

NEWS

From



United Reformed Churches
of Romsey and Braishfield

JULY & AUGUST 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
Secretary	Sarah Beaman 02380 814295 email: abbeyurcsec@gmail.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 Wai Chan Howard Coulson Carole Cox
Magazine Team	contact at: abbeyurcnews@gmail.com
Church Caretaker	Vacant 07471 660834

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
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

July 2026

Dear friends in Christ

Marie and I are still reminiscing a lot about our trip to Japan over the Easter school holidays. What an incredible experience that was!

One thing that we became aware of very quickly was the real contrast between the hustle and bustle of city life, people rushing about to catch the next train, the crowded market streets, and the need to stop regularly in a quiet and tranquil place.



Kyoto market street



Japanese tranquillity garden

One experience we shared was a traditional tea ceremony. We were welcomed, along with two couples from the USA and a family of four from Germany, into a very simply decorated room and sat on mats on the floor.

A woman celebrant, wearing a traditional Japanese kimono, sat at a low table with a cast-iron water-boiler with a bamboo ladle, a tea container and tea-bowls.



The whole ceremony, highly ritualised and with movement almost like a dance, took over forty-five minutes, but it was deeply centring and very relaxing. How different from ‘grabbing’ a coffee while rushing from one place to another, I thought!

For many people the summer holidays are usually a time of winding-down a bit, of relaxing – at home or away, of recuperation. For our personal and family life, as well as in our work and church life, it is important to spend quality time, to gather strength and rest.

As I have written before at this time of year, the meaning of the word ‘recreation’ is literally to re-create, and the summer holidays are a great time to do precisely that, for our physical and spiritual wellbeing. Holidays are times of re-filling with that energy, spiritual and physical, ultimately to enable us to give more effectively.



An enduring image that remains with me from my academic studies years ago (from a Celtic mystic of ancient times) is that we, in our Christian service to church and community, are like a fountain. Like a fountain and its water, we can only give of that which overflows. If we give more than that too often, we dry-up. Indeed all, Jesus is our example here, often going apart from the everyday, from the crowds, alone or with his closest companions, to restore his energy.

As we think about and, hopefully put into practice, some ‘re-creation’ over the next couple of months, it would be very remiss of me not to remember three people in particular who have served Abbey URC so loyally and with great dedication for many, many years now. Yes, we will certainly thank them (and other faithful servants of the church) officially at our special Thanks and Re-dedication Service on Sunday, 5 July, but I wanted to convey my deep gratitude to Angela W (retiring to nearby accommodation) and to Andy and Graham B (moving to Scotland).

You have certainly given of your time and talents so effectively. I, and everyone at Abbey URC - and wider afield, wish you joy and peace in your new life and community of people.

Lastly for now, however you choose to spend time away from it all, Marie and I wish you very pleasant and happy holidays this summer!

In Christian love,

Revd Mike
(photos by Revd Mike)

PRAYER FOR JULY

As we move towards summer and a break in our normal routine, let us renew ourselves during this time to deepen our relationship with God.

Howard

Renew the Fire

Creator, life-giving God,
I turn to you in pain and distress.
I look around at your beautiful world
And see it destroyed by war, greed and hate.

You have placed in each of us a unique spark,
Even counting and knowing the hairs on our head.
Your love is unending and always present
If we only dare turn to it.

Recognising the new life found
Through the death of what we have been,
I bring to you the times I have failed
To speak up for your peace and your justice,
Preferring to walk the path of an easy peace,
One that does not disrupt, challenge or change,
But keeps injustice fermenting.
I turn now and beg for your renewal.

Renew the fire of your love in me,
So that I may find the words and actions needed
To stand for your justice and to speak for your peace.
From a deeper relationship with you
I shall find a true and lasting peace in my soul.

Amen

***Prayer by John Cooper,
URC Prayer Handbook 2026***

PREMISES OFFICER

The interviews have recently taken place for our new Premises Officer, who will take over as Angela W retires. There were very good applicants, and we are looking forward to welcoming our new Premises Officer in the near future. Thank you to everyone who has helped in this process and to Carole who has covered the opening and closing of our buildings during Angela's leave period.

There's so much happening at our church during Romsey Festival 2026 - take a look at the details below and make sure to pop a few dates in your diary!

