



Please take a copy

# Taunton United Reformed Church



**MAY 2022**  
Magazine



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## TAUNTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MAGAZINE

NO. 595

May 2022

### MINISTER:

Vacant

### Pastoral care

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

### CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:

Ron Williams

mobile tel: 07955 237 012

email: tauntonurc@gmail.com

office tel: 01823 286776

### WORK-WISE manager - Lucille Morris

email:

manager@workwise-taunton.org.uk

tel.: 01823 325030

### Church website:

<http://tauntonurc.org.uk>

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## From the Editor



I am grateful for the approving comments I receive concerning the quality of this magazine. It is encouraging to know that my work is not ignored! As I often write here, the value of this publication comes from the way that a variety of contributors expresses the life of the church. So, if you contribute, the approval is aimed at you too.

However, I am very aware of how the magazine could be better. For example, I receive the monthly *Tell the Church* emails from Taunton Team Chaplaincy on behalf of churches in and around the town. These are written with weekly news-sheet editors in mind, and the information which I deem to be of interest to our readers is often out of date by the time I edit this magazine. So, for example, I was unable to advertise a production called *The Road to the Cross* by Oddments Theatre, one of the few full-time Christian theatre companies in the UK, because the April magazine had been printed by the time I read about it.

I also know that our church has a proud record of facilitating the start-up of important organisations such as the Taunton Foodbank, Work-Wise and Citizens Somerset. I would love to publish news reports about these and other ways in which church members are living out their discipleship, what the URC calls *Walking the Way*. Rather like local newspapers, which rely on press releases for information on 'niche' groups such churches, I rely on you telling me what is, or is about to be, happening.

Readers responded willingly on the theme of *Love of Creation* with articles, prayers and photographs. The subtext to this theme - *aspects we hope to preserve* - implied that climate change may threaten what we love; read (and vote) with this in mind.

The Moving Stories from Commitment for Life are relatively brief this time so, as it is Christian Aid Week this month, I have supplemented these with their Stories of Hope.

Finally, I hope to take some holiday in June so the next issue will be a double one for June and July. With the Queen's 70th Jubilee weekend and this church celebrating the URC's 50th, the theme will be jubilee.

*Peter Henderson*

### Attributions:

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File:Environmental\_day\_special.jpg

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## Forthcoming Church Services

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

- 1 May Morning worship led by the Revd Phillip Jones (includes The Lord's Supper)
- 8 May Morning worship led by the Revd Jim Thorneycroft, the Synod Pastoral Advisor for Somerset churches
- 15 May United service at Temple Methodist Church Clare Callanan will share in the leading
- 22 May Morning worship led by the Revd Viv Henderson
- 29 May Morning worship led by the Revd Phillip Jones
- 5 June Morning worship led by the Revd Clare Callanan  
*Pentecost* (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 1st May After lunch a Christian Aid speaker will focus on their supported projects.
- Sunday 15 May Christian Aid Week begins
- Monday 16 May Magazine deadline
- Saturday 21 May 10:30am Three Churches Christian Aid week event, beginning with coffee at Temple Methodist Church
- Sunday 22nd May 3pm Somerset Voices concert 'Serenity of the Soul' in the church (see page 17)

## Pastoral letter



Dear Friends

As we move into May the temperatures should be warming and bringing blooming flowers and fresh beginnings of summer. Easter has been celebrated and we now await Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. With Easter we have been blessed with a new beginning, so don't have to wait for warmer weather.

Like us, the apostles did not know what was going to happen or where they were being sent, but we all know that the Lord will lead us.

There is at the present time (Easter weekend) religious unrest in parts of the world - in Jerusalem, in Sweden, in India - in each case groups blaming each other, so how can we celebrate the Risen Christ when our brothers and sisters of all faiths are fighting each other?

Maybe it is time for all of us to take a new look at our lives, in the light of the Risen Christ and ask what He would want us to do in and for his world.

I came across the following words in an anthology, but don't know who wrote it. I have added an extra verse.

There is something in the words that are speaking to me, but I have not yet worked out what, but I wanted to share it with you

When winter is around us, we cannot see the spring;  
But still we know,  
Despite the snow,  
That spring will come one day.

When seeds are sown in spring-time, we cannot see the flowers;  
But still we know,  
Prepared below,  
A flower will greet the day.

When the flowers are blooming, and we cannot bear their end:  
But still we know,  
New seeds will grow,  
Next spring will come again.

