

NEWS



From

United Reformed Churches
of Romsey and Braishfield

OCTOBER 2025

www.abbeyurc.org.uk

Abbey United Reformed Church

www.abbeyurc.org.uk

or find us on Facebook, Instagram and X

Ministers:	Revd Mike Perrott MA 01794 512163 e-mail: revd.mike13@gmail.com Day off: Monday Rev Dr Sarah Hall 02380 768004 e-mail: sarah.hall.swhg@gmail.com Day off: Thursday
Secretary	Andy Bevan 07483 319618 e-mail: andybevan1@btinternet.com
Assistant Secretary	Carole Cox 07787 630297
Finance	Peter Walsh 01794 502109 Reg Powell 01794 512238
Gift Aid	Carole Cox 07787 630297
Serving Elders	Sylvia Anderson-Lewis Sarah Beaman Andy Bevan Wai Chan Howard Coulson Carole Cox
Magazine Team	contact at: abbeyurcnews@gmail.com
Church Caretaker	Angela Wolfe 01794 517746 1 Abbey Water, Romsey

Services

Sunday Family Worship	10.30am
Monthly Bible Study first Sunday evening	6.30pm
On Zoom (ID: 864 1780 6994 Password: learning)	
Weekday Meetings – any updates will be on our worship sheet	
Monday (2 nd)	BALM (Bereavement) Group 10.30am
Thursday	Refreshments and warm space. 10am -
	Open to all, in Abbey Hall Lounge 11.30am
Wednesday (1 st 3 rd)	Church Table Tennis 2.30pm

*For baptisms, weddings or funerals please
contact Revd Mike in the first instance*

A MESSAGE FROM REVD MIKE

October 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

As in previous years we will be holding our annual Memorial and Thanksgiving (All Souls) service, where we will remember our loved ones and friends that have died, especially over this last year. This year we will hold this service on Sunday, 2 November at Abbey URC at 3pm and it will be led this year by Revd Dr Sarah Hall. Refreshments, including cake, will be available in the church following the service. There will be a similar service at Braishfield URC at 10am on the morning of 16 November.

During these services the names of our church members and friends, family members, friends from further afield, as well as those from the local community that I have conducted funerals for, will be read out.

I will be sending a letter and card to everyone who has experienced bereavement since the All Souls' service last year, inviting them to share in this service.



As at previous All Souls' services, there will be the opportunity for anyone in church to light a candle during a time of quiet contemplation. It is not so much in our Reformed tradition to light candles (except during Advent). The use of candles was, at one time, scorned. However, the symbolism of a flame, offering warmth and light, is a very important one in times of darkness and grief. The flame flickers in the breeze, mirroring how emotionally vulnerable we can sometimes feel. We remember that Jesus, the Living Word who was with God in the beginning, is the Light: "in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:4-5). In Jesus we have a source of abiding hope in the Light that is permanent and unquenchable.

A list will be available at the back of the church from Sunday, 5 October. Please add the names of those you wish to remember at this service, or phone or email me. Alternatively, you can send their details to Andy at andybevan1@btinternet.com. If you have names you wish included in the Braishfield service, please let me know. If you have lost a loved one, and are reading this as a non-member of our church communities, and would like your loved one to be remembered by having their name read out, you

are welcome to contact me or Mrs Andy Bevan, alternatively you can write their name and place it in our prayer box, which can be found outside the church. Names can be provided to Andy up until 12 noon on Saturday, 1 November.

We share with you now the prayer that will be prayed as the candles are lit during our All Souls' service, hoping it brings consolation and greater trust in our God of Life and Light, in Christ Jesus.

Living God, we light this candle to
remember those we see no more. Your promise
to us, through your Son Jesus is that, by your grace,
they are with you. Hold them and us in your
amazing love, lighting our lives with your
comfort and peace. In Jesus' name, Amen

In Christian love, **Mike**

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Material for November 2025 to be submitted by
5pm (latest) on Thursday, 23 October 2025

Please email to abbeyurcnews@gmail.com

**Alternatively, you could call Carole C, pop it in her letter box, or leave in the pigeon-hole at the back of the church.
Thank you.**

TABLE TENNIS

Our table tennis group continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 2.30pm-4pm in Abbey Hall. It is a mixed ability group and they enjoy a good game of table tennis and refreshments.

As there are 5 Wednesdays in October, table tennis will meet on 1 October and 15 October, having a break on the 29 October. In November they will meet on Wednesday 5 and 19 November.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY



Our Bible study and discussion group will take place on 5 October at 6.30pm on Zoom (ID 864 1780 6994; PC learning) when we will look more closely at the Bible verses from the morning service at Abbey URC. All welcome!

PRAYER FOR OCTOBER

Well, we have now exchanged the relentless summer heat that saw parched land and drought, with relentless rain, chilly winds and grey skies – the great British pastime of complaining about the weather takes a new theme!

Living in the Valley Park area, we are lucky to live not very far from lovely woodland where leaves are now falling and the bracken turning brown. Autumn is a favourite season of the year for me, along with the celebration of harvest time, which this poem I found on the internet expresses so well.

*We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.
We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.
Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled,
mouths fed.
And, as your good earth rests
through winter's cold embrace,
we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch.*



Source: https://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers_Autumn.htm

Revd Mike

MORNING PRAYERS

If you would like to take the opportunity to reflect upon God's word and to pray for the needs of the world, and the Church, in your own time during the week, here are the readings for October.



