



WITHAM URC CHURCH MAGAZINE

March 2024

Our Vision: "To celebrate God and share the love of Jesus."

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends

Dreaming of Summer

In the United Kingdom we all live fairly close to a sea. Unlike many of our continental neighbours we must adapt to whatever is blown towards us by the wind. If you have lived and worked in hot dry countries overseas our mellow and moist UK climate is a joy. In 1973 when we returned home from Johannesburg on holiday, Audrey and I flew into Glasgow, and we were overwhelmed by the wonderful smell of the fields and the feel of the air on our skin. Writing on a sunny day in February when winter has not finished with us, the sunshine still lifts our spirits and maybe makes us dream of Summer.

Light and life go hand in hand. As the days lengthen and winter slides into spring, we delight in the rays that we see with our eyes and feel as warmth on our skin. The Sun, our star, bathes our planet in a whole range of radiation, much of it essential to our daily life. Solar rays help us to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels by giving us wind and solar generated electricity. The green plants and trees grow using sunlight and the carbon dioxide in the air. When you look at a tree, think and wonder at how such a big strong plant like a tree can come from light and gas.

It is not surprising that the Bible describes so many good things with reference to light. In Matthew 5:15 we read *“No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead, he puts it on a lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.”* This uses light as an allegory for all that we show to those around us. We can be an example to others by remembering the many examples, stories and lessons that Jesus taught us. In Mark 4:24 the same

story is amplified in the text *“Pay attention to what you hear! The same rules you apply to others will be used by God to judge you...”*

As followers of Jesus Christ, we must take heed of the assertion he made when in John 8:12 *“I am the light of the world,” he said. “Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.”* The Bible is not alone in using the word light to convey more than what our eyes see. I am no artist or student of art but there is another context where light is given a new use: The Age of Enlightenment has wider meaning to art lovers.

Having spent much of my working life serving the coal industry as a geologist, it may seem rich that I should be extolling the virtue of green energy. In the 1970’s there was little idea that global warming was such a looming catastrophe. At that time, providing energy to feed the huge demand from peoples around the world was both a social imperative and a business opportunity. I just hope that the nascent technology of carbon capture can soon reverse the growth of greenhouse gases and work alongside wind and solar to satisfy demand for electricity. I simply treasure the idea that coal is not evil, it is just pickled sunshine in plant matter that was preserved in bogs. Conservationists are working to restore peat bogs because of the way they hold rainfall and store carbon. We need to see the wonders of our world as a whole and thank God for the many blessings we receive.

Yours in Christ

Billy Kennedy

House of Grace - Shirley Ratnage

Following a recommendation from our Pledge Committee the September Church meeting generously allocated a grant to the House of Grace Witham project and to also provide financial support for the next 2 years; the amount may vary depending on the level of pledge funding available. The project will lease a house from the social enterprise, Green Pastures, in which we will offer supported medium term accommodation to 4 homeless men. Each resident will have a volunteer support worker/befriender to help them get their lives back on track, with a view, in the medium term, to being able to find employment and move to independent living.



Homelessness is the scourge of our society and is affecting more people today than ever before. Many people become homeless through circumstances which could affect any one of us - loss of job, family break-up, mental health crisis. Many are not 'visible' on our streets, 'sofa-surfing' with friends, living in cars, moving from place to place. The council have a duty to house homeless people but there is insufficient accommodation available and priority goes to families with children. The single people have to make do with hostels/queuing for a bed at night shelters or sleeping rough. This is where House of Grace Witham will be able to make a difference.

