

NEWS

From



United Reformed Churches of Romsey and Braishfield



JUNE 2026

www.abbeyurc.org.uk

Abbey United Reformed Church

www.abbeyurc.org.uk

or find us on social media

Ministers:	Revd Mike Perrott MA 01794 512163 email: revd.mike13@gmail.com Day off: Monday
	Rev Dr Sarah Hall 02380 768004 email: sarah.hall.swhg@gmail.com Day off: Thursday
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Assistant Secretary	Carole Cox 07787 630297
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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 On Zoom (ID: 864 1780 6994 Password: learning)	6.30pm
Weekday Meetings – any updates will be on our worship sheet	
Monday (2 nd)	BALM (Bereavement) Group 10.30am
Tuesday (2 nd)	Chill Out Tuesday, The White Horse, Romsey 7.30pm
Thursday	The Social Cup - refreshments and warm space. Open to all, in Abbey Hall Lounge 10am - 11.30am
Wednesday (1 st 3 rd)	Church Table Tennis 2.30pm

For baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact Revd Mike

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Romsey or Braishfield URC, nor the elders nor production team.

A MESSAGE FROM REVD MIKE

June 2026

Dear friends in Christ

Since the last time I wrote for this magazine Marie and I have had the holiday of a lifetime! During the school Easter holiday, we spent a little under two weeks in Japan. It was a wonderful experience and, as much as we both had slight worries about how we would get on with long-haul flights (fourteen hours!) and being able to get about without much knowledge of the language, we did very well.

One of the things we wanted to do was to see the cherry blossom in full bloom, and we were not disappointed! It is a great tradition in Japan to celebrate the coming of spring by being out and about, daytime and night, in the parks and other open spaces to see the cherry blossom. People buy food from the street-food sellers and have picnics under the trees – it is a real festival!



Photo – Revd Mike

Only one percent of Japanese people are Christian, which meant that there were no public Easter celebrations and, on a positive note, no commercialisation of Easter with over-expensive flowers and chocolates in the shops! But for Marie and me it was a fantastic reminder of the meaning of Easter, and the beautiful flowering trees an image of the coming of new life to celebrate for the remainder of the year!

As I write this, the celebration of Pentecost is arriving, with the coming of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised, to be the living presence of God made available to all people. Again, the light of the lanterns illuminating the cherry blossom at night tells of the warmth and encouragement the Holy Spirit brings, especially in the challenging times we experience. May we all, as individual Christians and as churches, find renewal and refreshment in our discipleship by the Holy Spirit this Pentecost!

In Christian love,

Revd Mike

PRAYER FOR MAY

15 to 21 June is designated Refugee Week 2026. This also celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Refugee Convention which, together with the 1967 Protocol are the key legal documents that form the basis of the UNHCR Refugee Agency.

The theme for this year's Refugee Week is 'courage', something that is much needed by refugees in their own unique situations of fear and persecution.

Article 1 of the 1951 Convention defines a refugee as someone who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themselves] of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of [their] former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

We look forward to welcoming someone who knows first-hand about the problems of being a refugee to our service on 14 June, as well as someone who has helped them in the flight to this country.



Let us reflect that there, but for the grace of God, go you or I, as we pray:

Lord God,

We remember that you yourself knew threats and suffering both as a child and on the cross. We thank you that we live in the comparative safety and security of our country. We offer to you Lord, those who do not know such safety or who have been forced to leave their homes because of violence not of their making. May they find comfort in knowing that you are a God of love, and of hope.

We pray also for those who are the instigators of such violence and hatred. May a shaft of your light and love beam into their hearts, that they may seek to end all conflicts and build a world in which all can live together as equals.

Amen

Andy

UNABLE TO COMMIT REGULARLY? COULD YOU VOLUNTEER AS A STEWARD OR A STEWARD'S ASSISTANT?

The church has become a very popular venue for concerts. It has good acoustics and performers like the fact that they are close to and can engage with the audience. The concerts enable people from the wider community to enjoy our building, and it is a source of revenue.

For each concert we need 2 people, especially when the balcony is in use as it is a condition of our insurance that we have a steward upstairs.

A steward represents our church and answers any questions the hirer may have. They also make sure that anything moved during the evening is put back at the end of the concert by the hirer.

You can choose which concerts you want to steward - and you can enjoy the concert for free! Training will be given.

If you want to know more, why not shadow a steward at one of our upcoming concerts. Your help in this way would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Carole for more details.

ABBEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Social Cup

Thursday mornings 10am – 11.30am
Abbey Hall Lounge, Romsey

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

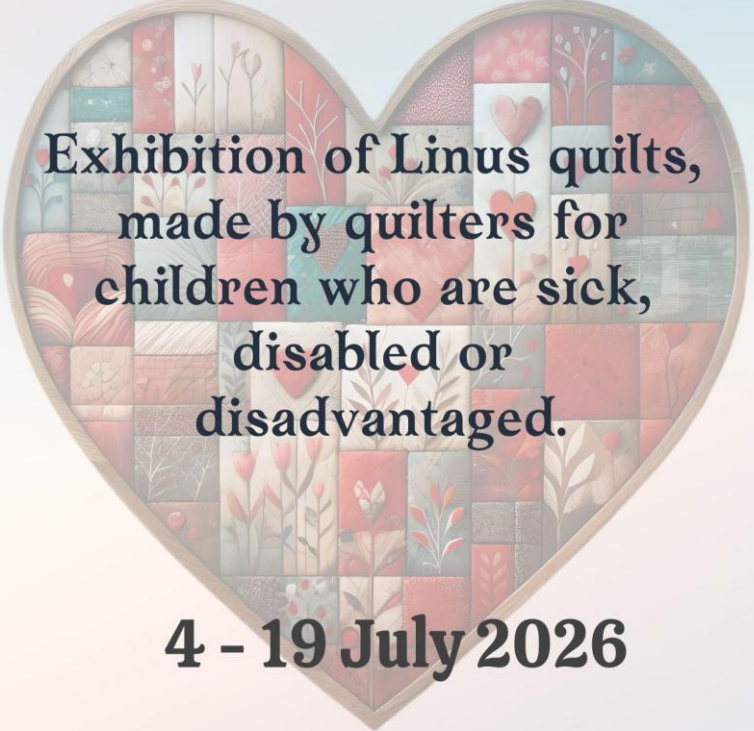
Open to all

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

The Chatty Cafe Scheme

Warm Welcome Spaces

Linus Quilt Exhibition



Exhibition of Linus quilts,
made by quilters for
children who are sick,
disabled or
disadvantaged.

4 - 19 July 2026

**Abbey URC, Romsey
- the church by the arch**

Main quilt exhibition will be held in Romsey Abbey

A SOCIAL BINGO AFTERNOON FOLLOWED BY BRING AND SHARE TEA



We're looking forward to an afternoon of fun and friendly bingo on Saturday, 20 June at 3.30pm in Abbey Hall, followed by a bring-and-share tea. Please bring something to contribute if you are able - sweet or savoury, homemade or shop-bought, everything is appreciated.

A sign-up list is available at the back of the church, please add your name – friends, family or members of the Southern Fellowship are very welcome too.

We look forward to seeing you there for an enjoyable afternoon of fellowship and good company. Whether you're a seasoned bingo player or trying it for the first time, all are welcome!

INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN CHURCH

Have you looked recently at the papers stored above the hymn books in the church foyer. As well as the forms to enable you to Gift Aid your donations to the church and the form to pay your Sunday offertory by Standing Order there are other forms to help us know your wishes.

The photograph and video permission form allows the Publicity Officer to know who does not want to be included in any photographs taken at church events. These photographs are sometimes used for future advertising of similar events as well as social and local media articles about that event, so it is important that we know those who do not wish to be included.

There is also an Emergency contact form which enables you to provide details of who and how to advise a relative or friend should you unfortunately require urgent medical attention whilst attending church events.

Both these forms are stored in accordance with Data Protection rules so the details provided cannot be accessed by people not acting in the capacity for which they are intended.

If you have already filled these but would like to change the details provided, simply fill in another form. All completed forms should be handed to an Elder.

Andy



**MONTHLY SOCIAL AT
AGE CONCERN**

ROMSEY

DATES:
 FRIDAY 17TH APRIL
 FRIDAY 15TH MAY
 FRIDAY 19TH JUNE
 FRIDAY 17TH JULY
 FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST
 FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER
 FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER
 FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER
 CHRISMAS SOCIAL FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

2PM TO 3.30PM

ONLY £3 FOR COFFEE & CAKE AND
ACTIVITIES

Linden Road
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 01794 518817
 Charity no 1056850



ROMSEY COMMUNITY PANTRY
Here for our community

Hello, everyone! ♥

WE'RE MOVING!
TO OUR NEW HOME
next to Romsey School!

OUR NEW LOCATION
SO518BZ

NEW ADDRESS:
SO518BZ

WE WILL REOPEN
— ON —
1ST OF JUNE 2026

WE WILL BE CLOSED SO WE CAN MOVE. From Monday the 25th of May to Friday the 29th of May.

OUR NEW LOCATION
Next to Romsey School (Same heart, new home!)

SAME COMMUNITY. SAME MISSION.
Thank you for your continued support - we can't wait to welcome you to our new space!

Thank you for being part of our community.
SEE YOU ON 1ST OF JUNE 2026!



