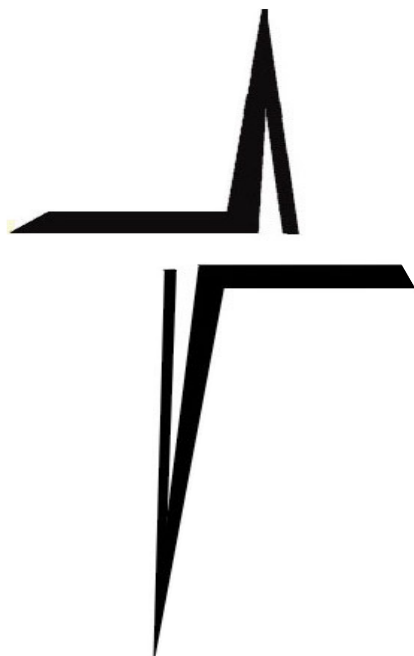


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Vision

April - May 2017

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From your Bridport based minister

“And the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.” (Mark 1:12-13)



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this you will be well into the season of Lent and perhaps even beginning to think of the wonders of Easter, so it will be too late to suggest any ways of preparing or advice or comments about suitable things to ‘give up’ or indeed to ‘take on instead.’ But time maybe to share a thought along the way, which includes some bad news and some good news too?

And as many of you know I wrote my own regime for losing some weight last year and many supported my efforts by sponsoring me for the first month. In fact I carried on from May until October and ultimately lost nearly two stones. The challenge now is to ensure I don’t put it all back on!

Hence I have attempted to keep true to the principles which, not surprisingly, are not that complex, namely keep the calories consumed down and to exercise more. I managed to maintain an average no. of miles walked throughout that period of somewhere between 4 and 5 miles per day. Having worried that this was only achievable during better weather, amazingly I have actually managed to improve on this in the horrible cold and rain of Winter / Early Spring! In fact my average this month is 5.7 miles.

How do I know? Well you won't be surprised that I have an app on my phone, which measures how far I walk and records it every day, calculating weekly, monthly and annual averages. And strangely the hard bit is to find, that no matter how far I managed the day before, every day I wake up and the counter is reset to zero, and I have to start again.

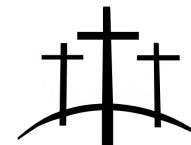
I have to say that when one starts a Lenten discipline, by this point in the period our struggles seem similarly to get just a bit harder. It's relatively easy for the chocoholic or cake fiend to forego them for a day or so. Starting the season with a resolution to pray daily for 30 minutes, or read a chapter of a Lent Study may sound and feel equally worthy for a week. But maintaining any such discipline for forty days (and forty nights no less) is a jolly sight harder!

So let me reassure you of three things:

1. It may feel harder but it maintains the same level of discipline you exerted on day one. Stick in there and you will feel the benefit!
2. You chose this to prepare yourself for the Easter festival and you will feel so very much better about yourself if you **do** manage to keep it up for the whole period.
3. And finally remember that no matter what you have chosen to do (or not to do) you are not doing it to earn your way into salvation. There is nothing you can do, ever, to achieve that. In fact, there is nothing you have that in any ways makes you worthy of such salvation.

But, hard as Point 3 is to swallow, it is not the bad news it seems. For unworthy as we are, we are in relationship with an amazing God - a God of grace, love and mercy - who doesn't do what is done out of reward for our efforts but precisely because of that grace, love and mercy.

Oh and no need to worry about trying to work out our own salvation either. That was done 2,000 years or so ago on a rubbish tip outside



Dear Friends,
Jerusalem. That bit's the good news. The Good News is indeed!
Easter is soon upon us with Palm Sunday, Holy Week leading through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, then we are not long before we're into May Day, beautiful blossom, warmer weather, lighter evenings...



And it is too easy to drift through life, especially when time seems to go so fast, just moving from one thing to another, looking ahead at what's coming next.

