



**St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks  
United Reformed  
Church**



**June – July 2023  
Magazine**

**St Johns Hill United Reformed Church**  
**St Johns Road,**  
**Sevenoaks,**  
**TN13 3LW**

**Telephone No**                      **07502132896**

**Email address** [sjhsevenoaksurc@gmail.com](mailto:sjhsevenoaksurc@gmail.com)

**Web address** [www.sjhsevenoaksurc.org.uk](http://www.sjhsevenoaksurc.org.uk)

**Minister:** Rev. Angela Rigby

**Email address** [sjhminister@gmail.com](mailto:sjhminister@gmail.com)

**Church Secretary**      [sjhsecretarysevenoaks@gmail.com](mailto:sjhsecretarysevenoaks@gmail.com)

**Bookings** Clive Avery

## Sunday Club for children aged 0 – 16

**Our services are held at St Johns Hill URC every Sunday at 10.30 am unless advertised differently.**

**Services can also be viewed on the St Johns Hill URC YouTube channel.**

**For full details of forthcoming services please refer to emails from the Church Secretary**

Tuesday – ‘Praying at Home’. Diana will send an email with prayer thoughts.

Thursday – 7:30pm on Zoom for ‘Coffee and Chat’ discussion group - Meeting ID: 660 593 603

Contact an Elder for details on how to be involved.

**Our Core Mission is:**

**To worship God**

**In as mutually supportive fellowship and, in the power of the spirit to develop our faith & to bring others to know & love Jesus Christ as our Lord & Saviour**

## CHURCH SERVICES

### June

4th	10.30	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	Rev. Angela Rigby
11th	10.30		Albert & Elizabeth Wood
18th	10.30	Communion	Rev. Angela Rigby
25th	10.30		Mary Dewell

### July

2nd	10.30	Sunday Club Celebration Service	Rev. Angela Rigby & Sunday Club
9th	10.30		Albert & Elizabeth Wood
16th	10.30	<b>Communion</b>	Rev. Angela Rigby
23rd	10.30		tbc
30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30		Maurice Omorojie

### August

6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30		Rev. Angela Rigby
-----------------	-------	--	-------------------

## From the Minister

Recently we ordained two new elders – Joan and Karen – and inducted them alongside Graham to serve as elders at St Johns Hill URC for the next three years. Every year when we induct new elders, I use the service from the URC Worship Book. I like the prayer that we say together at the end, as we renew our commitment to each other:

*We will grow together  
in humility, gentleness and patience;  
we will nurture each other in faith;  
we will bear with one another in love;  
we will make every effort  
to maintain the unity of the Holy Spirit  
in the bond of peace,  
so that we may faithfully proclaim the gospel of Christ.*  
(Source: URC WORSHIP BOOK)

It serves as our annual reminder that we are called together by Christ to proclaim His good news, to be a sign of God's peace with humanity as we work in peace with each other, and the importance of the fruits of the spirit – especially gentleness, patience, and love – in the life of our fellowship.

We aren't perfect. At least I know I am not perfect! However, it's good to remind ourselves each year and to renew this commitment to God and to each other. What changes do I need to make in response to this commitment? What changes might you need to make? What changes do we need to make together? And equally – what should we be celebrating? Who should we be encouraging?

At the Southern Synod gathering for ministers, CRCWs and local Church Leaders recently, the speaker we had talked about churches being not just congregations (people who congregate together) but instead he spoke of churches as 'covenant communities'. People who are committed to God, to each other and to the community. I'm still thinking through that phrase, but I wonder what that might mean to you for St Johns Hill URC to be a 'covenant community'?

I look forward to seeing what the next year brings for us at St Johns Hill URC and for Sevenoaks.

Blessings

Rev Angela Rigby

### **Some dates for your diaries:**

- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30pm – **Bible study** led by Rev Angela Rigby – topic: Jesus & Money. This will be held on zoom. Meeting id: 863 2351 1425
- **Worship and Outreach Group** is open to anyone who would like to be involved in those aspects of our church life together. The meetings for 2023 are: 19<sup>th</sup> July 20<sup>th</sup> September, and 15<sup>th</sup> November. Meetings are at 7:30pm, with some held on zoom and some in person. If you are interested, please let Angela or Dean know.