Our exciting news is that on 19th January 2024 we collected the keys to a house in Witham! This is currently undergoing refurbishment - creation of a 4th bedroom downstairs, extra toilet installed to complement the existing bathroom with toilet, safety standard work eg fire doors, redecoration etc. A builder is undertaking the structural work, under the supervision of one of our qualified volunteers and other volunteers are busy with cleaning/ redecoration. Next, we have to furnish and equip the house for use by the residents. **WE EXPECT TO WELCOME OUR FIRST RESIDENTS IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 11TH MARCH 2024.**

Much to be done in a short space of time! If you would like to be part of this exciting project, watch the weekly Sunday bulletin for calls for help with funding/donations of utensils/store cupboard items/help making the place ready for occupancy, in particular over the coming weeks help transporting/moving goods and furniture. Volunteers will be needed throughout the life of the project to help fund raise/offer life skills guidance/friendship etc. If you would like to be involved please get in touch with one of the trustees who worship with us – Emmelia Van der Walt/ Audrey Kennedy/Muriel Heppinstall.

Once the house is occupied, it will be essential that, we as a church, welcome the residents into our church family.

TUESDAY PRAISE
at Witham URC
EVERYBODY WELCOME
March 2024

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>
5th March	Marina Price
12th March	Jonathan Price
19th March	Lorna Bantock
26th March	Songs of Praise

TIME: 12.30

Irving Stinson - Tim Shelley

The memorial service for Irving and in particular his involvement with 'The Tentmaker' led me to thinking of the various productions that have taken place at WURC over the years. Apart from 'The Tentmaker' in 1987 these included 'Snakes & Ladders' in 1988, 'Serious Angels' in 1989, and 'A Winter's Tale' in 1991. Irving took part in some, if not all of these.

'A Winter's Tale' was written by Nigel Forde with music by Mark Ambrose and Mike Shelley. I was asked to be part of the band for this show and have kept some details of that event, including a recording of Irving singing "Looking For the Truth", (available for anyone to listen to who has a cassette player!).

See who you can recognise from this newspaper article...

6 Braintree and Witham Times, Thursday, November 28, 1991

BRAINTREE AND WITHAM TIMES Your Times is the local paper at 1

Panto style nativity

THE story of the Nativity is told in a comic way when a Witham church-based drama group perform A Winter's Tale.

The panto-style play is being performed at Witham's United Reformed Church by the Witham Interchurch Players on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

"It is a very good family show and a fun play but it gets across the Christmas message," says director Judith Shelley.

The show has a main cast of ten but also taking part are a selection of singers and musicians.

Tickets cost £2.50 — £1.50 for children — and are available from Jill Thomas on Witham 0376 513863 or the Highway bookshop in Newland Street.



Even the camel has a part — A Winter's Tale panto performed by members of the Witham Interchurch Players.

THE PLAYERS

Kashkash	Vivienne Pattison
Shamri	Fiona Robinson
Desmond	Mary Pooley and Rebecca Battley
Xenobia	Gerry Moscrop
Caspar	Irving Stinson
Melchior	Roger Linney
Balthazar	Andrew Rudd
Tedius	Mike Robinson
Scrofulus	Ron Sell
Gabriel	Anna Brett
Mary	Amy Doe
Joseph	Simon Rudd

SERVANTS

Laura Battley
Anna Brett
Amy Doe
Michelle Linney
Karina Robinson
Simon Rudd

CHERUBS

Laura Battley
Sarah Cooper
Fiona Hardie
Claire Heathcote
Tina Heathcote
Anna Markham
Catherine Markham
Karina Robinson

MUSICIANS

Steve Birkin
John MacKenzie
Geoff Naylor
Tim Pooley
Mike Shelley
Tim Shelley
Ruth Teverson
Paul Young

SINGERS

Janet Davies
Sylvia Mapes
Carola Markham
Wilma Naylor
Anne Priest
Ruth Roberts
Sarah Watson

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Produced and Directed by Judith Shelley

Musical Director	:	Mike Shelley
Set Design	:	Graham Bantock
Backcloth Painters	:	Graham Bantock Linda Bell Linda Cooper Ursula Henderson
Staging	:	Steve Faber John Reed
Lighting	:	Jim Cooper
Sound	:	Matthew Sims Mick Williams
Properties	:	Derek Ager Jenny Watson
Costumes	:	Dot Reed
Prompt	:	Janet de Bie
Box Office	:	Gill Thomas
Publicity Design	:	Ursula Henderson
House Manager	:	Jeremy Thompson
Refreshments	:	Val Read Doreen Sell

We wish to express our particular thanks to:-

- The U.R.C. for the use of the church.
- Powers Hall End Junior School and the Methodist Church for the use of their staging.
- Highway Bookshop for the sale of tickets.
- All those people too numerous to mention who have given their help and encouragement.