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! Come and sing with Rum's Eg Singers
15	July 13:00	Cello and piano duo Pianist Tom Jesty with cellist Erlend VEstby
16	July 19:00	The Great & Terrible Tragedy of the Swing Riots Retold using music, poetry and song
17	July 13:00	Violin and piano duo Tom Jesty on piano and Vanessa Brooks-White on violin
19	July 14:30	Sing into Summer An afternoon of summer song with Romsey Ladies Choir in concert with the Songbirds

Please note, due to personal circumstances The Great & Terrible Tragedy of the Swing Riots - due to be held on 16 July at 7pm in our church - has been cancelled. Apologies to everyone who was looking forward to it.

CHURCH NEWS



Congratulations to Peter and Jacquie on their marriage, wishing them a very happy life together.

Our sincere thanks to Andy, as she stepped down as Church Secretary at our AGM after many years of service. We wish her and Graham a very happy retirement and God's blessing for the future.

We wish Angela W every happiness and a safe move to her new home. We are so grateful for her kindness and hard work as our caretaker, her care for our buildings and hirers is greatly appreciated.

Angela F is pleased to announce that she has finally moved house! She is looking forward to settling in and making it home. If you would like her new contact details, please do not hesitate to ask her. We wish her well and hope that the unpacking goes smoothly!



Thank you for the lovely flowers, sympathy cards, support and prayers from everyone. The flowers were very cheering and much appreciated.

Love to all, Ruth

A big thank you to everyone for their good wishes and to Jill for the flowers she brought, for my house move. In this hot weather it was certainly challenging, but worth it. Thank you.

Angela F

To everyone at Abbey URC, thank you so much for allowing us to use your space again - it really is the perfect space for musicians and community – we are so grateful to call the URC “home”. A huge thank you for being our favourite venue, you're all incredible and we're so grateful for the generosity you show us all at Romsey Chamber Music, we couldn't do it without you and whilst arts are being squeezed across the country, I'm so proud of our little stronghold at the Abbey URC! Best wishes,

Laura and Romsey Chamber Music Festival team

We are saddened to share the news Daphne P passed away on 27 June 2026. We will remember Daphne, her family and friends in our prayers. She will be greatly missed at Abbey URC.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Elizabeth Hinks and her family on the recent death of her mother, aged 101.



heritage open days

350 years of Romsey lives

An exhibition about the ordinary lives and stories of the people connected with Abbey United Reformed Church across more than three centuries.

Location:

Abbey United Reformed Church
(the Church by the Arch)
Romsey, SO51 8EL

What3words: ///overruns.elevate.viewers

Something for everyone!

Friday 11 September 10.00am – 4.00pm
Saturday 12 September 10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday 13 September 1.00pm – 4.00pm

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www.heritageopendays.org.uk



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SOCIAL BINGO AFTERNOON WITH BRING AND SHARE TEA



Our recent Bingo Afternoon was a great success, with a good turnout and plenty of fun enjoyed by everyone. Six games of bingo were played, with lots of concentration and eyes down as numbers were called. There was great excitement each time a winner called "Bingo!".

Everyone stayed to enjoy a delicious bring-and-share afternoon tea, which provided a wonderful opportunity to chat and catch up with friends in a warm and relaxed atmosphere.

A big thank you to Carole, who organised the event and to everyone who helped, brought food to share, and came along to join in the fun.

ONE ROMSEY

It was lovely to have the church open for the One Romsey event on 14 June 2026. Our space was very well received with 56 adults and 12 children dropping in.

Some sat and took time for a quiet prayer, some walked around the church with our walk-around leaflet, others took details of outreach opportunities and two asked to be added to the order of service circulation. We had people expressing an interest in joining a service, one couple discussed a church wedding, one person was interested in table tennis and three different couples said they would be at our midnight communion.

Romsey was full of families and joy during the day, and it was so nice to have people visit our church and be able to chat to them. We would like to open the church more often when there are activities in Romsey, if you would like to help open Abbey URC on special events, please speak to Carole or Sarah.



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REVD MIKE'S PREACHING ROTA

July	5	9.30	Braishfield URC
			10.30 Abbey URC
	12	10.30	Avenue St Andrew's URC
	19	10.30	Isaac Watts URC
	26	10.30	Bitterne CM
August	2	10.30	Isaac Watts URC
	9	10.00	Braishfield URC
	16	10.30	Avenue St Andrew's URC
	23 and 30		Revd Mike on annual leave

ABBEY UNITED
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Thursday mornings
10am – 11.30am
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to sit and catch up with friends.