Though God is all around us, we cannot see his face;  
But still we know,  
Our love says so!  
God lives in us each day.

May the Risen Christ be with you.

Sue

## Praying through the week

### Prayers on the theme of Love of Creation

God made day and night, evening and morning.

Pray for our world that lives constantly on the go, through day and night, for people who work when others are at rest.

God made the sky

Pray for the universe and what it means to be living on the only (so far as we know) place that is habitable.

God formed the land and seas

Pray for the Earth and all its vegetation and plants, and give thanks for nature

God made the sun, moon and stars.

Give thanks for the balance between each planet, star and any other celestial object.

Give thanks for the exploration of the universe by so many from distant times to the present day

God made all living creatures and birds

Give thanks for their lives in helping especially the Earth to be a place interconnected with each other.

God made domestic animals, creeping creatures, wild creatures and lastly us humans.

Give thanks for all that God has made so that we may live here on Earth.

God rested having finished the work he had done.

Let us rest and give thanks for all that we have been given.

*Prayer suggestions are offered this month by Sue Ingham*

## Revised Common Lectionary for forthcoming Sundays

1 May	8 May	15 May
Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
22 May	29 May	5 June <i>Pentecost</i>
Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5 John 14:23-29	Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26	Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17 [25-27]

### 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

On Sunday 3rd April we welcomed Rex Selwood into church membership. The Revd Clare Callanan led him in his profession of faith and Stuart Trott was one of the Elders to offer him the right hand of fellowship. On Sunday 20th March a church meeting had decided to admit both Rex and Carol Rowswell. We expect to formally welcome Carol into membership at a future date.



### Thanks for the flowers

The editor has been contacted by an anonymous member of the congregation who says:

My thanks to those who produced the delightful posies given to us on Mothering Sunday.



(Photos of flower arrangements for Easter Day are on page 13.)

## Birthday Corner

Special greetings to those in our wider fellowship who have a birthday in May. These are:

on the 24th     Lee Yates

on the 28th     Judith Kirk

May God bless you both.



### Magazine distribution

The church magazines will now be displayed in the Dora Cox room each month for your collection. I will continue to post those requested.

If anyone wishes to change their arrangement, please either email me at 'dbarron53@hotmail.com' or leave a message on my land line 01823 331800 and I will change appropriately.

*Dawn Wright* (magazine distributor)

### Prayer Book

The church has, usually in the Dora Cox Room, a blue prayer book into which can be written prayers to be presented (but not read out) during the next service. Please ensure that any person named has given prior permission for this. Where this is not possible, a pebble representing the person and their need can be put in the accompanying basket.

### Can You Help?

If anyone could help with any of the following please get in touch with the contact person. Thank you

<b>Zoom Host</b> on a Sunday morning	Sue Ingham
<b>Door Stewards</b> on a Sunday morning	Heather Parsons
<b>Sunday Tea and Coffee</b>	Pamela Bamber
<b>Bible Readers</b> on Sunday morning	Heather Parsons

### MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Contributions for the next issue of the magazine, for June & July 2022, should be with the Editor

Peter Henderson - *e-mail*: tauntonurc.mag@gmail.com  
by MONDAY 16th MAY 2022 (or earlier) please.

The theme will be **jubilee**.

## 'Faith, Hope and Love'

### URC 50th anniversary celebrations at Taunton URC

*A day of outreach that opens our church  
and garden to the neighbourhood.*



**Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972**

We hope the day will look like this:

**In the church 10.30 - 3.30** coffee/tea and cake will be served in the Dora Cox Room. In the sanctuary an exhibition of art work. For this four textile sculptures have been loaned that explore themes of pain, suffering, hope and renewal. They are described as Gethsemane Garments. They are beautiful, inspirational and were produced in lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic. They are on loan from the Westhill Foundation, Birmingham. There will also be a display showing the inauguration of the URC, a celebration of 50 years since 1972. Music will be playing in the background.

**In the garden and URC car parking spaces 12.30 - 2.30** there will be free hot dogs from a barbecue and we will be entertained by a quartet, the sax, keyboard, drum and double bass under the direction of DPQ leader Daniel Pogorelski.

Please make this an important day in your diary inviting members of your family to join us. We hope to show the neighbourhood we are doing something a little different and not just celebrating TURC's past. Our vision and mission as a church is to the community. It is about letting our newcomers to Taunton feel at home in our recently refurbished church within our reformed tradition of sharing faith, hope and love.