October	5	Psalm 37:1-9	Luke 17:5-10
	12	Psalm 111	Luke 17:11-19
	19	Psalm 121	Luke 18:1-8
	26	Psalm 84:1-7	Luke 18:9-14

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

Our Harvest celebrations took place on 20 September with an afternoon Harvest Supper followed by our Harvest Festival service the following day.

We are grateful to Bloom 'n Racket for setting our feet tapping and vocal chords straining as we sang along to some well-known songs, and to Shirley for keeping us on the right path with the correct actions as we travelled "round the mountain". Thank you to all who helped with the refreshments and provided the desserts which were well received by all.



After expenses we had a surplus of £30.00 which Church Meeting agreed could be donated to Romsey Community Pantry.

Our church was 'tastefully' decorated by Anna and family for our Harvest Festival, and our thanks are also due to Revd Julian Macro for agreeing

to take our Harvest Festival Service at short notice. Being asked to consider our worries and our challenges certainly made us think.

All the produce from the Harvest display was given to Romsey Community Pantry who appreciated being given these gifts to share with those less fortunate than ourselves.

Andy B

SUNDAY SERVICE REFRESHMENTS

Alan and Brenda have organised the refreshments for as long as we can remember, and we thought it was high time for them to be relieved. Louise and I have taken over organising the coffee rota and would like to thank Alan and Brenda for all their work over the years. Hopefully you won't notice any change and every week tea, coffee and biscuits will continue to be on offer at the back of the church. We'd be very happy to welcome offers to help with the rota every few weeks!



John and Louise

SKITTLES EVENING

We have hired the skittle alley at Wellow Golf Club for 11 October 2025. Please arrive by 5.45pm for 6pm start. The menu choices are below. Please sign up on the list, and provide your menu choices, at the back of the church



It is a lovely, sociable evening so put the date in your diary and let your friends and family know, as everyone is very welcome. If you don't fancy playing skittles, come along and share an evening with other members of our church family over dinner. For more information contact Carole (07787 630297 or carole.cox@btinternet.com)

All main meals £15.00

(Children's menu available from £8.00)

Ham & Cheese Ploughman's

Mature cheddar cheese & home cooked ham with salad, pickles & bread

Steak and Ale Pie

Chunks of steak & vegetables cooked in a rich ale gravy with puff pastry served with chips & peas.

Homemade Lasagne

Layers of green lasagne & red wine-based Bolognese topped with a creamy white sauce & parmesan cheese served with salad & chips.

Grilled Salmon Fillet

Scottish salmon steak lightly grilled served with new potatoes, peas & tartar sauce.

Ham, Egg, and Chips

Home cooked ham, a fried egg & crispy chips served with a salad garnish.

Battered Cod Fillet

Cod fillet in crispy batter served with chips peas, tartar sauce & salad garnish

Piri Piri Chicken Breast

Roasted with chef's special coating served with chips & peas.

Vegetable Stroganoff

Served with Fried Rice

Desserts All £5.00

Cherry Pie & Custard	Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard
Chocolate Fudge Cake	Warm Apple Pie & Custard
Spotted Dick & Custard	Baked Vanilla Cheesecake with fruit Coulis

CHURCH NEWS

Thank you all so much, receiving lovely flowers from Angela F on remembering Drew 5 years ago was much appreciated.

Gwen S

We were saddened to hear about the death of Dr Marion Schofield, after a long period of ill-health. The funeral arrangements are: Thursday, 16 October at 2pm for the committal service at Test Valley Crematorium, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Abbey URC at 3pm. The family of Marion Schofield invites anyone who would like to attend both services, the Committal and the Thanksgiving, and to the refreshments afterwards in Abbey Hall.

REVD MIKE'S PREACHING ROTA FOR OCTOBER

5	9.30am	Braishfield Holy Communion
5	10.30am	Abbey URC Holy Communion
12	10.30am	Bitterne
19	10.00am	Braishfield (with church meeting)
26	10.30am	Bitterne Park Gift Day



A.H. Cheater Ltd
Funeral Directors

Over 100 years of service to the local community



The Family Owned Funeral Directors

The Peace family have proudly served Romsey and the surrounding area for three generations.

Experienced and Flexible

Honesty, integrity and transparency are at the heart of our beliefs. We understand every funeral is unique.

Modern Professional Facilities

Our premises have complete facilities on site and our dedicated team are available to support you 24 hours a day.

www.ahcheater.co.uk



ROMSEY
01794 513393

NORTH BADDESLEY
02382 358860

AVAILABLE 24 HOURS

COUNTDOWN TO ADVENT

This November, we will once again be supporting Amber, a charity working with women involved in street work in Southampton, many of whom are now facing or experiencing homelessness.

As shared in the September magazine, Amber has seen a rise in the number of women they support, and the need is greater than ever. Some of the most welcome items we've provided in the past include handy wipes, body sprays, chocolate bars, and individual drinks cartons.

This year, we invite you to donate - if you are able - small, thoughtful items to help create gift packs that remind each woman she is seen, valued, and loved. Please place your donations in the box at the back of the church during November.

We're collecting (choose as many as you like, or are able):

Handy wipes, body spray, toothpaste, hand cream, emery boards, hair ties, socks, gloves, bar of chocolate and something sparkly!



You're also invited to include an unsealed Christmas card with a message of hope and encouragement. There is no obligation to take part, and anything you can give will be gratefully received.

We're delighted that Sue Holt from Amber will join our service on 30 November to collect our gifts.

As we journey towards Advent, let's bring light and love to those women by filling our donation box with care and kindness. Thank you.

THE FIRST FLIGHT HAS ARRIVED!