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Abbey United Reformed Church, Romsey

Please note that The Social Cup will continue through July, then take a break during August. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September!

THANK YOU

Having now stepped down from being your Church Secretary I write to say a huge thank you for all the support I have received through the years since first being elected as Elder and Church Secretary. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you in this way.

We have faced many challenges together over the past 30 years and I wish you well for the challenges yet to come. May you feel the strength and love of God as He supports you through your prayers.

I thank the Ministers under whom I have served; Revd Alan Green, Revd Terry Hinks, Revd Mike Perrott and Revd Sarah Hall for their guidance and support. You have all been very patient with me, helping me through personal and spiritual difficulties. I am also grateful to all the elders who have served with me during my time on the Eldership. My special thanks are due to Carole who has been a true help as the Assistant Secretary, hiding in the background whilst she performs many tasks to ease my load.

My final thanks must go to my family for all their support and for scheduling family events around many church commitments. I am grateful to John and Aurelie for sharing their mum with the wider church family. Lastly, but by no means least, I thank my husband Graham for all the patience, support and understanding he has given me, as well as the practical help he has given to help maintain the fabric of the church.

Graham and I are now moving to live with John and his wife Sue in Scotland. We will move with some regrets but are looking forward to this new phase in our lives and facing the challenges it will bring.

May God bless and support you all as Sarah takes on the mantle of Church Secretary at Abbey URC, Romsey.

Andy Bevan

COFFEE MORNING AND RAFFLE



The Beaman family will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday, 4 July 2026 (not 2025 as the poster says – sorry!).

It will be from 10.30am-12noon in Abbey Hall Lounge. We invite you to join us for a lovely social time plus coffee, tea, cakes and a raffle. Everyone is very welcome. Please pop in to say hello and to share refreshments and cakes. All monies raised will be in aid of church funds.

Romsey Ladies Choir
Concert

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Trillium

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A Concert of Summer Music
for Soprano, Flute & Piano



Sheilagh Armit - Soprano, Sue Edmonds - Flute, Mary Westley - Piano

Tuesday 7th July at 12:15


Abbey United Reformed Church, SO51 8EL

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Abbey United Reformed Church, Romsey

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A TIME OF CHANGE

Firstly, thank you for your kind words and good wishes as I take on the role of Church Secretary. Your encouragement is greatly appreciated. As with any change, there will be a period of adjustment, and I'm looking forward to working with everyone as we move forward together.

To help share the workload, we're looking for volunteers for a few small but important roles. Every little bit helps!

Typing support – a small amount of typing once a week on a Wednesday, all wording will be provided. It will be proofed by others before sending out. (Microsoft Word knowledge essential).

Church Meeting Secretary – taking minutes at our quarterly Church Meetings.

Concert Stewards – to act as an ambassador for our church and to welcome visitors at our popular concerts and enjoy the entertainment free of charge. You can help as often or as little as you wish.

Saturday Morning Stewards – Howard is taking over the rota and would welcome new volunteers to join the team opening the church from 10.00am–12.30pm on Saturday mornings. Your help would be needed approximately once every six weeks.

Printing the weekly Order of Service – about once a month. The service sheet is emailed on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning and can be printed either at home or in the church office.

Join a Church Group - we are always keen to welcome new members to our church groups, which include Finance, Fabric, Worship, Pastoral and Outreach. You don't need to be an expert - just willing to share your ideas, skills and enthusiasm. These groups play a vital role in helping to guide the life of our church. They and organise many of the activities and events we enjoy throughout the year.

If you feel you could help with any of these roles, or would simply like to find out more or offer your support in another way, I would be happy to chat to you.

If you have any suggestions, changes or fresh ideas that could benefit our church community, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Your thoughts and contributions are always welcome. Thank you for your support.

Sarah B

COURAGE

Our community awareness service is always enlightening, however this year our focus on Refugee Week 2026, which ran from 15-21 June, culminating globally in World Refugee Day on 20 June was especially moving. This year's theme was courage; it celebrated the resilience of displaced people and highlighted small everyday actions (Simple Acts) everyone can take to support refugees.



Olena spoke to us of her experiences of being a refugee, fleeing the war in Ukraine and what it still means to her family. Her host, Malcolm, explained how welcoming her and her family into his home has changed his life. We also heard from Nataliya, a Ukrainian already living in the UK who was moved to welcome a refugee into her home and help them settle in to a very different world.

