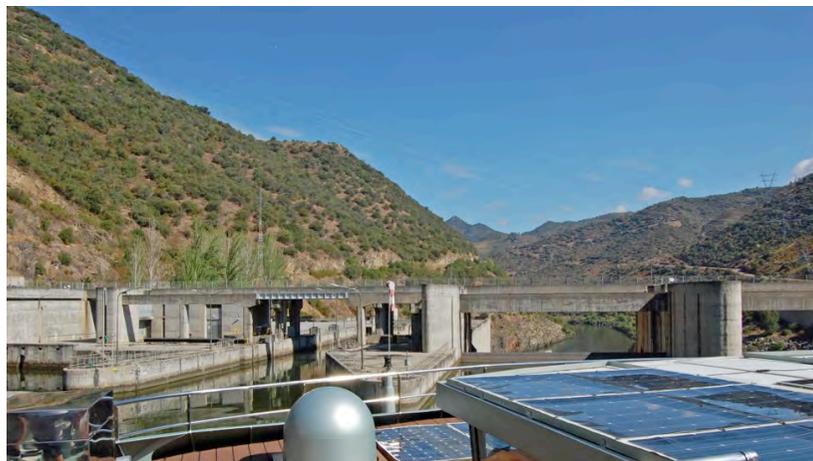


This page clockwise from above left: Lantern in Liverpool cathedral; Statue of Anglican bishop of Liverpool, David Sheppard, and Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, Derek Worlock; The Beatles on the reconstructed waterfront in Liverpool; The Kelpies near Falkirk.

Opposite far left: double storey shop in Chester High Street.

Opposite near left: Port Sunlight village.





Clockwise from above: Cruise on River Douro (see article opposite);

The William Wallace Monument, Stirling;

A vine which travelled as a cutting from Isobel's garden to the Hendersons' nine years ago, now fruiting better than last year.



Fellow Travellers

Like so many who enjoy travelling, I was sorry when this was banned during the pandemic. But when Portugal opened its doors to vaccinated British travellers, I availed myself of the opportunity to return to that lovely country - our oldest ally.

I recently returned from a cruise on the River Douro [*see photo opposite*] with an extension to revisit Lisbon.

The weather was lovely and the ship very comfortable.

There were about ninety passengers all in their late sixties and older. I reckon I was the oldest!

I would like to tell you about three couples I met.

Rob and Chloe stood out a mile from the rest of us as they were clearly only in their twenties. What on earth were they doing accompanying so many wrinklies? The puzzle was solved when Rob told us he had won the cruise in a Daily Telegraph competition!

Then I chatted to Hilary and Jim. Jim was blind from birth but this didn't stop him taking part in the Paralympics as a skier! How I admired his sheer determination.

The final couple I would like to tell you about were Danuta and Lionel. Danuta, of Polish origin, told me about her remarkable mother who, with her family, was forced to move from the family farm, by the Germans, to Siberia when she was a teenager. The tales Danuta told me of her mother's exploits brought tears to my eyes and made me ashamed of all the silly niggles I am used to complaining about.

Danuta's mother finally reached England and married an injured Polish soldier here. She died aged 96.

So what I'm trying to say is that there are so many benefits from travel. Not just the scenery and the ancient buildings but the joy of learning about fellow passengers.

David Langmead

Courage

As a chaplain in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department, it was part of my role to teach values and ethics to soldiers and officers. The British Army has six values which it upholds and teaches from basic training onwards: Courage, Discipline, Respect for others, Integrity, Loyalty, and Selfless commitment. These values are regularly revisited and taught throughout a soldier's career, and much thought goes into the delivering of such teaching. Such values are relevant to everyone, I would argue, not just those in the Armed Services; yet it was always fun and rewarding to engage with soldiers on these subjects.

The value of Courage had two aspects to it: physical courage and moral courage. Physical courage was not too hard to demonstrate or illustrate, since the soldiers themselves could supply many examples. I always liked to use examples from films or literature to make these sessions more interesting. So films such as *Touching the Void*, *127 Hours*, *Gladiator*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Men of Honour*, *Finding Nemo*, and *Forrest Gump*, provided many examples of physical courage. I am sure you could come up with your own list of favourites too. I knew that soldiers 'got' physical courage and I certainly witnessed such courage first-hand on many occasions. Indeed, my own physical courage was required too, and that was challenging for me to have and to use it.