We have co-opted several people already but others will be needed. Can you help on the day.

Phillip will arrange the display boards of the history of URC. Clare will set up the thought provoking garments. Stewards will be needed to talk with people. Perhaps you could help even from a sitting position? Dorothy and Pat are happy to play background music both on the organ and piano during the day. Frank and Ron have the task of setting up appropriate garden furniture.

Phillip and Frank will barbecue the sausages in the garden area. They may receive extra help from family members. Pamela Bamber has agreed to

arrange a rota to serve refreshments and Meg is willing to see we have some cakes. You may prefer to offer help here.

To make this really successful, in addition to our prayers we will need publicity, advertising and contact with the Quantock House. We know Ron can help with advertising. Please let us know if you and your family have some ideas for our fun day.

Our strawberry tea will now take place on Saturday 3rd September at 3pm.

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## Social & Arts events

On Sunday April 3rd, following a cooked lunch, John Hudson gave us an illustrated talk on *Smuggling in the West Country in the 18th century*.

### Sunday 1st May

We will be joined by a speaker from **Christian Aid** focussing on their supported projects.

There will be a special Christian Aid event for our 3 churches on Saturday 21st May at Temple from 10.30. including displays, materials and a speaker..

### Weekend of 5th June

**Queen's Jubilee** celebrations both in the church and in Taunton.

### Saturday 2nd July

**Outreach to the Community:** An exciting, special church open day to mark the beginning of a year long celebration for the URC 50th anniversary. For more details, and opportunities to help, see 'Faith, Hope and Love' opposite.

Clearly an event for everyone. Invitations will be offered to our neighbours especially in Quantock House.

### Saturday 3rd September

A strawberry tea in the garden (hall if wet).

*Janet and Sheila*

## Love of Creation 1

There are many areas of creation that we each have an interest in. I enjoy reading about space exploration, but I rarely if ever go out and look at the night sky. My big concern regarding space is that of the rubbish that is floating round and the many satellites up there. But what can I do?

It is the unending question, 'what can I do?' I have found that many are quick to condemn what we think of as bad practices regarding how we treat creation, but have we ever stopped to think of how local conditions may affect how a community is able to deal with the problem? Back in the 90's, I visited a community in south east Greenland. We flew in and landed on a dirt runway and then continued with a helicopter flight as this is the only way of getting there, though there are local fishing boats for shorter journeys. We were given a panoramic view of the area, the many little islands and rocks all covered with low-growing vegetation, regularly covered with spray and/or seawater. As we came into land, our wonder and awe of what we had just seen turned to horror - there is a steep cliff from the seashore up to the community and along its whole length it was covered in rubbish! Making enquires regarding the rubbish, there was a 'this is what we do' response towards it. The people we talked to said, "The snow covers it in winter and in summer the sea washes it away!" That certainly was an eye opener of a reply, but our next query was "Why".

It was not hard to find. The land is frozen for about six months of the year so burying rubbish during that time was out of the question, and if they could dig through the rocks and bury it during the late summer it would take forever to decompose. How else could they get rid of it? How long could this dumping go on? I went to the internet to see what I could find

In 2019 they trialled a cargo ship, operated by a new Waste Management Company which would collect and transport waste from communities and take it to one of the two new incineration plants in Nuuk or Sisimiut. The ship would also ascertain whether it is suitable for transporting other recyclable waste material that could be used in other locations in the country or abroad. This certainly sounds promising, though I could not find any more recent information.

Hopefully this new arrangement will work but I wondered where had the rubbish dispersed to? Not all environmental problems are easy to answer.

*Sue Ingham*

## In church and out



Easter Day flower arrangements on font, pulpit (with details of blooms) and window.  
*Photos: the editor, Meg Cardy.*

Far right: The Moon at the Minster - a strange scene at St Mary Magdelene.

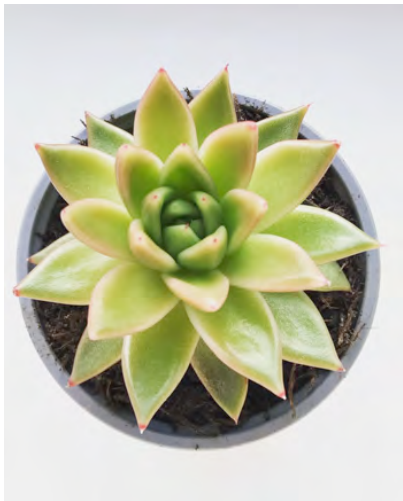
Below: It is time for lambing.





