

CHRIST CHURCH

United Reformed and Methodist

CHRIST CHURCH
LINK

June 2026

July 2026



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www.christ-church-lewes.org



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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.

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MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS



Dear Friends,

Over the last few months, I have found myself conducting funerals for some of our longest serving and loyal members. It is always a great privilege to do so. One of the elements I like the most about the services is hearing about the person's life. There are times when we can really be surprised by the information we discover about a person's life, which we didn't

know prior to the service, but wish we had done. Sometimes it is really surprising information, such as they had been an Olympian in their youth, or the inventor of something really famous. Other times it is more about the relationships that they had with those around them, or the works of service they have performed over their lifetimes.

Inevitably, especially when we celebrate the lives of those who have been members of our churches, their faith is something that can be a significant feature of their life story. Sometimes this comes out in overt ways, such as the roles they held in the life of a congregation. Other times it is far more subtle than that. It is the underpinning about *why* they behaved in a particular way, or *why* they made the decisions they did. These are the stories that fascinate me the most. Whilst anyone might have made the decisions they did, such as taking in people to their home, or serving in a hospice, or extensively fostering children, the motivation in their case has been because of their faith. I am always fascinated at *how* our faith can mould and shape our lives in a myriad of ways. We do not need to necessarily stand on street corners shouting about the gospel, instead we can simply live the gospel in our daily choices.

The converse can also be true too. I am always saddened when someone confides in me about how they used to be a member of a church, but they left. I enquire as gently as I can as to why, and the number of stories that tumble out about how they had given their lives to the church, but when the difficult times came, they felt unsupported and became disillusioned. I am always sad to hear such stories, although I think it is important that I do. I'm sad because we always hope to do better. I am acutely aware that with fewer ministers to go around, there are fewer people with dedicated time to be

able to help pick up the pieces when life is difficult. But it is important to hear the stories too, because life isn't perfect, and the Church isn't perfect. Only God is perfect, and the rest of us are just trying to find a way to do the best we can.

I write this in the post-Easter phase when our stories on Sunday's are filled with the tales of how the disciples came to meet the risen Jesus and then are empowered after Pentecost to go and share their own stories. Of our course it is important that we hear about how Jesus appeared to the disciples, but I am also interested in the context of these appearances. We get an insight into the lives of the people – Mary sitting all alone in a garden crying, asking the gardener where Jesus is. We get Thomas wondering whether he can trust his friend's tales about meeting a resurrected Jesus. We get two people, possibly a married couple, walking sadly home scarcely able to believe what they have just seen and lived through. All of these are very human stories about lives that feel like they have gone wrong. They are no different to our lives. Things go wrong, events take a bad turn, people die, and we feel alienated from the people we used to feel close to. But in all of these difficult things, God is still amongst us, doing new things. We see this as Peter preaches on the day of Pentecost, converting so many people to become followers of Jesus. It is the antidote to all the struggles the disciple encounter. But it is important not to skip over the tough stuff.

It can be hard to spot God at work at times, especially when we are dealing with the difficult stuff that happens in life. We can become overwhelmed with our own stuff, and God's stuff can be obscured. But I take hope from the life stories of those who have died, of the good that they have done, for the service they have performed, for the sacrifices they have made. In all of this, I can see that God is actively at work in the world through the things that we do. And, I give thanks to God for all of our faithfulness in all that we do, both seen and unseen.

Barbara

FROM THE SECRETARIES

Welcome to the June - July 2026 issue of **CC Link**.

Our Annual Church Meeting on May 3 elected and re-elected several members to Church Council, where they will act as trustees for the church. Welcome back to Claire Bell, Andrew Buxton, Graham Purdye, Glenda Pett and Lindsay Frost. The Sunday morning service on May 17 included rededication by the newly elected members of Church Council.

Unfortunately, we were unable to appoint a new **Church Secretary** at that meeting. However, Claire Bell kindly stepped forward at short notice and will act as our acting Church Secretary whilst Church Council considers the way forward. In the meantime, the church's business will be conducted as normal.