ROMSEY FESTIVAL 2026

A House is not a Home
Without a Quilt

Romsey Quilt Exhibition

4th - 19th July 2026
10am - 4pm
Romsey Abbey
Subject to Services

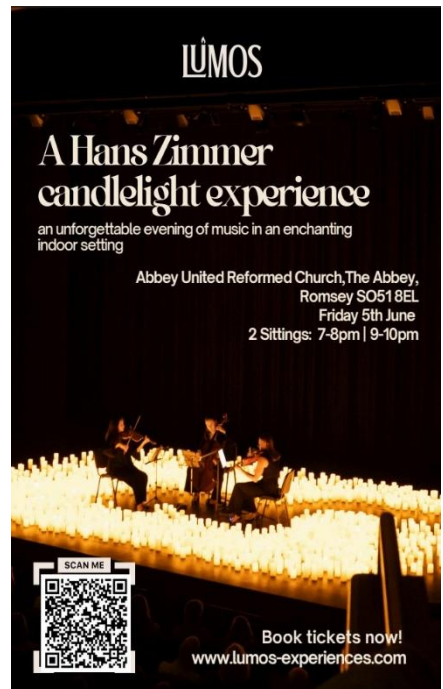
Jo Avery - Scottish textile artist and author:
Talk - Fri 3rd July 7pm - 9pm Crosfield Hall, Romsey
Workshops - Sat 4th & Sun 5th July - 10am - 4pm
Proceeds to the RNLI

Fabric Fiesta - selling fabrics, haberdashery, notions, patterns etc. Also, on-site refreshments
Sun 12th July 10am - 4pm Crosfield Hall, Romsey - proceeds to Romsey Opportunity Group

Raffle tickets available for this beautiful quilt - proceeds to Jane Scarth House

Linus Quilts - United Reformed Church, Romsey
Quilts made by quilters for children who are sick, disabled or disadvantaged

Email: rqexhibition26@gmail.com



LUMOS

A Hans Zimmer candlelight experience

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Abbey United Reformed Church, The Abbey, Romsey SO518EL
Friday 5th June
2 Sittings: 7-8pm | 9-10pm

Book tickets now!
www.lumos-experiences.com

CHURCH NEWS

We had a lovely visit from Gwen, with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, which cheered us up so much at this stressful time. So many thanks,



Ruby and John H

There have been lots of birthdays in our church over the past few weeks, wishing you all a very happy birthday – and a wonderful year ahead!

AFTERNOON TEA

Our church afternoon tea will be held on Sunday, 14 June 2026 at 3pm, starting with some musical entertainment, led by Kirsty. Tea will be at 4pm with the traditional sandwiches and cake. If you are a member of our congregation and have not received an invitation, and would like to join in this social occasion, please sign the list at the back of the church by Sunday, 7 June. This also gives an opportunity to request a lift to be able to attend or can offer a lift to others.



SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE



We are delighted to welcome Olena and Nataliya to our Community Awareness Service at 10.30 am on Sunday 14 June. During the service Olena will tell us about her experiences as a refugee fleeing the war in Ukraine, whilst Nataliya will share with us why she opened her home to refugees from that country. Please do come along and hear their story.

If you would like to know how you can support the Ukrainians in their current struggle, one way is to help the local Ukraine Support Group in the help they offer to their troops, by providing light and heat for those in the trenches on the front line. The Group melt candle ends down and pour the wax into small sized food tins which are sent back home.

During the summer our local Ukrainian Refugee Support group have suspended making these candles as they are not needed during the summer months. They will, however, resume making them later in the year. In the meantime, the Group would be grateful if you could please keep your small tins and candle ends until their activities resume. Unfortunately, they have no facilities in which they can currently store them until they are needed.

Please note: tins with a white lining/white stripe on the inside surface cannot be accepted.

ART, HISTORY AND COMMUNITY IN OUR CHURCH – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

There are some wonderful community events taking place in the church later this year, bringing together art, history and creativity for people of all ages.



Once again, we are very grateful to Test Valley Borough Council for a generous grant towards artist fees and printing costs, which is helping to make these events possible.

On Saturday 4 July, from 11.00am to 3.00pm, as part of Romsey Festival, the church will host "Drawing Music". Guided by our artist in residence, participants will respond to live music through drawing. No artistic experience is needed. Just come along and enjoy a creative and uplifting afternoon.

The musical programme for the Romsey Arts Festival Drawing Music event will be:

11.00am-12noon	Sue Gibbons on flute with Chris Maxey as piano accompaniment
12noon-1.00pm	Birdsong
1.00-2.00pm	Percussive instruments
2.00-3.00pm	Romsey Voices Choir



Elizabeth Hammond, our artist in residence, explains, "The Abbey United Reformed Church is such a peaceful and beautiful building and these creative opportunities will enable us to gather together with people from beyond the church community in really meaningful ways. Drawn together through these unique experiences the creative events will be a celebration of the rich history of music and architecture that this church has to offer".



Further details can be found on the websites below:

<https://www.romseyfestival.org/events/drawing-music/>
<https://www.elizabeth-hammond.com/events>

Then, from Friday 11 September to Sunday 13 September, as part of the national Heritage Open Days, the church will present a three-day local history exhibition exploring the everyday stories of people connected with the church. We are delighted that members of the Romsey Local History Society are helping to shape the content, and we hope there will be something of interest for everyone.



Later in October, we plan to hold a Drop and Draw event. This relaxed and inclusive session will offer a wonderful opportunity to look at the church in a new way and capture what you see through drawing. Inspiration, guidance and materials will be provided, including techniques such as frottage (creating rubbings) and gesture drawing (quick sketches). The artwork created during the day will be brought together in an exhibition in the church, open for everyone to enjoy afterwards. Whether you are an experienced artist or have never picked up a pencil, you are warmly invited to take part.