<><

### **Prayer**

Thank you to the team of people who are working together to continue the Midweek Prayers, after Diana stepped down to take a much deserved break. These prayers are sent by email most weeks and are also hand-delivered to people who do not have email. We are thankful to the volunteers that allow for this ministry to continue.

I'd like also to remind everyone that we have a Prayer Circle. If anyone has a specific prayer need and would like your prayer request sending by email to those who are committed to pray, please let me, Maureen Ivers or your pastoral elder know. We will be happy to send your prayer request to the Prayer Circle for you. Please note that it is good practice to receive permission from the person being prayed for before any prayer requests are circulated.

From Rev Angela Rigby

## **FAMILY NEWS.**



We were very sorry to hear that Isabel peacefully passed away on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. A service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held at St. Johns Hill at 12.00pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.



## **Looking ahead**

**Bible Study  
John 16**

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> June  
by Zoom  
8 - 9 p.m.**

The Zoom link will be circulated a few days before the event.



### **CORONATION DAY PROM PRAISE**

A big thank you to Dean for organising a very enjoyable evening on Coronation Day. Fish & chip supper followed by the concert from the Royal Albert Hall was a fitting end to a day of national celebration. Our thanks also go to all who helped in the background especially Ada and Grace.

Mary Dewell







Sunday Club Celebration  
Service with  
**BARBECUE**

SUNDAY  
July 2nd  
10:30am  
Service

BBQ  
12:30pm



Any donations to the  
cost of the BBQ  
gratefully received  
on the day

please see Grace to  
advise if attending to  
allow us to cater  
correctly

Made with PosterMyWall.com



The date for this year's Ride and Stride is September 9<sup>th</sup>. If anybody wants to take part either by cycling or walking or is able to help with manning the church for an hour or so, please contact Rosemary Wakefield.

Last year's Ride and Stride event raised a final total of £124,564.77 for the Friends of Kent Churches.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC**

With the whole Christian Church  
the United Reformed Church believes in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**The living God, the only God,  
ever to be praised.**

The life of faith to which we are called  
is the Spirit's gift  
continually received  
through the Word, the Sacraments  
and our Christian life together.

**We acknowledge the gift  
and answer the call,  
giving thanks for the means of grace.**

The highest authority  
for what we believe and do

is God's Word in the Bible  
alive for his people today  
through the help of the Spirit.

**We respond to this Word,  
whose servants we are  
with all God's people  
through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God  
the witness to the catholic faith  
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.  
We acknowledge the declarations  
made in our own tradition  
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians  
and Churches of Christ  
in which they stated the faith  
and sought to make its implications clear.

**Faith alive and active:  
gift of an eternal source,  
renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together  
according to the Basis of Union  
in which we give expression to our faith  
in forms which we believe contain  
the essential elements of the Church's life,  
both catholic and reformed;  
but we affirm our right and readiness,  
if the need arises,  
to change the Basis of Union  
and to make new statements of faith  
in ever new obedience to the Living Christ.

**Our crucified and risen Lord,  
who leads us in our faith  
and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ  
through the freedom of the Spirit,  
we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts  
and uphold the rights of personal conviction.  
For the sake of faith and fellowship

it shall be for the church to decide  
where differences of conviction  
hurt our unity and peace.

**We commit ourselves  
to speak the truth in love  
and grow together  
in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that  
Christ gives his Church a government  
distinct from the government of the state.  
In things that affect obedience to God  
the Church is not subordinate to the state,  
but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ,  
its only Ruler and Head.  
Civil authorities are called  
to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind,  
and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

**While we ourselves  
are servants in the world  
as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

We affirm our intention  
to go on praying and working,  
with all our fellow Christians,  
for the visible unity of the Church  
in the way Christ chooses  
so that people and nations  
may be led to love and serve God  
and praise him more and more for ever.

**Source, Guide, and Goal  
of all that is:  
to God be eternal glory.  
Amen.**

### Renewal of Commitment

And now as elders and members  
of this church and congregation,  
let us confirm our commitment  
to each other and to the gospel.  
Let us pursue what makes for peace  
and build each other up in love.

