



**St Johns Hill
Sevenoaks
United Reformed
Church**



**April – May 2026
Magazine**

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

Telephone No **07502132896**

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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 until the 12th April when we are changing the time to 10.30 am.

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

April

5th	10.00	Easter Sunday	Rev. Angela Rigby
12th	10.30		Albert & Elizabeth Wood
19th	10.30	Communion	Rev. Angela Rigby
26nd	10.30		Mark Rigby

May

3rd	10.30		Rev. Angela Rigby
10th	10.30		Albert & Elizabeth Wood
17th	10.30	Communion	Rev. Angela Rigby
24nd	10.30	Pentecost	Mark Rigby
31st	10.30	Trinity Sunday	Rev. Angela Rigby



Dear friends,

Ever notice how a common everyday item can spark a conversation? Recently my husband and I were with a friend at church, and as my husband was headed to make a cup of coffee, he offered to make one for our friend. She said “yes please” and handed him a flask. On the outside of the flask it said “Walls Ice Cream.” This then reminded us of the following joke:

A man was at a football match, and the bloke next to him had a flask.

"What's that?" the first man asked as he'd never seen a flask before.

"It's an amazing thing", the man with the flask replied. "It keeps hot things hot and cold things cold."

"Wow!" said the first man. "That's amazing! I'm going to get one."

The following week the man with the flask notices that the first man now has a shiny new flask.

"I see you got yourself a flask", the man says. "What do you have in it?"

To which the man replies "Coffee and Ice Cream!"

We then had a conversation about various Bible verses and stories that this idea could spark. My husband immediately thought of - "Let your yes be yes and your no be no" in Matthew 5:37. I thought about our recent conversation at home group about the church of Laodicea from Revelation 3:14-22, specifically verses 15-16.

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

In our home group, we learned that nearby to Laodicea were two towns. One town was known for its cool refreshing springs that were good for drinking. The other town was known for its hot springs with their therapeutic bathing properties. Poor Laodicea! Being between the two towns, Laodicea had neither hot nor cold water – just lukewarm. Jesus uses their environment, something they would be familiar with, and uses that ordinary thing to speak of a spiritual matter. He is NOT saying, “Hey I would rather you really like God or not like God, than be indifferent.” What Jesus is saying, “Let your actions match what you say you believe.” As Rev Ian Paul wrote in our study guide, “Right actions are an important expression of our faith.” As James wrote in his letter, “faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (James 2:17). Or as Jesus said, “Let your yes be yes and your no be no” (Matthew 5:37).

Jesus doesn't dismiss Laodicea for their lukewarmness. Instead, He offers them an invitation to repent and let him show them a better way. “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me” (Revelations 3:20).

Revelation has many dragons and beasts, but in the midst of all the imagery we may struggle to understand is this ordinary invitation. Jesus knocking at the door, asking us to let him in - and he will help us live out our faith. As we celebrate our risen Lord Jesus, let us celebrate by welcoming him into our lives again, repenting with expectation and hope of new life.

May God bless you and yours this Eastertime and always.

