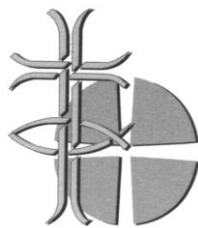


CHRIST CHURCH

United Reformed and Methodist

CHRIST CHURCH *LINK*

October 2025
November 2025



Prince Edward's Road
Lewes BN7 1BL

www.christ-church-lewes.org

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(Day off is Friday)

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The publication date is normally the final Sunday of the preceding month, and items for inclusion should be sent to the Secretary by the Wednesday before that date.

Church Office Telephone: 01273 488237



MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

From Rev. Barbara Evans-Routley

As I have been driving around recently, I have seen an awful lot of St George's Cross flags up on street lamps. Apart from marvelling at the commitment of climbing ladders that high to put them up, I have wondered what they say about who we are as a community, to feel the need to put flags up in this way. I've heard some people talking about wanting to be proud of their country and community. That seems a very fair statement. But I'm not entirely sure that we weren't proud in the first place.



For others their sense of identity is tied to the flag of their nation. We see this particularly when we are part of sporting events. For some nations it is part of their national identity to have their flag displayed in all sorts of ways. For British people that has often been linked with our sense of humour, who can forget the Spice Girls of the 90's or the people in Union Flag suits on days celebrating Royal events.

This time though, to me it has felt different. As much as I am proud to be British, there has felt to be an undertone to this celebration of our flag; an undertone that hasn't felt very British. Historically as a nation, we have been a mix of many nations, partly because we have experienced invasion by the Vikings and the Normans, partly because we at one time had an empire and

are now part of a Commonwealth. The use of the St George's flag though has felt exclusive and excluding. Not least, we are part of a united kingdom which has in itself diversity at its heart. And we can't forget of course that St George was a man from Cappadocia (modern day Türkiye) who never came to Britain. Given this huge cultural mix, where do we find our identity?

Inevitably, as Christians, we find it in the cross. Not St George's, but Christ's. At the heart of St George's flag is that cross, a cross that speaks of unconditional love and sacrifice. The cross that we are marked with at our baptism marks us indelibly for life, with a sign that someone loved us so much, that they were willing to give up their life so that we could have life in all its fullness. That unconditional love isn't about where we are born, but who we belong to. Every denomination's baptism service speaks of Christ's love for us. The Methodists put it like this:

"For you, Jesus Christ came into the world. For you he lived and showed God's love. For you he suffered death on the cross. For you he triumphed over death rising to newness of life. For you he lives and prays at God's right hand. All this for you before you could know anything of it. In your baptism the words of scripture are fulfilled, "we love because God first loved us"."

This is what it is all about, we love because God loves us. It is wrong then to use the cross to exclude and not to share God's love. Christ died for us, before we could know anything of it. This is prevenient grace – literally pre-existing grace, which was given for us before we were born. It wasn't earned, it wasn't applied to a particular nation or people, or to someone who could earn it or be worthy of it, but to everyone. This is our faith, that God loves us all, regardless of who we are. And, if God offers us this grace, then we are expected to offer it to others, to love others, because we have been loved by God first. Not everyone welcomes this idea, but St George's cross should be a reminder that all are welcome, because we are welcome, and no one person is excluded from God's love.

Barbara

EDUCATION SUNDAY



For well over one hundred years, there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales. It is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education.

The theme is devised by an ecumenical steering group representing different Christian denominations and organisations.

Since 2016, it has been celebrated on the second Sunday in September, coinciding with the start of the school year (prior to this it was celebrated on the ninth Sunday before Easter). The resources are intended to be used as a springboard for a variety of events on or around Education Sunday.

This year Education Sunday fell on 14 September and “Lost and Found” was the theme. However, we will be having a “Second Sunday” service on this theme on October 12

We will be looking at the well-known parables from Luke’s Gospel, the parable of the lost sheep and the parable of the lost coin (Luke 15.1-10).

In our schools, colleges and universities, there are many young people who feel lost, or appear to be lost. This can be because the institutions are so big that they don’t feel noticed, because don’t feel they fit with the expectations of the institution or their peers or because of the unseen struggles at home. Others appear to us to be lost because of the way they behave or fail to engage.

Our churches are wonderful resources in local communities, and this year we encourage you to think about how our church can build relationships with local schools, colleges or universities.