**We will grow together  
in humility, gentleness and patience;  
we will nurture each other in faith;  
we will bear with one another in love;  
we will make every effort  
to maintain the unity of the Holy Spirit  
in the bond of peace,  
so that we may faithfully proclaim the gospel of Christ.**

The God of peace will make us complete in everything good.  
**To whom be glory for ever.**

The Lord of peace will give us peace,  
**at all times and everywhere.**

The peace of the Lord is with you.  
**And also with you.**

Eternal God,  
accept this commitment  
made in your presence,  
and give us grace to make it true,  
so that we may not fail you in the end,  
but give you glory and honour  
by the way we live  
and through everything we say and do,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **UK foodbanks busier than ever**

More food parcels were given out in the UK this past year than ever before. During December 2022, an emergency food parcel was handed out the equivalent of every eight seconds.

These are the most recent figures from the Trussell Trust, which supports more than 1300 foodbanks in the UK.

In all, the charity says it gave out nearly three million food parcels between April 2022 and April 2023. More than one million of these were for children.

These three million parcels from the charity's foodbanks represent a 37-per-cent increase in England on 2021. And more than 760,000 people used a foodbank for the first time, which is up more than one third in 2021-22.

Soaring inflation and energy costs have driven the increase in demand. The charity reports an unprecedented rise in the number of employed people using their foodbanks, because they are "no longer able to balance a low income against rising living costs."

The problem now, says the trust, is that food donation levels are not keeping up with the need. "This is putting us under a lot of strain."

Editor: There are boxes at the back of the Church if anyone wishes to donate items for our local foodbanks.

*Looking at the story behind some of our favourite hymns. We present here only some of the lyrics of this well-loved hymn... the full lyrics may be found on the internet.*

The story behind the HYMN: Lord, for the years

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.  
By Timothy Dudley Smith*

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, at his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.



The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn were true for the Queen herself. She did indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

The 'extra' verse, added for the Queen, can now become our prayer and hope for King Charles.

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,  
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,  
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,  
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

<><. <><. <><

## Book Review

### To A Different Drum – an adventure of radical obedience

By Pauline Hamilton, 10Publishing, £8.99



Kicked out of college and hooked on drink and drugs, Pauline Hamilton drove recklessly towards a cliff near her home to end it all. At the last moment, her tyre blew out, leaving her stunned in the stationary car.

Pauline's life changed forever. She turned to the God who had rescued her and, in grateful amazement, offered her whole life to Him. This dedication would eventually take her to China, where she would serve for over 30 years as a missionary. Through many trials Pauline never lost sight of the God who had promised never to let her go.

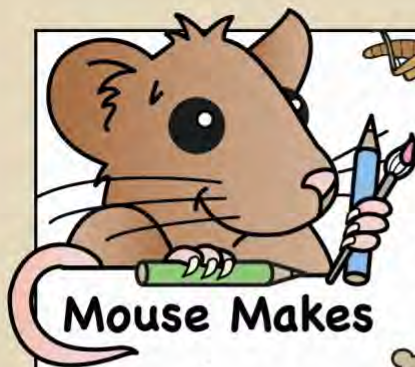
## Does the past haunt you?

A lady had driven her car into a ditch, and there she sat. When the police arrived, they asked her what had happened. “I was looking in the rear-view mirror, instead of looking at the road ahead,” she explained.

What a thought! There is no way to go forward if your eyes are focused on what’s behind – either in driving, or in life. A lot of people ‘ditch’ themselves because they can’t take their eyes off the past, can’t focus on the future, and move ahead, with hope in God.

Give up all hope for a better yesterday. You can’t change the past. It is dangerous to obsess over it. Instead, consider that there are over 500 verses in the Bible that tell us that God is merciful and longing to forgive us and restore us if we only turn to Him. As Isaiah wrote: ‘Do not remember the former things, neither consider the things of old. For behold, I am doing a new thing...’ (Is 43:18,19). So why let the past ruin your future? Let God begin to do that ‘new’ thing in your life.