## Creation geometry

Images to accompany Clare Callanan's article on page 18



## Natural wonders

I wonder...

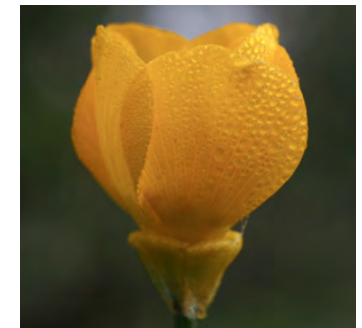
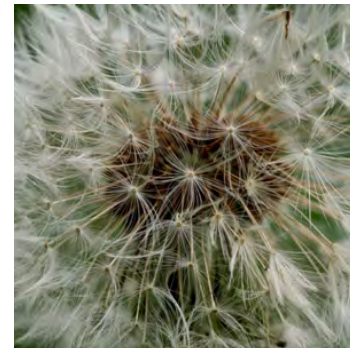


... how loudly flowers need to trumpet, "Here's the pollen!"?

... do these leaves also have fivefold symmetry?



... how the design of dandelion seed-heads arises?



... do other creatures marvel at the dewy dimples on this buttercup?

... how bark gets woven like this.



Peter Henderson

## Around the country

### Helen Newman reports from Derbyshire -

This Incubator with 10 eggs was put in our lounge as the first week of April for us to watch the chicks hatching (actually most of them hatched in the night); now they are all very active and going back to the farm on Friday 22nd.



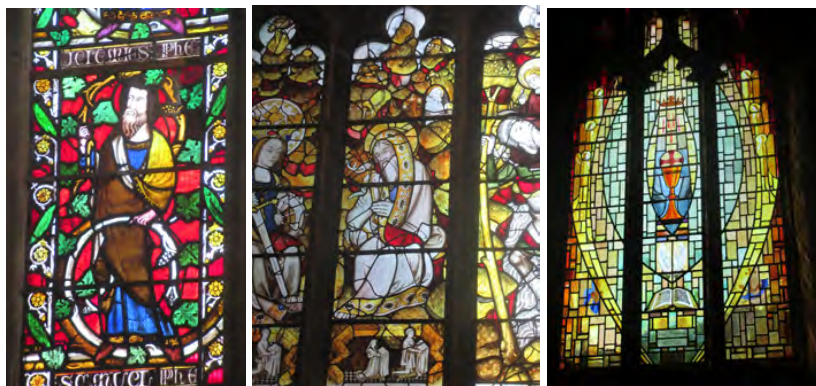
The blue bells coming up year after year telling us that Spring is really here. Ruth and Philip, over from France, took me in a wheel-chair around this big Shipley Park area one afternoon.



### Meanwhile in Shropshire

Sheena Helliar has been viewing stained glass windows in some of the county's churches. Below are a few.

From left to right: medieval Jesse window in St Mary's, Shrewsbury; medieval glass in St John's chapel in St Laurence's, Ludlow; 1971 window by Claude Price in St Nicholas, Newport



## News from Taunton churches

### Court chaplains

Taunton Team Chaplaincy reports the Commissioning of the new Chaplains who will serve all who work in or visit the magistrates' courts is the latest chapter in an impressive record of God at work through local churches and their members blessing the community of Taunton.

### Good News for Everyone

Taunton Branch of Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons UK) is looking to recruit new members for our local area. This covers from Wellington in the west to Burnham on Sea in the east. The main parts of the work involves distributing Bibles and New Testaments to senior schools Year 7 pupils, hospitals, hotels and B&B's, and elderly folks homes, and sharing with local churches about the work we do. Interested? Contact John Salter (on behalf of Good News for Everyone, Taunton Branch) Tel 01823 669043. Email [salters@talktalk.net](mailto:salters@talktalk.net).