We are excited to welcome our first Christmas angels! They are waiting to be joined by the rest of the host by the end of November; when they will be blessed ready to venture out to find new homes in our community.



Can you knit, crochet or craft some angels by the end of November? Do you know a craft group who would like to get involved? Or pop into a Thursday coffee morning in the Abbey Hall and bring your knitting, crochet, etc with you! People in Romsey have started crafting – but the more the merrier! Any type of angel is welcome – let your imagination run wild. Pattern ideas can be found on the links below.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/latest-news/angels-of-hope/>

<https://www.livingstones.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/christmas-angels-knitting-pattern.pdf>

<https://www.5littlemonsters.com/2019/07/lacy-crocheted-angel-ornament.html>

<https://atty-s.com/2019/11/free-crochet-angel-pattern.html>

BATTLE OF BRITAIN SERVICE

On Sunday, 14 September we welcomed members of the Romsey Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association, staff and cadets from 1391 (Romsey) Squadron, RAF Air Cadets and local dignitaries to our service, led by Revd Dr Michael Hopkins, our Wessex Synod Moderator, commemorating the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Thank you to all those who attended the service, and to Revd Dr Michael, for the sermon. Below are some excerpts from the sermon, which made us pause, to stop and think.



“This year marks a quiet milestone: the first in which no veterans survive from that battle. The living link has passed. So we ask: what are we really remembering?

Is it the sound, the sudden roar of engines overhead. Or the sight, aircraft banking and diving across a summer sky. A pilot, 19 or 20 years old, climbs into a Spitfire or Hurricane with barely an hour's rest. Ground crew, spanners in hand, working long into the night to get aircraft airborne again before dawn. A radar operator watches a screen, heartbeat rising with each new blip crossing the Channel. Or perhaps it's the silence; a telegram at the door; a household holding its breath. Or the hush that fell across the nation on 15 September 1940, as wave after wave of bombers came from the east.

These were real people. They didn't all feel brave, but they acted, and in doing so, they changed the course of history.

Fighter Command included aircrew from sixteen nations: Poland, New Zealand, Czechoslovakia, Canada, South Africa, the Caribbean, and more. One in five pilots wasn't British. Women served in radar stations, plotting rooms, the WAAF, and Balloon Command. The defence of Britain wasn't simply British, it was international, and deeply collective.

The Bible reading from Romans 14 says: “None of us lives to ourselves alone, and none of us dies to ourselves alone.” That was visibly true in 1940, and it remains true now. The decisions we make, the values we uphold, echo beyond ourselves.

And remembrance speaks directly into our world today. Even now, war is not only history. In Ukraine, young men and women defend their

homeland against invasion. In Gaza and Israel, civilians live in fear as violence continues. In Sudan, Yemen, and other forgotten conflicts, people endure hunger, displacement, and loss. The echoes of 1940 remind us that war is not remote, it touches lives in every generation.

But remembrance also asks us to notice signs of hope: NATO aircraft flying today not in combat but in deterrence; humanitarian corridors bringing aid into war zones; reconciliation efforts in Rwanda and Northern Ireland showing that even bitter enemies can become neighbours again. These, too, are part of what it means to resist despair.

So what are we remembering? Not just victory. Not just dogfights over the Channel. We remember the power of collective courage, of unity in the face of fear, of determination, sacrifice, and hope; the sort of values that transcend any one generation.

Remembrance is not nostalgia. It is a decision to live differently; to recognise what was given, so that we could be free; to work for peace, not just to admire it; to carry forward, in our own time, the spirit of those who stood firm when it mattered most.

Our reading from Isaiah says: “Those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles.” Isaiah’s words are not only for the daring, they are for the weary. “Even youths will faint and grow weary,” he says, “but those who trust in God will renew their strength.” That strength wasn’t just needed by the pilot. It was for the ground crews who worked through the night, the families who waited in dread, the communities who endured the Blitz, and all who suffer still.

Today, families in Ukraine take shelter in metro stations from missile attacks, parents in Gaza and Israel pray their children will live through the night. Villages in Sudan are torn apart by conflict, while millions are displaced from their homes. And even here people face battles with poverty, loneliness, and the anxiety of a changing climate. Isaiah’s promise is not that we will escape such trials, but that we may find strength to endure, to rise, to hope.

And we also see glimpses of peace being built: the painstaking negotiations; the quiet work of diplomats; international charities rebuilding schools and hospitals where bombs have fallen; choosing dialogue over division. These, too, are ways of rising on eagles’ wings.

So today, let’s remember with meaning. Let’s give thanks, yes, but let us also recommit ourselves to the values that shaped those lives: Courage. Loyalty. Service. Hope.”

ABBHEY UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH

Thursday mornings
10am – 11.30am
in the Abbey Hall Lounge

A warm welcome — and a warm space
to sit and catch up with friends.



Open to all

www.abbeyurc.org.uk
Abbey United Reformed Church, Romsey




CHURCH FLOWERS

Thank you to Janet, Anna and family who regularly provide the church flowers each Sunday and decorate our church for special occasions.

The flower arrangement of red, white and blue flowers set the right tone as the church received friends and guests for the annual Battle of Britain service. They then rose to the occasion again the following week to decorate the church as the backdrop for our Harvest Celebrations.

Providing the flower display each Sunday is one of the many tasks performed by willing volunteers within our church. But did you know that there is a list at the back of the church for you to sign if you wish to commemorate a special occasion by providing the flower display one week. It does not need to be elaborate, just some flowers in a vase placed in the font is sufficient. Why not try it one week, or speak to Anna for more information.