Their stories touched us all; we are extremely grateful they had the courage to join us and share such moving, personal experiences.

THE RUTH FELLOWSHIP

At the last meeting of the Roman Catholic and URC discussion group, we thought about a new name and came upon The Ruth Fellowship, inspired by the story of Ruth in the Old Testament.

We are a group of people from Abbey URC and St Joseph's who meet together at the St Joseph's Parish Room, opposite 1 Abbey Water, to talk about the similarities and differences between our beliefs.

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 7 July when we will be talking about Saints - not the football team! It will encompass what saints mean 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 each other's denominations, with fine refreshments provided too! Please do feel free to join us! The following meeting will be held in September.

Revd Mike

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Anybody can observe the Sabbath, but making it holy takes the rest of the week.

Alice Walker 1944

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Material for September 2026 to be submitted by
5pm (latest) on **Thursday, 20 August 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.

BIBLE STUDY

Our monthly Zoom Sunday evening Bible study will take place on Sunday, 5 July and Sunday, 2 August 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!




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CALENDAR

July		
1		Revd Sarah on Sabbatical leave to 30 September
1	2.30pm	Church Table Tennis in Abbey Hall
1	2.30pm	Membership class in Abbey Hall Lounge with Revd Mike
2	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge
4	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
4	10.30-12noon	Coffee morning hosted by the Beaman family in Abbey Hall Lounge in aid of church funds
4-19		Romsey Festival Quilters Linus Quilt Exhibition in the church
4	11am-3pm	Drawing Music Art Workshop in the church
5	10.30am	Service of Rededication and Thanks including Holy Communion and re-induction of Elders, led by Revd Mike
5	2.30pm	Storytelling Sundays - a Musical Treat for the family
5	6.30pm	Bible Study on Zoom ID 864 1780 6994 PW learning
7	10am	Meditative walk around Romsey Town led by Chris L, meet at Abbey URC front door
7	12.30pm	Trillium Lunchtime concert of Summer Music for Soprano, flute and piano
7	2.30pm	The Ruth Fellowship - RC/URC dialogue meeting in St Joseph's Parish Room
8	2pm	Pastoral Group Meeting in Abbey Hall Lounge
9	10am-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge
11	All day	Beggars Fair events in church and hall
12	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Andy Bevan
12	6.30pm	Summer Praise service at Bitterne URC
13	10.30am	BALM in Abbey Hall Lounge
13	7pm	Solo Classical Guitar Recital by Nina Ridout
14	12.30pm	Rum's Eg Summer Concert - Come and Sing with Rum's Eg Singers
14	7.30pm	Chill Out Tuesday at White Horse Hotel
15	1pm	Cello and Piano Lunchtime concert with Tom Jesty and Erland Vestby
15	2.30pm	Church Table Tennis in Abbey Hall

15	2.30pm	Membership class in Abbey Hall Lounge with Revd Mike
15	7.30pm	Worship Group on Zoom; ID 851 4528 3637 PW business
16	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge
16	7pm	The Great and Terrible Tragedy of the Swing Riots Musical
16	7.15pm	'How to stop yourself falling' training at Avenue St Andrews URC
16	7.30pm	Outreach and Youth Group on Zoom; ID 851 4528 3637 PW business
17	1pm	Lunchtime recital with Tom Jesty on piano and Vanessa White on violin
18	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
18	10am	Braishfield Flower Festival
18	10am-1pm	Bitterne URC Summer Fair on the Patio
18	10.30am-12noon	Coffee and Cake at Avenue St Andrews URC
19	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Mary Thomas
19	11.30am	Braishfield Flower Festival
19	2.30pm	Sing into Summer - Romsey Ladies Choir with the Songbirds
23	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge
23	7.30pm	Finance & Fabric Group in Abbey Hall Lounge
25	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
26	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Nick Tustian
28	7.30pm	Elders Meeting in Abbey Hall Lounge
August		
1	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
2	10.30am	Morning Worship including Holy Communion led by Revd Wendy White
2	6.30pm	Bible Study on Zoom; ID 864 1780 6994 PW learning
8	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
9	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Joan Smith
10	10.30am	BALM in Abbey Hall Lounge
11	7.30pm	Chill Out Tuesday at White Horse Hotel
15	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
15	10am	Bitterne Park URC Coffee morning

15	2pm	Bitterne 40 th Anniversary celebrations invite SFG to a picnic on the Common
16	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mike Wood
16		Revd Mike on annual leave until 30 August
22	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
22-23	12noon-5pm	Open Studios Art Exhibition at Avenue St Andrews URC
23	10.30am	Church Anniversary Service led by Howard Coulson
29	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
30	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Andy Bevan

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.

