

CHRIST CHURCH

United Reformed and Methodist

CHRIST CHURCH
LINK

April 2026

May 2026



Prince Edward's Road

Lewes BN7 1BL

www.christ-church-lewes.org



MINISTER

Rev Barbara Evans-Routley

(Day off is Friday)

Tel: 07948 119787

Email: barbaraevansroutley@gmail.com

LAY WORKER

Hannah Clark

Tel: 07915805072

Email: layworker@christ-church-lewes.org

CHURCH SECRETARY

Neil Fisher (to 10 May)

Tel: 01273 471487

Tom Lunt (from 10 May)

Tel: 07773 784418

Email: secretary@christ-church-lewes.org

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Lindsay Frost

Tel: 01273 486448

Email: secretary@christ-church-lewes.org

CHURCH TREASURER

Irene Gannon

Tel: 01273 813003

Email: treasurer@christ-church-lewes.org

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



As I write we are about to enter Holy Week and follow Jesus on his journey to the cross and beyond. During this time, Christians are traditionally invited to reflect on what God has done for us, in giving us a story of love. Except, it doesn't feel like it is a story about love, when it involves the main character dying at the will of the protagonist. And so it can be hard sometimes to describe why the cross is proof that God loves us.

In the weeks leading up to Easter, known as Lent, we have a series of readings in church that help us understand what this is all about. One of those is the story of a Samaritan woman at a well. Jesus meets her there and asks her for a drink. A long conversation follows and the final result is that ultimately the woman discovers salvation, becomes a follower and can be credited for the conversion of an entire village. Not bad for just one conversation. So, let's take a closer look at what happens in the story.

The story starts with Jesus going into a Samaritan village. This isn't normal, as Jews and Samaritans didn't get on. Unfortunately religious differences have caused so many divisions over the centuries, and this is one of those occasions. So the fact that Jesus is in the village is odd in itself.

He asks the woman for a drink. Again, slightly odd, as unrelated men and women didn't mix in case it gave them a bad reputation. It is even more extraordinary as it turns out the woman has been married many times. Most likely she has been widowed repeatedly, but it could have been divorce. Either way it doesn't really matter, the stigma is there and she is shamed by the community. We know this because she is collecting water at a well at a very odd time of day – when no one else would be around. It's a bit like looking out of your windows to check your neighbours aren't around before popping into the garden or taking the bins out.

Despite her surprise that he is talking to her, her manners override the situation, and she goes and fetches a bucket from a neighbour so that she can get Jesus a drink. So, before her conversation really gets going, her restoration to the village is beginning because she is no longer isolated from everyone else. Relationships with others is what cures shame. She was made to feel ashamed of her life because she had multiple relationships. But Jesus is giving her a way to overcome that, to literally give her life back to her.

A conversation follows about water and where to find it. And about where “proper” worship should take place (an old conversation between Jews and Samaritans – a bit like debating if you should follow the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Pope). This is all very interesting stuff, but not the most important bit. After all it is no different to many other encounters Jesus has. This one is different though because of the effect it has on the woman. It is in this conversation that it comes out about her home situation and her social status. Jesus knows who she is – and from this conversation she works out that he is a prophet. So, if he is a prophet, and he already knows who she is and her “reputation”, then why is he talking to her?

Well, because to Jesus that stuff doesn't matter. Why shouldn't he talk to her? She is loved by God just as much as everyone else. And she is probably open to God's love more than most people because she feels loved the least. And because she is so overwhelmed at this, she immediately goes and runs and tells everyone in the village about this man she has just met. She is so open to his message that she can't keep it inside once she has heard it. She just has to tell everyone else.

And that is the lesson for us. The message of Jesus, of the Gospel, is that because of God's love we experience redemption. Because of redemption there is hope.

Redemption for this woman was the end of her stigmatisation, her shame. She was restored to the people in the village and redeemed because she was the one who showed them the Messiah. No longer will she be known as the woman with five previous husbands, but as

the women that showed them the Messiah. That is quite a change of reputation.

And this is the sad bit. Somehow, over the years the message that God's love is literally for everyone has sometimes got lost, disappearing in judgement and shame. But that is not the message of the gospel. The message is that God loves you and because of God's love we can be restored.

