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# Taunton United Reformed Church



**JUNE / JULY 2022**  
Magazine



1

## TAUNTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MAGAZINE

NO. 596

June-July 2022

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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
Gethsemane Garments - fashion or focus? .....	10
Jubilee celebrations .....	11
Sculptures by the Lakes .....	12
In and around the church .....	13
More delights in creation .....	14
Our Open Day .....	15
Where the URC is coming from .....	16
Jubilee .....	18
Citizens Somerset - Report of the Annual Accountability Assembly .....	20
Taunton Choral Society .....	22
Church Flowers & Rotas .....	23

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## From the Editor



This Jubilee-themed issue contains important information about the church Open Day. So do please look at page 15.

Also, Sheila Rudofsky is hoping that you will choose a favourite hymn for a DIY 'Songs of Praise' service. See page 8.

Having pointed you towards these urgent church community matters, let us see what else you will find.

Frank Callanan has given us a marvellously concise report of the Citizens Somerset Annual Accountability Assembly on page 20. Clare Callanan, a regular contributor to this magazine, makes her debut as writer of the pastoral letter. Clare, who is always up for a challenge to write about the monthly themes, also provides us with a look at the biblical roots of the idea of jubilee. Meanwhile, Viv Henderson gives us an historical perspective on the 50-year life of the United Reformed Church with the essence of an hour-long talk by church historian, former URC General Secretary, and erstwhile member of this church, David Cornick.

This month's guidelines for prayer focus on the war in Ukraine. These are an edited extract of prayers that another former church member, Roy Lowes, led at the most recent meeting of the South Western Synod.

There have now been many different styles of prayer featured in this magazine over the past year, from simple daily suggestions to themed prayer to deeper meditations. None is better than any other; in fact, variety is good, I believe. So do please consider taking a turn at writing these; this is a double issue so you have many weeks to think about it before the next deadline.

The next issue will be for August and the theme will be Coming Home. That could be literally coming home, or coming home to God, or coming home to real life; but not Football's coming home, please, as the sportswashing of yet another oppressive regime does not kick off until November. What does it mean for you to come home? What would it mean for others?

*Peter Henderson*

Cover image: A shofar (the ram's horn to announce a jubilee) is blown.  
Photo by מצילומי יהודית גרעין-כלל, CC BY 2.5,  
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## Forthcoming Church Services

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

- 5 June Morning worship led by the Revd Clare Callanan  
*Pentecost* (includes The Lord's Supper)
- 12 June Morning worship led by the Revd Tim Richards  
(the church's Companion Minister)
- 19 June Morning worship led by the Revd Phillip Jones
- 26 June Morning worship led by Miss Sue Ingham
- 3 July Morning worship led by the Revd Phillip Jones  
(includes The Lord's Supper)
- 10 July Morning worship: Songs of Praise led by Sheila Rudofsky  
(see request on page 8)
- 17 July Morning worship led by the Revd Clare Callanan  
followed by **Church Meeting**
- 24 July Morning worship led by the Revd Peter Brain
- 31 July Morning worship: Café Church led by  
the Revd Clare Callanan and others

## 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

## Other Notable Dates

- Thur-Sun 2-5 June *Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday*
- Saturday 25 June Taunton Choral Society 'Come & Sing' (see p.22)
- Saturday 2 July 10:30-3:30 **Church Open Day** (see page 15)
- Monday 18 July Magazine deadline

## Pastoral letter



Dear Friends

A few weeks' ago I was in a florist's shop on Gloucester Road, Bristol called The Rambling Rose ([www.theramblingrosebristol.com/](http://www.theramblingrosebristol.com/)). My daughter, Dominie, has begun to work there recently and though she was not there that day, I still went in and introduced myself, "Hello...I'm Dominie's mum..."

As I left, I pondered on how I introduced myself (and the fact that I had probably not used those particular words for some time...!) I am Dominie and Vincent's mum... Frank's wife... Lucy's mother-in-law... Maria, Bernadette, and Sean's stepmother... Jeremy and Gerald's sister... Frank and Jan's daughter... I am Helen and Sam and Richard's friend... Keith's neighbour...