CHURCH MEETING 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

Thank you to all who attended our church meeting on 21 September, after our Harvest celebrations.

Under matters arising from the previous meeting, it was suggested that the Elders' meeting consider inviting community groups to come to the Community Awareness service, as well as focusing on one particular charity.

The elders recommended the 2026 M&M contribution to remain at the level paid for the 2025 M&M; this was agreed by the meeting.

The building update confirmed that the repairs to the Abbey Hall roof have been completed, as has the upgrade to LED lighting. All of which were funded by grants, thanks to Therese M.

The meeting was also informed there is a short-term, one-off opportunity to apply for a Test Valley Borough Council's Climate Change grant (of up to £10k) towards the cost of upgrading the bulbs in the church to more energy efficient LED bulbs. As well as fixing the lights which are currently not working which are difficult to reach, this would also reduce our carbon footprint, the amount electricity consumed and our on-going electricity costs.

This would not change the ambience of the church in any way, other than possibly brighter lighting in the side pews so that it is easier to read hymn books and service sheets.

The cost of doing this work is expected to be up to £13k, and additional grant funding would also need to be sought before this work could proceed. The intention is to fund it entirely from grants, and there are a number of possible grant funding bodies that can be approached.

To obtain the full £10k from Test Valley, we do need to provide evidence that we have secured funding of £1k (20% of £5,000) before we can submit our application.

The meeting agreed the two proposals below:

1. Members agree to fixing the church lighting and replacing church lights with LED lights, providing this can be funded from successful grant applications (and all necessary permissions are obtained).
2. Members agree that matched funding of £1k will be provided out of church funds, if this amount cannot be obtained from additional grant applications, in order that the application to Test Valley can be submitted as soon as possible.

A NEW WELCOME

In the next few weeks, the welcome below will be put up in our church, hall and lounge. We hope this resonates with you.

WELCOME TO ABBEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



We at Abbey URC invite all Christians to share with us in worship and in fellowship, allowing us all to be enriched from traditions other than our own.

Come, not because you're strong
but when you are weak.
Come, not because you're found,
but while you seek.

Come, not because you know,
but as you're known.
Come, not for any goodness
of your own.

Come, not because you're whole,
But with your pain.
Come with your tears,
and learn to laugh again.

Come, not because you ought,
but since you may.
Come, eat, drink, feast,
and come today.

REVD MIKE'S STUDY LEAVE

Please note Revd Mike is on Study Leave from Monday 27 October to Monday 2 November. For contacts regarding pastoral and general church matters during his absence please contact Andy Bevan tel. 07483 319618 email andybevan1@btinternet.com or Revd Sarah Hall at 02380 768004 or email sarah.hall.swhq@gmail.com.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you a regular attender at morning worship but never been received into Church Membership? Would you like know more about becoming a Church Member?

Leaflets are available at the back of church above the hymn books which explain more about the privileges and responsibilities of being a Church Member.

The Elders are considering offering a short series of meetings for friends who may wish to become Church Members or learn more about the URC, both nationally and at local church level. This will be held in the New Year. If you might be interested in joining this group, please let me know. Either speak to me at church after a service, telephone me on 07483 319618 or email me at andybevan1@btinternet.co.uk to arrange a time to speak more about this.

Andy

TOY SERVICE - SUNDAY, 30 NOVEMBER



On Advent Sunday we will be supporting the Southampton Voluntary Services Toy Appeal. Help bring joy to local children who might otherwise go without a gift this Christmas.

Please drop off donations on Saturday, 29 November at Abbey URC between 10am–12:30pm or Sunday, 30 November between 10am and 10.30am before our Toy Service.

Please donate new toys or suitable gifts for children and young people; kindly do not wrap the gifts — this helps ensure they go to the right recipients. Let's help make Christmas special for every child. Thank you.



CALENDAR

September		
28	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Marion Carter
29	2.30pm	Hope Choir Harvest singing at Cedar Lawn Nursing Home
30	2.30pm	Hope Choir Harvest singing at Fryers House
October		
1	2.30pm	Church Table Tennis in Abbey Hall
1	2.30pm	Hope Choir Harvest singing at Abbeyfield House
2	10-11.30am	Warm welcome coffee morning in Abbey Hall Lounge
3	1.30pm	Hope Choir Harvest singing at Marie Louise House
4	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
4	10am-4pm	Safeguarding Training at Bitterne URC
5	10.30am	Morning Worship, including Holy Communion, led by Revd Mike Perrott
5	6.30pm	Bible Study on Zoom ID 864 1780 6994 PW learning
6	2.30pm	Hope Choir Harvest Singing at Woodley Grange Nursing Home
8	11am	Hope Choir Harvest Singing at Durban House Nursing Home
9	10-11.30am	Warm welcome coffee morning in Abbey Hall Lounge
11	10am-4pm	Synod meeting at Avenue St Andrews
11	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
11	6pm	Skittles evening at Wellow Golf Club social evening, bring friends and family. Booking essential.
12	10.30am	Prison Sunday Morning Worship led by Andy Bevan with guest preacher Rev David Hinks from HMP Winchester
13	10.30am	BALM in Abbey Hall Lounge
14	8-9.30pm	Chill Out Tuesday in Abbey Hall Lounge
15	2.30pm	Church Table Tennis in Abbey Hall
16	10-11.30am	Warm welcome coffee morning in Abbey Hall Lounge
16	2pm	Cremation service for Marion Schofield at Test Valley Crematorium, 3pm thanksgiving service at Abbey URC followed by refreshments in Abbey Hall
16	7.30 pm	Finance and Fabric Meeting in Abbey Hall Lounge