From Rev Angela Rigby



Following the decision at Church Meeting

Sunday Morning Worship
will begin at 10.30 am

from 12th April 2026

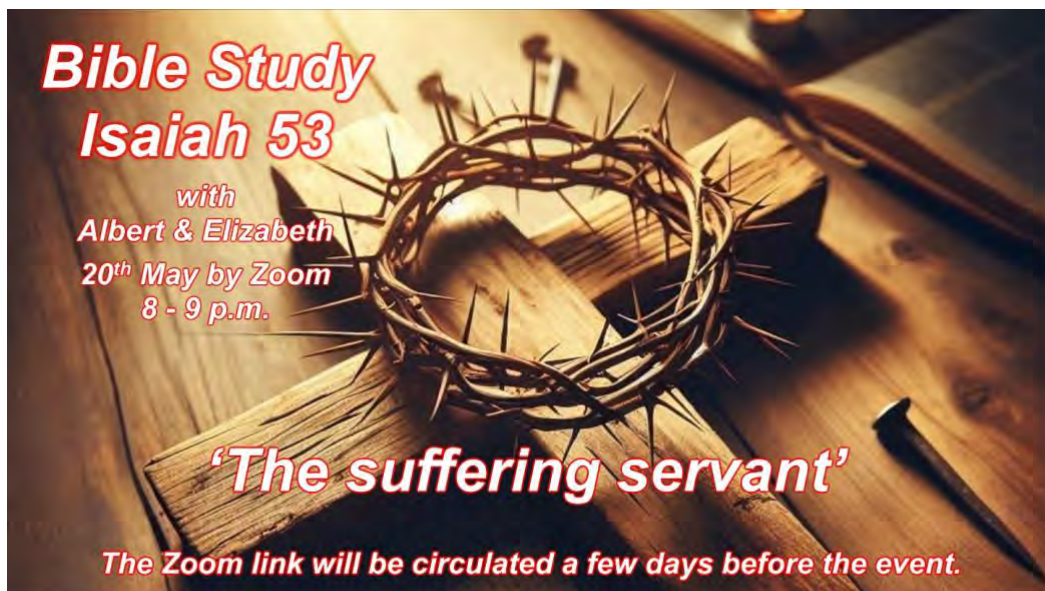


Home Group in Church have been using the LICC study on Revelation by Ian Paul.



Each week has been interesting in different ways, so whether you have attended previous meetings or not, please join us for friendly and fascinating fellowship!

For the Maundy Thursday 2nd April meeting at 2.00pm we would like to conclude with Communion to which everyone is invited.



Bible Study
Isaiah 53
with
Albert & Elizabeth
20th May by Zoom
8 - 9 p.m.

‘The suffering servant’

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

On Wednesday, 20th May 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.

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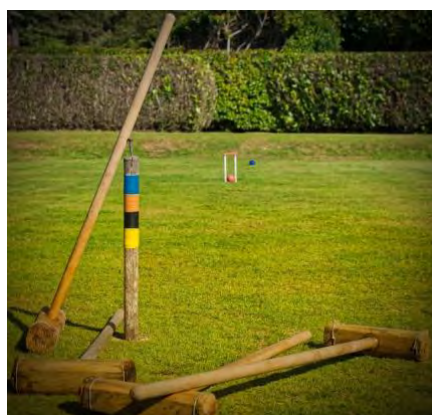
St John's Hill Sing-along
Saturday, 20th June at 7 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Songs from the charts (not too modern), tradition & musicals - with Albert & Elizabeth Wood.

Save the date!
Church Open Morning Saturday 9th May



*to include Community Prayers,
plant swap and garden games*



OPEN GARDEN



Every Monday 10.30am to 12 noon
Free tea, coffee and biscuits with friendly chat
ALL ARE WELCOME here in God's garden

Join us from Monday 11th May



Share joy

Grow hope

Fight hunger

**Join the fun this Christian Aid Week,
10-16 May, and put hope into action.**

Christian Aid Week is a powerful moment to come together and raise funds that fight global poverty and injustice.

Since 1957, Christian Aid Week has brought faith and action together to help families survive poverty and violence, and communities rebuild after crisis.

This is all thanks to the amazing support of churches, communities and individuals who choose to walk, run, bake, dance, make, and do whatever it takes to help make lasting change.

Who will Christian Aid Week support this year?

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

By funding urban farming projects alongside specialist training from our partner Beacon of Hope, we can help parents fight food insecurity, grow fresh vegetables in small city spaces and earn an income to support their families.



Annual Fundraising Concert — Saturday 25th April | Doors Open: 6PM
| [Walthamstow Hall](#)

Our annual fundraising concert is back — and this year promises to be the most extraordinary yet. Voices of Welcome 2026 brings together three remarkable artists, each carrying the music and stories of their homeland to the stage in Sevenoaks.

Meet the Performers

Rama Alcoutlabi: A celebrated Syrian vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, Rama has been sharing the rich musical traditions of the Levant with audiences across the world. Founder of Music for Peace-Building, she brings to the stage not just extraordinary artistry, but a deep belief in the power of music to connect and heal.

Project DZVIN.CO: A Ukrainian vocal ensemble of seven professional singers, each from different regions of Ukraine affected by the war. Their repertoire weaves together traditional Ukrainian folk music with a contemporary twist — deeply rooted, strikingly fresh, and a powerful testament to the resilience of Ukrainian culture.

Dr. Peyman Heydarian: An award-winning santur player and composer born in Shiraz, Iran, trained under renowned music masters and performed on stages across the world. He has developed a uniquely innovative style, blending traditional Persian and multi-ethnic repertoire with contemporary techniques that push the boundaries of the instrument.

Tickets

Every ticket you buy helps us continue this vital work — supporting families to find homes, learn English, find employment, and build new lives in our community.

- Early Bird Adult: £20 | Early Bird Child: £15 (until 20th March)
- Regular Adult: £25 | Regular Child: £20
- Couple Tickets: £45
- Pay it Forward: cover a ticket for a refugee family member

Early Bird tickets are strictly limited — please book early to avoid disappointment.