Thérèse



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AVAILABLE 24 HOURS

ROMAN CATHOLIC & ABBEY URC DISCUSSION GROUP

A group of people from Abbey URC and St Joseph's have met together on two occasions now, most recently to talk about what 'friendship' means for us as individuals, and as churches of different traditions. We are a friendly group of people getting to know each other and the traditions of our denominations, with fine refreshments provided too!

We will next meet at the St Joseph's Parish Room (opposite 1 Abbey Water) at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 9 June, when we will continue to share our thoughts on friendship, partly focusing on biblical examples of friendship. Please do feel free to join us! One thing we do need to do is to come up with a name for our group – any ideas?

Revd Mike

BIBLE STUDY

Our monthly Zoom Sunday evening Bible study will take place on Sunday, 7 June at 6.30 pm (ID 864 1780 6994, PC learning) when we will look more deeply at the Gospel verses set for that Sunday (please see 'morning prayer' readings). All welcome!



MORNING PRAYER

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 set for morning worship on these Sundays.

June 7	Psalm 33:1-12	Matthew 9:9-13 and 18-26
14	Psalm 116:1-2 and 12-19	Matthew 9:35 – 10:8
21	Psalm 86:1-10 and 16-17	Matthew 10:24-39
28	Psalm 13	Matthew 10:40-42

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Material for July/August 2026 to be submitted by
5pm (latest) **on Thursday, 25 June 2026**

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.

BRAISHFIELD GARAGE LTD.



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LIVING HOPEFULLY....

On 17 May, Revd Dr Gwen Collins led our worship. During the service she discussed A Million Acts of Hope, a national invitation to celebrate the everyday acts of kindness, care and connection happening across the UK. At a time when division can feel loud, it brings together all these everyday acts of hope and shines a light on the people and communities making them happen.

When put on the spot on a Sunday morning, it can be surprisingly difficult to think of all the ways Abbey URC quietly makes a difference within our community. I wasn't at that particular service, but since then I have found myself reflecting on the many small ways our church - and our congregation - gently touch people's lives and help create a kinder, more hopeful community in which to live.

There are many obvious ways our church raises awareness and support for the wider world: Christian Aid collections, our Lent lunch, support for Commitment for Life, signing Amnesty International cards at Christmas for prisoners of conscience around the world and our Christmas donations to local charities.

Alongside these are the quieter acts of support that often go unnoticed: collecting cartridges for Muscular Dystrophy, stamps for Wessex Cancer Support, foreign coins, and last Christmas sweet tubs for the young man in Bitterne who recycles them.

Daily, weekly and throughout the church year, we also support others simply by providing care, a safe space and a reminder that people are not alone - that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Some of the many ways we make a difference include:

- Opening our church on Saturday mornings to provide a friendly face and a quiet space where people can reflect, pray and pause amidst busy lives.
- The Social Cup and Chill Out Tuesday, offering relaxed and welcoming spaces for people to meet and chat as part of the Warm Welcome and Chatty Café schemes.
- Table tennis sessions, which help keep people active and connected and have, over the years, also supported people living with dementia and their carers.
- Our pastoral group, delivering flowers to those celebrating special occasions, those who are ill, those needing encouragement, or those no longer able to attend church.
- Church contacts who faithfully keep in touch with members of the congregation, ensuring nobody feels forgotten or left out.
- Sending Christmas and Easter cards to Bartletts Almshouse residents and to members of our congregation who can no longer join us on Sundays.
- Free activities for young people in the wider community, welcoming them and their families into our church.
- Volunteers who deliver our magazines locally to those unable to attend church, helping them stay connected with church life.
- BALM, our monthly bereavement and loss meeting, which offers support and companionship for those grieving the loss of a loved one.
- Birthday and Christmas cards for baptismal children, along with invitations encouraging families to return for Mothering Sunday.
- Our All Souls' Service, where we remember and give thanks for those who have died, especially during the past year. Bringing comfort to many who mourn.
- Praying for people through our prayer book and the prayer box outside the church.
- The Dementia Remembering Service held each November with RomDAG.
- Collections for the Romsey Food Bank and Community Pantry, which provide vital support to people within our local community.
- Our prayer tree in the front garden, where people can leave their joys and worries, knowing they will be held in prayer.
- Last Christmas, our Tree of Angels brought comfort to many visitors who wrote the names of loved ones they were remembering on angels to hang on the tree.