FROM THE SECRETARIES

September's Church Council meeting, held on Wednesday 24th, took the form of a discussion between Barbara, our new minister, and members of Church Council on the **current mission and work programme of Christ Church and our priorities for the coming year**. This was a good chance to get to know one another and thinking for the future direction of the church here in Lewes

After endorsement at the Congregational Meeting in early August, we submitted an **application for grant from the URC Southern Synod's Strategic Mission Fund (SMF)**. This application is to enable us to make long-term appointments (up to five years) for a Lay Worker (to replace Claire after she retires) and an Administrative Support worker. Both posts are part-time. Our application went to the SMF Panel meeting on September 17 and we are very pleased to report that it was successful and that we can now commence the recruitment process for two part-time posts. The Synod grant aid will provide £15,000 a year for five years, allowing us to finance these posts through to early 2031.

We will need to appoint a **Recruitment Panel** to oversee the process of:

- preparing information packs for interested persons
- placing advertisements on social media
- responding to queries from potential applicants
- assessing applications and shortlisting
- interviewing shortlisted candidates
- follow up with preferred candidates and feedback to others

Church Council considered this matter at its meeting on September 24, and has appointed Barbara, Claire, Neil and Lindsay to serve on the Panel

We held a successful **Community BBQ** at Christ Church on **Wednesday 30 July, organised with our friends from the Lewes Community Food Partnership (LCFP)**. The event was attended by around 50 people on a warm day. The clouds threatened rain, but fortunately it stayed dry. This enabled us to make full use of the garden, with chairs and tables outside, close to our

BBQ kitchen pictured below. Our BBQ chefs looked the part, with the aprons and hats.



Inside, we had some children's activities organised by Ian and Judy Christie-Miller. These were very much appreciated by the children, particularly those having great fun making animal face masks. Thank you to Ian and Judy, and to all our other volunteers who helped on the day.

We have another community event in partnership with LCFP at a **Harvest Celebration** during the autumn half-term on the afternoon of **Wednesday October 29**. More details to follow.



Congratulations to **Vivian** on her school exam success this summer. She is now starting a course in hospitality management in Nairobi, Kenya. The course will include work placements in both Kenya and further afield. We wish her well on her new course, which we hope will set her up for a rewarding career.

Neil Fisher, Church Secretary

Lindsay Frost, Administrative Secretary

CHRIST CHURCH WALKS



A summer day on the Anchor Bridge at Barcombe

Our **August walk** on Sunday 17th enjoyed beautiful summer weather. This attracted 11 of us + 1 dog for a walk in the Ouse Valley. We started from **Isfield** and set off down through the fields to the river. We picked up the Sussex Ouse Way (which follows the river from source to sea), close to a memorial sign to James Smith (alias “Jim the Fish”), the bailiff of the river in these parts for more than 50 years, till his passing in 2021.

We followed the river down to the bridge at the Anchor Inn, a visitor “hot spot” due to its pub, large garden and boats/paddleboards for hire. The picture above shows our group at the Anchor Bridge. We stopped at the ice cream kiosk there for welcome refreshments in the warm summer sun. We then cut away from the river, before heading north across the river floodplain and then back to Isfield. The hedgerows were laden with blackberries: the hot and dry summer has produced a marvellous crop of soft fruit this year.

The **September walk** on Sunday 20th was at **Streat**. It was cool but dry day. The walk started near the village church and, next door, the magnificent early 17th century mansion of Streat Place. It then followed the greensand ridge east towards Plumpton, with the ridge’s modest elevation affording wonderful views south



Streat Place

towards the Downs, the Streat "V" (trees planted on the north-facing escarpment of the Downs to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887) and Plumpton Cross (which commemorates the Battle of Lewes in 1264). The route then turned north, skirting Plumpton Racecourse. By chance, there was a race meeting on at Plumpton and we saw horses and jockeys heading up to the top of the course and the start of their race. The walkers then had to negotiate a string of stiles as they crossed the fields back up to Streat.



The October walk is on Sunday 19. Meet at the church at 1.30 p.m for car sharing. The planned route starts from Telscombe village (near the church) and we will walk down, and then back up, Telscombe Tye, an area of common land with great views out to sea. It is about 3 miles / 5 km long.