18	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
19	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Pam Humphreys
22	7.30pm	Churches Together in Romsey at Romsey Methodist Church, guest speaker from Beacon House Winchester
23	10-11.30am	Warm welcome coffee morning in Abbey Hall Lounge
25	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
26	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mike Wood
27	Oct-2 Nov	Revd Mike on study leave
28	7.30pm	Elders Meeting in Abbey Hall Lounge
30	10-11.30am	Warm welcome coffee morning in Abbey Hall Lounge
30	Oct-1 Nov	Daughters of Wisdom Heritage Exhibition: Pilgrims of Hope at Wisdom House - free admission
November		
1	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
2	10.30am	Morning Worship including Holy Communion led by Revd Sarah Hall
2	3pm	All Souls' Service led by Revd Sarah Hall

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ROMSEY



During September, we worked to raise awareness about Nasser Zefzafi, a Moroccan man imprisoned for 20 years after peacefully protesting for better education and healthcare in the remote region where he lives. We wrote letters to the Moroccan Minister of Justice asking for clemency.

In the next few weeks, we are planning to publicise our Romsey group by having a litter-picking and weeding morning in a Romsey railway station clean up – hopefully you'll see us in the Romsey Advertiser!

LOOKING FOR COMPANY AT CHRISTMAS?

The Royal British Legion in Romsey is again offering a free Christmas lunch to anyone who is lonely or on their own this Christmas. Keep your eyes open for further details in the Romsey Advertiser, on social media or by phoning the Royal British Legion.



Braishfield United Reformed Church

Minister:	The Reverend Mike Perrott, MA e-mail: revd.mike13@gmail.com Day off: Mondays	01794 512163
	The Reverend Doctor Sarah Hall e-mail: sarah.hall.swhg@gmail.com Day off: Thursdays	02380 768004
Secretary:	Shirley Smith	01794 368447
Treasurer:	Sharon Whitfield	01794 328853
Serving Elders:	Shirley Smith Allison Symes Sharon Whitfield	01794 368447 02380 262803 01794 328853

October

5	9.30	Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Perrott
12	10.00	Family Worship led by Pat Oliver
19	10.00	Family Worship led by Revd Mike Perrott. This will be a short service followed at 10.30am by Church meeting. Coffee and tea will be served.
26	10.00	Family Worship led by David Stone

November

2	9.30	Holy Communion led by Revd Dr Sarah Hall
9		Remembrance Sunday: no service at Braishfield URC
9	10.50	Remembrance Service at the Village War Memorial to include the Two Minutes' Silence at 11am and the reading of the Memorial names.
16	10.00	Memory Service to be led by Revd Mike Perrott. The names of loved ones to be read during the service. A list will be put out at the back of the church nearer the time.
23	10.00	Family Worship led by Rev Mary Thomas. Jars of Coins for our charity, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, to be returned for this service.
30	10.00	Family Worship, including Toy Service, led by Andy Bevan

December

7	9.30	Holy Communion led by Rev Bernie Collins
14	10.00	Family Worship led by Daniel Symes

Please note that the third Sunday of the month is the time to bring in tinned goods etc for the food bank collection.

News from Braishfield

We all say how time flies, don't we? Well, I really get to know how true that statement is when I type up the month "December" and add in the first couple of services due to be held at Braishfield then!

I am glad to report our Favourite Hymns Service was excellent and we were all in fine voice. Braishfield has set a personal best here. This time, we managed to sing ten, yes ten, hymns, another hymn was recited (literally last-minute addition); we had notices, prayers, the collection, readings and we came in at two minutes early! Well done, everyone, and thanks again to Sharon Whitfield for leading us; and to Adrian and Daniel Symes for sorting out the music for us. There wasn't a note out of place, which is an achievement by itself for ten sung hymns!

We all send best wishes to Warren who, by the time this magazine comes out, will have joined the Army.

Many thanks to all who help in any way with the decorating and undecorating of the church for Harvest Festival. Revd Sarah will lead the service on Sunday, 28 September and tinned and packet foods, etc will be donated to the Romsey Food Bank. Thanks again to Sharon Whitfield for taking the items down to them for us. I hope to share some pictures from our Harvest Service for the next magazine.

Quick reminder – we will be holding our second church meeting on Sunday, 19 October following a short service led by the Reverend Mike. All are welcome to attend the church meeting and tea and coffee will be served.

I can also confirm Braishfield's charity for the year is the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, a very worthy cause to support. Braishfield had already started raising money for this year's charity project ahead of knowing what it would be but, as ever, more fundraising events would be welcome.

We are holding the jars of coins for our charity fundraising again. Jars are to be brought back to church for our service on Sunday, 23 November, which is being led by the Reverend Mary Thomas. If you don't have many coins, or at least not as many as you'd like for this, do remember notes are always welcome too!

If you would like to hold an event to raise funds, please do let Shirley know so it can go in the church diary.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Dr Marion Schofield, who regularly preached at Braishfield for many years. Her funeral will take place on 16

October at 2pm for the committal service at Test Valley Crematorium, followed by 3pm for the Service of Thanksgiving at Abbey URC. The family of Marion Schofield invites anyone who would like to attend both services, the Committal and the Thanksgiving - and to the refreshments afterwards in Abbey Hall. She will be much missed.