Focus.

Be present in the moment.

Savour the moment.

Allow the important times to penetrate your heart and soul, and rest there.

Make them special.

And grow in awareness of God and your own spirit.

So may your journey be blessed.



In memory of Cyril Lucraft

It was with great sadness we heard of the death of Cyril Lucraft, He had been in the ministry for nearly 60 years and this milestone was something which was to be recognised, at the next URC synod.

The following is taken from the first biography written for April/May 2010 edition of Vision which featured Cyril and Mary.

Cyril grew up in the Finchley area. When leaving school he was advised to join the Air Ministry Met Office as a trainee, which meant, when he was called up for National Service, he continued in this role. In the evening he studied at Birkbeck College for a geography degree. During this time he felt called to the Ministry

and on completion of his national service he started full time at New College, the Congregational College, London. In this area there were several other colleges including a Home Economics College, where he met Anne his first wife. At this time several other ministers met and married domestic science teachers. Their first home was in Southend-on-Sea where they stayed for 6 years and where both boys were born. Cyril was then approached by a church in Nottingham through a mutual friend and they spent over 8 years there. His next challenge was a group of initially 11 churches in Hackney, which were mainly led by lay leaders. They were all small struggling churches doing their own thing. The majority of the members were black, but the leadership was nearly all white. Cyril's task was to work with them to develop new leadership and to integrate the churches. One church had a membership of 25-30 and a congregation of 60 with a mainly white leadership. Today the congregation has 150 and it is thriving with a black minister. It featured in Reform as Saturday maths classes meet a real need within the local community.

A move then followed to Christchurch, as Ann's mother was becoming frail. She still lived in Broadmayne where Anne had grown up. In fact Ann and Cyril were married in Dorchester Congregational Church in 1957, even though Ann was an Anglican. In 1995 Cyril retired and they moved to Broadmayne and sadly Ann died of leukaemia a couple of years later.

Mary (living in Nottingham) and Cyril met on an organised walking holiday in St Ives, where, as they were both on their own they became friends and a penfriendship developed. The following year a second holiday cemented this friendship and they were married in Mary's church in Nottingham in 2003. Mary and Cyril lived in Nottingham following their marriage, but decided that it was not quite right. They put pins in a map where all the family lived to find the most central location. This was Milton Keynes – so they moved to Dorchester!

Since then, until quite recently, Cyril has been an active member of the preaching team, and with Mary has enjoyed country dancing, art and the singing group, among many other activities.

New Bereavement Support Group



Are you struggling to make sense
of what's happening to you
following bereavement?
Do you feel no-one understands?

A new monthly group is starting
**Sunday 21st May 3pm—4.30pm in the
United Church Coffee lounge**

Share time together over tea and cake with
others who feel the same, to offer time and
space on what can be a difficult day.
No booking, just come and support each other
Further information from Penny Fennell or Janice Young

Next of kin forms



Recently our ministers have had several
emergencies where they needed to contact
a member's next of kin. They could not do so, as they did not
have the telephone number or an e-mail address.

At the last meeting of the pastoral visitors, it was felt that it
would be helpful for our church ministers to have details of next
of kin or an emergency contact. Some people, especially
couples, may feel this is unnecessary or may not wish to give
those details. However others, especially those who live by
themselves and who live a long way from their family, may feel
it gives them an added sense of security.

Included in this magazine is a next of kin form that you may wish to complete. Please ask your nominated person for permission to use their name as your emergency contact. All the details will be kept confidential and will only be available to our ministers and with your permission, to your pastoral visitor. If you would like these details to be kept, please fill in the form and place it in the sealed envelope provided. This can be given to your pastoral visitor, our ministers Rev Steph Jenner and Rev Peter Clark or left in the locked black post box at the Charles Street entrance. All sealed envelopes will be passed on to our ministers.