### St Mary Magdalene church - Afternoon Tea Concerts

Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm - Jonathan Delbridge on piano and organ



# ‘Serenity Of Soul’

*Four centuries of sacred choral music*

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 3:00 p.m.**

**United Reformed Church, Taunton**

**Music by Purcell, Bach, Brahms, Stanford, Britten & Pärt**

Conductor:

Organist:

Graham Caldbeck

Peter King

Tickets £15 (£5 Student, under 12s free) - from Taunton Visitor Centre 01823 340470





## Love of Creation 2

*Ever since the creation of the world God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things she has made. Romans 1:20*

*Creation is not finished - the world occurs anew every moment.*  
Hans-Peter Durr. Professor of Quantum Physics

Being the daughter of someone who views the world mathematically has been a burden for both of us! "The beauty of maths..." was a phrase my father used that left me stranded every time over algebra, quadratic equations, trigonometry and even the times tables. Wherever was the pattern? The understanding? The beauty? Yet now, many years later, something has shifted in my awareness, and I feel myself opening up to this beauty. It has come about through my increased awareness, understanding and love of sacred geometry; confirmed and expanded through a love of creation, art, photography, and architecture.

Sacred geometry and its principles have been adopted by different faiths in their architecture and art. Through the centuries, architects around the world have used certain geometric ratios to build their temples, monuments and cathedrals—intended as symbolic models of the universe and divine. Sacred geometry merges the tangible aspects of creation with the intangible essence behind them. Any cathedral is dizzyingly crammed with such ratios and shapes. A week at Chartres Cathedral spent studying the form, windows, and labyrinth was a WOW moment for me in this move towards understanding the love of creation.

In 1200 AD an Italian noticed that plants grow from the ground in a certain way. He observed that when the shoot pushed from the soil it created the stem first. Soon after appeared the first leaves and branches. The man was called Leonardo Pisano. Today though, he is remembered as Leonardo Fibonacci from filius Bonacci, which means "the son of Bonaccio". Simply by observing nature, he rediscovered the long lost creation sequence: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144... The Fibonacci spiral can be seen in flower heads, shells, plants, and pinecones. We are surrounded by these designs and beauty.

In the seventeenth century Galileo wrote: 'The grand book of the universe... was written in the language of mathematics, and its characters are triangles, circles, and other geometrical figures, without which it is impossible to understand a single word of it.'

He was right about many things in spite of the Church's objections. Some things do not change much. Certain naturally occurring shapes and forms are mysteriously pleasing to the human eye. At some time, and I invite you to continue in such 'wonder-ing,' you will have been attracted to the graceful swirl of a nautilus shell, the crystalline structures of the mineral kingdom, and the remarkable patterns found in snowflakes, peacock tail feathers, and flowers.

On the third day of creation, according to Genesis, the Creator, having separated the earth from ocean and provided dry land, began seeding it with plants. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." Genesis 1:11. The geometry we can see so often here is pentagonal. Most wildflowers have five petals with pentagonal stamens. All trees and shrubs that bear edible fruit have five-sided flowers, and that geometry is continued in the fruit. Next time you eat an apple, cut it in half along its equator to see the pentagram formed by its seeds. The development of photography and science opened up new perspectives. Artists, scientists, mystics and 'wonder-ers' unite in the praise and appreciation of creation around them.

We are a microcosmic reflection of this macrocosm. The structure of the human body is based upon the DNA sequence which is the blueprint of life and matches many aspects of mathematical sequences. In its essence, this molecule, which carries genetic information, is proof of how sacred geometry is woven into our lives. As a matter of fact, it is part of life on Earth and it is part of us. This principle of interconnectedness, inseparability and union provides us with a continuous reminder of our relationship to the whole, to the divine, to a God that loved us into being. There is a blueprint from our hearts to the sacred foundation of all things created.

*Clare Callanan*

Q U O T E	<p>People used to think about a new car or iPhone, but nobody was thinking about peace. Now, we are dreaming of it. When old people used to wish each other peace, we didn't understand what they meant. Now we do.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Natalia Balasynovych, mayor of Vasyilkiv, near Kyiv</i></p>
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## Remedying the legacy of slavery

*This is the second of two articles based on my sermon on 20th February 2022.*

In the first article I reminded readers how my sermon had explained why this is a relevant question for the Church to consider. The URC's Legacy of Slavery Task Group has asked each local church for its views on the three recommendations of the Task Group. These are that we

- make an **apology** for the actions of our forbears in the practice of slavery and also for our complicity in the way our society continues to be shaped by the benefits of slavery and the legacy of persistent racism;
- make **reparation**: we can't repay that which cannot be quantified but we can substantiate our apology with education, truth telling, and community projects addressing specific needs in local community;
- **confront white privilege** by continuing to deepen of our understanding of these issues and to work together to bring about true racial justice.

