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Taunton United Reformed Church



OCTOBER 2021
Magazine



TAUNTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MAGAZINE

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Vacant

Pastoral care

For concerns that go beyond mutual pastoral care, please see the note on page 7.

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CONTENTS

From the editor.....	2
Forthcoming Church Services & Activities	3
Pastoral Letter	4
Praying through the week	6
Revised Common Lectionary	7
Church Family News	8
Birthday Corner	8
Social and Arts events	9
Commemorating the Lord's Supper	10
Blessings to remember	11
Susan's last Sunday	12
The Life and Times of Kay Copp	
Photographs	13
Interview	14
Towards COP26	18
Commemoration	20
Commitment for Life & Moving Stories	22
Church Flowers & Rotas	23

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From the Editor



The longest day of the year is in June, the shortest in December; such is the way that God has made the world that sunset arrives earlier most rapidly in September. It is a change which we notice very clearly - nights are drawing in.

We as a church community and a society are experiencing a lot of change, some of which is noted in this issue of the magazine. Sunday services at Paul Street have been re-established since the series of pandemic lockdowns; we have lost our Minister of five or more years; new equipment makes it easier to integrate worship in the sanctuary with what we offer on Zoom. Then, the planet is changing more quickly than either our ability or determination to adapt.

In such changing times it can be useful to recall the past in order to prepare for the future. As the American biblical scholar Walter Brueggeman wrote, memory is vital in helping us to imagine what is possible, not to pine after the 'good old days' but as an assurance that life does not have to be like this. Sometimes we need help with memory. Hence the theme of this month's issue is commemoration.

Special days of commemoration help to keep alive important aspects of life. For the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, one of these is the place of poetry in society and he is pleased that National Poetry Day exists in the October schedule, though he notes that it faces tough competition from other other awareness-raising initiatives (there is a list opposite).

The events establishing God's gift of new life keep that promise alive, and a significant birthday can evoke both looking back and forward. All are arguably more important than porridge!

With more commemorations coming in November, among them Armistice Day and the Jewish feast of Hanukkah, the theme next month will be **Courage**. All contributions, whether on the theme or not, are welcome.

There is yet more innovation in this issue with a double-page spread in the centre. This has been a technical challenge and you will be able to judge if it is a success better than I can as I write this.

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

Peter Henderson

Forthcoming Church Services

Sundays at 10:30am at the United Reformed Church, Paul Street

- 3 October Morning worship led by the Revd Clare Callanan (includes The Lord's Supper)
- 10 October Morning worship led by Mr David Clitheroe
- 17 October Morning worship led by Miss Sue Ingham followed by **Church Meeting**
- 24 October Morning worship led by the Revd Phillip Jones
- 31 October Church Anniversary service led by the Revd Phillip Jones
- 7 November Morning worship led by the Revd Viv Henderson (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

- Friday 1 October *World Smile Day*
- Monday 4 October *Faith and Science: Towards COP26* (see page 18)
- Monday 4 October *World Animal Day*
- Thursday 7 October *National Poetry Day*
- Thursday 7 October **Elders' meeting**
- Sunday 10 October *Seed Gathering Sunday*
World Porridge Day, announcement of winner of the 28th World Porridge Making Championship
- Monday 18 October **Magazine deadline**
- Sunday 31 October *Allhallowtide begins, commemorating all the departed*
End of British Summer Time - clocks go back

Pastoral letter



Dear Friends

As we enjoy the splendour of the autumn colours, and give thanks for the Harvest it reminds us of what we have, but it also reminds us that for many, another year has passed for them with no harvest.

We said Goodbye to Susan at the end of August, and after her final service, the choir sang a setting of Psalm 23 to the theme tune of the Vicar of Dibley. The congregation presented

Susan with a large planted Garden Basket, Wine and a Cheque. We prayed with her and for her in going ministry.

As we move forward a number of things are being restarted. From 3rd October, our Sunday collections will restart, if anyone would like envelopes would they please speak to Eryl, our Treasurer. A new prayer book will also be available. Teas and coffees after the service will be served in the hall.

A new venture will begin following conversations by people at the Memorial Service. Which revealed that there are a number of our congregation find Sunday afternoon lonely and/or boring. So on the first Sunday of the month, a snack lunch will be served, followed by a speaker. The first will be on 3rd October when the speaker will be Mr Frank Callanan, talking about his roll as a military husband.