Another recollection I have of Irving is as a science teacher at Chelmsford Tech High School in the 70's. He was Andrew Wood's regular class physics teacher for a while, though for my form he would stand in occasionally for another tutor. He was always enthusiastic; he knew the subject well and the lesson was always interesting. Perhaps the accent helped – Americans always seemed to be cleverer than us!

International Justice Mission (IJM) - Sarah Campbell

The charity International Justice Mission (IJM) works in 16 countries around the world to bring safety and freedom to those living in slavery and violence. There are also offices in ten countries, like the UK, which focus primarily on advocacy and fundraising.



We all have heard of people in this country being scammed and how awful that is, but have you ever thought about the people behind it?

I wanted to let you know of a new area of work IJM are taking action to expose and stop. It's called **forced scamming**. Forced scamming is one of the most complex and fastest-growing forms of modern slavery in the world.

What is forced scamming?

- A victim is recruited via a convincing fake job advert and trafficked into a heavily guarded compound.
- Once at the compound, traffickers take the victim's passport and phone.
- They are trapped and unable to leave.
- The victim is forced to conduct scams for up to 20 hours a day, six days a week. They may experience extreme violence including electrocution and torture.

The crime of forced scamming is estimated to affect hundreds of thousands of people working in the scamming industry in South-East Asia in countries like Cambodia, Myanmar and the Philippines. Over 35 different nationalities have found to be working in scamming compounds.

IJM's work was highlighted in a BBC Three documentary "**Hunting the Catfish Crime Gang**" which you can watch on BBC iPlayer and ITV News

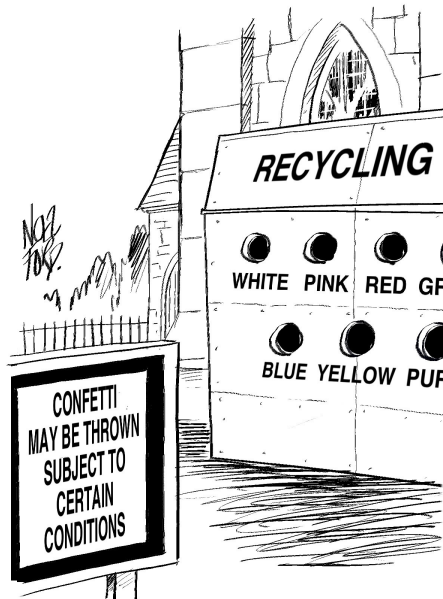
highlighted IJM's work in a special investigation on forced scamming a couple of weeks ago.

What are IJM doing?

IJM staff in Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia are on the frontlines, working with governments and foreign embassies to help bring people to safety, provide survivors with legal help, aftercare and repatriation support, hold traffickers to account and protect people from being trafficked in the first place.

Please pray for IJM and its work all over the world, but particularly in this area of work to do with forced scamming.

Please pray for the thousands of victims of forced scamming who are tricked, trafficked and trapped in compounds and forced to scam people like you and me, that they will be brought to safety and we see this awful crime stopped.



Ramblings from Rwanda - Shirley Ratnage

I was delighted to be able to meet up with all 3 of my sponsored children in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda in January. Rwanda is sometimes referred to as the country of a thousand hills. It is roughly the size of Wales with a population of around 8 million. It is surrounded by the Congo, Uganda, Tanzania & Burundi. The capital spreads out over 7 hills and since I was there 20 years ago it now boasts dual carriage way asphalt roads, most houses have electricity and running water and non stop traffic. Many buildings are under construction and where slums are cleared, people receive compensation (but not necessarily enough to continue to have a house in the city.) It has a very positive vibe and people appear confident and go ahead.