Among these points, perhaps the least obvious are our complicity in the way society is shaped and the notion of white privilege. This is because we are fundamentally well-meaning people - we do not mean anyone harm - and it can be difficult to see how we enjoy a privileged position among diverse races. This is compounded by the fact that our congregation, and the population among whom we live, is overwhelmingly white. It would be easy to think there is no problem.

So take a look at the following list of statements. How many do you agree with? How do you think people of other races would answer?

1. I can if I wish arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.
2. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area which I can afford and in which I would want to live.
3. I can be pretty sure that my neighbours in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.
4. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.
5. I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented.

6. When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilisation," I am shown that people of my colour made it what it is.
7. I can be sure that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to the existence of their race.
8. I can go into a music shop and count on finding the music of my race represented, into a supermarket and find the staple foods that fit with my cultural traditions, into a hairdresser's shop and find someone who can cut my hair.
9. Whether I use cheques, credit cards or cash, I can count on my skin colour not to work against the appearance of financial reliability.
10. I can arrange to protect my children most of the time from people who might not like them.
11. I can speak in public to a powerful male group without putting my race on trial.
12. I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a credit to my race.
13. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group.
14. I can remain oblivious of the language and customs of persons of colour who constitute the world's majority without feeling in my culture any penalty for this.
15. I can criticise our government and talk about how much I fear its policies and behaviour without being seen as a cultural outsider.
16. I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to "the person in charge," I will be facing a person of my race.
17. If a traffic cop pulls me over, I can be sure I haven't been singled out because of my race.
18. I can easily buy posters, postcards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys, and children's magazines featuring people of my race.
19. I can go home from most meetings of organisations I belong to feeling somewhat tied in, rather than isolated, out-of-place, outnumbered, unheard, held at a distance, or feared.
20. I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my race will not work against me.
21. If my day, week, or year is going badly, I need not ask of each negative episode or situation whether it has racial overtones.
22. I can choose blemish cover or bandages in "flesh" colour and have them more less match my skin.

"There needs to be a daily process of unpacking the invisible package of unearned benefits in the service of a more just and humane world." -  
Sue Borrego, Chancellor at the University of Michigan-Flint.

*Viv Henderson*

# 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

One of the partners we support in Bangladesh is ActionAid. They do outstanding work, like helping 10-year-old Jesmin who lived on the streets of Dhaka.

Jesmin's family was so poor they barely had anything to eat. Now Jesmin lives in an ActionAid funded 'Happy Home' - where she can enjoy a proper meal, learn, and play with other girls, and gain skills for the future, safe from harm.



*"When I used to live on the street, boys used bad words against me and they were beating me," Jesmin said. "So, my understanding is girls are not safe on the streets."*

*"Now I love living in Happy Homes. I can eat healthy food regularly. I've learned to make necklaces, bracelets, anklets, and I can do embroidery. And I can study. I am in class 5. My favourite subject is Social Science and English."*

Thank you for your prayers, advocacy, and generosity in support of remarkable young people like Jesmin, who thrive if only given a chance.

## Zimbabwe

The Revd Wilbert Sayimani is a URC minister in Bournemouth, with extensive links to the Commitment for Life partner country, Zimbabwe.

Recently, Wilbert submitted a grant application for the installation of a solar geyser for the school, which was, I'm pleased to report, successful. Wilbert wasted no time in purchasing the geyser and having it and installed. He writes:



*I would like to thank Commitment for Life so much for the grant you gave to Falcon School in Zimbabwe for the provision of Green Energy. I forwarded the money to the school the moment it got to me, and they did not waste time. The very next day they had a Solar Geyser installed for the school. They now have hot water.*

He goes on:

*Of priority on my list is the installation of solar energy so they can bring computer lessons and power to the school. Computer Lessons are now part of the school and government curriculum and yet this school is still far from achieving this all because of lack of electricity.*

Your support for Commitment for Life makes a big difference!

Photos: via W. Sayimani





## Stories of Hope

Christian Aid's latest campaign is called United by Hope. A video showing how Christian Aid stands against injustice can be viewed online at [https://youtu.be/sfH7\\_ObjQvk](https://youtu.be/sfH7_ObjQvk) Here are the stories of people in the film.

### Ranjita's story

All mums want the best for their children, and the chance to live up to their potential -and Ranjita's no different.



As a mum of three in India who couldn't afford to send her eldest children to school, her life was transformed after being helped by our partner organisation ARUN to leave manual scavenging and start a tailoring business of her own.