If you would like any further information do not hesitate to talk to the ministers, Angela Fisher our pastoral visitor or Wendy Hilton, chairman of the pastoral committee.

Invitation to join the Petersfield Methodist Church holiday

Sat 1-Sat 8 July

Since 2006 the Methodist Church in Petersfield (now one of 23 Churches in the East Solent & Downs Circuit) has arranged a coach holiday for members and friends from within the Circuit and other Churches much further away. We travel by executive coach picking up in various places. This year we will stop for lunch in Dorchester, so will welcome any friends from the area.



The price per person for an ensuite room at Sidholme Hotel, one of five Christian Guild hotels, is from £657. This INCLUDES return travel, seven nights half board accommodation, and 5 full day excursions and entry fees.

More information from Gordon Churchill, Tel (removed from web version). All bookings stating your pickup point, must be made direct with the hotel on 01395 515104.

Getting to know you

Not Shown in the Web Version



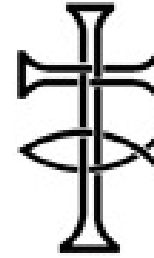




The window in Wool Methodist Church designed by Jane.

The URC past case review process

A time to acknowledge past abuses, show Christian love and build a stronger, safer church community



The United Reformed Church has set up a **Past Case Review** and is now inviting anyone with concerns about the behaviour or conduct of anyone affiliated with the URC since its formation in 1972 to raise them formally.

Why is this happening and what does it mean for us?

There is the highest level of public and political concern about past failings in the behaviour of national bodies which have resulted in past abuses being ignored or covered up. A

number of high profile cases involved national figures in positions of authority or influence who were found guilty of abusing their power, authority or celebrity status (such as Jimmy Saville and Rolf Harris), in particular involving the abuse of women and young people.

The churches have recognised that they have ignored evidence about past abuses. Some church leaders have been

found guilty, including a Scottish Cardinal and a former Anglican Bishop of Lewes. The Pope has said that abuse of children was like "leprosy" infecting the Church, according to the Italian La Repubblica newspaper. Pope Francis has strengthened the Vatican's laws against child abuse and has sought forgiveness from the victims of sexual abuse by priests. Sadly, there have also been a few cases within the URC.

Concern about abuse is now widespread around the world and several countries have established public enquiries. The UK government's *Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse* is investigating a wide range of institutions including local authorities, the police, the armed forces, schools, churches and mosques to consider the extent to which State and non-State institutions have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation; to consider the steps which it is necessary for

State and non-State institutions to take in order to protect children from such abuse in future; and to publish a report with recommendations.

All the UK churches are reviewing their own files and past practices concerning all forms of abuse. A consistent finding is that mistreatment is usually associated with abuse of power by people exercising authority. Examining these cases has therefore inevitably led churches to explore the ways in which power is used and abused within the church and, in particular, the concept of spiritual abuse, meaning the use of spiritual authority or The Bible by an ordained or lay church leader to coerce, intimidate or ill-treat people, not only physically but also emotionally and spiritually.

The URC has established a formal process to receive, evaluate and respond to any allegations involving ordained ministers and also lay church leaders. All churches are being asked to draw this to the attention of congregations. A brochure (explaining the process in detail) and a poster are available (www.urc.org.uk/past-case-review). A team of independent people will respond to the allegations and provide support to all involved.

What happens next?

Past and present members of local congregations are now being given the opportunity to raise any concerns about past physical, sexual, emotional and spiritual abuse. If a disclosure is made in a local church context, the person who wishes to disclose will be put in touch with the Past Case Review team. There will be no pressure on people to disclose, but should they want to, there is a clear process in place which has been authorised by General Assembly.

If an issue of concern about past abuse is raised in a particular local congregation, this can provoke strong emotional reactions and upset. If it becomes public, there may be contrary opinions, shock, outrage, denial and deep hurt. We trust that God will

guide us and grant us wisdom, sensitivity and open minds as it progresses.