July	5	Psalm 45:10-17	Matthew 11:16-19 and 25-30
	12	Psalm 119:105-112	Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23
	19	Psalm 139:1-12 and 23-24	Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43
	26	Psalm 128	Matthew 13:31-33 and 44-52
August	2	Psalm 17:1-7 and 15	Matthew 14:13-21
	9	Psalm 105:1-6 and 16-22	Matthew 14:22-33
	16	Psalm 133	Mathew 15:10-28
	23	Psalm 124	Matthew 16:13-20
	30	Psalm 105:1-6 and 23-45	Matthew 16:21-28

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Minister:	The Reverend Mike Perrott, MA e-mail: revd.mike13@gmail.com Day off: Mondays	01794 512163
	The Reverend Dr 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	01794 368447
	Allison Symes	02380 262803
	Sharon Whitfield	01794 328853

July

5	9.30	Holy Communion led by Revd 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
16	10.00	Family Worship led by Reverend Wendy White
23	10.00	Family Worship led by Joan Smith
30	10.00	Family Worship led by David Stone

September

6	9.30	Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Perrott
13	10.00	Family Worship led by Pat Oliver

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

Hope all is well with you all. The summer months, I think, show Braishfield at its best, not least because we have our Flower Festival service coming up on Sunday, 19 July when Andy Bevan will be leading our worship.



Please contact Maggie Batchelor for details if you can help or just put your flowers in a vacant spot with your name beside them. The usual plan is flowers go into the church on Friday 17 July from 10.00am to 6.00pm. The festival itself is on Saturday, 18 and Sunday, 19 July with visitors welcome, again from 10.00am to 6.00pm.

On Monday, 20 July, please collect your flowers from the church and take them home. Again, the church will be open from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm for this.

It is so wonderful to celebrate the beauty of God's creation, as shown by the glorious flowers. Do come and join us if you can. The church always looks fantastic.

Some of us from Braishfield went to Peter White's thanksgiving service at Salisbury URC on Monday, 22 June 2026. Peter regularly came to take services at Braishfield for twenty years and he also helped encourage Daniel Symes in his lay preaching work. Indeed, Daniel is due to take the service for us at the end of July and again at Salisbury in September. Peter is missed but it was good to be at the service to give thanks for his life and ministry. We remember Margaret, his wife, and the family in our prayers.

Looking ahead a little, Braishfield will be holding its Harvest Service on Sunday, 27 September when Sharon Whitfield will be leading the worship. Again, do come and join us if you can. The church also looks especially lovely for this service. The church will be open on Saturday, 26 September from 10.00am for people to bring in food donations.

Canned and packet food will go to the Food Bank in due course. But you are also welcome to bring these items in on the Sunday itself as there is a slot in the service to bring them up to the front of the church. I know bringing the food items up like this brings back memories for me of my school day harvest events.

We hope you all have a lovely time over the summer period, whether you are away or at home. Let's hope we have the weather to go with it!

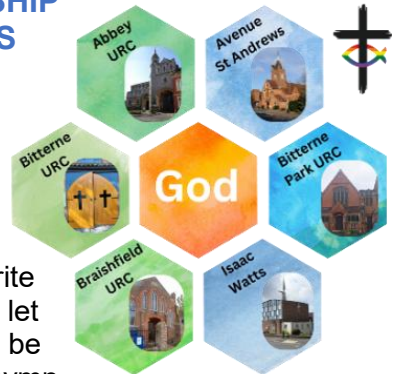
Allison S



ROUND THE SOUTHERN FELLOWSHIP OF UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Bitterne

Bitterne URC is holding a Summer Praise Service on the evening of Sunday, 12 July 2026. The evening starts at 6.30pm with lashings of tea and cake followed by a service of your favourite hymns and readings at 7pm. Please do let your church secretary know if you will be attending and if you have a favourite hymn, song, Bible passage, poem or story you would like included.