You do not see anyone begging on the streets or trying to earn money 'hawking' their wares. The city is very clean- no plastic carrier bags are allowed in the country and on the last Saturday in every month everyone is obliged to stay in their community between 8-12 am to do community work - picking litter, cleaning ditches, tidying the green areas - whatever the community council decides is needed. Anyone out on the roads or footpaths are stopped by the police and have to have a very good reason for not being at work in their community.

I visited Bertin, now 8 years old, adopted by a neighbour after his mother died of HIV. She already had 4 children of her own which is why the church stepped in to find a sponsor to pay his school fees. I was told he was very excited about my visit but when I arrived he was overcome with shyness. However once our driver had pumped up the football I gave him, he quickly put on the football shirt and shorts I'd brought and showed us his ball skills.

The house was in a poor area but was brick built and light. I was invited into the living room which was a good size but sparsely furnished (no shelves with books/photos/ornaments, such as you find in our houses – I guess these are considered luxuries when money is short). No photos on the

walls. Two doors led off from this room and surmised these led to a kitchen and bedroom. The mother and two of her children earn money hairdressing. It takes 5 hours to add braids to a customer's hair so many hours to earn a relatively small amount of money. (Bertin's mum felt my hair and said she thought she would be able to add braids for me, but I declined the offer!).

I was surprised at the cost of living in Rwanda. We bought rice and sugar for each family we visited and 1 kg of rice cost about £1. That seemed a lot compared to what I suspect they can earn from 'casual' work and rice is locally grown (many goods have to be imported). I was told the cost of living had doubled in the last couple of years. Although life must be difficult, the Rwandans I met all seemed determined to make the most of life and grateful for the improvements they see in their country.

I was given a warm welcome by the family and thanked profusely for my sponsorship. Two of the older children came to say hello and a delightful toddler, the lady's granddaughter kept us amused.

My two girls, Sandrine (18) and Belise (16) met me at their local church. The service went on for 3 hours with lots of singing (they had 3 choirs and each one sang 2 songs) much dancing and praising God. We had readings from both old and new testaments, a sermon, and, it being an Anglican church banns were called for 3 couples wanting to get married. However each couple had to come to the front and the man had to make a speech, which I didn't understand but was greeted with lots of clapping and hallelujahs from the congregation (about 3-400).

The lady of the 3rd couple was obviously a member of one of the 3 choirs as they came out to hug and dance/sing for her. It was also 'Fathers Union Day' so the local president came out to give a speech. Needless to say that as a visitor I was invited to the front to introduce myself and pass on your blessings to them. When I thought the service was drawing to a close, an important looking man who had sat quietly at the back on a 'throne' like chair then came and gave what seemed like another sermon. The front of

the church was beautifully decorated and the atmosphere was one of joy and thanksgiving. The Sunday school service had taken place before the morning service and during the adult service the little ones came in when they needed something from mum or dad. They did this quietly, with no fuss and were not disruptive in any way.

After the service I had time with my girls and their families. They were both quite shy but through the interpreter spoke of their ambitions for the future. Sandrine had already done a course in hairdressing and Lydia, the Mothers' Union rep who was taking me around and interpreting will put her in touch with Bertin's mum in the hope she can help her get work. Belise still has 2 more years at school but wants to work in tourism. The families expressed their thanks for our support and went off happily with the gifts I'd brought and the rice and sugar in a cardboard box balanced on their heads!

The Rwandans are delightful people, interested to learn about their visitors. They always seem to be joyful and smiling. No-one talked about the weather/politics or the cost of living. Despite what must be difficult lives for many, they appear to praise God for what they have and look forward to better things. However, I only stayed in the capital and maybe elsewhere in the country people may not have such a positive attitude.

Saturday Prayers - 10-11am in Room 1 at the Centre - Shirley Ratnage

We continue to meet each Saturday morning to bring our thanks/praise/concerns to God. It is an uplifting time. A time of listening/sharing/caring/learning. There is no set format. There is no commitment to be there every week. Any time you feel drawn to pray with others, please join us. As a church and as individuals we have so much to bring before our gracious God.