Professionally in the past I have been Robert's teacher... Alice's swimming and gymnastic coach... Julie's National Childbirth Trust support mum and breastfeeding supporter... Mary's minister... Penny's spiritual director... Sapper Jones' padre... Emma's chaplain...

So many identities. And yet in nearly two years of retirement from full time chaplaincy and ministry I am not sure who or what I am. I am still some of the above... but certainly not others. I continue to find retirement a messy and unsteady space, and I have not accepted it or settled into it very gracefully. I'm challenged as to how and why that is the case. What is this identity issue?

Identity is a big deal, for good and for ill. People identify themselves in all sorts of ways. And central to most of the ways we identify ourselves are memory and the stories we tell ourselves about our past, our present and our possible future. There seems to be some thing, some capacity or quality, that makes us persons, that allows us to identify ourselves as 'me', and others to identify us in conversation and the social world.

So, do we identify as Christians...or followers of Christ...or other? For me, the problem of identity persists, often now entangled in questions about the nature of the image of God or the sou. The image of God does not identify a particular person, it describes something common to all humanity. Perhaps it is about a sense of story...of who I am through my history, my roles and relationships, the memories I and others share about my passage through life.

John Swinton, a Scottish theologian and founder of Aberdeen University's Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability, offers these thoughts. What if our identity is not, in the end, determined by us and our memories, by our narration of our own story, or even others' ability to tell a meaningful story of our lives? What if who we are is determined as much by where we're going and who we will become, as it is by where and who we've been? What if there is Another who remembers us truly, who knows the story of our lives better than we do (daunting though that prospect may be, as Psalm 139 reminds us)? What if our identity is in the end as much a gift as an attainment?

1 John 3:2 reminds us, 'Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.' Here we see an identity that depends, not on our failing memories, our fragmented stories, but on God's claiming of us, and the guarantee of God's faithfulness to that claim. Wow!

So perhaps I can find a way through this by knowing that my productivity, my achievements, my abilities, my story, do not finally define me. For my story has been caught up in the story of the gospel... God has incorporated it in God's own story of love. Now that is a God identity.

And you have it. And Taunton URC has it. A God story. AMEN

Clare Callanan

## Praying about Ukraine

Guidelines for prayer offered by Roy Lowes at the March meeting of Synod

In order to connect with the suffering of the Ukrainians let us prayerfully remember the ordinary things that matter to us and that will matter to them.

We remember our slippers, our favourite mug, our morning routines, our dogs and cats, the little snacks that make the day even if they ought not to, the communications with family and friends, the dates in the diary, the future plans, the bedroom that really could do with decorating. These ordinary daily things, which might seem dull, are now seen as distant heaven to those who've had to flee and leave them behind.

We remember those who have escaped from death but still have lost significant parts of their life: their slippers, their favourite mug, perhaps their dog or cat, their husband has been left behind, or the older people who cannot travel, the treatment for the child who so desperately needs it, the communication with their loved ones, the cable to charge their phone, the plans for tomorrow and tomorrow.

We remember those who know that dusty death might be the fate for many who are left behind in the savages of war, those who fear the fighting and see the rubble around them of the buildings they didn't know, until now, how much they loved.

Our hearts rejoice to see courage displayed - could we do the same? Our hearts rejoice to see charity writ large, a Ukrainian woman giving a distraught Russian soldier a mobile phone so he can phone his mum, people travelling from other countries across the continent to wave a banner saying, 'we can take a family for tomorrow or for lots of tomorrows.'

We pray that this senseless war might be brought to a shuddering halt, that the Spirit of God might arise and in some way bring the Russian regime and its advisors to its senses.

We pray for the international political community, for the UN, NATO, and those whose country's political strategy and relations with Russia leaves them sitting on an uncomfortable fence. We pray for wisdom and the courage to think long term and beyond individual nation's advantage.