Moral courage was a little more abstract and complex to explain. This was where, especially when teaching young trainees, the maturity of the individual was more evident in their responses to questions about what is moral courage. How is it defined and demonstrated? This was often more difficult to illustrate through films but *Hitch*, *The Railway Man*, *Schindler's List*, and various YouTube clips of late night harassment on trains and domestic abuse were challenging and thought provoking. Could they recognise the showing of moral courage in dealing with a situation and even more, could they say they would call someone out or report incidents that needed to be highlighted? A working knowledge of the Geneva Convention was required and a deep understanding of standing up for what is right.

If we look at the linguistic origins of courage, we need to look into ourselves and towards its original meaning, since the word comes from the old Norman French *coeur*, meaning heart. So maybe courage is our heartfelt engagement with life, with one another, with a community, at work. To have courage is not necessarily about doing anything or going anywhere...it may be enough to get up in the morning for some. Maybe to

have courage is to stay close to the way we are made and feel. It may be only with maturity does it take courage to take each step forward, knowing our physical and soul vulnerabilities. Perhaps it may be that only from the outside and by looking back, can it look like courage.

Looking back over my life I have no sense of how I had the courage, both physical and moral, to do some of the things I did at the time. Looking back, I may begin to recognise it as courage and to know that at a deep level some of this was about belonging, and the way belonging affects and shapes us. It's a long journey.

What about you? What have you done that showed courage of either or both kinds? What courage have you witnessed? What is your everyday courage? Who do you know who is courageous or who shows courage in your understanding?

Know that in every one of these occasions, God is with you.

Clare Callanan

COP on 1

Powerful lobbies have been attempting to spread doubt about the scientific evidence for current and future environmental breakdown.

Pray that world leaders will have the **courage** to do what is right for the responsible stewardship and wellbeing of creation.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?"

(Matthew 21:28-31)

QUOTES

To have courage for whatever comes in life
- everything lies in that.

Saint Teresa of Avila

Only those who will risk going too far
can possibly find out how far one can go.

T. S. Eliot

Climate concerns

Here are notes from the meeting, held on 17th September at Temple Methodist Church, with Rebecca Pow MP on the subject of the Climate Emergency in advance of COP26, which Sue Ingham attended.

A quotation from the Quakers issued in 2015 opened the meeting and included the statement “we must all have a right relationship with nature. We need to act with urgency.”

The UK has targeted a drop in green house gases of 78% by 2035.

Evidently half the emissions come from agriculture, a £640m Nature Fund has been set up to help the industry. It is also hoped to reduce the decline in species by 2030.

We have to take responsibility for gases emitted outside the UK borders, especially aviation emissions.

The Government is encouraging businesses not to take products such as wood, palm oil from countries who contravene their environment policies. Manufacturers in the UK will have to show a track and trace back to the source of all their imports. This raised the question of how impact will this be on producers in poorer nations, when it has been shown that wealthier nations are flouting their own policies. In reply the answer was that we can only influence countries by how we operate, and it is not a simple matter as there are many governments, departments and people involved.

Housing in the UK

There is to be a new future Housing Standard which will augment the present building regulations and will be used in planning applications. It will include measures to reduce heat loss from homes, which is a significant problem at present, installation of solar panels on new builds, electric charging points on all new buildings. This last will be difficult on older properties.

Food Waste

The UK wastes an extraordinary amount of food. Today there are still some councils that don't collect food waste, and in Taunton many of the flats don't have a food waste collection. Food waste goes into landfill and produce methane. In the new Environment Bill it will be mandatory to

collect food waste. Milk, meat, potatoes and bananas are the top four most wasted foods. Shops need encouragement to sell these products in smaller sizes.

How can we make reparation to poorer countries, especially those which produce very little green house gases? There is an International Climate Fund but will this really help?

Ought the wealthier countries be trying to live a simpler life? Most of us have more than we need.

It is OUR responsibility.

Transport

Encouragement to drive less and use public transport. The government is offering grants for buses and taxis to go electric. There is one hydrogen bus in Taunton. The question was raised about the use of batteries as they have a relatively short life and use lithium a scarce metal which at present comes from Taiwan and China. In about six years time there is a planned lithium mine to begin operation in Cornwall.