Celtic style service

Sunday Evening March 17th
6.30pm

Led by Ian Hardie

Afternoon Tea

*Monday March 4th
at 2.30pm*

*Sandwiches,
Scones with Tiptree jam & cream
Home-made Cakes*

£6.00

*Please let the office know
if you would like to come
01376 500958*



Church Cleaner

11 Hours a week, £12 per hour.

We are seeking a Church Cleaner to join the team ensuring all parts of the site are clean and ready for all lettings and outreach activities.

The Church Cleaner will be responsible as part of the wider team for regular cleaning of the Church, including the sanctuary, public areas, meeting rooms and offices.

The church is a busy venue operating 7 days a week throughout the day. Cleaning is undertaken at times of the day when there will be the lowest impact on other users and over 6 days of the week. Duties include cleaning all rooms as well as operating relevant cleaning equipment and setting out rooms for coming events.

Applicants will need to demonstrate relevant experience and ability. All staff within the church are required to follow health and safety guidelines and other church policies. A full job description is available.

Applications should be submitted in writing to Fenella Hardie at the details below no later than the 10th March 2024, including an up-to-date CV and covering letter setting out your suitability for the role. If you wish to discuss this role, or obtain a full job description please contact Fenella Hardie.

Witham United Reformed Church
Newland Street
Witham
CM81AE info@withamurc.org.uk

Building Manager

572 Hours a year (Equivalent to 11 Hours a week), £12 per hour or £6,864 per annum.

We are seeking a Building Manager to support the work of the Church in maintaining and ensuring the building is accessible to all. As a vibrant and busy church, we hold a wide range of activities throughout the week. We are seeking a Building Manager to oversee the routine management of the building's infrastructure.

The Church itself is a listed building; however we have a modern complex of buildings hosting our outreach and community spaces. We are seeking someone who can bring a passion for the space and work with the staff and church leadership team to ensure that the building remains a unique home for God's work in Witham.

This role will operate on a flexible basis within an annual hours limit. Whilst routine operations will happen weekly there will be a need for flexibility to meet the variation in operational requirements. The working pattern will be discussed and agreed on a regular basis. A full job description is available.

We are seeking someone with experience of building management and an understanding of the unique needs of God's home and the community it serves, who is interested in joining us to serve God and spread the love of Jesus.

Applications should be submitted in writing to Ian Hunt at the details below no later than the 10th March 2024, including an up to date CV and covering letter setting out your suitability for the role.

If you wish to discuss this role, or obtain a full job description please contact Ian Hunt or Billy Kennedy.

Witham United Reformed Church

Newland Street

Witham

CM81AE

info@withamurc.org.uk

Thank you -Bob Stibbards

About 5 weeks ago my brother- in -law Steve was walking home and was hit by a car that mounted the pavement. The driver then reversed over one of his legs. The driver was arrested for drink driving. Steve was taken initially to Southend Hospital and after an initial assessment he was taken to the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel.

He has had three operations;. the second operation about 2 weeks ago was to fit a metal rod to the outside of his leg which will remain in place for up to a year and last week he had extensive plastic surgery which included moving muscles ! It is amazing to see what the surgeons have been able to do to save his leg and experience the NHS at its best.

He will have a very long recovery but he has a positive outlook and seems to be in good spirits. He remarked the other day that he could not play the violin before the operation (I can vouch for that) and he still can't!

When this initially happened I decided to contact Rosemary and Mike to put this on the prayer chain and within minutes Mike put this out to those that receive emails and then again later with an update. Thank you Mike and Rosemary. I have truly been taken back by the love, concern and prayers for Steve that have been received.

Collecting Stamps - Mo Webber

I would be very grateful if you could save used stamps and give them to me and I will send them on to the Royal National Institute for the Blind.



Hello from the Drapper family in Dorset -provided by Gerry Moscrop

Some of you might remember us when Andrew (dad) was the driver of The Bus Project some 30 years ago. We have some great memories of our time with you all in Witham URC and appreciate the support and love you gave us during our years there.