At a meeting with our MP, Rebecca Pow, the subject was the Climate Emergency in advance of COP26. A number of issues were raised, evidently half of all the emissions come from agriculture, and a fund has been set up to help the industry to reduce their emission. The UK wastes an extraordinary amount of food. Today some councils do not collect food waste and some of the flats in Taunton don't have a food waste collection. In the new Environment Bill it will be mandatory for all councils to collect food waste, which at present goes into landfill

and produces methane. Milk, meat, potatoes and bananas are the top four foods that are wasted. Shops need to be encouraged to sell fresh foods in smaller quantities, especially for single people. A fuller report on this meeting will hopefully be in the November issue.

In the September issue of EcoChurch there was a prayer which I would like to share with you.

A Prayer for Climate Change

We know whatever emotions we might be feeling about the climate crisis, we have a God who hears us and who we can talk to about anything. Here is a prayer you can use on your own or as part of a church service.

A short chat with God about climate change.

Heavenly Father, we're anxious about Climate Breakdown.
It's already causing wildfires, crop failures, killer heat-waves and floods.
We're angry: it's so unfair, hitting the poorest hardest,
Adding to human conflict and compounding nature's struggles.

From youngsters to grandparents, we need some hope:
To see governments stopping the bad stuff and driving for good,
A fair transition to a low carbon economy, a nature-friendly way,
Acting boldly on the science; no more denial or delay!

And this year, Heavenly Father, the climate summit will be in the UK too
It's exciting and daunting, what should your people do?

We will praise you for your creation, commit our churches to act;
Work together across neighbourhoods and nations;
And call all leaders to be bold, just, honest with the facts;
So, help us, Heavenly Father, to worship, act and speak up.

Yes, we will worship, act and speak up.

Sue Ingham

Praying through the week

Some suggestions for your daily devotions

Sunday	Remember to count your blessings. Think of three occurrences, however simple, that have been a blessing to you today. Ask God for the awareness to make this a daily habit throughout the week ahead.
Monday	Pray that significant progress will be made at the COP26 conference on the climate crisis next month. See page 18 for further thoughts on this. On 4th October COP26 in Glasgow will be four weeks away.
Tuesday	Pray for whoever is planning to lead worship next Sunday (see page 3 for names). Ask God to give them inspiration and wisdom, and the ability to convey God's word.
Wednesday	Pray for those who visit Work-Wise, and the manager and volunteers who seek to serve them. Ask God, whose gift is life, to give opportunity for livelihood for those without this, and a the discovery of a new sense of vocation to replace boredom and hopelessness.
Thursday	Pray for our church Elders, giving leadership with the support of the church's Companion Minister, Tim Richards, and Synod Pastoral Advisor, Jim Thorneycroft. Ask for God's help so that the burden of responsibility sits easily upon them.
Friday	Pray for our Church Administrator, Worship Group, and Pastoral Team as they manage many of the routine aspects of church life that we take for granted.
Saturday	Pray for the healing of the distrust and polarisation in society that has grown in recent years. Ask God to challenge and equip those who communicate in the media (and social media) to do so with grace, humility and integrity.

Revised Common Lectionary for forthcoming Sundays

3 October	10 October	17 October
Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31	Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45
24 October	31 October	7 November
Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 126 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52	Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Psalm 119:1-8 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34	1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

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 Helliart, Miss Sue Ingham, and Revd. Janet Sowerbutts.

Church Family News

Susan's last Sunday

With the Revd Dr Susan Durber completing her ministry with the church at the end of August, she led worship here for the last time on Sunday 29th. The service was followed by presentations to Susan and then a buffet lunch. More details and photographs can be found on page 12.

Haiti appeal

The total collected and donated to Christian Aid in response to their appeal on behalf of the those made homeless by the earthquake in Haiti was £500.

Birthday Corner

This month particular congratulations go to **Kay Copp**, who will be 100 years old on Monday 18th. (See special feature on beginning on page 14)

Special greetings also go to **Maralyn Bickham** and **Pamela Elliott** who both have birthdays on Thursday 21st.

May God bless you all, with strength to meet life's challenges and times of unexpected joy.

If your birthday does not feature in the appropriate issue of the magazine and you would like it to, please contact the editor with details and also Meg Cardy so the Elders have a record that you give permission for this data being shared - yes, I know, but we need to obey the law.