It is everyone's responsibility to look after the planet now and for future generation.

Editor's note

Without disputing that this is a good record of what was said at the meeting, I note some debatable statements were made. These are:

- “Batteries in electric vehicles have a relatively short life.” *whereas...* Most car makers now give warranties that their lithium ion batteries will have at least 70% capacity after 8 years or 100,000 miles. These warranties, which have been lengthening with experience, appear to be very conservative. Old batteries are used in renewable energy schemes.
- “Lithium is a scarce metal which at present lithium comes from Taiwan and China.” *whereas...* According to Forbes.com, based on 2019 production levels, known global lithium reserves would last more than 200 years. In 2019 more than half of global production came from Australia. The largest known reserves are in Chile.

Being Zoom inclusive

At the Church Meeting on 17th October we used all the elements of technology intended to enable us to integrate those congregating in the church sanctuary with those joining on Zoom. So those in the church were able to see on a large screen people on Zoom and, in theory, hear them also.

The pan-and-zoom camera was able to show people speaking from the floor of the meeting as well as those on the dais, with the Zoom host controlling the camera with a joystick. A roving hand-held microphone enabled them to be heard by those on Zoom also. So members and friends, whether in proximity or dispersed, can participate not only in worship but in a meeting together.

Our use of the system is not yet perfect - I often seem to encounter sound problems when I am Zoom host - but we will learn.

An important link in this chain of communication is the use of microphones. Despite the excellent acoustics in the sanctuary, people relying on the loop system and those attending gatherings by Zoom can only hear what is being said if the speaker uses a microphone, and uses it well. The hand-held microphone appears not to be very sensitive and picks up sound from a very narrow range of directions. Including others in the meeting depends on using it well. So here is a guide to how to and how not to use the microphone.

COP on 2

Global warming is causing extreme weather events leading to floods and forest fires. And average global temperatures are currently only 0.9° above pre-industrial levels.

Pray that world leaders will **commit** to decisive action at the COP26 in Glasgow.

*For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God...
We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now
(Romans 8:19,22)*

How to use the microphone to include others

Imagine that it is a torch and that you need to use it for a close inspection of your lips. Point the microphone straight at your mouth - don't be shy - and hold it close so you could almost lick it.



How to exclude others by not using the microphone well



1. Assume your voice is loud enough so you don't need to use it.

2. Point the microphone away from you (as if you were interviewing an imaginary friend). It doesn't stand a chance of hearing you.



3. Point the microphone sideways (as if it were a stumpy flute). However close, it will not detect much of your voice coming from that direction.



4. Hold the microphone away from your face so it does not pick up enough sound.

To some extent all this advice is also relevant to use of the microphones at the lecterns and those that clip on to clothing. Preachers have learned that they need to turn their heads carefully, say to make eye contact with people on either side, so they don't speak away from the microphone.

Who would have thought that use of technology has pastoral implications? But it is true. To be inclusive we need empathy: asking ourselves how, or whether, our words will be heard by others.

Peter Henderson

SOS From The Kids

S.O.S. From The Kids is a community of young people who love singing and want to protect nature. When two brothers, Sim and Noah, watched David Attenborough's programme, *Climate Change - The Facts* they were inspired to use singing to engage in activism. Sim and his mother wrote their first song which the boys, together with others, they sang on *Britain's Got Talent*. They have been invited to perform at COP26 in Glasgow. Here are the lyrics.

This is an SOS from the kids
All the grown ups take note of this
We're finding our voice, calling you out
You can't leave the world in fire and drought
This is an SOS from the kids

*Please change the story
Re-write the plot
This beautiful earth
Can not be lost
Stop hurting our planet
Like you don't care
There's only one world
For us to share*



This is an SOS from the kids
All the grown ups take note of this
Wake up and see that you must make a change
The riches you seek will all be washed away
This is an SOS from the kids

Please change the story ...

Don't listen to the fat cats, they only want their cream
Always needing oil for feeding their machines
We must care about the animals; care about the trees
I'll need help from you, you'll get help from me!

Please change the story ...