CALENDAR

June		
1	2pm	Service of Thanksgiving for life of David Page at Abbey URC followed by refreshments in Abbey Hall, all welcome
3	7.30pm	Romsey Voices and Freiberg Junior Jazz Choir Concert; all proceeds to Church funds
4	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge
5	5pm/7pm/9pm	Lumos Candlelight Experience: String trio playing Hans Zimmer pieces by candlelight
6	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet prayer and reflection
6	2pm	Marriage of Peter Mills and Jacquie Keighley
7	10.30am	Morning worship, including Holy Communion, led by Revd Sarah
7	11.30am	Annual General Meeting followed by Church Meeting
7	6.30am	Bible Study on Zoom ID 864 1780 6994, PW learning
8	10.30am	BALM in Abbey Hall Lounge
9	7.30pm	Chill Out Tuesday at White Horse Hotel
11	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge
13	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet prayer and reflection
14	10.30am	Community Awareness Service led by Mrs Andy Bevan. Guest speakers from Ukrainian Refugee Group
14	3pm	Afternoon Tea in Abbey Hall
17	2.30pm	Church Table Tennis in Abbey Hall
18	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge
20	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet prayer and reflection
20	3.30pm	Bingo followed by bring and share tea – all welcome, please sign up on the list at the back of church
21	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Wendy White
23	7.30pm	Elders Meeting in Abbey Hall Lounge
25	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge
27	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet prayer and reflection
27	7.30pm	Imerys Singers (from Cornwall) Concert at Bitterne URC
28	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Adrian Bulley
July		
1 July to 30 Sept		Revd Sarah on Sabbatical


1	2.30 pm	Church Table Tennis in Abbey Hall
2	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge
4	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet prayer and reflection
4-19		Romsey Festival - Linus Quilt Exhibition in the church
4	11 - 3.00 pm	Drawing Music free workshop in Abbey URC; drop-in hourly sessions – all welcome and all materials provided
5	10.30 am	Service of Rededication and Thanks, including Holy Communion and induction of elders, led by Revd Mike

REVD SARAH'S SABBATICAL

Revd Sarah will be on sabbatical from 1 July to 30 September 2026. This is a chance for her to step back from daily ministerial duties; it is rooted in the biblical concept of the Sabbath to "cease" or rest. During this period she will be spending 30 days on a silent retreat – we look forward to hearing how she fares!

Please contact Revd Mike should you need to speak to a minister during this period.

We wish her a time of spiritual renewal, and look forward to welcoming her back in autumn.



Join us for a gentle

MEDITATIVE WALK

around the peaceful areas of Romsey

meet at 10am in front of the church
TUESDAY, 7 JULY 2026
 Abbey United Reformed Church, Romsey

WALK & PRAY
 PRAY & WALK

Find us opposite TSB - just off Romsey Market Place

www.abbeyurc.org.uk

ROMSEY FESTIVAL 2026

ABBEY URC, Romsey -
the church by the arch



IN JUNE, IT'S LONELINESS
 AWARENESS WEEK, REMEMBER...



**YOU'RE A SPECIAL PIECE
 OF OUR COMMUNITY**

Come along for a warm welcome and a friendly face:

Thursday, 18 June 10am-11.30am Abbey Hall Lounge
 (or any Thursday morning)

Tuesday, 9 June from 7.30pm White Horse Hotel
 (or any second Tuesday evening)

www.abbeyurc.org.uk

Braishfield United Reformed Church

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Secretary:	Shirley Smith	01794 368447
Treasurer:	Sharon Whitfield	01794 328853
Serving Elders:	Shirley Smith	01794 368447
	Allison Symes	02380 262803
	Sharon Whitfield	01794 328853

June

7		NO SERVICE – RUNNERS
14	10.00	Church Anniversary Service
14	10.00	Family Worship led by Rev Mike Perrott
21	10.00	Favourite Hymns Service led by Allison Symes
28	10.00	Family Worship led by Chris Noyce

July

5	9.30	Holy Communion led by Rev Mike Perrott
12	10.00	Family Worship led by Nick Tustian
19	10.00	Flower Festival
19	10.00	Family Worship led by Andy Bevan
26	10.00	Family Worship led by Daniel Symes

August

2	9.30	Holy Communion led by Allison Symes
9	10.00	Family Worship led by Reverend Mike Perrott

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

I was pleased to hear the Southern Fellowship Anniversary Service went well when it was held on Saturday, 9 May at our church. At the time Adrian and I were in Scotland!

I also understand the tea, cake and other refreshments went down very well after the service. Many thanks are due to Sharon Whitfield for booking the Community Room in the Village Hall and to Joan Glister, Jack Batchelor and all of the helpers for all their hard work with the catering. Also, thanks go to Daniel Symes for organising the music for the service.

All of us at Braishfield were sorry to hear of the passing of Peter White. He came to us regularly for over twenty years and was based at Salisbury URC. He was probably the lay preacher who travelled the furthest to us. His services were always appreciated. We keep his wife, Margaret, and the family in our prayers.

Please remember we're not having a service on 7 June, as the runners are having their annual event through the village. It has become more difficult to organise the service on this Sunday around them so the decision to cancel was taken. I hope some of us may make it to Romsey URC on that morning.

It will be especially nice to get together the following week, 14 June, given that will also be our Church Anniversary Service. Also, please note the Favourite Hymns Service will now take place on Sunday 21 June. Do join us for a big sing!

Looking further ahead, our Flower Festival will be on 19 July and is always a colourful spectacle. Details of bringing in flower arrangements for this will be shared later, via the notices and hopefully for the next magazine. If you've not seen Braishfield URC in full bloom for this, you are missing a treat and I'd urge you to come. The church always looks wonderful. Just to give you an idea, please see the pictures from a couple of years ago.