Social and Arts events



Let us enjoy some familiar activities with our church family and friends. Following interest in the talks we had on Zoom earlier in the year we have invited friends to share some stories. This time the talks will be on a Sunday after a provided snack (soup and sandwich or something similar). Many of us try to be in church on the first Sunday of the month when we celebrate communion. On Sunday October 3rd tea/coffee will be served immediately after the service giving time for us all to chat before we serve the snack.

October 3rd A talk will be given by **Frank Callanan**: 'A glimpse into the life of the husband of an army chaplain'

NB. If you are staying for this talk and would like a snack lunch, please let Janet or Sheila know by telephone or email.

October 31st A talk by **Gill Young**. Gill is a volunteer for the Museum of Somerset. Her title for the talk is 'the history and meaning of nursery rhymes'. (Not the first Sunday, but it is Church Anniversary.)

December 5th A Christmas pub lunch - arrangements will be confirmed later (though maybe not on a Sunday as this is proving difficult to book).

As we move towards December we will plan for the New Year and hope that music will play a bigger part in our 2022 programme. All ideas welcome.

Please invite your friends to the Sunday talks.

Commemorating the Lord's Supper

The worldwide church does quite a lot of commemorating and some branches do more than others. In this way, Christians are helped to have a sense of tradition and history, and the marking of special events on a particular day means you are less likely to forget the occasion! However, it could be argued that too many can be a distraction from worship and prayer, and that there is no such calendar in the Bible. Christmas and Easter are good examples of how commemorating such festivals can become more important than the religious beliefs behind the occasion.

The purpose of festivals and commemorations in the church calendar is primarily to help us remember a special moment or event in the life of Jesus, and to explore and reflect on their significance. They help to make the seasons of the year since some Christian commemorations replaced pagan festivals which marked important times of the year. 25th December was associated with pagan festivals that marked the beginning of the longer hours of daylight, while Easter replaced a spring festival associated with the pagan goddess Eostre. In medieval times, such religious days were the only days people had off from work.

Perhaps the profoundest act of commemoration is the one that recalls the last supper that Jesus had with his disciples. But this is surely more than just a ritual of remembering. It is primarily an act through which our connection with God, each other and our life of ministry in the world is nourished and strengthened.

Holy Communion includes a profound act of remembrance that recalls the last supper Jesus had with his disciples. But it is more than just a ritual of remembering. It is primarily an act through which our connection with God, each other and our life of ministry in the world is nourished and strengthened. 'Do this in remembrance of me' (Mark 14: 22-25, Luke 22:19, 1 Corinthians 11:24-25) is not just remembering what was done in the past but what is being done for us here and now.

In the ritual, in the prayer of Thanksgiving, we seek the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon us and the gifts of bread and wine we bring. When we receive the bread and wine so we are *remembering*. At the same time, we are also *re-membered*, put back together again. We commemorate, we bring to remembrance, God's work of making us one, and uniting us with Christ and with each other and with all creation. This is the ordinary way by which God feeds us, sustains us and empowers us to live as Christians in the world.

Clare Callanan

Blessings to remember



Clockwise from top left:
Days out with Sheena -
Lynton & Lynmouth Cliff railway
On the Kennet & Avon canal
Gorse & heather on Cottlestone Hill.
Blackberries are ripening.
A robin sings.
The gift of new life

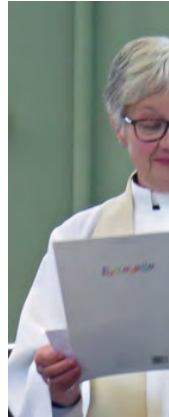


Susan's last Sunday

The service, led by the Minister, included an which came as a surprise to her: the choir sang the Howard Goodall setting of 'The Lord's my shepherd', the theme tune of *The Vicar of Dibley*.

After the church secretary had expressed our thanks to Susan, she was presented with a card, a garden basket and wine, and then responded.

A congregational photograph was followed by lunch in the hall and garden.



Life and Times

(see article opposite)



Postman Pat is being "awkward"

Kay in WW2



Kay on her 99th birthday
(photo courtesy of her son)

Knitting is a pastime

The Life and Times of Kathleen (Kay) Copp née Quick

Postman Pat is being "awkward"... he has been stitched up and unstitched twice already and is the first subject of our conversation. Kay's skill at knitting is well known, and is one of her ways of relaxing and of bringing joy to people for whom she knits. I put Pat carefully back on the table in case I contribute to any further unravelling...