We pray too for Russian forces whose lives are also at risk and many already destroyed. Their hearts might not be 'in it' and they too will be in conflict, literally and personally. We remember them and their families. And we pray for the aid and rescue agencies offering the neighbourliness of us all to those who have been ambushed by these awful circumstances.

## Revised Common Lectionary for forthcoming Sundays

5 June <i>Pentecost</i>	12 June	19 June
Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17 [25-27]	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15	Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:19-28 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39
26 June	3 July	10 July
1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62	Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9 Galatians 6:1-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-10 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37
17 June	24 July	31 July
Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42	Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138 Colossians 2:6-19 Luke 11:1-13	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; and 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-12 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

### 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

### DIY service on July 10th - our own 'Songs of Praise'

A few months ago someone in the congregation suggested we put together our favourite hymns and readings for a DIY service. The time has come to prepare the service. PLEASE let me have your favourite hymn (from Rejoice and Sing preferably) If you would like to add why you chose it, in a sentence, that might be helpful. Similarly let me have a short favourite Bible reading that we can share.

Thank you. I look forward to receiving them by **Sunday 12th June**.

*Sheila Rudofsky*

## Birthday Corner

There are numerous birthdays among our wider fellowship in the months of June and July. We offer good wishes to you all and pray that God will bless you.

### June

- 11 Peter Henderson
- 14 Ann Gerhold
- 30 Amelia Hather



### July

- 2 David Holmes
- 3 Helen Newman
- 16 Viv Henderson
- 17 Sarah Grigg
- 21 Ruth Whitehead
- 22 Bettina Hather

## Social & Arts events

On Sunday 1st May, following a ploughman's lunch, we heard from Richard Hart, who is the new Christian Aid co-ordinator for Somerset and Dorset. He reminded us that the role of Christian Aid is to eradicate poverty through relief and development, and advocacy by speaking truth to power with a prophetic voice.

Richard reported that Christian Aid Week in 2021 had, at the last count, raised £5.9 million. As an example of their relief and development, he showed a video about the work in Zimbabwe.



## Forthcoming events

### 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 'Our Open Day' on page 15 (and page 10 also).

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*

### QUOTES

And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family.

*Leviticus 25:10*

The build-up of personal and collective debt in America and Europe should have sent warning signals to anyone familiar with the biblical institutions of the Sabbatical and Jubilee years, created specifically because of the danger of people being trapped by debt.

*Rabbi Jonathan Sacks*

## Gethsemane Garments - fashion or focus?

Faith can be expressed in many ways... story, prayer, music, mission, art... and I believe it is important to use these different and varied mediums to explore faith and spirituality.

Westhill, based in Birmingham, also believes in making things happen in a wide Christian context (<https://www.westhillendowment.org/>) Amongst other things, Westhill provides exhibition resources, to support imaginative, faith-motivated activities that enable ordinary people to transform their lives and the lives of their communities, as well as projects resourcing and educating people to do this.

So, as a church community, we are going to host two exhibitions of very different artworks, in June/July and also in October. We will have them available for approximately two weeks each and the intention is to 'incorporate' them into the life and worship of our church and to invite others to share with us too.

From 24th June to 8th July we will have The Gethsemane Garments. These are a collection of 4 textile sculptures by Peter Privett. They explore themes of pain, suffering, hope and renewal. The garments comprise of cotton, silk, wool, synthetic fabrics, muslin, recycled clothes, shells, nails and beads. Peter wished to explore how we express pain and suffering, how we remember and tell our stories, the language we discover, how we listen to others, and how we need to speak for those who cannot speak. He feels that hope and renewal come because of, not in spite of, our harder experiences, and how in renewal we can offer hospitality and understanding to others.

I am excited by this opportunity and I hope you are too. The exhibition will be a major part of our celebration on 2nd July, with the idea that people visiting the church will see them and engage with them in some way. I intend to offer a talk one evening during that time (date tbc) exploring the themes in a deeper way, and to perhaps open that to other churches. What do you think? Are there any other ways we can fully utilise this wonderful work?

Here is a sneak preview of one of them...

*Clare Callanan*



## Jubilee celebrations



Above: The official Jubilee photograph of Her Majesty the Queen

(credit: Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images).

