



**St Johns Hill
Sevenoaks
United Reformed
Church**



**October – November 2025
Magazine**

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

Telephone No **07502132896**

Email address sjhsevenoaksurc@gmail.com

Web address www.sjhsevenoaksurc.org.uk

Minister: Rev. Angela Rigby

Email address sjhminister@gmail.com

Church Secretary sjhsecretarysevenoaks@gmail.com

Bookings Clive Avery

Sunday Club for children aged 0 – 16

Our Core Mission is:

To worship God in a mutually supportive fellowship and, in the power of the spirit to develop our faith and to bring others to know and love Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Our services are held at St Johns Hill URC every Sunday at 10.00 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

‘Coffee and Chat’ discussion group every fourth Thursday of the month – 7:30pm on Zoom - Meeting ID: 660 593 603

Contact an Elder for details on how to be involved.



CHURCH SERVICES

October

5th	10.00		Rev. Angela Rigby
12th	10.00		Albert & Elizabeth Wood
19th	10.00	Communion	Rev. Angela Rigby
26th	10.00	CFL Service	Suzanne Pearson

November

2nd	10.00		Rev. Angela Rigby
9th	10.00	Remembrance Sunday	Albert & Elizabeth Wood
9th	16.00	Service of Memories	Rev. Angela Rigby
16th	10.00	Communion	Rev. Angela Rigby
23rd	10.00		Tricia Rey
30th	10.00	1st Advent Sunday	Lionel Farraway

December

7th	10.00	2 nd Advent	Rev. Angela Rigby
-----	-------	------------------------	-------------------

The Following Article was taken from Parish Pump, a resource for Church Magazines, news-sheets and websites.

Being a pastor in the Ukraine

Pastors in the Ukraine are continuing to minister to their beleaguered congregations, bringing comfort and hope into the most frightening and desperate war-torn situations.

So says Transform Europe Network, a Christian ministry which serves alongside indigenous Christians in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. In a recent report, it gives an update from one of its partners on the ground:

“Pastor Evgeniy serves in the war-torn Kherson region of southeastern Ukraine. Since 2022, he and a small group of volunteers have brought food, comfort, and hope to people living amid the destruction.

“Evgeniy and his team recently came to a village that had been shelled. One family’s home was reduced to rubble, and their vital documents were buried. The team arrived in bright, civilian clothing, deliberately chosen to identify them as volunteers, not military. As they began to pull back the rubble, they remained calm, focussing on their priority to help the family escape.

“40 minutes later, the volunteers heard and saw a reconnaissance drone circling above them. They couldn’t tell who it belonged to, but its presence was ominous. Then came a different sound — sharper, lower, and closer. A small military drone was heading straight for them. In a moment that could only be described as divine intervention, the drone clipped a tree branch and crashed to the ground next to the team’s car.

“The team cautiously approached the drone, still twitching and sparking. Minutes later, a second drone appeared. It aimed for the fallen drone, possibly to trigger an explosion by striking the first. But it too missed its target—crashing about six meters from the car, hitting a nearby concrete wall rather than the group. No one was injured.

“But the volunteers knew then that they were under attack. They gathered their tools, helped the family into the vehicle, and drove away. Just seconds after they left, a third drone struck — right where their car had been parked moments before. The resulting explosion could have easily taken their lives. But once again, by what they all believe was God’s hand, they were spared.

“Reflecting on the events, Pastor Evgeniy was asked if he ever felt hatred or the desire for revenge. His answer was quiet, but unshakable

‘No. I just understand. I understand the pain. I understand the fear. But if we don’t bring light into this darkness, who will?’

“For Evgeniy, war is not a reason to harden the heart—it’s a call to deeper compassion. Even as drones fly overhead and homes crumble, he continues his ministry, bringing food, prayer, and humanity into places others flee from.

“This is what faith looks like in the ruins. It looks like a small group in bright vests, carrying hope into danger. It looks like a pastor who chooses grace over vengeance. And it looks like a God who protects, even when the bombs fall close.”

Since the talks involving the US and a possible ceasefire, the local leaders testify that instead of de-escalation, they've experienced a significant rise in attacks and shelling.

Transform Europe Network (TEN) asks Christians in the UK:

Please pray for pastors and church teams, exhausted by serving many people on the frontline.

Pray for those who are confused, discouraged and angry, even with each other. Pray for healing and comfort from the Holy Spirit. Churches in Ukraine do all they can to reconcile local people, but it is getting harder and harder.

Mothers are afraid that their teenage sons will be taken away for conscription, which has become increasingly aggressive. This also causes men to run away from home and so many families are fractured and deeply stressed as the war grinds on.

More details at: <https://ten-uk.org>

Harvest Displays 2025





Genesis Chapter 1

3And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. 4God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

6And God said, 'Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.' 7So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8God called the vault 'sky'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the second day.