This is an SOS from the kids
You can do better than this

You can find out more at www.sosfromthekids.com



Somerset
Opera

Musical Director:
David Hedges

Taunton United Reformed Church
Friday/Saturday 5th/6th November
at 7:30 p.m. Also at 2:30 p.m. on
Sunday 7th November

***A Night At
The Opera***

**Featuring 'Trial by Jury' and
other opera favourites**

Tickets £10 (under 18s £5)

**From Taunton Visitor Centre (01823 340470) and
from www.somersetopera.org**



Current issues

Extracts from JPIT Newsletter
October 2021

Obviously, **COP26** is top of the agenda. If you need reminding about its importance, see their 3 minute video at <https://youtu.be/3ymXFIEu0ww>

In October the *Together With Refugees* coalition held a week of action to highlight concern about the **Nationality and Borders Bill** before parliament. This threatens to deny many refugees the chance to seek sanctuary in the UK, criminalise many of those who try, isolate refugees in harmful out-of-town institutions, and undermine 70 years of co-operation under the UN refugee convention.

Politics in the Pulpit? is the name of JPIT's lectionary-based podcast and vlog to aid preachers' preparation. See www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/politicsinthepulpit/

COP on 3

In the UK more frequent heavy rainfall causes flooding and storms are raising the need for better coastal defences. Other countries face earlier risks of permanent flooding when sea levels rise with global warming. Meanwhile developing nations are under pressure to adopt more expensive technology to avoid adding to the problems caused by industrial processes in 'developed' nations.

Pray for **leadership** that makes early preparations for the challenges to come, and for just financial support the responsible actions of poorer countries.

[God said to Noah] *Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.*

But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

(Genesis 6:14,18)

Taunton Carers Support Group



Do you look after the other half, family or friend who is ill, elderly, disabled or needs extra help?

Come along and chat with other people in an unpaid caring situation to share laughs, ideas and support.

Regular professional speakers and signposting.

"They all understand what we are going through" - Ann

First Tuesday of every month
10:00 - 12:00

Wellsprings Church Cafe

Quantock Rd, Taunton TA2 7NL
carparking outside, one level accessibility

For details about the group contact
Carol 07888077757
mccracken@talk21.com



For personal, 1:1 support as a Carer
contact Somerset Carers!

0800 31 68 600

www.somersetcarers.org

Call Somerset Carers Service for support with finding someone to look after your cared for whilst you come to the meeting!

**OFFICE HOLDERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF
TAUNTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Car-Park..... Eryl Harris
 Christian Aid..... Maralyn Bickham
 Church Heating Church Administrator (see page 1)
 Church Secretary..... Sue Ingham (07818 637155)
 Commitment for Life Contact..... Sue Ingham
 FINANCE - Treasurer..... Eryl Harris
 FINANCE - Covenant Collections..... Paula Powell
 Flowers Pam Elliott, Sheila Woolvin
 Letting Secretary Church Administrator (see page 1)
 Magazine Distributor..... Dawn Wright (01823 331800)
 Magazine Editor..... Peter Henderson (01823 254668)
 Prayer Handbook.....
 Property Stuart Trott
 Pulpit Supply Church Administrator (see page 1)
 Reform Magazine Pamela Bamber
 Social and Arts Group Janet Sowerbutts, Sheila Rudofsky (01823 617411)
 Sound..... Paul Cottrill
 Sunday Coffee Organiser Pamela Bamber
 Sunday News-Sheet..... the Church Secretary
 Synod Representative Sue Ingham
 World Day of Prayer..... Maralyn Bickham

SERVING ELDERS

Sue Ingham <i>Secretary</i> 07818 637155	Meg Cardy 01823 443245	Stuart Trott 01823 281551
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Sunday duties

	Duty Elder	Communion Elders	Zoom host
7 Nov	Eryl	Meg Stuart	Ron
14 Nov	Meg		Eryl
21 Nov	Stuart		Clare
28 Nov	Sue		Peter

Taunton United Reformed Church

Vision Statement

For the sake of the Gospel, we will be:

- ◆ a church that welcomes, whoever you are
- ◆ a church that cares and responds with action
- ◆ a church that works with others and plays its part in the community
- ◆ a church that knows and shares the love of God
- ◆ a church that is growing in faith and knowledge of God
- ◆ a church full of hope and joy