Thanks to the ARUN SKA programme and her new livelihood, Ranjita has hope of a brighter future for her family and youngest

child Soniya, who is now attending school.

### Imote's story

Like so many of us, Imote would do anything for his family.

After sadly losing both of his parents at a young age, 21 year old Imote was caring for his nine siblings by working on an orange farm left to him by his father - until the pandemic hit Nigeria. Unable to sell his produce and struggling to feed his young family, Imote received financial support from Christian Aid. Now he can keep his family and business afloat (and be an inspiration to us all).



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Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life

*Proverbs 13:12*

### Faruk's story



Faruk loves playing with a camera and taking pictures of his favourite things -from chicken and goats, to houses and his friends.

Having been forced to flee the escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, Faruk now lives in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, where Christian Aid provides critical support such as water, sanitation, food and shelter. A keen footballer, Faruk now hopes for a football ground to be added to the camp, and dreams of

becoming a Hafez (religious teacher).

### Laila's story

From skipping rope to Ludo, Laila loves nothing more than playing with her friends.

Like Faruk and thousands of others, Laila lives in a Bangladeshi refugee camp after fleeing Myanmar in 2017. In spending time and building relationships with the staff at DSK (Christian Aid's partner in Bangladesh), Laila has been encouraged to pursue higher education and hopes to give back to her community in the future.



Images on this page are from Fabeha Monir/Christian Aid

### Prayer of hope

God of resurrection

We turn from the cross of death towards the tree of life

And dare to imagine another possible world

Where violent conflict becomes peaceful reconciliation

Where hunger and thirst are filled and quenched

Where barriers of exclusion become bridges of opportunity

Where pain and tears are healed and tenderly wiped away

Where world weary hearts are strengthened and reenergised

Where the leaves of the tree heal all the nations

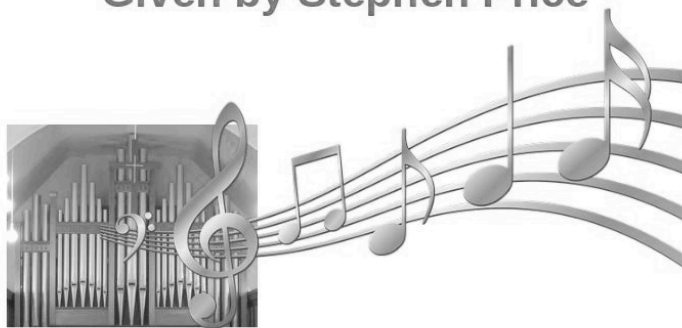
In a time of inequality and division we are united by hope,  
anticipating the flourishing of creation and fullness of life for everyone

To the glory and praise of your Almighty name.

Amen

# ORGAN RECITAL

Given by Stephen Price



Music by Mendelssohn, Bach,  
Elgar, Albinoni and more

Wednesday  
18<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
2:30 pm

@Minehead United  
Reformed Church  
Bancks Street

Programmes at the door  
Suggested Donation £5.

All Very  
Welcome



Tea and Cake  
afterwards

## ROTAS FOR MAY

### CHURCH FLOWERS

*Unless otherwise stated flowers are arranged  
by Sheila Woolvin and Pam Elliott*

1 May	Meg Cardy
8 May	---
15 May	Pamela Bamber
22 May	---
29 May	Deb & Keith Gallagher

### MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 May	Rita Williams & Pamela Elliott
8 May	Pamela Bamber & Carol Rowswell
15 May	Chris Trott & Sheila Rudofsky
May	Pamela & Alan Bamber
29 May	Heather Parsons & Isobel Tosh-Robb

### Sunday duties

	Duty Elder	Communion Elders	Zoom host
1 May	Stuart	Sue Eryl	Ron
8 May	Meg		Peter
15 May		At Temple Methodist Church	
22 May	Frank		Eryl
29 May	Sheena		Sue

## OFFICE HOLDERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF TAUNTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Car-Park..... Eryl Harris  
 Christian Aid..... Sheila Rudofsky  
 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 .....

### SERVING ELDERS

<b>Sue Ingham</b> <i>Secretary</i> 07818 637155	<b>Meg Cardy</b> 01823 443245	<b>Frank Callanan</b> 07789 071935
<b>Sheena Helliard</b> 01823 333382	<b>Stuart Trott</b> 01823 281551	

## 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**