Hope to see you soon!

Allison S



UPCOMING EVENTS



- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| 04-19 | July
10:00
-16:00 | Exhibition of Linus Quilts
A display of Linus Quilts by Romsey Quilters made for children who are sick, disabled or disadvantaged. |
| 04 | July
11:00
-15:00 | Drawing Music
Exploring the interaction of sound and drawing for all ages; 11:00 flute and piano, 12:00 Birdsong, 13:00 Percussive instruments, 14:00 Romsey Voices Choir |
| 05 | July
14:30 | Storytelling Sundays
A musical treat for all the family! |
| 07 | July
10:00 | Meditative walk around Romsey town
A meditative walk around the peaceful areas of Romsey town, start and finish at Abbey URC |
| 07 | July
12:15 | Trillium – Lunchtime concert
A concert of summer music for soprano, flute and piano |
| 13 | July
19:00 | Solo classical guitar recital
Solo classical guitar recital by Nina Rideout |
| 14 | July
12:30 | Rum’s Eg Singers
Come and sing with Rum’s Eg Singers |
| 15 | July | Lunchtime recital
Pianist Tom Jesty with cellist |
| 16 | July
19:00 | The Great & Terrible Tragedy of the Swing Riots
Retold using music, poetry and song |
| 17 | July | Lunchtime recital
Tom Jesty on piano and Vanessa White on violin |
| 19 | July
14:30 | Sing into Summer
An afternoon of summer song with Romsey Ladies Choir in concert with the Songbirds |

LONELINESS AWARENESS WEEK: 8–14 JUNE

Loneliness Awareness Week, organised by the Marmalade Trust, encourages us to talk openly about loneliness and reminds us that by meeting it together, we can build more compassionate and connected communities.

At Abbey URC, we regularly host informal gatherings that offer a safe and welcoming space for anyone looking for companionship, conversation, or simply a friendly face. We are part of The Warm Welcome initiative and Chatty Café Scheme, providing a warm welcome for anyone who needs us.

One of these is The Social Cup, held every Thursday morning in Abbey Hall from 10.00am–11.30am. Whether you would like to read a book or newspaper, meet with friends, sit quietly with a coffee, or enjoy a chat, you will always find a warm welcome.

For those who prefer an evening gathering, Chill Out Tuesday meets at the White Horse Hotel on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm.

To mark Loneliness Awareness Week this June, we will be taking a blank jigsaw puzzle to each of our social events and inviting people to take home a piece, adding their first name where their piece belonged.

The jigsaws will then be shared with our congregation for them to also take part, and we hope anyone who is part of our church community will take a piece home with them, to remember that we are all part of the bigger picture of our church – and connections matter.



At all our informal social events there is no pressure and no obligation - we simply offer a warm welcome to everyone, providing moments of connection which has the potential to help everyone feel happier and less lonely.

GCS ROMSEY PANTRY

GCS Romsey Pantry are excited to be moving to their new home – next to Romsey School! They will be closed late May as they move to new premises on the Romsey Secondary School site.

They have been based in Dukes Mill since they opened, but are looking forward to your continued support – they can't wait to welcome you to their new space. Same community, same mission. They will reopen on 1 June 2026!

REFORMED



Have you noticed the change of name for our denominational Magazine. It is no longer called Reform but is now entitled

Reformed. The change has been made to avoid continuing confusion with people thinking it was the magazine of a growing political party – whose policies and declarations do not always lie comfortably alongside the Christian message of love.

Our denomination's Magazine though has not changed anything else; it is still a good read. Where else can you find reflections on the month's themes for worship, the work being undertaken abroad by the URC through its partners in Commitment for Life and Christian Aid, and some interesting random facts and figures about our world. This is in addition to interviews with key players in major areas of our world, a monthly "Good Question" to which four people offer their reply, book and film reviews and the final offering from Paul Kerensa, Christian writer and comedian "Do Stay for Coffee".

If you want to sample the latest edition, this is available for free if ordered before 30 June or a copy is available at the back of the church to borrow. Like our own church Magazine, Reformed is published 10 times each year and is available on line for £18.00 per year or £29.50 for a printed copy posted to you. Why not give it a try?

DEPARTMENT STORE
ROMSEY
Tel. 01794 515555

FURNITURE STORE
HEDGE END
Tel. 01489 772777

www.bradbeers.com

*All monies raised will be donated to Abbey URC
– thank you for your support!*

JUNIOR JAZZCHOR FREIBURG (Germany)



AND
ROMSEY
VOICES



3rd June 2026 7:30 pm

Abbey United Reformed Church, Romsey
Free entry, donations welcome.



MAY CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



Thank you to all who donated to Christian Aid during Christian Aid week from 10-16 May, either during Sunday services or at the coffee morning. A total of £357.59 was raised, some of which has been gift aided, enabling the tax paid on the donation to be added.

Thank you also to Chris L and Kerry for helping with the Christian Aid coffee morning, and to all those who supported the event.