How many of us live with shame because we feel we don't live up to some perceived standard? Because we are not bright enough, good enough, thin enough, quick enough, polished enough, compassionate enough – and the list goes on? Shame is one of the most pervasive factors in our communities today. So many people feel that they are not good enough to be loved, by God or people. And it is destroying us, as people and as communities. Shame is destroying us and the only counter to it is not yet more rules to follow and lots of judgement, but Love. God's love.

So let us learn our lesson from this reading which starts out with a story of a woman's shame, but finishes with a story of redemption, restoration and love. It is the same story we see with the cross. And it can be our story too – God can end our shame if we allow ourselves to be loved by God. This Easter, as we hear the story of Jesus on the cross again and we are told that it was because he loved us, let us hear that story as one just for us. He loves us. And he wants us to live full and free lives because we are loved – not judged or shamed, but loved. Hurrah. May you be blessed this Holy Week and Happy Easter when it comes.

Barbara

FROM THE SECRETARIES

This April – May edition of **CC Link** is published as we start Holy Week, remembering Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem , His farewell to His disciples at the Last Supper , His betrayal , arrest and arraignment before Pilate and His horrific death by crucifixion on Good Friday. All seemed lost for Christ's followers, but was transformed by His joyous Resurrection on Easter Day. This is at the core of our Christian faith. Here is **our Easter programme** (Services are at Christ Church unless otherwise indicated)

Sunday March 29: 10.30 a.m. Palm Sunday service led by Rev. Barbara Evans – Routley

Thursday April 2: 7.00 p.m. United Worship for Maundy Thursday at St. Barnabas United Church , 34 Kingfisher Drive , Eastbourne BN23 7RL including music, hymns , readings and Holy Communion

Friday 3 April: 10.30 a.m. Good Friday service led by Rev. Dr. Richard Goldring

6.00 p.m. Good Friday Walk of Witness by churches together in Lewes leaving St. Pancras RC Church in High Street , Lewes and walking to Convent field , Lewes

Sunday April 5 10.30 a.m. Easter Day service including Holy Communion led by Rev. Tricia Williams

Claire Bell retires from her role as our Lay Worker at the end of March. She has occupied the post over the last four years since spring 2022 and made it indispensable to our church and its mission, introducing many new initiatives. We plan to say a thank you to Claire at our Easter Day service.

Since January, Claire has been working alongside our new Lay Worker, **Hannah Clark**, and introducing her to the varied programme of work and key people with whom she will be working. Hannah has made a great start and we wish her well as she takes over the full responsibilities of the post. Please support Hannah in your prayers.

One of the things Hannah is working on is how we communicate with each other and with the local community and how we market ourselves in seeking to “grow the church”. We are setting up a small working group on this and they will report back to Church Council in the next couple of months. We already have a **new monitor screen** in the concourse area, with a rolling programme of information on the church and the various activities which go on here. This will be updated frequently to keep it fresh and up-to-date.

Over recent weeks, we have rebranded our Ukraine café on Wednesday mornings as the **Community Cuppa** and extended our invitation to the whole local community to pop in for a free coffee or tea and chat. All members of the Christ Church congregation are encouraged to come along on Wednesday mornings and help in providing a warm welcome to anyone popping in for a cuppa.

Thank you to Hannah for all her work on these projects.

The Congregational Meeting (incorporating the Annual Church Meeting) is on Sunday May 3 at around 11.45 a.m., immediately after the morning service on that day. Please make every effort to attend. As part of the meeting, we will be electing a new **Church Secretary** as Neil is standing down after an 11 year stint in the job. After doing some soundings, **Tom Lunt** has agreed to put his name forward for this role and this will need to be considered by the meeting. As well as Neil, Lindsay and Glenda will also come to the end of their three-year terms on Church Council, though both are eligible to stand again. We also have several other **vacancies on Church Council**. If you feel you are being called to help here, or feel there is some other member who would be a good member, please speak to one of us and we will be happy to tell you more about the role in the next week or two. We will then put names forward for endorsement by ballot of church members

It is sad to record the death of **Rev Robert Bell** aged 90 on March 2. Robert was Rector of St John sub Castro, Lewes from 1978 to 1990. Although an ordained C of E minister, Robert and his wife frequently worshipped at Christ Church after his retirement. His funeral will be on Friday April 10 at 2.00 p.m. St Anne's Lewes and a wake will follow during the afternoon here at Christ Church. All who knew Robert are welcome.