Anybody from our church who wishes to talk over a concern can speak with the Minister, their Steward or Safeguarding lead. You can also contact the Past Case Review team direct, no matter who you are or what your question, by sending an email to pastcase.review@urc.org.uk.

The URC and our own local church aim to be an open, respectful and trusted community, guided by Christian love and respecting the humanity of all involved.

We know this does not work perfectly; people do get hurt in churches and serious abuse does happen. This process enables us to hear and respond to deep hurts, which may have been nursed for many years. The process of talking, listening respecting and apologising can be healing and should help us to be stronger communities.



The website is full of information and resources, including a wide range of counselling services: www.urc.org.uk/images/PCR/PCR-docs/Past-Case-Review-Brochure-10-09-2016.pdf.

We pray that as the process works its way through, we will see the

Christian Aid week 14TH- 20TH MAY 2017



Dates for your diary

14 May 4pm Ecumenical Service at St Marys—
speaker Susan Durber of national CA committee

17 May 9.45—2pm United Church—Christian Aid market and
lunches

19 May 9—5pm South Street collection—volunteers needed

20 May all day—Walk to River Jordan beginning at St Peters

House to house collections all week—volunteers needed

Every penny counts bringing greatest hope to the poorest, most disadvantaged and powerless people of our world.

3 Circuit Vision Day February 25th 2017

The upstairs room at Weymouth Bay was full of boards with colourful displays from each of the churches across the three Methodist Circuits - Bridport & Dorchester, Weymouth and Portland. The smaller churches had made a special effort. It was interesting to see the overlap of the type of events running at the different places.

The day began with opening worship lead by Revd. Anni Douglas, an Anglican who was our independent facilitator. We then enjoyed bacon butties round tables while we considered some big questions. We wrote responses on post it notes. The Ministers and Circuit Stewards then made up a panel and many asked questions to explore the value of considering joining together. It was clear that we had much in common and there were areas where we could help and support each other as we develop our presence in community.

We sat round tables again to consider the big questions over soup and rolls. Another chance followed to look at the displays and informal conversations took place as we started to understand the presence and mission of churches across the area. The day finished with worship.

Some 65/70 people were present during the day and it was clear that there was a real willingness to share and learn. Grateful thanks were expressed to all who helped with the arrangements and showed the three Circuits working together. We received a challenge: 'Accept each other in Christ, trust each other in Christ, love each other in Christ'.

We now move to the next Circuit and Pastoral Meeting on 16th March and by the time you read this we will have voted on an expanded Vision Statement. If all three meetings endorse we will then be looking to come together in September 2018.



Fair Trade News



To start on an upbeat note, a huge thank you to all who have supported us this year in the Church Shop by buying fair trade goods. We have achieved our total, indeed, we have beaten it by some way, and so will retain our Retailer status for another year. This is a fantastic achievement - THANK YOU!!!

However, due to the (how can I put this politely?) disturbing and fluctuating situation across the Pond, and the uncertainty in the political and financial sphere in our own country, the producers supported by Traidcraft are facing a time of economic downturn unless we can all go the extra mile. They need our support even more as we wait for the world and UK markets to stabilise and there is more confidence in the system. Traidcraft is fully committed to maintaining their support of producers worldwide, but in order to do this, they have to pass on increasing costs to their customers.

Also, during the past year, the worldwide price of coffee has increased by about 45%. This has resulted in a significant increase in Traidcraft coffee prices. Since the Brexit vote, the value of the pound against the dollar has fallen by 15%. As Traidcraft do most of their trading in US dollars, this has inevitably meant a price rise for most items in the new catalogue. I apologise for this, but there is not much I can do. I have kept the price of coffee and some other items as low as I can for some years, but have had to put them up this year or we will be making a loss.

But, hey, Spring is here and we have plenty of Real Easter Eggs for sale, which include a booklet telling the Real Easter Story. Let's focus on Good News!