If you remember us, then you will know we had Rebekah and Matthew and Joel was born shortly after we arrived. Rebekah (37) has 2 girls (15 and 13) and lives in Wales; Matthew (36) is a hotel restaurant manager in Buxton; and Joel is a computer programmer in Oxfordshire with 3 children (9, 7, 5).

Since The Bus we have had eight more children so to help you with the maths that's eleven - Four daughters (Rebekah, Deborah, Kirsty, Amy) and seven sons (Matthew, Joel, Cornelius, David, Mark, Paul, Michael). Michael is nearly 17 and runs a lawnmower service, repair, and sales business with Andrew. All the other boys are farmers driving huge tractors or milking cows, and the girls include a firefighter and ju-Jitsu coach.

Not everything has gone smoothly. There have been two divorces, some mental health issues, and family feuds, but God is always good and has seen us through thick and thin.

We now worship at St John's CofE Church in Yeovil where I, Ruth (mum), serve as a CAP Life Skills Coach and Michael is on the tech-team. Working with CAP reminds me of the wonderful times helping with the Community Store with Dorothy and Bill.

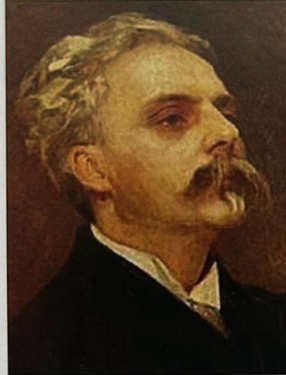
Love and blessings to you all and if any of you would like to contact us and catch up some more then feel free to email: ruth@drapper.com

**As we approach Easter - ' What is our hope in life and death' -
song and lyrics by Keith & Kristyn Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt
Papa, Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker**

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to him belong
Who holds our days within his hand?
What comes, apart from his command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand
Chorus 'O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess'
Christ our hope in life and death
What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good
Where is his grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh?
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ Chorus
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death
Unto the grave, what shall we sing?
"Christ, he lives! Christ, he lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with him There we will rise to meet the Lord Then sin and
death will be destroyed And we will feast in endless joy When Christ is ours
forevermore - Chorus

<https://youtu.be/Oibli1rz7mw>

Anglia Singers present Fauré's Requiem



John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) Gabriel Fauré
(courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

Sunday 24th March 2024 at 4pm

Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace, The Avenue, Braintree CM7 3HF

Musical Director & Conductor: Prof. Emeritus Christopher Green OBE

Daisy Dunne (treble) Owain Jones (baritone) Ashley Thompson (organ)

in support of House of Grace, Witham



charity no. 1199138

*To include Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré), Notre Père (Durufié) and
Make a Joyful Noise (A. Lloyd Webber)*



£8 per ticket, children 11 & under free



Tickets available:

- on the door or from members of Anglia Singers*
- from the Chair of Anglia Singers: 07966 550507 from 7th February*
- from Stationery Solutions, 6 Fairfield Rd, Braintree CM7 3HF tel: 01376 347700*

Rev. Dr Peter Stevenson - from Jean Moody Great Totham URC

Did you know that on 11th March each year there is a tradition in Newark that names this day Penny Loaf Day. It was started following the death of Hercules Clay who, for three nights, dreamed that he saw his house on fire. So convinced was he of impending doom that he moved his family out. They had no sooner left the property, when a bomb fired by Parliamentary forces during the English Civil War, destroyed the house. As thanks for his lucky escape, Hercules left £100 in trust, to provide penny loaves for the poor of the town.

A question I often ask a family when I am arranging a funeral is whether anything unusual has happened around the time of their loved one's death. The family regularly tell stories of strange event occurring. When I went into my mother's bedroom following her death, I noticed that the bedside digital clock was flashing. On closer inspection the time added after the power to the timepiece was restored indicated it had turned off at exactly the time mum died.