Looking ahead, **Christian Aid Week** is from Sunday 10 to Saturday 16 May. As well as our usual collection rounds in the Wallands area of Lewes, we are this year expanding into the Nevill Estate. We already have several volunteers to enable us to do this, but need more volunteers if we are to cover the entire estate. If you can help, please contact Lindsay Frost

Neil Fisher, Church Secretary

Lindsay Frost Administrative Secretary

JOIN US FOR THE

SOUTHERN SYNOD BIG DAY OUT!

**SATURDAY
20TH JUNE
10.00AM TO 4.00PM**

**TICKETS
£5**

**SHIRES OAST AT
THE HOP FARM
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
TN12 6PY**

WORSHIP TOGETHER

INFLATABLES FOR ALL THE FAMILY

PRAYER & REFLECTION

POP UP CHOIR

CREATION STATIONS

TICKET INCLUDES A BURGER & SOFT DRINK, WITH
ADDITIONAL FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE TO BUY AT THE BAR

The United Reformed Church
Southern Synod

Information on the URC Southern Synod's "Big day Out "at Beltring Hop Farm, near Tunbridge Wells in Kent on Saturday 20 June are set out on the poster above

Tickets are available online at

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/urcsouthernsynodtrustltd/2030985>

CHARITIES FOR 2026

The Congregational Meeting on 1 February agreed that HOMELINK should be the home charity for 2026. There were two suggestions for the overseas charity, both for charities working in Kenya, to reflect the good work that Karen has done with Vivian. It was agreed to defer the decision to the next Congregational meeting so that more information could be supplied in the Link.

The first suggestion was the **Epaphras Trust** a British based charity working in Kenya, which partners with the organisation Stewardship, which is the organisation that also supports Karen

The **Epaphras Trust** provides grants for the education and care of orphans, primarily in Kenya. Through dedicated support, they enable children from poor backgrounds to access a quality education, gifting hope and inspiration to communities despairing of a better future for the next generation.

They work alongside schools and local initiatives to offer a hand up with compassion. The organisation they work with is called **Kenya Thriving**, which has launched an initiative to provide educational opportunities for orphaned and underprivileged children in Kenya. This program focuses on enrolling these children in boarding schools, ensuring they receive quality education within a supportive environment.

To learn more about the Epaphras trust go to <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20497302> and <https://kenyathriving.com/>



The second suggestion was **Harambee for Kenya**.

The name is derived from the Swahili word *Harambee*, meaning "all pull together," **Harambee for Kenya** is a UK-registered charity dedicated to transforming the lives of street children in Kenya. Founded in 2007, the organization provides a lifeline for boys who have been orphaned by disease, abandoned, or forced into homelessness by extreme poverty.

What they do:

- **Safe Shelter:** The charity operates safe houses in Kisii and Meru, providing a stable home for children who previously scavenged for food and slept on the streets.
- **Education & Healthcare:** Beyond meeting basic needs like food and clothing, they ensure every child receives an education and medical care to help them reach their full potential.
- **Restoring Dignity:** Inspired by the vision of 1 Samuel 2:8, the charity aims to "lift the needy from the ash heap" and help these young men become valued, independent members of society.

Harambee for Kenya is run almost entirely by volunteers, meaning donations go directly toward the children's care and education. It costs approximately £2,000 per month to maintain their safe houses and support the 70+ boys currently in their care.

To learn more, sponsor a child, or make a donation, please visit:

www.harambeeforkenya.org



CHRIST CHURCH WALKS

Our **February walk** in Brighton on Sunday 15th was cancelled due to the incessant winter rains at that time, so we are re-arranging the walk for April (see below)

We had better luck for our **March walk** on Sunday 22nd, with high level cloud and watery sunshine for our walk over Telcombe Tye. The Tye is a large area of common land which sweeps down from the small downland village of Telscombe to the sea. Some spring flowers, hovering skylarks and a small enclosure of grazing pigs were the highlights of our walk down to the sea. There we climbed down to the foreshore around the old (now disused) “long sea outfall” for the former Portobello sewage works serving the east side of Brighton. Sea caves are also evident in the chalky cliffs down there.