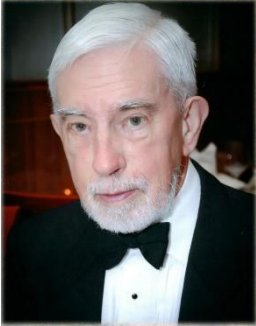


On 15 August Bitterne URC will be holding a Picnic on the Common from 12 – 2pm, it is open to all churches in Southern Fellowship. We'll congregate between Hawthorns and Cowherds – please see red X on the map here.

A date for your diary: on Saturday, 26 September at 7:30pm Bitterne look forward to Saxophony Concert as part of their 40th Anniversary events

Bitterne URC looks forward to welcoming you.

DAVID PAGE 1944 - 2026



David was born in Stoke on Trent and as a boy moved with his parents, Bob and Doreen, when his father got a job with Hampshire County Architects. After seven years at Peter Symonds School (as it was then) he gained a Scholarship to Oriel College, Oxford to study Mathematics, starting in October 1962, completing his studies with his Doctorate: job offers came from GCHQ, ICL and IBM whose research department at Hursley made the choice easy for David.

David enjoyed his time at Oxford, not least at the cross-country club and other outlets for his athleticism. In 1968 he settled in Romsey, joining Abbey URC where his gifts immediately became apparent, particularly in the financial affairs of the wider Hampshire Congregational Union, leading to the URC Wessex Synod Trust where he gave unparalleled voluntary service as Trustee and Director in the oversight of financial and property matters. With his sharp intellect he could pinpoint the real issues with a necessary clarity that others sometimes failed to appreciate, but always recognising that human, Christian values must be paramount.

With his wife, Susan, they lived a very full working and social life, until Andrew was born. David was a man full of energy and committing himself not only to the service of the Church but also his love of running, including the first London Marathon in 1981 and in many subsequent years, as well as his love of music, supporting Susan at City of Southampton concerts, organising foreign trips for the group. David was a member of Glyndebourne, so yearly visits to the Opera were always a highlight of the summer, enjoying the gardens, ambience and picnics - as well as the music. There were also holidays – Andrew particularly remembers going camping in France with his father.

David's career at IBM took him to California in 1974, where his travels including walking all the way down to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back up the same day! In 1984 David spent 11 months at the IBM centre in NY State, giving the family the opportunity to explore the Eastern US.

In 1993 David married Ruth, so Andrew gained two stepbrothers, Edmund and Berkley. A favourite for the whole family was skiing, initially

in the Alps but then Colorado where skiing and hiking were enjoyed for many years. David's love for adventure and travel took him on treks in Nepal, also climbing Mt Meru, Kilimanjaro, Machu Picchu, visiting the Galapagos Islands, the Aeolian Islands, the Alps as well as many places in the UK and France. David was also an active member of Romsey Road Runners, organising Saturday social runs locally; an excellent map reader he enjoyed the adventure of finding new routes – and the unexpected bog!

When trekking became too challenging, holidays focused on cruising the Mediterranean, Scandinavia, the Canaries, Caribbean, Canada and Iceland. David's favourite ship was the Queen Victoria. After taking Ballroom and Latin dance lessons, many an evening at sea was spent on the dance floor.

David's determination not to be defeated by Parkinson's was amazing, though not surprising to those who knew him. On a great day out to Kew Gardens with the Parkinson's Carers' Group, David refused to use the buggy provided, determined to walk the length and breadth of Kew without assistance – in this, as in other aspects of life, David persevered, determined not to give in until he had no choice.

David was a man with exceptional abilities and, as we have heard, he used those abilities so well; personally, professionally and in the service of the Christian church. But he would never have claimed that he was perfect or faultless – none of us are. The hymn he chose to be sung at his service reflects that, "Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways".

Knowing that David was an athlete, I chose those New Testament verses from the letter to the Hebrews, "and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith". Right until the body could function no more, David ran the race and persevered in so very many areas of life empowered by his Christian faith – a faith that was deep and did not need to be showy.

His Christian faith motivated and sustained David, trusting not just in his own undoubted abilities but "looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" in a world where we are tempted to trust, if not solely in ourselves or also in so many other claims and promises, may God help us all to run with perseverance and recognise the only true leader and helper, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

The Revd Julian Macro
with full acknowledgment to Ruth for much of the material

A PIECE OF OUR COMMUNITY

During June we were reminded how many people face loneliness and by meeting it together, we can build more compassionate and connected communities. We took a blank jigsaw puzzle to each of our social events and invited those attending to take home a piece, adding their first name where their piece belonged in the larger puzzle.