9And God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.' And it was so. 10God called the dry ground 'land', and the gathered waters he called 'seas'. And God saw that it was good. 11Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so. 13And there was evening, and there was morning – the third day.

14And God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, 15and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.' And it was so. 19And there was evening, and there was morning – the fourth day.





20 And God said, 'Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.'

23 And there was evening, and there was morning – the fifth day.



24 And God said, 'Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.' And it was so.

26 Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'

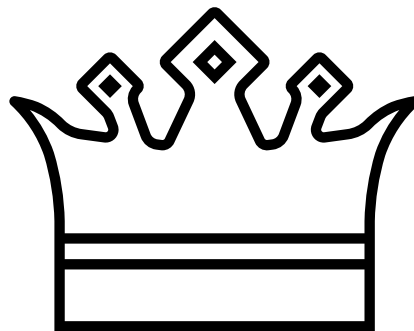
31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.

A New “Home Group” is starting

Starting Thursday 18th September at 2pm, we will have a fortnightly meeting at church. All are welcome, even if you are already part of a home group, even if you have never been to a home group.

We will have refreshments and spend time together, talking about scripture and getting to know one another.

We are starting with discussions on the book of Esther.



*2nd October, 16th October, 30th October,
13th November, 27th November*



Service of Memories and Thanksgiving

*Sunday 9th November 2025
4.00 pm*

Followed by light refreshments

All are welcome

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

During October, November and December we support the work of Commitment for Life, the URC's world justice programme.

On **Sunday 26th October** we are delighted that Suzanne Pearson, the Administrative Assistant for CFL at Church House, is coming to lead a service for us at St Johns Hill.

She is a Methodist Accredited Local Preacher and will be sharing information about the work of CFL with us.



What is Commitment for Life?

Commitment for Life is the URC's world justice programme. Our goal is to enable you, the local congregation, to make global justice a core foundation of your mission. We offer resources to facilitate prayer, advocacy, and effective action for the most vulnerable people in the world.

World Week for Peace in Palestine

The United Reformed Church through its world justice programme, Commitment for Life, is encouraging every member and congregation to pray for Gaza on 21st September 2025 – during the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. This initiative has support from a broad range of denominations in the UK and worldwide. Your prayer could include holding a minute's silence; or the prayer from Archbishop Hosam of Jerusalem; or joining the #FastforGaza action. Your prayers might focus on one or more of the issues below:

- An end to the genocide in Gaza starting with an immediate, permanent, and internationally monitored ceasefire.
- Unfettered access to humanitarian relief.
- The release of Israeli hostages and the thousands of Palestinians illegally detained.
- An immediate reversal of the illegal settlements and violence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- Guaranteed right of return for all Palestinians who have lost their homes and land.

75% of income goes to support *Christian Aid* partners in the three regions. 5% goes to *Global Justice Now* to support its brilliant work against poverty. 20% goes to education, grants, administration, and advocacy.

Bangladesh

This region faces debilitating trade deals and unpayable debts. There is an over-dependency on natural resources. The impact of climate disruption is making things far worse. But you can help local communities to face climate disruption. You can support farmers to improve their harvest, and women to participate fully in vital decisions through our *Christian Aid* partners.



Zimbabwe

Political instability is an ongoing concern in Zimbabwe. Most Zimbabweans face socio-economic crises and every year. Millions rely on food aid. Drought, floods, and erratic rainfall patterns are costly. Ruined infrastructure and a broken economy mean many cannot grow enough food. Church partners focus on food security, nutrition, HIV, health and gender equality.



Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory

The persistent failure to secure a lasting solution to the conflict deepens inequality and poverty. Violence and despair persist. *Christian Aid* has worked with the poorest people since the early 1950's. Today, our partners work with more than twenty Israeli and Palestinian organisations to protect human rights and build peace based on justice for all.



Murder Mystery Evening



Can you solve the case before the Police do?

Saturday 18th October, 7 - 9 p.m.
St John's Hill United Reformed Church
Open freely to all - interval refreshments & cakes
Contacts: Albert & Elizabeth [Tel: 01732 456745]

Dowager Lady Charlotte Withering – Murdered!

At Withering Depths in the heart of the Yorkshire Moors, during Victorian England, the Dowager Lady Withering lay murdered in her room even as her guests assembled for dinner.

Her dinner guests are the only suspects. As the evening unfolds before you, and a Police investigation takes place, can you solve the crime as all the clues come to light?

Do join us if you can. We would like to have an idea of numbers so that refreshments and cakes can be provided appropriately.

The evening is open to all – adults and adults with children (To engage with the clues children would probably need to be from y3 upwards)



On Wednesday, 29th October there will be a Bible Study led by Albert and Elizabeth via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent out by e-mail a few days before the event and the link will be open from about 7.45 p.m. Do feel free to pass on the link to anyone you know who might be interested. We are using the Zoom format because that makes the study accessible to those who would not be able to join us in person. We hope you will be able to be with us and look forward to this opportunity to learn together.





QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 8th Nov
6 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
in the hall

All welcome

£9 or £5 depending on meal choice

Book with Albert & Elizabeth [Sevenoaks Campaigners]
01732 456745

This event is intended for friends of all ages, but please do not send unaccompanied children. Teams will be up to 6 adults, and we can make up teams (by mutual consent) on the evening. If you are coming with a pre-made team, please advise us about who is in your team.

The evening includes your choice of: Fish & chips (£9)

Sausage & chips (£5)

Veggie & chips (£5)

Please let us know your choice when you book.

You can pay with cash/cheque or online transfer to

Sevenoaks Campaigners 60-19-02 a/c 30302102

BOOK REVIEWS

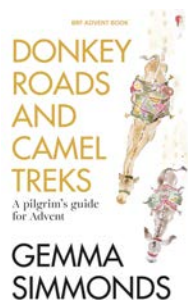


Attentive to God: Being Aware of God's Presence in Daily Life

By Tony Horsfall, BRF, £9.99

Mindfulness is not new, and God's people down the centuries have always been encouraged to practise 'the sacrament of the present moment' – that is, to notice God in the events of everyday life and become attentive to that presence.

Tony Horsfall explores six Bible stories that describe individuals encountering God, showing how we can learn how to notice the presence of the divine for ourselves. He also unpacks key spiritual practices that anyone can follow and introduces insights from influential writers on the awareness of God in the ordinary.



Donkey Roads and Camel Treks: A pilgrim's guide for Advent – *BRF Advent Book 2025*

By Gemma Simmonds, BRF, £9.99

The lectionary readings for Advent speak of making a straight path towards God, but many of us find our own route decidedly winding. Biblical characters in the story of the incarnation are called to set out on the road to discipleship using any means of carriage they can. This book offers user-friendly encouragement (with the occasional spur onwards) to explore what helps and what hinders us in this journey to deeper encounter with the flesh and blood God whom we find in scripture, in our lived experience and in the least of His sisters and brothers.

The Poppy Appeal – could you help by giving some time this autumn?

The 2025 Poppy Appeal will be launched this month.

The Poppy is a powerful symbol worn by people right across the UK to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today.

The Royal British Legion was first set up to help those returning from the First World War. Almost a century on, they're still helping today's Service people, veterans, and their families coping with bereavement, living with disability or finding employment.

However, the Poppy Appeal would not be able to continue without the dedication of the teams of volunteers who stand in the streets, shops and supermarkets. Each town and village has their own Poppy Appeal Organiser - also a volunteer - who runs these teams, arranges for cover, drops off and collects the boxes.

The Poppy Appeal is always grateful for the work of these dedicated people, but the volunteers say they proud to be selling Poppies to show support for those who sacrificed their lives for us.

If you want to volunteer, or if you would like a visit from a local volunteer who can speak to your community/church group, please go to: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>.



A Helping Hand

There is much we can do just to brighten
This world of all take and no give,
There's a great deal that we can contribute
Through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one's elderly neighbours
Or through lending a hand in some way
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers
To someone to brighten their day.

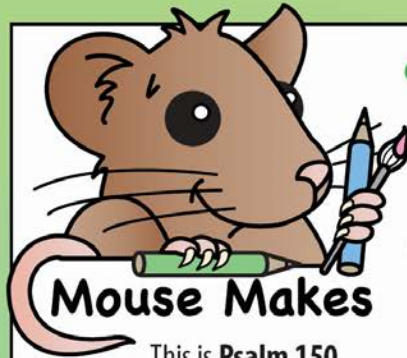
It's by sparing a few precious hours
In the service of those most in need
It's all about setting a standard
And trying to give others a lead

It's the way that we tend to treat others
And help and aid folks in distress
In the care and assistance we offer
That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple
The rewards plain for all men to see
As you did all of this to My brother
Then said Jesus, you did it to Me.

By Colin Hammacott





Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.
*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him
with the sounding trumpet,
Praise Him
with the harp and lyre,
Praise Him
with tambourine and dancing,
Praise Him
with the clash of cymbals,
Praise Him
with the resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD!



PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS
TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS
TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD

Oct25© deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

BLOOD DONOR SESSIONS

October 5th 12.00 – 21.00

If you would like further information on any of the following, please phone the church office.

HOUSE GROUPS

Please speak to Rev. Angela Rigby or one of the Elders if you would like to join a house group.

Youth activities: Sevenoaks Campaigners (Mondays)
 Rainbows (Mondays)
 Eagles (Thursdays)

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 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

Any material for the December/January edition of the Church Magazine should reach me by the 27th November either by email to 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 and all future issues will be sent to you in this way.

Large print copies of this magazine are available on request.