Born in a house in Paul Street, Taunton, on 18 October 1921, Kathleen Quick was brought up within the church. Indeed, her mother worked for the minister, the Reverend Cox. Moving to Lambrook, Kay's family attended church each Sunday morning, with an afternoon service for children and an evening service. The young Kathleen took 6d take as her collection money, but that was too much of a temptation on one occasion and she spent some of it on her way to church; not all of it, "...or else I would have been in real trouble!" As she grew older, and the girls made friends with the boys at church, they were only allowed to go to the evening service if the boys came and walked them there and back; through the park and past the bandstand.

With her older sister Phyllis, Kay attended Priory School as a child and then after her secondary schooling, left at the age of 14 and went to work at a shirt factory in Poolwall; learning to be proficient with a double needle machine, and working sitting opposite her sister. In 1941, Kay was conscripted into the Army and trained to serve in 608 Heavy Ack Ack Battery. Her initial training was at Wrexham and Whitby, walking up all those steps in Whitby to the top of the hill to their Nissen hut. As is the habit in the army, Kathleen's name was shortened to Kathy which she hated. So the young Kathleen told her chain of command that she was Kathy but called Kay; for the first few weeks she wondered who they were talking to whenever the name Kay was used.

Initially serving as a telephonist and then a plane spotter, Kay was based in Windsor Great Park and then in Dover, bringing down the 'doodlebug' bombs as they came over the coast. In 1945, Kay's Battery was deployed to Belgium, but it was at this time that her sister, Phyllis was unwell and so Kay left the Army and returned to Taunton to help care for her.

(continued overleaf)

Phyllis spent some time recovering in a local sanatorium and Kay would visit with her brother-in-law, often sharing a tandem bicycle for the journey. She joined the cycling club called the Dendale Wheelers, later joining the Somerset Road Club (<https://somerseRoadclub.org.uk/history/> has a photograph Somerset Road Club 1946... can you spot Kay? Or Eric?) She was proud of her Claud Butler V frame bicycle, and became the first female member of the club at that time to cycle 100 miles in 8 hours. She may not have the T shirt but she still has the certificate to prove it.

It was whilst enjoying the freedom and fun of cycling that Kay met Eric, who had been a Sergeant in the Royal Air Force, working on the Lancaster bombers. As well as a shared love of the sport, they soon discovered a shared love between each other and married in 1945. The love of cycling took them with the club to the 1948 London Olympics where they had tickets for the velodrome. Five medals were won by the all-male team that year, as opposed to the 12 medals won in 2021 which was avidly watched by Kay on television.

The couple moved in with Eric's parents into the house in Northfield Avenue Their son, Jeff, was born in November 1949, with Kay going into labour whilst doing the ironing and then giving birth upstairs in the bedroom. Kay sold her bicycle for a pram and, moving home in the early 50s, she returned part time to work. This time she was making bow ties for Theaks, enjoying her work until she retired.

Eric worked as sheet metal worker with the Gas Board, mending boilers and other equipment. With all the noise and heat of his day job, Eric relaxed by doing calligraphy; delicate and precise work requiring concentration and skill in a very different way. He once inscribed all the fly leaves of the books in church. Kay and Eric always went to church in Paul Street, with Eric being the Church Secretary and Kay running the Ladies' Meeting, as well as being a member of the Missionary Committee.

When Eric's parents became ill, the couple moved back to Northfield Avenue. Following his stroke, Kay also looked after Eric for over eight years before he died in 2004. Kay's love of Eric and her family is clear from the way she talks of them and from the proud description of the photographs on the wall. Further photographs are displayed on Kay's smartphone which she expertly 'swiped' and pressed to bring up the pictures she wanted to show me! Her son, two granddaughters and two great-grandsons phone and visit her regularly. Her great grandson Ethan loves to play cards with her and has missed that time during Covid restrictions with his great grandma. Kay still cooks and looks after herself, and only stopped driving recently before Covid. Her frustration shows in

that loss of independence, of being "...able to do what you want when you want."

The sense of family and 'team' spirit is key to Kay's life and loves. It emerges from her faith, and her love of being part of something bigger. That may be in the cohesion of an ack ack battery, in the camaraderie of the sewing work bench, in the gentle challenge of the cycling club and in the keen support of team sports. Kay appreciates people who, as she says, "mingle with other people." As a singer in various choirs and as a creative contributor of floral art in the church, Kay continued to experience that sense of teamwork and of being part of something bigger.