In July the jigsaws will be at the back of church so members of our congregations, and other members of our community, can also take part. A solid reminder that we are all part of the bigger picture of our church – and connections matter.

LUMOS

On 5 June, the interior of Abbey URC was lit by hundreds of candles giving a beautiful setting for the three musicians playing the film score music of Hans Zimmer including Gladiators, Madagascar and Pirates of the Caribbean. It was a very popular event, filling the church for this stunningly atmospheric experience.



ROMSEY VOICES AND JUNIOR JAZZCHOR FREIBURG

On Wednesday, 3 June, we were delighted to welcome Romsey Voices and Junior Jazzchor Freiburg from Germany.

Those lucky enough to be at this event said that they had never experienced anything like it in our church before. There was such joy and excitement among the choir members cheering each other on and enjoying each other's singing, as did the whole audience.

A huge thank you to all who supported this wonderful event, and to Marion Maxey for holding the event in Abbey URC and donating the proceeds of over £400 to church funds.



ABBAY URC 

Coffee Morning

Hosted by the Beamans

Saturday 4 July 2026

10.30am - 12 noon
Abbey Hall Lounge

All welcome • Pop in and say hello!
Refreshments and cakes • Donations to church funds

PROJECT LINUS

Romsey Quilters support Project Linus and the quilts on display in the beautiful Abbey URC, were made by members for sick and traumatised children. Project Linus UK is 100% volunteer based and non-profit making and relies on donations.

These quilts are given to a baby, child or teenager 'in need of a big hug'; for them to keep. Each quilt has a label sewn onto every quilt which are given anonymously:

Made with Tender Loving Care For Project Linus UK

We are often asked how it all began, well on Christmas Eve 1995, in the USA, an article in magazine entitled "Joy to the World". Part of the article feature a petite, downy haired child who had been going through intensive chemotherapy and it stated that her security blanket had helped her get through the treatments.

Karen Louks, decided to provide home-made security blankets to Denver's Rocky Mountain Children's Cancer Centre. Project Linus was named after the security blanket toting character from the Peanuts comic strip. The late Charles Schultz, its creator was pleased to have Linus inspire quilt makers to help sick and traumatised children. Project Linus UK was started in March 2000 and since then has delivered almost half a million quilts nationally.

We hope you'll enjoy having our quilts displayed in your church, we're looking forward to sharing them with you.



**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

ARTSEEN AND HAMPSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS (HOS)



Artseen will be returning to Abbey Hall in August during the 10 days of Hampshire Open Studios. We are delighted to have the opportunity, once again, to display our artwork in Abbey Hall. Works of Art are always enhanced by beautiful surroundings and Abbey Hall certainly provides those. We will be joined by

several Guest Artists and Makers: A Ceramicist, Jewellery Makers and work by pupils from a local Primary School. The dates are Saturday, 22 August to Monday, 31 August (Bank Holiday Monday) 10am to 5pm. Entry is FREE. Please do come along and meet us all.

The Hampshire Open Studios book (commonly known as the “little pink book”) should be available by the end of July so do look out for them in and around Romsey. There will also be information on the HOS website www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk about all the 296 venues across Hampshire that will be opening during the 10 days of Open Studios. Artseen’s entry is number 92. We look forward to meeting you.



Janet Ferguson, Artseen

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When one door closes another opens. But we often look so long and regretfully upon the closed door that we fail to see the one that has opened for us.

Alexander Graham Bell 1847-1922

JUST MONEY MOVEMENT – CHRISTIANS FOR A FAIRER, GREENER WORLD

JustMoney are excited to share the brand-new campaign with you: Challenge Amazon – Break the Habit, Fix the Rules.



Why Amazon, you might be asking.

The global economy isn't working for everyone. It's driving inequality, environmental damage and concentrating wealth in the hands of a few. Amazon – the world's largest online retailer – sits at the centre of these concerns.

Despite enormous global profits, Amazon continues to face serious questions over the amount of tax it pays, poor employment practices and its impact on local businesses and the environment.

Tax can be a tool for paying for the services needed to flourish as a society and to tackle inequality, but Amazon doesn't pay its taxes fairly or transparently. Amazon's tax avoidance is estimated to cost the UK hundreds of millions (at least) every year.

That's why the JustMoney Movement is launching Challenge Amazon – Break the Habit, Fix the Rules. Millions of Christians and an estimated 40,000 churches across the UK have real economic influence through how we spend our money. We can choose to do so in ways that show our love of neighbours, near and far, and our care for creation.