[Book Your Tickets Here!](#)

Concert Lottery — Win Fantastic Local Prizes!

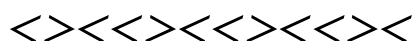


As part of Voices of Welcome 2026, we have **launched our concert lottery** — a wonderful opportunity to win prizes donated by generous local businesses, while supporting our mission at the same time.

Prizes range from £15 to £100 in value, and a £100 cash prize has already been secured! The draw takes place on 29th April 2026 — after the concert — so the more tickets you buy, the more chances you have to win. Please note: you must be 16 or over to purchase a lottery ticket.

Our Brilliant Lottery Supporters, thank you!

- Anchor Pub — lunch for two with wine
- Especially Health — basket of supplements and shop goods
- Fisical Yoga Studio — 3 yoga/pilates classes
- Life on High — coffee bags
- Malabar Coffee House — café voucher
- Mille Fleur — shop voucher
- Mount Vineyard — 2 stone-baked pizzas
- Zero Pilates — 5 reformer pilates classes



HI Kent

SEVENOAKS SOCIAL GROUP

Looking to connect with others who understand hearing loss? Come and join our friendly HI Kent Social Group!



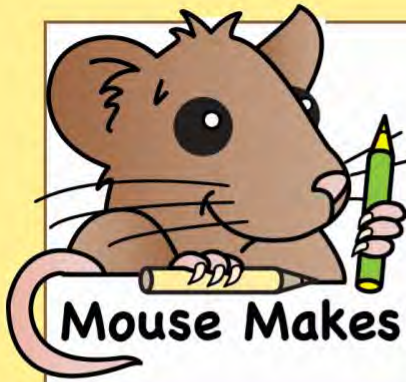
 **Upcoming Meetings:**

- **TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2026** **11am - 12.30pm**
- **TUESDAY 5 MAY 2026** **11am - 12.30pm**
- **TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2026** **10.30am - 12.30pm**
- **TUESDAY 7 JULY 2026** **11am - 12.30pm**

 **St John's Hill United Reformed Church, St John's Road, TN13 3LW**

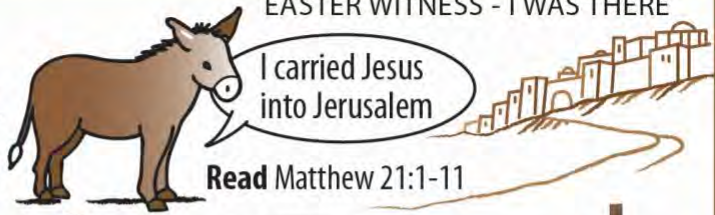
Fully accessible - refreshments available

  **socialgroups@hikent.org.uk** or
 **01622 691151**
Registered Charity No.: 1052036

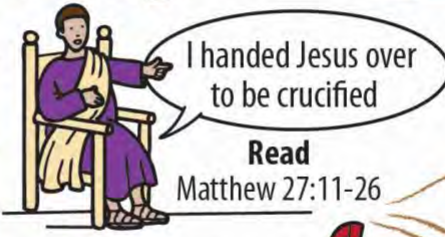


GOOD NEWS
 OHOSANNA
 DEATHQB
 VNCOEUI
 UAHNAARO
 MIREVSU
 ALIVETDR
 RISENEOK
 YOTHORNS
 PALMSQKA
 RPILATEN
 CRUCIFYG
 RHIQUAKE
 OCJESUSL
 STOMBVDY
 SRYEMPTY
 JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY

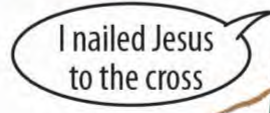
EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



Read Matthew 21:1-11



Read Matthew 27:11-26

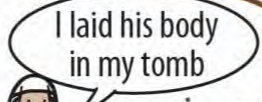


Read Mark 15:16-32



We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41

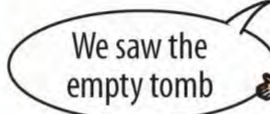


Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

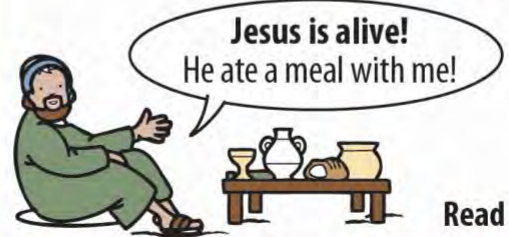
Read Matthew 27:62-66



Read Matthew 28:1-10



and spoke to the angel



Read Luke 24:13-35

What home gadgets do you regret buying?