Andy

ROUND THE SOUTHERN FELLOWSHIP OF UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Southern Fellowship Anniversary

Representatives from all 6 churches gathered in Braishfield URC on 9 May for the service to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the Southern Fellowship of United Reformed Churches. The longest-standing Church Secretary in the synod, Shirley Smith, welcomed everyone. The service was led by The Revd Mike Perrott and the hymn singing was robust. Revd Stephen Thornton gave a very informative address detailing the core values of the United Reformed Church traditions.



The printed order of service offered some acronyms for us before the service. Stephen used these to explain those values. Although, like other Christians, we all believe in the risen Lord as our means to salvation, the way we manage our church affairs can be quite different to other Christian denominations.

Firstly, we are R & E R – Reformed and ever reforming. We are not a church set in time but as our history since the URC was formed in 1972 clearly shows, we are always looking to reform with the times.

We also practise P A B – The Priesthood of all Believers. The URC believes that all are given direct access to God through the sacrifice Christ made for us on the cross; we do not need any other mediator such as an ordained Vicar or Priest. Christ leads us directly to God.

Next Stephen spoke about D by C – decision by Council. It is a fundamental belief of the URC that every Church Member helps to reach decisions needed within the life of the church. The Church Meeting is held to allow God to speak to all members about the life of their church.

For the URC Stephen reminded us of C of B – the centrality of the Bible. The Bible is central to our faith and is the main source for teaching us how we live as Christians.

Finally, we were reminded about F F S and F in W – Freedom from State and Freedom in Worship. Although the URC is formed through an Act of Parliament in 1972 this does not bind us to swearing allegiance to the state, nor indeed who we worship. Each United Reformed Church decides on the worship it offers and how it lives out the message of the Good News; although there are books available to help with prayers and the structure of our services, we are not bound by these books and each congregation follows the pattern of worship which they feel is best suited to hearing and preaching God's message.

Long may we hold true to these core values.

After the service, we all enjoyed refreshments in the Braishfield Village Hall. Thank you, Braishfield URC, for hosting us.



Bitterne

Thank you to everyone who took part in the first ever Great Bitterne Bake Off at Bitterne URC. The event brought together bakers, families, volunteers, and visitors from across our churches and neighbourhood for a joyful afternoon of creativity, connection, and (of course) cake! They raised £157.50 in total donations to support future CTiB community events.

- We're running really low... priority items
- Stock levels are dropping
- We've got plenty... no more please!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rice Pudding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crisps |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Packs of Sweets | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rice (500g) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tinned Meat | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Savoury Biscuits / Crackers | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tinned Fruit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Custard |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instant Mash | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cup-a- Soup |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sponge Puddings | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tinned Peas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tinned Carrots |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coffee (100g) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baked Beans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tea |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biscuits | |

Shopping List



PREMISES OFFICER

We are looking for a Premises Officer to be responsible for the smooth, effective and safe operation of Abbey URC premises, comprising Abbey URC and Abbey Hall.

The candidate should be trustworthy, proactive and community-minded; this part-time role is suited to someone who takes pride in maintaining a safe, welcoming and well-maintained space for our congregation, visitors and local community groups.

If you know someone who would be suitable for the position, please ask them to contact abbeyurccal@gmail.com for further information and an application pack. Closing date: 5pm on Friday, 5 June 2026.

More details can be found at <https://abbeyurc.org.uk/about-us-2/>

ABBHEY URC



Coffee Morning

Hosted by the Beamans

Saturday 4 July 2025

10.30am - 12 noon

Abbey Hall Lounge

All welcome • Pop in and say hello!

Refreshments and cakes • Donations to church funds

SUPPORT THE WORK OF ABBHEY URC ONLINE

As cash becomes a thing of the past, dropping a penny in the pot isn't always easy. You can still support Abbey URC - simply and securely - from the comfort of your home.

Through your bank or by BACS: you can select a regular direct debit from your bank account or make a one-off donation by card or digital wallet. Bank details: Abbey United Reformed Church Romsey, Sort Code 40-52-40, Account Number 00033457, Bank CAFS.

SumUp card machine: the machine is in Abbey URC; it works the same as a card machine in a shop – except you can choose the amount to donate. Please ask an elder, or the person on duty, if you are unsure how to use it.

QR code: scan this QR code on your phone to make a donation via SumUp to Abbey URC. Simply follow the instructions and add your payment details. Any donation under £30 automatically qualifies for Gift Aid, so there is no need to put in your personal details. Any card or digital wallet will work and simply add your email address for a receipt.



Thank you for supporting the work of our church and upkeep of our buildings.

SOUTHAMPTON REGIONAL THEOLOGY FORUM OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

The Southampton Regional Theology Forum of the Methodist Church, is to be held from 10am on Thursday, 11 June in Romsey Methodist Church (<https://www.romseymethodist.church>). The discussion will be led by Revd Dr Peter Howson, a former Army chaplain.

Peter's title is Peace & War: War & Peace. Of this Peter says: I incorporate some of my current work on 1930s Methodist response to the European situation and update reflections on the international scene.

This will be a morning-only meeting. We start 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, thanks to the help of our local zero-waste shop and cafe, Lemon and Jinja. We also hope to have a table of books for sale through the Oasis Christian Centre (<https://oasisromsey.co.uk/>). The meeting closes at 12.00 noon.