I also want to flag up, our Toy Service will be on Sunday, 30 November when Andy Bevan will be leading the service. Please bring along new toys (in their boxes etc). These will be collected and distributed to children in need by Southampton Social Services in due course. These toys make a huge difference to those receiving them.

Allison Symes



OASIS
ROMSEY
More than a Bookshop

25 Church Street, Romsey
Tel: 01794 512194
shop@oasisromsey.co.uk
www.oasisromsey.co.uk

**A large range of books and bibles for all ages—Third world crafts—
CDs/DVDs—Greetings cards—Fairtrade foods— Church resources—**

Scout & Guide uniform

Opening times: Monday– Friday 9.30-4.30, Saturday 9am-4pm

ROUND THE SOUTHERN FELLOWSHIP OF UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Bitterne

Please tell your friends there are plenty of jigsaws which need to be completed before the Jigsaw Puzzle Festival in October. Appropriate size boards are also available. A group of people will be starting to sort the jigsaws on Tuesday evenings, from 7 October, so if you would like to come along and help it would be much appreciated. If anyone at Braishfield or Abbey URC are interested in helping, for further information please contact ianbitterne@gmail.com.



BRAISHFIELD GARAGE LTD.



Unit 4B Frobisher Industrial Centre, Budds Lane, Romsey SO51 0EZ

Tel: 01794 518461 / 518555

www.braishfieldgarage.co.uk

MOT

REPAIRS

SERVICING

**Complete vehicle inspection services
in Romsey and Southampton**

LOOKING FOR A HOT MEAL AND SOME COMPANIONSHIP?

Romsey Abbey have vacancies for their parish lunch which is held on the second Thursday of each month. This is open to anyone within the town needing a hot meal and companionship, not just the congregation of Romsey Abbey. Cost is £6 for meal and desert and hot drink afterwards.

Please email Adrienne.mordan@ntlworld.com or lizmhol18@gmail.com for enquiries or to book your space.










Jigsaw Puzzle - Festival -











Tues 28/10/25 to Sat 01/11/25




>>> 10AM to 3PM <<<




Bitterne United Reformed Church;
Above Iceland in Bitterne Precinct
- Southampton, SO18 5EF -




Hundreds of puzzles both new and
completed for sale!



Refreshments available!








Admission is just £1, and allows free
return during the week!



Accompanied children enter free!

You are the missing piece!



FARRIER COMPETITION, ROMSEY SHOW

What a lovely day! For a change I wasn't on the bright and early first round of the shoemaking contest meaning I was a little more awake for my round. We had 70 minutes to make two shoes from a hand cranked coal forge, which is always a job in itself! Thankfully I had Dad there to crank for me - phew!



I received a 7.6 for my Suffolk Bevel Hind, and a 8.0 for my plain stamped shoe, both scores are out of 10, putting me around half way within the open competitors round. Super happy with my work and it was fabulous to see everyone - farrier and friends! I'll be back at it again next year!

Kathleen x

HOPE CHOIR HARVEST SINGING

Arrangements have been made for the Hope Choir to sing Harvest hymns at the following care homes in Romsey.

Monday, 29 September at 2.30pm Cedar Lawn SO51 7US

Tuesday, 30 September at 2.30 pm Fryers House SO51 5WE

Wednesday, 1 October at 2.30pm Abbeyfield House SO51 8EW

Friday, 3 October at 1.30pm Marie Louise House SO51 8 GZ

Monday, 6 October at 2.30 pm Woodley Grange SO51 7NU

Wednesday, 8 October at 11am Durban House SO51 7JL

Song sheets of popular Harvest Hymns will be available.

If you have some spare time, and enjoy singing, please help bring some joy to others by joining the Hope Choir at these Care Homes on as many occasions as possible. Just turn up 10 minutes before the start time at the venue – and why not bring a friend?



ALETTA ELIZABETH IRENE TARLTON (NEE TEICHERT)



Aletta, known as Letty, was so loved by her children (Christine and Jill), grandchildren (Gareth, Scott, Vicky, Kerry, Tara and Nicky), great grandchildren (Hannah, Amy, Belle, Avery, Blythe, Max, Joseph, Penny and Sonny), nephews and nieces and their families, and by all her family and friends, both here in the UK and South Africa.

Letty's father, Emil Teichert (said 'tie and shirt') was South African and during the war was a stoker for the Royal Navy; he was mentioned in despatches, with commendation during the D-Day landings. He met Letty's mum, Emily, on shore leave in Southampton, they married and had Letty and her brother Ted.

Her early life was shaped by the war, leaving school at the age of 14 and going to work at British American Tobacco. She was a Southampton girl, and at weekends loved going to dances at The Pier and Guildhall where she met Mont. They got engaged on Valentines Day 1948 and married the following year on 21 May 1949.

They spent their early married life riding a tandem, going some distance even to Wales! Then, when Christine came along, they travelled on a motorcycle and sidecar. They settled into family life in North Baddesley with Christine and Jill. Letty was involved with the WI, various keep fit groups and, of course, the church. She was a dinner lady at the primary school and later at Romsey School (Priestlands). Christine and Jill remember their mum riding a Puch moped to work but she never learnt to drive a car, however, she was a very good 'back seat driver'!!

A few years before they emigrated to South Africa, Letty worked as a cashier in Waitrose.

Why South Africa? Obviously there were family connections, her gran, uncles and aunts were still alive, she was actually named after one of her aunts. Plus, Mont was fed up with working such long hours and being taxed on his overtime. So, in 1972 a £200 passage incentive to make a new life in another country was attractive.