The November walk is on Sunday 16. Meet at the church at 1.00 p.m. (the afternoons are getting shorter by then) for car sharing and then begin the walk at the Lower Lodges Car Park in **Stanmer Park**. Our walk will go north into the Downs, overlooking the University of Sussex campus, before returning via Stanmer village, for a tea stop. Again, this is a distance of around 3 miles /5 km.

The very full calendar in December means that we will not arrange a walk that month, but will resume with our traditional New Years' Day walk to Mount Caburn on the morning of Thursday January 1.

URC SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

The URC Safeguarding Team is running a series of short, online, safeguarding sessions that might be of interest to you. The following events are taking place;

- Thursday 9th October 1:30pm: **Spiritual Abuse**
- Monday 17th November 1:00pm: **Online Safety**
- Thursday 20th November 7:00pm: **DDC Verifier and Safer Recruitment (DBS in England & Wales).**

To book your place on one of these courses, please email
emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

The **United Reformed Church Safeguarding Symposium** is taking place on **Zoom** on **Wednesday 15th October** from 1:30pm-3:45pm. A schedule for the event can be found below.

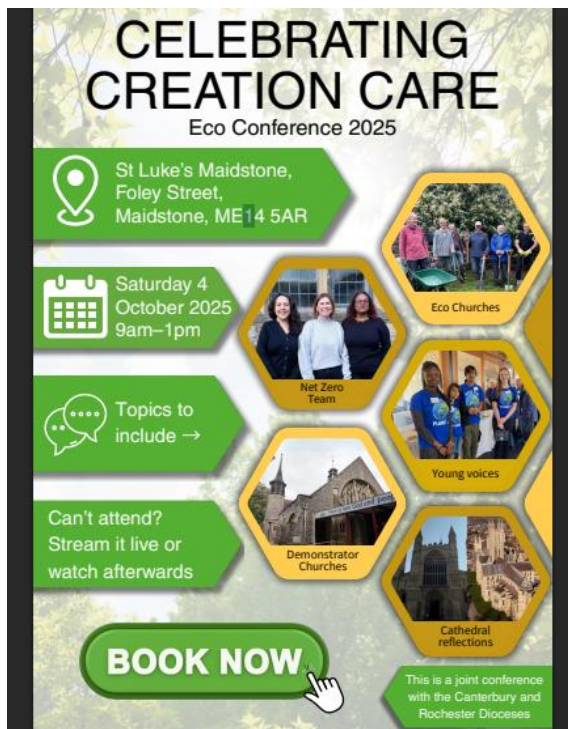
1:30-1:45	Welcome from Sharon Barr (Designated Lead Safeguarding Officer) and reflection from Revd Roger Jones.
1:45-2:30	Presentation of the new Safeguarding training matrix from Carrie Kunda, and key DBS/PVG updates from Dr Kerry Baker.
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-3:30	Domestic Abuse in Churches, led by Bekah Legg, CEO of Restored UK.
3:30-3:45	Round Up and Thank you's

Tickets can be found at the QR code or link below.



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/urc-safeguarding-symposium-2025-tickets-1437228040759?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD / CHURCH OF ENGLAND ECO CONFERENCE 2025



This is a joint conference hosted by Canterbury and Rochester Dioceses, coming together to celebrate and share our commitment to creation care.

We are delighted to be welcomed by St Luke's, Maidstone who will showcase the amazing journey they have taken to decarbonise their church.

The programme will feature:

- Talk from A Rocha Trustee and URC Green Apostle
- Insights from three of our Gold Award Eco Churches

- Contributions from our children and young people
- Updates from our Net Zero team
- Reflections from Rochester and Canterbury Cathedrals

There will be opportunities to network, ask questions and exchange ideas with passionate people from across the region.

More information

- A full agenda will be shared closer to the event.
- The church is accessible with step-free access and facilities.
- Please let us know if you require accessible parking.
- Light refreshments will be provided (all vegetarian/vegan)
- The closest train station is Maidstone East (12 minute walk). For a map and more information about how to access the venue please visit the St Luke's "getting here" information page. Please note onsite parking is limited.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact the Net Zero team at netzero@rochester.anglican.org

A MESSAGE FROM RUTH AND ANDREW MILLS

Thank you for all the prayers for our daughter Amy, son-in-law Tom, and baby Maisie when she was born and faced surgery for a tumour around her spine

Thank you for sponsoring them as they challenged themselves to raise money for the hospital unit who are supporting them on Maisie's journey (The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital) .This involved a sponsored walk every day during May 2025 and raised nearly £2,000. Maisie is now doing great and hitting all her milestones.