The succeeding meeting of the Forum is now planned at Romsey for Thursday, 5 November to be given by Damian Heywood on a Shakespearean topic.

John Evans

**LIFE HECTIC?
NO DOWN TIME?**

**JOIN US FOR
CHILL OUT TUESDAY**

**Find some "you" time and
meet some new people.**

**A welcome, safe space
for everyone.**



**at The White Horse,
Romsey**

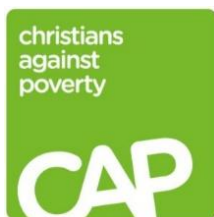
**7.30pm
2nd Tuesday
of each month**

Contact: abbeyurc.chillout@gmail.com

REVD MIKE'S PREACHING ROTA

June	7	10.30	Isaac Watts
	14	10.00	Braishfield (church anniversary)
	21	10.30	Bitterne Park
	28	10.30	Bitterne

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP) MONEY COACHING COURSE



CAP Money Coaching is a free service designed to empower attendees with the knowledge, budgeting skills and confidence to better manage their finances. Anyone can benefit - from seasoned budgeting experts to those struggling to get to grips with their spending. The sessions are a relaxed mix of videos and discussion, and refreshments are included.

The next course runs over four consecutive Thursday evenings in June (4, 11, 18 and 25) from 7.30-9pm. The course will be held at Elim Church, 10 Middlebridge Street, Romsey SO51 8HL.

If you would like to attend, please follow the link below to book your place <https://freedomchurchuk.churchsuite.com/events/no0mff22>

After you have booked, you will receive an email from CAP that you will need to respond to, to confirm your email address so you can have full access to the online budgeting tool we use in the sessions, and which will then be yours to continue using when the course is finished. If you have any questions, please contact Debs Niblett via email on deborahniblett@capuk.org

COMMUNITY MINI-BUS

The May Worship Group meeting discussed how using the Unity provided Community Mini-Bus could help people attend church events, including Sunday worship. However, to take advantage of this resource the church would need to provide a driver approved by Test Valley Borough Council who could be available on some Sunday mornings and for occasions.



If you would be interested in finding out more about helping the church in this way please contact Andy for more details.

Drawing MUSIC

FREE WORKSHOP

Saturday 4th July

11am - 3pm

at Abbey United Reformed Church

Drop in hourly sessions

**All ages and stages welcome,
all materials provided,
no previous musical or
art experience necessary!**

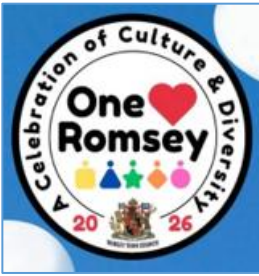
For more
information
visit



ABBEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, ROMSEY

Everyone is welcome to join us at our services and activities,
Sunday Family Worship 10.30am





Bring your family, your friends, your neighbours... bring the dog... honestly, invite random people you meet in the street - because this is going to be AMAZING!

Get ready for a day packed with feel-good vibes, music filling the air, incredible performances, colourful culture, delicious food smells drifting through the streets, and a brilliant community atmosphere from start to finish. There truly is something for everyone - all ages, all backgrounds, all welcome. Whether you stay for an hour or spend the whole day soaking it all in, One Romsey is a celebration of culture and diversity right in the heart of Romsey.

It will be on Sunday, 14 June 2026 in Romsey Market Place, Cornmarket, Church Place, Romsey Abbey South Garth and War Memorial Park from 11am to 5pm. This is one you do NOT want to miss!

Abbey URC will be open for the afternoon for anyone who would like to use our facilities, wants to fill water bottles or have a few minutes sit down. Pop in and say hello – and find a little bit a peace on a very busy afternoon in Romsey.

All you need to know can be found here: www.oneromsey.co.uk

FILM MUSIC LOVERS, THIS IS FOR YOU

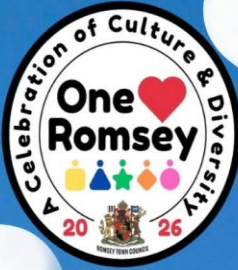
We're bringing a Hans Zimmer candlelight experience to town this June... and it's going to be something really special.

If you love soundtracks like Interstellar, The Dark Knight, Gladiator and Inception, hearing them performed live by a string trio, surrounded by candlelight, is a completely different experience. These shows are designed to be immersive — just sit back, switch off, and let the music take over.

On Friday, 5 June at Abbey United Reformed Church, Romsey SO51 8EL. Please follow the link below to obtain tickets: <https://www.lumos-experiences.com/event/a-hans-zimmer-candlelight-experience-in-romsey-friday-5th-june/>

Lumos concerts are known for creating intimate, atmospheric evenings in beautiful venues across the UK and if you're a Hans Zimmer fan, you honestly don't want to miss this one!





ONE ROMSEY

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

11AM - 5PM

Romsey Town Centre & War Memorial Park

Live Music

Street Food

Family Activities

Community Stalls



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SUPPORTED BY