Join them and Break the Habit of relying on Amazon, and instead support ethical, local and sustainable alternatives, using your money to choose hope and community.

Visit <https://justmoney.org.uk/speak-out/challenge-amazon/> to find out more.

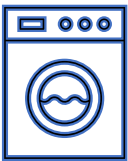
REVIEW, REPURPOSE, REMOVE, RECYCLE

Stacey Solomon has a programme on TV when she helps people sort the accumulated items they have in their home, and work out what they wish to keep and what needs to be moved on – either to sell, to donate to a charity shop, give to another person who would use it or even just have the courage to throw some items away!

We all know how much we accumulate at home – and our church buildings are no different. If you regularly use a cupboard or a room in one of our buildings why not have a good look at the items in there? It is important we look after our heritage, so this is not a move to minimalism! However, if there are items there that haven't been used for years or are now no longer being used and could be moved on, why not let Sarah B know and she'll check if anyone is still using them; if not it may be a good opportunity to try and downsize.

A ROCHA UK'S EASY ECO TIPS 2026 CALENDAR

JULY - Plastic Free July™ is a shared global movement that helps millions of people reduce plastic waste through simple, everyday choices and be part of the solution to plastic pollution; to help everyone enjoy cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities.



This Plastic Free July, the focus is on laundry, a top source of microplastic pollution. Fibres from synthetic clothes (polyester, nylon, and acrylic for example) shed tiny fibres during washing and drying. These enter the sewage systems and are hard to filter out. Use a microfibre bag or ball to catch the fibres. Learn more about reducing plastic pollution in the laundry process at www.plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/plastic-free-laundry/ and more about this year's campaign at plasticfreejuly.org.

AUGUST – times of drought and dryness can be dangerous for wildlife. Provide water for birds and insects - put a dish of water out to help wildlife stay hydrated. Insects, small mammals, birds, and even badgers, foxes, and deer could benefit. A stone in a plant saucer helps bees to perch and drink without drowning.



These small actions make a big difference and are just some of the ways we can live out our calling to care for God's creation. See the blog on looking after wildlife in the heat for more warm weather eco tips: <https://arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlife-in-the-heat/>

FREE
ENTRY

JOIN US FOR OUR

SUMMER FAIR

SATURDAY
18TH JULY
10AM TO 2PM

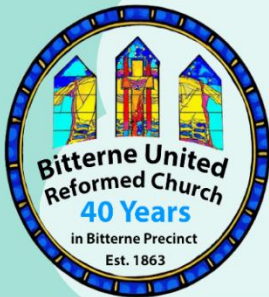


Bitterne
United
Reformed
Church

Join us for our first ever Summer Fair,
celebrating our **40th anniversary** year with a
joyful day for all ages.

**Enjoy family fun, games, local stalls, and
outdoor activities** led by our community groups
on the patio. A warm, welcoming community day
with something for everyone.

for more info check our website



Come celebrate
summer with
us!



HERITAGE OPEN DAY IN ABBEY URC



Heritage Open Days returns this September, bringing thousands of free events and experiences across England – including Abbey URC. This nationwide celebration of heritage, community and history invites people to discover the stories on their own doorstep.

At Abbey URC, we will be hosting a three-day local history exhibition exploring the everyday lives of people connected with the church. We are grateful to members of the Romsey Local History Society and King John's House for their support, and we hope there will be something of interest for everyone.

This year's theme, Everyday Histories, highlights the often-overlooked stories of ordinary working people whose lives helped shape Abbey URC, Romsey, and the wider heritage we share today.

Through photographs, documents, personal histories and wartime records, visitors will be able to discover the people connected with our church from its founding in 1662 into the 20th century.

The exhibition will feature local families, craftsmen and residents across the generations, as well as church life, music, education, and the experiences of members during wartime.

The exhibition will run from 11 to 13 September, so do put the dates in your diary. We look forward to welcoming you.

Thérèse

SUPPORT THE WORK OF ABBEY 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.

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


ABBAY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, ROMSEY



ROMSEY FESTIVAL 2026

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

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 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



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
 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

2PM TO 3.30PM

ONLY £3 FOR COFFEE & CAKE AND
 ACTIVITIES

Linden Road
 Romsey office@ageconcernromsey.org.uk

01794 518817

Charity no 1056850