A different, but significant phenomena happened after Dawn's mum died. A smoke alarm stored in a box tucked away in a garage suddenly started to sound. Dawn's mum was a secret smoker but we all knew she had crafty puffs and turned a blind eye. It was as if something was telling us that she was okay. The metaphysical world is a universe of unknown to me and while as a Christian I would be guarded about acknowledging a spirit world, there are many unexplained mysteries that folk share with me.

I suspect they are totally different, but when I read the gospels and the appearances of Jesus after his resurrection, I am struck by the possibility of describing these as paranormal. There are thirteen resurrection appearances in scripture: Mary Magdalene crying at the tomb; the other women returning from the tomb; Cleopas and another on the road to Emmaus; Peter in Jerusalem; the eleven disciples in Jerusalem; the ten

disciples without Thomas and the eleven disciples with Thomas; the seven disciples by the Lake of Galilee; the eleven disciples on a mountain receiving the Great Commandment; five hundred people at once; to James; the eleven disciples at Jesus' Ascension and appearing to Paul on the road to Damascus. But then, there are the countless stories throughout the ages of people then and now believing that they have encountered the risen Lord. How do describe these very real witnesses to the resurrected Jesus? Surely a thought to take you through Lent to the glorious Easter morning!

Jean Moody- Great Totham URC

'Pleased to share family news from Rev Dr Peter Stevenson , Stamford URC. Each month we receive a pastoral news letter from him (please see above) which we enjoy reading together with his fellowship.

Peter and his lovely wife Dawn have become grandparents for the first time.

Their daughter Faye has had a baby daughter, Eloise Jessica.

Congratulations and blessings to all the family.

For those of us who are grandparents ,we know the joy the first grandchild brings.'

Stamford marks Ukraine anniversary

A choir of Ukrainian refugees sang at an outdoor service to mark two years since the start of the war in Ukraine. The service was led by the Revd Peter Stevenson, minister of Stamford United Reformed Church, and the Revd Neil Shaw, Rector of All Saints Church in Stamford. The service outside Browne's Hospital in Stamford, was held on 24 February, the date of the Russian invasion in 2022 and featured contributions from Ukrainians who have sought refuge in the area.

Preachers at Great Totham URC in March

- March 3rd. Cyril Clarke from Maldon
- March 10th. Dot Dean from Maldon - Mothering Sunday
- March 17th. Trevor Andrews from Kelvedon
- March 24th. Sarah Wilson from Witham - Palm Sunday
- March 31st. Service at Witham URC - Easter Sunday

All are welcome to join us, our service begins at 10:30
You are also welcome to come along to our next coffee
morning March 9th at 10 am.

You will find us in Chapel Road,
Great Totham North , CM9 8DA

Minister	Minister	Lorna Bantock	571757
Children and Youth Pastor	Mrs	Viv Sollis	500958
Associate Children and Youth Pastor	Ms	Tracey Eagling	500958
Centre Manager	Mrs	Ana Martin	500958
Children & Youth Elder	Mr	Gavin McCall	
Church Secretaries (also Elders)	Mr Mrs	Tony Deighton and Muriel Heppinstall	518866
Discipleship Elder	Mr	David Wellings	
Mission and Growth Elders	Mrs Mr	Fenella Hardie Ian Hunt	
Pastoral Elder	Mrs	Sarah Wellings	
Property Elder	Mr	Billy Kennedy	
Church Treasurer (also Elder)	Mr	Ian Hardie	
Worship Elder	Mr	Keith Meredith	
Centre Director	Mrs	Fenella Hardie	
Kitchen Manager	Mrs	Heather March	500958
Community Cafe Pastoral co-ordinator	Mrs	Eve Murfitt	
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator	Mrs	Rosemary Stinson	516602
Pastoral Team Co-ordinator	Mrs	Ruth Blackett	07546 838825
Welcome Team Leaders	Mr Mrs	David Goodwin Mary Goodwin	davidgoodwin2009@hotmail.co.uk
Magazine Editors		Jo and Bob Stibbards	bjstibbards@gmail.com