Helen Newman reports that, at Heanor Park Care Home where she lives, residents are making decorations for the Jubilee weekend. Helen





## Sculptures by the Lakes

Clare Callanan shares some photos from a visit to 'Sculpture by the Lakes' near Dorchester.



## In and around the church



Construction of Quantock House, a block of retirement flats opposite the church, is now complete.

Left: On the corner of Paul St two large rocks represent Quantock stones.

Below: Steps up to the entrance.



We hope to welcome some of our new neighbours to the Open Day (see page 15).



Left: Flower arrangement at the service on Sunday 1st May.  
Above: Details from different angle.

## More delights in creation

Continuing the theme from the last issue, nature has moved on to show further delights. For me the delight is in the detail.



The early blossom is being blown away but now the Milkwort is in flower (left).



Our local nature reserve, which yielded all these photos, is ablaze with Buttercups (above, right), some of which are going over and their seed cases are forming.

Similarly, the blossom of the Bird Cherry is giving way to the growth of fruit (right and centre), and on the Beech tree nuts, or mast, are forming where there were flowers (left).



Photos: Peter Henderson  
Interpretation: Viv

## Our Open Day

**Saturday July 2nd 10:30 - 3:30 FAITH HOPE LOVE**

Excitement mounts as we approach July 2nd. It is a day to mark the beginning of the URC's 50th anniversary. This is not just a day for church members but a day to celebrate **FAITH HOPE AND LOVE** with our local community. We rejoice knowing that the residents of Quantock House welcome us. To make the day successful we need everyone to play a part. At our Social and Arts Sunday snacks there is a lot of very happy chatter and now we want to share with people we may not have spoken with before. We plan to advertise in local papers and BBC Somerset.

Several members have already given thought and time in preparing but more help is needed.

If you enjoy **baking** cakes or biscuits please speak to Meg. She is looking after the refreshments with Pamela Bamber in the Dora Cox.

If you prefer to help serve refreshments please speak to Pamela. She will make a rota for the day.

Some of you may enjoy **inspirational textiles**; if so, then please help Clare when the exhibition is being viewed. The textiles have been insured for £1500 so they require safe-guarding. (See page 10.)

Also in the sanctuary is a display and film demonstration showing the beginning of the URC. Phillip will look after the display but there may be visitors asking questions about the URC. Please speak with Phillip if you are willing to **share** information in the morning or afternoon.

At 12:30 free hot dogs will be served in the garden and the quartet under the direction of Daniel Pogorelski will play Cuban style music to entertain us and you may even want to dance! Needless to say we would like 2 or 3 people to give Frank and Phillip a **hand** in the garden where necessary. There will be chairs for those who prefer not to stand.

Something for all volunteers. It is our day to share with the community. If it rains then we would have the barbecue under the covered way and the music group in the hall. We are all looking beyond 'our box' when we share our faith with the neighbourhood. There will be plenty of leaflets to describe our church and denomination.

(continued overleaf)



Rev. Phillip Jones Easter Day sermon ended with a question, 'how can we as individuals and a congregation make the risen Christ visible in real terms to the community and beyond, not to terrify them or to judge them but make it known that they are loved and accepted by God, who they are just as they are'. This is what this day is about.

Janet Sowerbutts & Sheila Rudofsky

## Where the URC is coming from

Viv Henderson's summary of David Cornick's recent address to Ministers

When the United Reformed Church was formed in 1972, it was the first united church of two distinct and different traditions in England since the Reformation. The Edinburgh Missionary Conference of 1910 had highlighted the absurdity of exporting Western denominational divisions into Asia and Africa. Subsequent conferences led to the formation of the International Missionary Conference and the World Council of Churches.

In 1917 Nathan Söderblom, the Lutheran Primate of Sweden, proposed a Council to consider the Life and Work of the Churches. Meanwhile in England, Bishop William Temple planned a national conference on political and economic citizenship (COPEC) with his deputy, Congregationalist theologian A.E. Garvie. The initiatives came together as *Life and Work*, a World Council strand of the World Council of Churches.