We do hope that you will continue to support the vital work of Traidcraft by buying their products from us in the Church Shop. Now, more than ever, their producers need our help. Thank you.

In the last magazine the sad passing of Brenda Trim was reported. Many of the newer members will not know who Brenda was and will be unaware of her many years of dedicated and practical service to this church. This is Brenda's story as written by her son Andrew, who has kindly allowed me to send it for inclusion with a few of my own additions.

Jane Lee (nee Pitfield), Brenda's niece

The Brenda Trim Story

Brenda was born Brenda Pitfield in Salisbury on the 19th July 1923. She was the youngest of six children, Brenda, Bob (*Norman*), Bill, George, Les and Alice (*another sister, Phyllis, died aged 6 years before Brenda was born*). While she was still a babe in arms, they moved with their parents to Dorchester where her father took up the post of Guard on the Southern Railway operating from the South station. They lived in a small railway cottage near the sidings alongside the Eldridge Pope Brewery. Despite the cramped conditions, no bathroom and only an outside toilet, they also found room for an Alsatian dog. Her uncle also worked for the Southern Railway as a train driver and on occasion he and Brenda's father worked on the same service to London. Her father used to tell them of Lawrence of Arabia sitting with him in the guards van to travel back to Moreton, thereby avoiding the unwelcome gaze of the public. Also, of the time during the war when their train was sprayed with bullets from the Luftwaffe, as they traversed the Chesil Bank to Portland.

The family went to school in Dorchester and attended the Congregational Church (*later to become the United Reformed and then United Church*). When war broke out, all her brothers joined the services but sadly George did not return. He lies in Holland where a local family tended the grave and kept in touch by letter. Brenda by this time was working as a shop assistant at Houghton's haberdashery in South Street. She was excused military service on medical grounds and continued to serve the community working in the shop and in a services' café where she

would get into trouble by putting too much butter on the sandwiches. Her opinion was that if they are going to fight for our freedom the least she could do is make a decent sandwich for them!

Brenda met Wilf (son of Robert Trim, who was Head Gardener at the Borough Gardens) at the church youth club. It was while playing badminton there that they first got together as no one else would partner Wilf, due to his short temper and colourful language. Wilf was training as a plumber at Angels in Dorchester until the outbreak of war when he joined the Fleet Air Arm and served in Malta during the conflict. On his return, the romance blossomed and in 1948 they married in the Congregational Church.

They first lived in a flat in Alexandra Road then moved to Margaret Place. At that time Wilf was starting his own plumbing business. Eventually Brenda gave up working in the shop to become Wilf's full time secretary, PA, and debt collector! They almost always got paid, customers knew better than to argue with Brenda! They were in the process of adopting a child when she contracted a 'virus'. Being a very private person, this was what she chose to tell everyone to explain her pregnancy as she gave birth to Andrew in August 1961. Her neighbour at that time still referred to Andrew as 'The Virus' for many years!

In 1963 they moved the business to Olga Road. Her brothers



Brenda Trim, Ruby Pitfield and Margaret Merry on the Wednesday stall, a few years ago.

and sister stayed around the area and they spent many happy summer days on the beach at Studland, picking blackberries, family picnics, and picking primroses to decorate the church for Easter. *(Every year it was a tradition for Brenda and Bob's families to spend Good Friday afternoon in the woods picking primroses (of course, we wouldn't be allowed to do it now!) and then tie them up in little bunches to decorate the church on Easter Saturday. The old Congregational Church still had wooden pews and water filled jam jars were hung over the ends of each pew with wire to hold the bunches of primroses. When the pews were eventually removed, my father (Bob) made two stands to place at the front of the church to hold the jars of primroses. JL)*