They worked hard for their family and Jill, being only 15 at the time, had to travel with them and still lives in South Africa with her family. Mont and Letty enjoyed a good life with lots of new friends, mainly through Morris and Country dancing groups. The church was a mainstay of their life, to the extent that Mont trained as a Lay Preacher in South Africa.

Mont and Letty returned to the UK in 2000, after 28 years in South Africa, to live with Christine and her family in Romsey, where they integrated themselves into the community of St Swithuns Church and Christine's church family at United Reformed Church.

Letty was always generous to the grandchildren and great grandchildren, always ready to give them a few pounds for holiday ice creams. Her compassion and kindness touched many lives and she greatly appreciated friendships.

She leaves us broken hearted but feeling treasured that she was part of our lives.

Hey Romsey!

We want to hear from you!

What do you love most about your town, what changes or improvements would you like to see?

Romsey Town Council are hosting a series of **'Listening Days'** this autumn.

Romsey Town Hall
Tuesday 7 October
12noon - 7pm

Abbotswood Centre
Saturday 1 November
10am - 4pm

Crosfield Hall, Annexe
Saturday 22 November
9.30am - 3.30pm

We invite you to **drop in, share your thoughts, and join the conversation.**

Your Plan - Your Voice

Romsey Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Town Hall, Market Place, Romsey SO51 8YZ



* We cannot change the Government mandated housing requirement

.ARTSEEN'S OPEN STUDIOS



Artseen was again fortunate to hold its Art Exhibition - part of Hampshire Open Studios - in the lovely Abbey Hall.

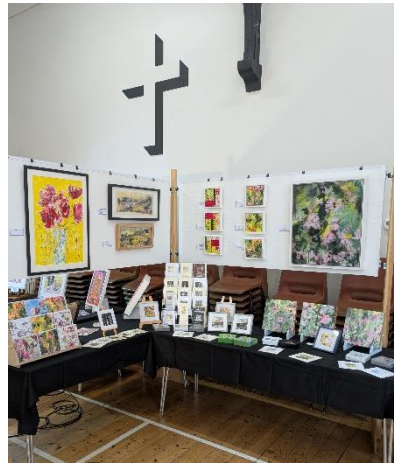
We are a group of artists who have been exhibiting locally since 2007 and this is our third year holding our Open Studios event in the Abbey Hall. This year we were joined by a guest artist, two jewellers and a potter which made for a varied and interesting exhibition.

It was a very successful exhibition with lots of visitors, lovely comments and a good number of artworks going off to new homes. We thoroughly enjoyed it.

It was good to hear the church had been successful in raising funds to improve the roof and lighting in the hall and that this work has just recently been completed (especially for us?!). It provided the perfect setting and ambience for displaying our art.

Thank you for allowing us to use the hall and a particular thank you to Angela Wolfe for so diligently opening up for us every day and for her help in other ways.

We look forward to returning in 2026.



COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR DEMFEST 2025

On Sunday, 31 August, the community gathered for Demfest, a vibrant event dedicated to raising awareness and support for those living with dementia and their carers. The festival brought together families, friends, and supporters for a day filled with music, activities, and heartfelt stories.

The event was given a very special opening by Susan Hampshire, 3rd time Emmy Award-winning actress, who shared her own personal connection to dementia. In her moving speech, she said: "I think RomDAG is a wonderful charity. I say this because my husband was diagnosed with dementia in 2005. I had the great privilege of looking after him for 14 years and I would do it again in a heartbeat. But for many people it is a very challenging journey, and I have great empathy for those who are caring for people with dementia and for those who are experiencing dementia. At the beginning, when you find that your memory is not working, it is a mystery and it is very frustrating. I send huge love to the carers and those with dementia."



Although rain fell on and off throughout the day, it did nothing to dampen the spirits of those who came. Festivalgoers enjoyed live performances, stalls, and activities, all designed to bring joy and connection to the community. Beyond the entertainment, the heart of Demfest was its message: to shine a light on dementia, to support carers, give vital information and to remind everyone that no one is alone on this journey.

The day was a reminder of the power of community in facing challenges together, and a celebration of hope, love, and resilience.

Next year's date is already firmly in the diary on the 13 September 2026 - save the date!

CHURCH LIFE REVIEW

The review of the United Reformed Church structures continues and will be presented to a specially convened General Assembly in November.



Their work includes reviewing financial resource sharing, employment of lay workers, provision of shared support services and new URC communities of discipleship and worship. The Steering Group leading this work has issued a short video to explain their roles and the work to be presented to the November General Assembly meeting. This can be found on [You Tube](#).

If you wish to keep up to date with their progress, just contact the Church Life Review team at churchlifereview@urc.org.uk to request their regular updates.

Alternatively, this will be discussed at the next Wessex Synod meeting being held at Avenue St Andrews on Saturday 11 October. This is an open meeting to which all are invited to attend – although only church appointed Synod Representatives are eligible to vote.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH REFORM

Reform is a fresh and challenging magazine exploring theology, ethics, personal spirituality and Christian perspectives on social and current affairs. The magazine is for thinking people who enjoy reading about Christian ideas from a range of viewpoints. It features writing from journalists, academics, politicians, campaigners, scientists and religious leaders. As well as high-profile interviews, in-depth features and book, music and film reviews.



Reform carries letters and regular, light-hearted columns. The digital edition costs £18, the printed and posted edition costs £29.50 and for both it's £35.50. For postage to Europe the cost is £49, and for the rest of the world the cost is £65. [Subscribe to Reform](#).