The URC component traditions had been catalysts in the formation of united churches: the United Church of Canada (1925), the Church of South India (1947) and the United Church of Christ in the USA (1957). International church gatherings became increasingly ecumenical. In May 1963 the Congregational Union of England and Wales began talks with the Presbyterian Church of England about possible union. At the Nottingham Faith and Order Conference in 1964, Congregationalist Norman Goodall proposed that all British churches should unite no later than Easter Sunday 1980. Only 53 out of 550 attendees demurred. However, by the end of the decade the mood had changed.

The Second Vatican Council '*Decree on Ecumenism*' made the Roman Catholic Church a serious ecumenical conversation partner for the first time, but the Anglican-Methodist unity scheme marginally failed just six months before the URC came into being. In society there was an emerging distrust of grand narratives, be it Marxism, Christianity or ecumenism.

However, as part of its commitment to ecumenism in its Uniting Service and Assembly in 1972, the URC invited partner churches to continue discussions, but the resulting '*Ten Propositions for Unity*' was rejected by the Church of England in 1982. The other partners, the Methodists, the Moravians and the Churches of Christ also withdrew. Nonetheless, the URC faithfully pursued its vocation, in the inter-church process from 1985-1990, which created Churches Together in Britain and Ireland out of the old British Council of Churches, guided by Philip Morgan, a URC minister. This enabled a broader ecumenical conversation to move 'from co-operation to commitment' involving Catholics, Pentecostals and some of the new churches. Broadening made the quest for unity harder and more complex as did theological tensions, e.g concerning human sexuality.

So the United Reformed Church, whose *raison d'être* was to be a temporary stage on the journey to a wider united church had to address its purpose and identity anew. It remained true to its constitution, despite the changing ecumenical climate, uniting with the Churches of Christ in 1981 and the Congregational Union of Scotland in 2001. The URC enthusiastically participated in local ecumenism, especially in Local Ecumenical Partnerships and united congregations.

These unions have intensified the diversity of the traditions in the URC. A commitment to unity is not simply a commitment to ecumenical conversation. It is a commitment to work out what unity in Christ means for those who are in Christ and for the world which Christ came to save. The adoption of non-stipendiary ministry (based on the Churches of Christ tradition of elders), the holding together of the validity of both infant and believer's baptism, and the commitment to gender equality are but three glimpses of a determined attempt to work towards this unity.

The increasing racial diversity of the three nations and its churches was recognised by the United Reformed Church affirming itself to be a multicultural church in 2005. Tension and pluralism are signs of a vibrant and determined attempt to struggle with the gospel itself, to discover what it means for all who are in Christ to be one.



The United Reformed Church has always agonised about its structures, but it has always been clear that discernment of the Spirit lies through conversation, listening, prayer and the study of Scripture. The church is an event of the Spirit. It is always becoming.

Despite our failure and weakness, Christ continues to call the church, and so the church has learnt '... that its life must ever be renewed and reformed according to the Scriptures, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit' (quoting URC Basis of Union).

# Jubilee

Were you marching in the late 1990s and early 2000s? In Birmingham, London, Edinburgh. Were you there? Were you wearing a white wrist band?



All this was about calling for justice with regard to global debt. Jubilee 2000, Drop the Debt, Make Poverty History... the headlines were catchy.

But what has all this got to do with jubilee? How have the major organisations involved used the word? Do we know the deeper meanings and understanding? Is it a time for street parties and bunting, or campaigning and marching again?

Biblically, a jubilee is a year of emancipation and restoration. In the book of Leviticus, the Lord declares that a year of Jubilee be held every 50th year and that it be a special year of pardoning of sins. Slaves were to be freed, debts forgiven, and land returned to its original owner. In addition, Israelites were not allowed to “sow, or reap and store ... or gather the grapes of the uncultivated vines” for it was to be a holy year when the land rested too (Lev 25:11). This all sounds rather radical. Would we be willing to wipe out debt others owed us... even if we're short on cash? Why did God instigate the Jubilee?