Brenda was always busy with handicrafts, cake and jam making etc. which she exhibited at local shows. She also took an active role in Church fund raising events and especially on the church stall at the Wednesday coffee mornings where she supplied a constant flow of handicrafts to sell, as well as manning the stall with a regular group of friends. *(Brenda and the team, including Ruby Pitfield, Margaret Merry and Sheila Mann raised many thousands of pounds over the years to help with the rebuilding and upkeep of the church. Many hours were spent making aprons and other items to sell as well as sorting out all the second hand clothes and other items which were donated. JL)*

Wilf retired in 1986 aged 60 and they spent their time on their hobbies with regular trips to Bournemouth to buy materials to make things for the church stall, going on coach trips and visiting friends and family. They had eighteen years of retirement together until sadly Wilf passed away in 2004.

Brenda continued to live at the family home in Olga Road, still producing goods for the stall, until failing health led to a permanent move to Castle View in 2013. She was very happy there and enjoyed banter with nurses and latterly with the newest recruit, Alfie the dog. *(I know that Brenda very much*

Family News



We give thanks for the lives of Cyril Lucraft, Peter Holland, Neal Odams (husband of Linda) and Hilary Stephenson who died in France. We remember them and their families in our prayers.

We pray for those of our young people, who are busy revising for exams and for many of our members who have been in hospital.

Journey to the Empty Tomb



On your journey you will be invited to:

- ⇒ Reflect on key events leading up to the resurrection of Jesus
- ⇒ Spend time thinking about the events in relation to your own lives
- ⇒ Take a response card and a symbol so you can continue your reflections at home
- ⇒ Take a candle to light at home from the final station

Mon 10th —Thurs 13th April & Sat 15th April 11am — 3pm
Good Friday 11am — late afternoon

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

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**Deadline for June/July
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- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
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- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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MINISTERS

Rev Peter Clark

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SERVICES

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday in the month)	Sunday	9.00am
Morning Worship (Junior Church, Crèche, Coffee)	Sunday	
10.30am		
Evening Worship	Sunday	6.30pm
Shoppers Service	Wednesday	10.30 - 10.45am

NUMBER FIFTY ONE

Church shop	Mon to Sat	10 - 12.30pm
Coffee Shop / Hall	Tues to Sat	10 - 12.30pm
Quiet Room	"	"

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Worship Groups: Church Choir, Instrumental Group, Informal Singing Group, Brass Ensemble, Drama Group, Dance group

Bible Study/Discussion Groups: Fellowship Groups.

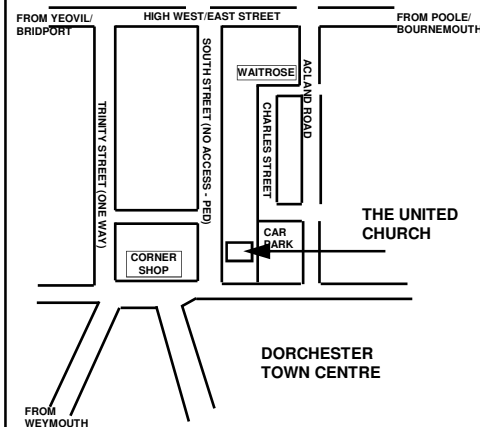
Prayer Groups: Prayer Chain, Prayer & Meditation Meetings.

Children's/ Youth Groups: Junior Church and Crèche, Antics youth group, Storytots

Social Groups: Thursday Night Out, Picnic People, Solos, Knit and Natter, Coffee Mornings, Art Group, Badminton Club, Country Dancing, Book Circle, Solos, Men's Group

Christian Activity Groups: Overseas and Home Missions, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Christian Aid, Bible Society, NCH Action for Children, Dorchester Poverty Action Group, Churches Together in Dorchester

How To Find Us



For more information about the Church or any of its activities please contact either Minister or the Senior Steward, Penny Fennell pennymf65@gmail.com

Your Pastoral Visitor:

**United Church
Dorchester,
South Street**

Methodist and United Reform

Reg Ch No 1137996