Love to you all from Ruth and Andrew XX



Tom, Amy and Maisie and a big fund-raising cheque for RMCH

LEWES BEREAVEMENT CIRCLE

The Lewes Bereavement Circle (LBC) are still meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 1.50pm – 3pm, at the Lewes House of Friendship (LHOF) on School Hill, Lewes

Holiday times can be particularly difficult for people following the death of a friend or loved one, and we are here to offer a warm welcome in a safe space, for bereaved people to come and share your memories, challenges and meet other people who are walking a similar path to yourself.

LBC is a free self-support group, based at the LHOF, with three facilitators, one of which is a practising councillor, who run the circle.

Anyone is welcome to come and join us and through peer support our aim is that their grief journey is made a little easier. There is no commitment to come each month, and attendees can stay for a short or long time, depending on how they feel on that particular day.

We have been running for well over a year now and thought we would like to try and reach even more people going through bereavement, this time in a slightly more informal way, and with so many bereavement stages and circumstances leading to being bereaved it's never going to be appropriate for everyone, and this is something that we are very aware of.

There is no judgement, grief hierarchy, racist, homophobic or inappropriate behaviour, tolerated within the circle

Please bear in mind each month will have a different vibe to it, as the people attending will vary from month to month.

Everyone who has attended any of our previous meeting is more than welcome to come back, to reconnect with us and others going through their bereavement journey.

We look forward to meeting anyone that you feel might benefit from joining us and hope that you will pass on our details to any of your clients, parishioners, friends, patients and family members.

The email to contact us for further information is

abisaunderscounselling@gmail.com

THE CREATION

When God had made the earth and sky
the flowers and the trees,
He then made all the animals
And all the birds and bees.
And when his work was finished
not one was quite the same.
He said, "I'll walk this earth of mine
and give each one a name."
And so He travelled land and sea
and everywhere He went,
a little creature followed Him
until its strength was spent.
When all were named upon the earth
and in the sky and sea,
the little creature said, "Dear Lord,
there's not one left for me."
The Father smiled and softly said
"I've left you to the end.
I've turned my own name back to front
and called you dog, My friend."

Suggested by Joy Tasker, author unknown

NEWS FROM CTLA

Churches Together in the Lewes Area Prayer Chain

CTLA has decided to start a Prayer Chain under which CTLA churches will pray for another local church each month. Christ Church is the first church to feature in the initiative. Claire Bell is the Prayer Link for Christ Church. She will gather items for prayer and praise to be circulated to the other CTLA churches who want to take part in the Prayer Chain. We will use these in our monthly CTLA prayer meeting on the third Saturday of the month. October's prayers will include thanks for the appointment of Rev Barbara as our minister, the awarding of the grant under the Strategic Mission Fund and prayers for the success of our recruitment process for the lay worker and administrator roles, our Ukrainian friends and their families and supporters, Fitzjohn's Food Club, Christ Church Tots, and our forthcoming Autumn Harvest Community Celebration on 29 October.

Please let Claire have any items for prayer and praise as soon as possible.

LEWES CHRISTIAN ARTS

'WAYS OF LIGHT': SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 (SAVE THE DATE !)

Let there be light....and sound and art!

Lewes Christian Arts, born out of the Lewes Passion Play charity, is organising a community arts event to celebrate the time of year when starlight brightens and darkness deepens.

The event will consist of:

- Art and Craft afternoon,
- Early evening family lantern procession
- Evening of music, choral singing, dance, mime, visual art, and dramatic readings

All the above events will take place in the beautifully lit **Southover Church, Lewes.**

THINKTANK

Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 7.30 pm

Dr Susan Conway

will be speaking on

“Education and conserving material culture in Myanmar”

Dr Susan Conway is a Research Associate at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. Her areas of specialisation include material culture, the protection of endangered cultural heritage, conservation and preservation, museum education in Southeast Asia, female employment in indigenous culture projects, Theravada Buddhist material culture in Thailand and Myanmar.