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY UK

Many of you have been supporting Muscular Dystrophy over past years by taking an envelope from the back of the church in which you have sent your used printer cartridges and mobile telephones to Muscular Dystrophy UK for recycling as part of their fundraising efforts.

Unfortunately, the company Muscular Dystrophy UK was using to recycle these is no longer offering this service. However, it is still possible to recycle your printer cartridges; simply place your used cartridges in the new Muscular Dystrophy box. This can be found on the ledge next to the Wessex Cancer Trust used postage stamp collection box next to the charity table in the church foyer. Once 15 cartridges have been collected these will be sent back for Muscular Dystrophy to use as part of their fundraising efforts.

News is still awaited on how we can recycle mobile phones through Muscular Dystrophy UK; once this is known it will be shared with you so do not throw them away if you have any mobile phones you no longer use.



7.30pm Wednesday on 22 October 2025

Friends from all the churches in Romsey will be meeting at Romsey Methodist Church from 7.30pm on Wednesday, 22 October. This is an open meeting when members from all the churches in Romsey meet to share their news and hear a speaker talking on a topical subject.

Over the summer several churches have been asked for help by homeless people. At the meeting a representative from the Winchester Beacon Homeless Shelter will be speaking about their work with the homeless and the facilities they provide at the homeless shelter they run in Winchester. It is also hoped that a representative from Test Valley Borough Council will be attending to share information about the services and facilities they can offer for the homelessness in the area.

If this is a subject about which you wish to know more, do join us for the evening.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM HERITAGE EXHIBITION

Have you ever strolled past the gates of La Sagesse Convent on your way to the park and wondered, who are the Daughters of Wisdom? Or noticed the statue in the grounds and wanted to know its story? Now's your chance to find out ...

The Heritage Exhibition 2025, entitled Pilgrims of Hope, will be held on Friday, 31 October and Saturday, 1 November between 10am-4pm at the Wisdom Centre in Romsey; formerly the site of their junior school. It is free admission; all are welcome and there are refreshments available. The exhibition brings together a fascinating collection of photographs, artefacts, and records from their archives. For more information, visit <https://www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk/.../daughters-of.../>

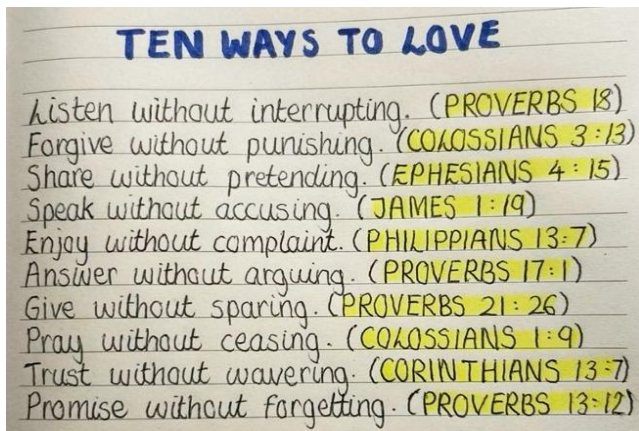
Explore the rich history and the journey of the Daughters of Wisdom:

- From their origins in France in 1703, to the uncertain journey to England.
- Following religious persecution in France, to their global presence today across five continents.
- Stories of their work in missions across Haiti, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, India and more.
- How they continue to reach out to people through projects like Amber in Southampton <https://www.citylife.org.uk/amber-chaplains/> and Sophia Housing Association in Ireland <https://www.sophia.ie/>
- Their deep commitment to justice, peace and integrity of creation.



Step into over 300-years of global history at their Heritage Exhibition, celebrating the Daughters of Wisdom as Pilgrims of Hope, and discover their inspiring journey under co-founders St Louis Marie de Montfort and Blessed Marie Louise Trichet, to their worldwide presence today.

Photo: Historical picture from the Daughters of Wisdom archives



SOUTHAMPTON REGIONAL THEOLOGY FORUM

Southampton Regional Theology Forum of the Methodist Church invite you to their next meeting to be held from 10am on Thursday, October 16 in Romsey Methodist Church www.romseymethodist.church. The discussion will be led by Revd Anna Bishop, Programme Leader at Sarum College. Anna's talk relates to her PhD research, and her title and summary are: "God's Forgotten Theologians: Practical Theological Research as Justice-Seeking in the Spiritual Lives of Intellectually Disabled Children Who Don't Rely on Spoken Language".

This will be a morning-only meeting starting with a welcome drink available from 9.45am, and the discussion will be in a cafe-style environment, aided by the products of a Swedish Bakery from Hedge End, thanks to the help of our local zero-waste shop and cafe, Lemon and Jinja. We also hope to have a table of related books for sale through the Oasis Christian Centre <https://oasisromsey.co.uk/>

HOW TO AVOID MIXING YOUR METAPHORS

It's not rocket surgery. First, get all your ducks on the same page. After all, you can't make an omelette without breaking stride. Be sure to watch what you write with a fine-tuned comb. Check and re-check until the cows turn blue. It's as easy as falling off a piece of cake.

Don't worry about opening up a whole hill of beans; you can burn that bridge when you come to it, if you follow where I'm coming from.

Concentrate! Keep your door closed and your enemies closer. Finally, don't take the moral high horse; if the metaphor fits, walk a mile in it.

Brian Bilston

Abbey United Reformed Church

ALL SOULS' SERVICE



Our special service of
remembering and thanksgiving
for loved ones no longer with us
will take place at
Abbey URC Romsey

Sunday, 2 November at 3 pm.

Followed by quiet time and refreshments.