As part of her church family, we would be well advised to note Kay's thoughts on life. She takes one day at a time, calmly and without complaining about anything. She knows the value of keeping in touch and has deeply appreciated the support and care she has received during lockdown. Her advice? "...on a Sunday there is not a problem if there is no minister...someone choose a piece of Scripture and talks about it ...pray together...sing together...that is worship." It is the pastoral care that is so important, she continues, "...just keep in touch, even by phone is enough to break into someone's day and let them know the comfort that someone is thinking of them" Wise words Kay...thank you.

In the meantime, I am well aware that however awkward he is being at the moment, Kay will persist and Postman Pat will certainly be finished soon!

Clare Callanan

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Contributions for the November 2021 magazine should be with the Editor

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by MONDAY 18th OCTOBER 2021 (or earlier) please.

Towards COP26

The Holy See Press Office, ie. the Vatican, has announced that leaders of the world religions and spiritual traditions and some leading scientists will be meeting in the Vatican and Rome on 4th October 2021, to set out their vision for tackling climate change. The *Faith and Science: Towards COP26* initiative will aim to:

- Encourage governments to approach COP26 with ambition, including in regards to their National Determined Contributions to reach the Paris Agreement goals;
- Show how the faiths are leading the way by greening their own operations at central and local level, possibly with new commitments;
- Inspire individuals to take specific actions to slow global temperature rises.

The meeting has been informed by a series of virtual meetings at which faith leaders have shared their understanding of the responsibility for the planet and how they as faith leaders and scientists hope to contribute to the necessary change.

Sally Axworthy, the outgoing British Ambassador to the Holy See, who, with her Italian counterpart and the Vatican equivalent to Foreign Minister had taken this initiative, said:

“Climate change is not yet going in the right direction. Faith leaders played a key role in building momentum for COP21 in 2015 and they can make a similar contribution to COP26.”

“All the faiths and belief systems see nature as sacred, and our duty as being to protect the environment. The leaders have drawn on their own traditions to suggest solutions; the dialogue with the scientists has been creative - facts and values coming together.”



Spearheading the science perspective will be Dr Hoesung Lee, Chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In the letter accepting the invitation, he reminded readers that IPCC is a UN body established in 1988 to assess science related to climate change, its impacts, and responses to it. It provides a science base for global climate policy but is itself policy-neutral.

He then set out his perspective, as follows.

Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases increase global temperatures regardless of where they are emitted, who emitted them, and how small the quantity emitted.



Almost every activity results in CO₂ emissions. Our entire infrastructure is a platform for CO₂ emissions. These will cause the temperature to rise, worsening extreme weather patterns, water shortages, food security, human health, involuntary migration, loss of ecosystem services, biodiversity loss and species extinction, and the risk of potentially crossing the threshold of irreversible changes in the natural system.

I am just one of 7.9 billion peoples in this world but am causing this terrible damage to ourselves, and the rest of the world's population are also damaging themselves and me through their emissions of CO₂.

I am both the victim of climate change and its cause.

Climate change is a self-inflicted injury, compounded by cumulative injuries inflicted by each other on the planet. Our business-as-usual and habitual way of living is undermining the very foundation of our life support system and attacking our health, lives, and livelihoods.

It is appalling to see that we allowed this self-infliction and mutual destruction to continue for this long. There is a failure to see the connection between global climate change and personal suffering.

In 2020 lower emissions resulted from reduced activity because of the pandemic, and economic hardship followed. We need to decouple greenhouse gas emissions from economic development.

Technological solutions – enhancing energy efficiency, making low-carbon electricity the main source for heating buildings and powering vehicles, realising the potential of clean hydrogen, exploring sustainable agriculture – are vital, but they do not address the root of the problem. And the problem is consumption.

How can we reduce energy and materials inputs, not just waste and pollution? We need to consider sustainable consumption patterns. This involves both corporate and individual social responsibility.

This may be the lasting responsibility of humans in an age of promises.

Commemoration

From the Latin *commemorate* - 'brought to remembrance', from the verb *commemorare*, from *com* - 'altogether' + *memorare* 'relate' (from *memor* 'mindful').

Commemoration encompasses the various ways we have imagined and elicited deep regard for the past; perhaps through monuments, ceremonies, festivals, pageants, fairs, museums, re-enactment, and more. Unlike history, which is to do with facts and circumstance, commemoration dwells mostly in feeling. I think it is for this reason that we all recognise commemoration and understand it, even when it does not speak directly to us. There may be private memories involved but there is great diversity in the rituals, objects, and customs that we associate with commemoration that help give public feelings to these sometimes private, moments.