1. Firstly, a Jubilee shows us more of the character of God. His mercy, generosity, and justice are displayed. The Jubilee's requirements to cancel debts which weigh heavily upon people show his heart for setting the oppressed free.
2. We are reminded of his and our place in the world. By not sowing or reaping, we are reminded that God is our Creator and Provider. Trust in God.
3. Jubilee gives people the opportunity to display love and grace in a remarkable way; for both the person being released from debt and the releaser.
4. In a radical display of justice, people are set free from entrapping debt to start again on an equal footing. Those in bondage, who might be hidden today but are numerous, are set free from their dark environment. Jesus gave a Jubilee message in the Temple when he proclaimed the “year of the Lord's favour,” stating that he'd come to “set the oppressed free” (Luke 4:18-19).

So how can we put into practice some of these biblical themes? There are many ways surely. What is Taunton URC's role in this? We could remember that all good gifts are God-given. We can join in Jesus' mission to 'set the oppressed free' by befriending a struggling neighbour or someone who is homeless. We can think of ways we could show mercy to others, whether in practical or emotional ways - such as showing forgiveness. And more. We could support the Jubilee Debt Campaign (<https://jubileedebt.org.uk/>) which is about to be relaunched with a new name Debt Justice; a change of name which is attempting to recognise and stop the unjust debts driving poverty and inequality. The need to see economic and social justice is a driving force behind their campaigns. Debt, is the prism they chose to highlight structural injustices.



So, I do not have a problem with respecting and recognising the platinum Jubilee celebration of the Queen. Taunton URC is going to do this too in a variety of ways. And that is good. But I do have a problem with over 54 countries in crisis, meaning debt payments are undermining their economies. The ability of governments to protect the basic economic and social rights of their citizens are spiralling. Many are on the front-lines of the climate emergency, still struggling with the pandemic, or experiencing conflict. Trapped in an unjust system.

I do struggle to know that in the UK, the personal debt crisis is growing, with nearly 15 million people now struggling to keep up with bills, even before the soaring costs of living. I am worried about my adult children struggling to keep going. I am concerned with the unequal distribution of wealth; individually and institutionally... and that includes the church on all levels. I am uncomfortable with anything that puts personal comfort above the collective or community wellbeing.

Does that make me a party pooper this summer? I hope not. But I do hope I do not lose sight of the fact that though a Jubilee is a chance for us to rejoice - not only in the Queen - it is also time to rejoice in the freedom we have through the Creator God, so that we can join with the psalmist in saying, “you have set my heart free!” (Psalm 119:32)

*Clare Callanan*

# Citizens Somerset

## Report of the Annual Accountability Assembly held on Monday the 25th April 2022.

Citizens Somerset is a diverse group, of which Taunton United Reformed Church is a member and I am part of the leadership team, met to work together for the common good and to build stronger communities.

We listen to the needs within the communities around us and build relationships with the people who can inform our response, and we work with those who are able to bring transformation.

We do believe in playing our part to restore trust, integrity and accountability to our democracy.

This means working with whoever is in power and the Accountability Assembly became the start of crucial relationships being formed between decision makers and ordinary people like you and me.

One hundred and seventy people were in attendance including local politicians, our Police and Crime Commissioner and members of the local police force.

The politicians participating were Mr David Fothergill of the Conservative Party, Mr Bill Revans of the Liberal Democrats, Mr Andrew Govier of the Labour Party and Dr Ewan Jones from the Green Party.

[Following the recent local elections Mr Fothergill is now the former leader of Somerset County Council and Mr Revans will become the first leader of the new unitary Somerset Council.]

The aim of the evening was to seek a positive working relationship with the new leader of the new Somerset Council to work with us to and to make our priorities happen.

Following presentations made on Housing and Homelessness, Street Safety, The Real Living Wage, and The Wellington to Taunton Cycle Path the politicians were asked:



### On Housing and Homelessness:

“If elected to the new authority, will you work with us, and our partners to realise our contribution to ending rough sleeping by 2027. This by continuing to support the creation of small clusters of one-person modular units on ‘meanwhile land’ [ie. currently unused land], with wraparound voluntary mentoring/support for each individual housed?”