THOUGHT FROM THE LAYWORKER

On 7 September 2025 a service of significance took place at Cross Way Church in Seaford, an Area Service to mark, among other things, the beginning of Reverend Barbara Evans-Routley as the minister of Cross Way and Christ Church. We shared fellowship and refreshments together after the Area service. In September we also had a Harvest Lunch here at Christ Church after the Harvest service on 14 September. There are many ways to mark such events but sharing meals with those with whom we share worship seems such an appropriate way to do this.

In the Christian Aid Harvest resources for this year, it was suggested that we think about what Jesus would have in a lunchbox at a harvest picnic. Possibilities suggested included love, justice, faith, hope, kindness, generosity, patience, care, compassion, joy, peace, gentleness, selflessness. It is a good moment to give thanks for the love, justice, faith, hope, kindness, generosity, patience, care, compassion, joy, peace, gentleness and selflessness we have seen in the life of our church.

We are encouraged to think about the things in the life of our church that we want to give thanks for and those things we need to pray for, in the new initiative from the Churches Together in the Lewes Area, a Prayer Chain in which each church will pray for another given local church each month. The church chosen for October is Christ Church and we have suggested thanks for

- the appointment of Rev Barbara Evans-Routley as our minister
- the awarding of the grant under the Strategic Mission Fund

and prayers for

- the success of our recruitment process for the lay worker and administrator roles
- our Ukrainian friends and their families and supporters
- Fitzjohn's Food Club
- Christ Church Tots
- our forthcoming Autumn Harvest Community Celebration on 29 Oct.

We will be praying for the other churches in Lewes in the coming months and I will be circulating the prayer points each month. Feel free to join us at the prayer meeting on Zoom on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 8am to 9am.

God bless, Claire

Church Calendar for October 2025

- Wed 1 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Thu 2 7.30 pm Pastoral Leaders meeting on Zoom
- Fri 3 9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 5 10.30 am Morning worship led by Rev Keith Morrison
- Wed 8 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 1.30 pm Bible Study
 7.30 pm Church Council
- Fri 10 9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 12 9.30 am Prayer Meeting in the Quiet Room
 10.30 am Second Sunday worship
- Wed 15 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Thu 16 7.30 pm Mission Committee
- Fri 17 9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 19 10.30 am Morning worship led by Rev Dr Richard Goldring
 1 pm Church Walk
- Wed 22 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 1.30 pm Bible Study
- Sun 26 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion
 led by Gwyneth Watkinson
- Wed 29 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 3 pm - 5 pm Community Harvest Celebration

Church Calendar for November 2025

- Sun 2 10.30 am Morning worship led by Tom Lunt
 12 noon Congregational Meeting
- Wed 5 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Sun 9 9.30 am Prayer Meeting in the Quiet Room
 10.30 am Second Sunday - Remembrance Sunday
- Wed 12 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 1.30 pm Bible Study
 7.30 pm Church Council
- Sun 16 10.30 am Morning worship
 led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley
 1 pm Church Walk
- Wed 19 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 7.30 pm Thinktank
- Sat 22 “Ways of Light” event at Southover Church (see p13)
- Sun 23 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion
 led by Rev Dr Richard Goldring
- Wed 26 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 1.30 pm Bible Study
- Sun 30 10.30 am Advent Sunday worship with Cross Way
 led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley

Rotas for October 2025

	5	12	19	26
Welcoming	Linda B	Brenda	Janet	Graham
Vestry Steward	Alison	Alison	Alison	Alison
Coffee	Brenda & Pam	Janet & Glenda	Judy & Ian	Rod & Aly
PowerPoint	Tom	Tom	Graham / Neil	Irene
Organ	David	Second Sunday	David	Norman

Rotas for November 2025

	2	9	16	23	30
		Remembrance Sunday			Advent Sunday
Welcoming	Andrew	Linda B	Janet	Graham	Andrew
Vestry	Brenda	Brenda	Brenda	Brenda	Brenda
Coffee	Glenda & Alan	Lindsay & Viv	Linda B & Janet	Judy & Ian	Rod & Aly
PowerPoint	Tom / Neil	Neil	Irene	Graham / Neil	Neil
Organ	Norman	Second Sunday	David	Norman	Norman

CHRIST CHURCH

(United Reformed and Methodist)
seeks to proclaim the Gospel and serve
the community around it.

The Minister, Layworker and Church
Council members would appreciate
information about those who need
pastoral care and will endeavour to
answer the questions of those who want
to know more about the Church's life and
witness here in Lewes.