Commemoration is sometimes linked with anniversaries, and I think they are related but they are also distinct. Though important, anniversaries are more often celebrations whilst commemorations are frequently learning experiences and engage participants in that experience. More importantly these times of being 'brought to remembrance' give us the opportunity to reflect, and to look more deeply at change over time. Anniversary celebrations highlight the event, commemoration looks at what has changed in the intervening years.

I have always loved history and so this aspect is interesting to me. I think it brings to us an awareness of how study of the past is valuable to communities. I wonder whether a place can ever become a community until it is wrapped in human memory, family stories, tribal traditions, civic events. Our connections and commitment to one another are strengthened when we share stories and experiences. I wonder too, if by bringing history into discussions about contemporary issues, we can better understand the origins and multiple perspectives on the challenges facing our communities and nations. When misconceptions are clarified, and people are open to new possibilities then this will surely lead to more effective solutions for today's challenges.

There is also an important distinction between commemoration and celebration. If the former is about bringing to remembrance then sometimes that lived experience has not been easy and not all of it is worth celebrating. Change is slow and often painful; there are losses as well as gains. So celebrating an anniversary is not always the right use of

language. I particularly feel this at Remembrance in November, on Holocaust Day in January, in National Heritage Days as well. These are occasions to mark, research and teach the meanings of our ancestors' achievements and afflictions. This process demands reflection, discussion, and an attempt to make meaning of the past.

So how do we participate in occasions of commemoration? Why are they important? I am concerned that uncritical engagement with these times creates 'historical tourists'... who are not enabled to understand that memorials and commemorative services are interpretations of the past, or that such services are a representation of how present-day society believes it should interact with that past. They simply pass through without understanding the full context. They are at risk of accepting without question nationalistic and political agendas; to not recognise the political, social, and economic factors that influence how a society conducts and participates in memorialisation of the past. Recognising and understanding this influence leads to active and proactive citizenship.

Alan Moore, a British writer, wrote, "Life is a lot more interesting if you are interested in the people and the places around you. So, illuminate your little patch of ground, the people that you know, the things that you want to commemorate. Light them up with your art, with your music, with your writing, with whatever it is that you do."

What would you like to commemorate? What should Taunton United Reformed Church be commemorating? What could our nation look to commemorate? I wonder what we would need to consider if we were to build or plan a memorial for an event or person? Would it be a sculpture or a painting or a piece of music? What key messages would you want people to take away? How could it make an impact on people's lives now and in the future?

Clare Callanan

Random Quotes

The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.
George Bernard Shaw

We have a finite environment - the planet. Anyone who thinks you can have infinite growth is either a madman or an economist.
David Attenborough

Commitment for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Helping United Reformed Churches work for a fairer world and for peace with justice, recognising that change and response starts with each one of us.

Envelopes for your donations and Information Leaflets are available in the Dora Cox Room. Please feel free to put in what you can, when you can, no amount is too small.

Revd Dr Kevin Snyman - Commitment for Life Programme Officer,
Suzanne Pearson - Commitment for Life Administrative Assistant

Moving Stories

News from our Partners around the World

News from Bangladesh

Supporting Children

In the picture we see a Support Worker helping children with art activities. These and many other activities are run in the Child Friendly Space and managed by Christian Aid's partner Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), in Jamtoli camp, Bangladesh. Christian Aid continues to help people displaced by violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State. We support Rohingya refugees who have crossed the border into Bangladesh. Your support through *Commitment for Life* not only saves lives, it contributes to the education and development of children.

Christian Aid is committed to providing protection, site-management, food, shelter, health-care, water, sanitation and hygiene. Gender, inclusion, and accountability are also addressed through all activities.



Photo: Adam Finch/ Christian Aid

Central America & Zimbabwe

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.



Photo by Max Panamá on Unsplash

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!

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.

Leaving a Legacy

The wonderful Kerry from Christian Aid asks us to think about what we hold dear in life: family, congregations, and our commitment to justice in the world. Can we make sure that our wills reflect our love for justice? By leaving a gift to church, Christian Aid or to Commitment for Life, we can make a difference.

Watch Kerry here:

<https://youtube/sGomfM1DnGI>

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
3 Oct	Stuart	Sue	Meg	Eryl
10 Oct	Sue			Clare
17 Oct	Meg			Peter
24 Oct	Eryl			Sue
31 Oct	Sue			(tbc)
7 Nov	Eryl	Meg	Stuart	Ron

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