On the return leg, we saw a strange and rare atmospheric phenomenon called “cloud iridescence”. This occurs in a cloud in close proximity to the sun or moon, leaving a small rainbow like coloured arc. The sun’s light is refracted by high level water drops or ice crystals to generate the colours on the edges of the clouds.



Team photo on cliff top at Portobello



Cloud iridescence

On **Sunday April 19** we will attempt our **Brighton city centre** walk again. Andrew Buxton will take us to “**Unexplored Brighton – from the Clock Tower to the Greenway**”. Meet at Prison Cross Roads bus stop to catch 1324 bus to Brighton, arriving Churchill Square at 1359. We will start from the Clock tower around 2.00 p.m. and see various places of interest en route, including some public art. Bring your bus pass if you have one.

Our walk on **Sunday May 17** will take us to **Chailey Common**. This is one of the largest areas of common land in SE England, and is protected for its heather heathland and its bird and insect communities. More about Chailey Common can be found here:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisure-tourism/countryside-sites/chailey-common-about>



We will meet at the church for car share at 1.30 pm and set off from Red House Common Car Park in Warrs Hill Road Chailey BN8 4JE at 2.00 p.m. The walk is around 2 miles /3 km. over fairly easy terrain.

Lindsay Frost

IDEA FOR A SUMMER OUTING

IDEA FOR A SUMMER OUTING – KNEPP ESTATE

Over recent years, we have arranged a summer Saturday outing a little further afield for one of our monthly walks.

This year, I would like to propose a visit to the **Knepp Re-Wilding Project**, which is in the countryside between Horsham and Worthing in West Sussex RH13 0NQ on **Saturday June 13**, leaving Lewes late morning and getting back early evening, travelling there by car share

The Project began in 2000 with the idea of letting nature recover and take over on the 3500 acre estate. Since then, life has poured back to Knepp, including nightingales, turtle doves, and purple emperor butterflies. Roaming herds of cattle, ponies, pigs and deer shape the landscape creating dynamic scrubland, wild meadows, wetland and wood pasture. Storks and beavers are there too.

Knepp has places to eat, a shop and sustainable gardens to see. There are safari trips with guides available, and you can also just walk around the estate at leisure to take it all in.

Therefore, this is a trip for everyone, not just those who want to do a walk of about 3 miles /5 km to see what we can find.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Here are the Knepp web sites

<https://knepp.co.uk/>

<https://knepp.co.uk/footpath-maps/>

Lindsay Frost

SECOND SUNDAY SERVICES

Our Second Sunday service on March 8 was on the theme of the “Woman at the Well”, which we explored with several water related activities, among them the construction of this water chute.



This required all the engineering expertise we could muster to construct the chute from a combination of plastic blocks, plastic sheets and kitchen foil.

We take the transmission of clean pure water for granted, but this exercise showed just how difficult it can be.

THINKTANK

Wednesday 20 May 2026 at 7.30 pm

Ian Christie-Mille

will be speaking on

"The light shyneth in darkness - William Tyndale, 1536 "

Warning - some of the content of this talk might well distress some listeners.

Ian will look at the impact that Tyndale's work made originally and its contemporary significance. Exactly 500 years ago William Tyndale produced the first-ever English printed New Testament. 80 percent of it went straight into the 1611 King James Authorised Version. Tyndale is a man of our times, as even today all speakers of English use his phrases - the powers that be - clear-eyed - and many more. Tyndale, like many others, by his unflinching death, (in his case by strangling and burning) remains a supreme example to our contemporary world.



from Fox's Book of Martyrs.

The Lewes Area Churches Prayer Chain

Christ Church is a link in the Lewes Area Churches Prayer Chain.

This month we are praying for St Pancras Church in Lewes

They request the prayers for the following St Pancras intentions:

- For the adults being Baptised here this Easter.
- For our parish outreach initiatives to the local community.
- For the prisoners and their families to whom we minister.
- In thanksgiving for the presence of so many young families.
- In thanksgiving for the fruits of our young adults' ministry.
- In gratitude for being part of this joyful community of faith.
- For the election of a new Bishop for our Diocese.
- For the success of the pastoral reorganisation of our Diocese.