The Lord said to Moses,  
 "Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh  
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...  
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord  
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."  
 As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the  
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...



**1**  
**Water turns to Blood**  
 Which water turned  
 to blood?  
*Read - Exodus 7:19*

D F G B O I L S L  
 L S O O T O P I B  
 A W D P E O P L E  
 N A N I M A L S A

**6**  
**A Break out of Boils**  
 What did Moses throw into  
 the air before boils appeared  
 on people and animals?  
*Read - Exodus 9:10*

**2**  
**A Swarm of Frogs**  
 In which  
 places were the  
 frogs found?  
*Read - Exodus 8:3-4*

D R S N G N A T S  
 U M I D N I G H T  
 S S T A F F U O  
 T A A R O N E N O  
 D E B K D F S D G

**7**  
**A Rain of Hail**  
 What also rained  
 down with the hail?  
 Where did it not hail?  
*Read - Exodus 9:24-26*

**3**  
**A Plague of Gnats**  
 When Aaron struck his  
 staff on the ground  
 what became Gnats?  
*Read - Exodus 8:16-17*

T M A N W A T E R  
 M O S E S R W R O  
 C R F S N I L E U  
 F I R S T B O R N  
 I V O K N L C F D

**8**  
**A Swarm of Locusts**  
 Where did the wind  
 come from that brought  
 the locusts to the land?  
*Read - Exodus 10:13*

**4**  
**Swarms of Flies**  
 In which land were the  
 flies not be found?  
*Read - Exodus 8:22*

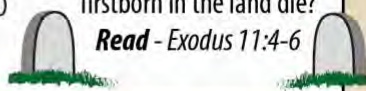
R E G H W O U I E  
 E R S A K O S S A  
 H W I N D T H T  
 I L F L I E S E H

**9**  
**Darkness over the Land**  
 How many days did  
 it remain dark?  
*Read - Exodus 10:21-22*

**5**  
**Death of Animals**  
 Which animals that belonged  
 to the Egyptians died?  
*Read - Exodus 9:2*

G O D • P L A G U E S • M O S E S • A A R O N  
 W A T E R • B L O O D • S T A F F • R I V E R • N I L E • F I S H  
 F R O G S • S W A R M • G N A T S • D U S T • F L I E S  
 G R O U N D • D E A T H • A N I M A L S • S O O T  
 B O I L S • P E O P L E • H A I L • T H U N D E R • F I R E  
 M A N • B E A S T • L O C U S T S • W I N D • L A N D  
 D A R K N E S S • F I R S T B O R N • M I D N I G H T

**10**  
**Death of the Firstborn**  
 At what time would the  
 firstborn in the land die?  
*Read - Exodus 11:4-6*



## **Blood Donor Sessions**

**Wed 28th June**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If you would like further information on any of the following, please phone the church office. We will keep you informed via the Church Magazine of when the groups start up again following the Covid closure.**

**Family Men!** (Second Saturday mornings)

**House groups**

**Youth activities:**

Sevenoaks Campaigners (Mondays)

Rainbows (Mondays)

Eagles (Thursdays)

Girl Guides (Fridays)

If you would like us to pray for you, or for someone you know, please leave a message on our phone, or email us at [sjhsevenoaksurc@gmail.com](mailto:sjhsevenoaksurc@gmail.com) or by post to the address on page 2.

**You can pray to God, anytime, anywhere, and in your own words – He is listening.**

***The Homepage of the Church website (specifically the Newsfeed) needs updating regularly to keep it up-to-date, so any information should be sent to Simon so he can refresh this. [s.browitt@sky.com](mailto:s.browitt@sky.com)***

**Any material for the August/September edition of the Church Magazine should reach me by the 27<sup>th</sup> July either by email to [jpbrowitt@sky.com](mailto:jpbrowitt@sky.com), by hand or via the church office.**



If you would like your copy e-mailed to you, please send your e-mail address to [sjhsevenoaksurc@gmail.com](mailto:sjhsevenoaksurc@gmail.com) and all future issues will be sent to you in this way.

Large print copies of this magazine are available on request.