You know what they are: those things you never knew you needed until you saw one in an advert. Then suddenly you felt that life would never be complete without one.

And so, you brought home the spiraliser that makes vegetables look like spaghetti. And the pasta maker that you can't quite figure out how to use. And the ice-cream maker that makes everything sticky and helped you put on another three pounds. And the robot vacuum which terrorises the cat. As for the bread maker, well at least it makes a good shelf on the kitchen counter.

If this is you, you are not alone. A recent survey by Saga has found that 65% of us have experienced 'gadget regret'. It occurs when we buy something and then wonder why we ever bothered, because who needs it anyway?

Top of the list of regrets is the spiralizer – 62% of us woke up one morning to realise that no one needs vegetables to look like spaghetti. Second place belongs to digital picture frames, which 52% of us regret buying. After that comes the pasta maker (45%), the ice-cream maker (42%), VR headsets (35%), the bread maker (31%), the internet-connected exercise equipment (31%) and finally, the robot vacuum (29%).

What do we do with all this stuff? 46% of us keep it, even when we don't want it. 15% of us try and sell the things, while a desperate 14% of us simply throw them away. And 19% of us grimly hang on to them for a year or so, before passing them on to an unsuspecting friend.

I expect many of us are guilty of the above.

My New Car

My old car was a little tired;
It failed its MOT!
So then it was I felt inspired
To go PHEV.

It is a good car – nice to run
And helpful as can be!
But now my troubles have begun –
It's cleverer than me!

I used to press a button once
For music on CD
But now – I must be such a dunce –
I can't find BBC!

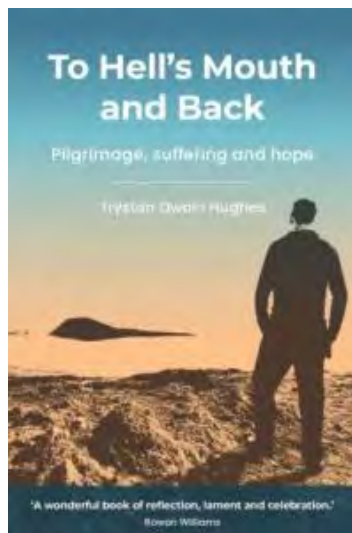
I got it playing from my phone
By Bluetooth link maybe?
But then what truly made me moan –
I spoke – it misheard me!

It turned my lovely music off
And played some awful sound;
I tried to speak, I tried to cough
But no way back I found!

So if you want to buy a car
To get from A to B,
Don't forget you first require
A technical degree!

By Nigel Beeton

BOOK REVIEWS

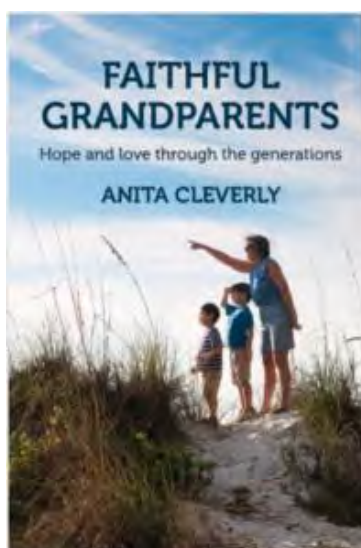


To Hell's Mouth and Back: pilgrimage, suffering and hope

By Trystan Owain Hughes, BRF, £9.99

After a gruelling 140-mile pilgrimage walking across the rugged terrain of North Wales, Trystan Owain Hughes finds himself facing another, very different pilgrimage as he recovers from a serious injury sustained on the walk.

In *To Hell's Mouth and Back* he explores his experience of suffering, considering how God can redeem and transform pain and disability, and examines how common experiences of pilgrimage are echoed in the challenges of our life journeys. Along the way, the reader is led to consider the journeys we all face, as we search for God's presence and hope in our joys and pains.



Faithful Grandparents: Hope and Love through the Generations

By Anita Cleverly, BRF, 39.99

This book urges grandparents to 'Be the grandparent God wants you to be!'

There has never been a more important time to find meaningful ways of passing on our faith to the next generation. Part of this privilege and responsibility lies with grandparents who are living authentic Christian lives. They can be the vital link between the gospel and the faith of a younger generation.

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 June/July edition of the Church Magazine should reach me by the 26th May 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.