Liz Lunt

Reflections on the end of an era

As I come to the end of my role at Christ Church as your lay worker I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for trusting me with this role. I never imagined when I first stepped through the church doors in March 2018 as a new arrival in East Sussex that I would find myself carrying out this kind of work for this church. I was newly retired from my role as a partner in a law firm in the centre of Nottingham and adjusting to a very different life, and the friendship and support I found at Christ Church helped me (and my mum) to adjust to life in and around Lewes.

My role as lay worker has allowed us to journey together as a church through interesting times, working with other Lewes churches where we could, responding to the Ukraine war and the flood of families who arrived needing support, the cost of living crisis and being involved in the Lewes District Council's various initiatives to assist our community, and running community celebrations in conjunction with Fitzjohns Community Food, to name just a few of the many activities I have had the opportunity to get involved with.

I know that I am handing the baton on to very safe hands with Hannah now in post and as we complete the recruitment process for the Administrative Support Worker. I look forward to being a part of the development of the work at Christ Church from the position of an ordinary church member (and occasionally leading worship as a Methodist Local Preacher).

God bless you all

Claire

Church Calendar for April 2026

- Wed 1 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Fri 3 10 am Good Friday worship led by Rev Dr Richard Goldring
6 pm CTLA Walk of Witness from St.Pancras to the Mount
- Sun 5 10.30 am Easter Day worship with Holy Communion led by
Rev Tricia Williams
- Wed 8 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Fri 10 8 am - 9 am Contemplative Prayer in the church
- Sun 12 9.30 am Prayer Meeting in the Quiet Room
10.30 am Second Sunday worship
- Tue 14 7.30 pm Mission Committee
- Wed 15 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
7.30 pm Church Council (discussion)
- Fri 17 8 am - 9 am Contemplative Prayer in the church
9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 19 10.30 am Morning worship led by Brenda and Norman Vance
1 pm Church Walk
- Wed 22 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Fri 24 8 am - 9 am Contemplative Prayer in the church
9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 26 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion led by
Gwyneth Watkinson
- Wed 29 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting

Church Calendar for May 2026

- Fri 1 8 am - 9 am Contemplative Prayer in the church
9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 3 10.30 am Morning worship led by Ian Srodzinski
- Wed 6 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Fri 8 8 am - 9 am Contemplative Prayer in the church
9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 10 9.30 am Prayer Meeting in the Quiet Room
10.30 am Second Sunday worship
11.45 am Congregational Meeting (AGM)
- Wed 13 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
7.30 pm Church Council (business)
- Fri 15 8 am - 9 am Contemplative Prayer in the church
9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 17 10.30 am Morning worship led by
Rev Barbara Evans-Routley
1 pm Church Walk
- Wed 20 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
7.30 pm Thinktank
- Fri 22 8 am - 9 am Contemplative Prayer in the church
9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 24 10.30 am Pentecost worship led by Gwyneth Watkinson
- Wed 27 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Fri 27 8 am - 9 am Contemplative Prayer in the church
- Sun 31 10.30 am Morning worship led by Rev Dr Richard Goldring

Rotas for April 2026

	3	5	12	19	26
	Good Friday	Easter Day			
Preacher	Goldring	Williams	2nd Sunday	Vances	Watkinson
Welcoming	Janet	Linda B	Andrew	Graham	Brenda
Vestry	Lindsay	Lindsay	Lindsay	Lindsay	Lindsay
Coffee		Judy & Ian	Brenda & Alison	Brian & Joan	Glenda & Alan
PowerPoint	Neil	Graham / Neil	Tom	Irene	Graham / Neil
Organ	Norman	Norman	Second Sunday	David	Joy

Rotas for May 2026

	3	10	17	24	31
				Pentecost	
Preacher	Srodzinski	2nd Sunday	Rev Barbara	Watkinson	Goldring
Welcoming	Brian	Janet	Linda B	Brenda	Graham
Vestry	Andrew	Andrew	Andrew	Andrew	Andrew
Coffee	Lindsay & Viv	Rod & Aly	Judy & Ian	Linda B & Janet	
PowerPoint	Neil	Tom	Irene	Tom	Graham / Neil
Organ	Norman	Second Sunday	David	Joy	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.