### On Street Safety:

“Coming out of the pandemic, Children and Young people across Somerset deserve the best opportunities to thrive. If elected to the new authority, would your party commit to working with us on the plan we develop to enable children and young people to flourish and to keep them safe in our community? and would you start this work by working with us to ensure our parks in Taunton are safe, drug free and accessible spaces for children and young people?”

### On The Real Living Wage:

“If elected to the new authority, will you commit to the new unitary Somerset Council working towards becoming accredited as a Real Living Wage employer, and become a Real Living Wage Champion, chairing a county wide approach to encourage other employers to pay the Real Living Wage?”

### On The Wellington to Taunton Cycle Path:

“If elected to the new authority, would your party commit to the construction of the Wellington to Taunton Cycle Route-with spades in the ground before the beginning of 2025? And would you consider the appointment by the authority of an Active Travel Champion, to promote cycling, walking and other active forms of travel?”

In turn each of the politicians agreed to all of Citizens Somerset's ‘Asks’.

The final ‘Ask’ of the evening was to all at the meeting, to take up the call to action as they had done by being there, and to get involved in training, listening, and acting with your institution.

*Frank Callanan*

## TAUNTON CHORAL SOCIETY



## COME &amp; SING

**Song for the Commonwealth,  
Jerusalem, Vaughan Williams' Antiphon**

*A rousing Taunton tribute to H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.*

**Saturday 25th June 2022**

**United Reformed Church, Paul St, Taunton TA1 3PF**

- 10:00 - 10:30 Welcome & Registration (£10 pp, optional £2 music hire)  
 10:30 - 12:00 Rehearsal with perhaps a short break for tea/coffee  
 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch break  
 13:00 - 14:30 Rehearsal with perhaps a short break for tea/coffee  
 14:30 - 15:00 Informal performance  
*Family & friends welcome to attend at a cost of £3 pp*

Open to all singers. Find out more at [tauntonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://tauntonchoralsociety.org.uk)

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Contributions for the August 2022 magazine should be with the Editor  
 Peter Henderson - 14 Somerset Avenue, Taunton, TA1 5HU  
 Telephone: 01823 254668 - e-mail: [tauntonurc.mag@gmail.com](mailto:tauntonurc.mag@gmail.com)  
 by MONDAY 18th JULY 2022 (or earlier) please.

## ROTAS FOR JUNE &amp; JULY

## CHURCH FLOWERS

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

- 5 June Ann Gerhold  
 12 June Eryl Harris  
 19 June  
 26 June  
 3 July  
 10 July Kay Copp  
 17 July  
 24 July  
 31 July

## MORNING COFFEE ROTA

- |         |                 |                  |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|
| 5 June  | Pamela Bamber   | Carol Rowswell   |
| 12 June | Chris Trott     | Sheila Rudofsky  |
| 19 June | Pamela          | Alan Bamber      |
| 26 June | Heather Parsons | Isobel Tosh-Robb |
| 3 July  | Rita Williams   | Pamela Elliott   |
| 10 July | Chris Trott     | Sheila Rudofsky  |
| 17 July | Pamela Bamber   | Carol Rowswell   |
| 24 July | Heather Parsons | Isobel Tosh-Robb |
| 31 July | Pamela          | Alan Bamber      |

## Sunday duties

- |         | Duty Elder | Communion Elders | Zoom host |
|---------|------------|------------------|-----------|
| 5 June  | Sue        | Stuart Shena     | Ron       |
| 12 June | Frank      |                  | Clare     |
| 19 June | Stuart     |                  | Sue       |
| 26 June | Meg        |                  | Eryl      |
| 3 July  | Eryl       | Meg Frank        | Ron       |
| 10 July | Sheena     |                  | Eryl      |
| 17 July | Sue        |                  | Frank     |
| 24 July | Frank      |                  | Sue       |
| 31 July | Stuart     |                  | Frank     |

## 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 .....	Frank Callanan
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