Consideration of the way forward began at the Church Council meeting on May 13. Our initial discussions suggest that we need to review the scope of the secretaries' jobs to see if we can make them less onerous. There is a tendency - not only at Christ Church, but also more widely in the church - for posts to accumulate more and more responsibilities the longer they are occupied by one person. So, we are going to try to reduce and rationalise the scope of the jobs in the future. In addition, we need to ensure that jobs have a finite timescale (say three years) and that post holders do not feel locked into them indefinitely. Rotation is healthier, both for the church and individuals.

Church Council has appointed a small working group to look at job responsibilities and report back, with a view to bringing proposals to the Congregational Meeting in early August. Views and ideas from other members of the congregation are welcome as part of this process.

The **Community Cuppa** was launched on Wednesday May 20. It will run every Wednesday from 0900 to 1200. It offers free tea and coffee, and a range of activities from crafts to jigsaw puzzles and books. There will also be occasional small exhibitions to mark special days. On May 20, we marked "World Bee Day" and the critical role of bees in pollinating for nature and agriculture. Tom and Liz Lunt provided some items of interest from their beekeeping activities and there was also information on what you can do in your garden to help the bees.

We hope all members of the Christ Church family will support this new initiative and the opportunities it provides for us to reach out to the local community in this part of Lewes. We will have a rota for the kitchen serving refreshments to our visitors and for leading craft activities. Please help if you can.

A big “Thank You” goes to all our **Christian Aid Week (CAW)** team, who distributed over 800 envelopes to houses in the Wallands and Nevill areas of Lewes between May 10 and May 16. This was a big increase in our previous efforts, involving many more houses than in previous years by extending into Nevill. The focus this year is on raising funds for urban farmers in Kenya’s informal settlements, particularly around its capital city, Nairobi.



For CAW, we are in a transition period between money and digital donations. We have tried to cover both with a list of “drop off points” for physical envelope donations and setting up a digital donations page using the template provided by Christian Aid. **The digital donation page is still “open” online until late June** and can be accessed using the QR code left:

We do not yet have a final figure for the fundraising by Christ Church, but hope to have that for the next edition of **CC Link** at the end of July.

Christian Aid currently has an online petition seeking Debt Justice. Please sign up here and press the UK Government to ease the debt burden on the world’s poorest people

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/grt-involved/campaigns/stand-with-kenya>

Thank you to Tom Lunt for the series **Contemplative Prayer** sessions on Friday mornings which ended on May 22.


At its May meeting, Church Council considered a proposal for a **Joraform Food Composter** at the church, provided free by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership. Currently, most food waste on the site is generated by the lunches served by the Fitzjohn’s Food Partnership (FFP) on Mondays. FFP would be responsible for managing the compost system but - if the church wished to use it - we would need to train up a few people in its proper use.

Church Council discussions raised a number of concerns on the food composter proposal and it was decided to instead recommend a short term arrangement with a waste contractor whilst these issues are resolved.

Claire Bell, Acting Church Secretary

Lindsay Frost, Administrative Secretary




The Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church warmly invite you to the induction of

The Rev'd. Dr Elaine Colechin
as
Synod Clerk

Presiding Minister: The Revd. Russell Furley-Smith
Preacher: The Revd. Anne Lewitt

The service will include the sharing of Holy Communion

11th July 2026 at 2 pm
Bromley United Reformed Church
20 Widmore Road, Bromley, BR1 1RY

Recommend parking in either the Glades, then exiting through Boots or Stockwell Close Car Park.

RSVP to modpa@urcosouthern.org.uk

FAITH WILL SUPPORT COMMUNITIES NEAR AND FAR



Our faith is powerful. So are gifts in Wills. This is why Christian Aid is partnering with seven Christian denominations* to encourage people to remember their church community and Christian Aid, in their Will.

*[*The partners are: The Church of England, The Church of Scotland, The Church in Wales, The Presbyterian Church of Wales, the Quakers, the URC and the Union of Welsh Independents].*

It can be hard to talk about gifts in Wills, they are very personal, but at the same time deeply significant. Many of us will use our Will to remember the people and causes closest to our heart. Typically, we will think first of family and friends, but when that is done many Christians also consider their church family and their global neighbours.

These special gifts enable local churches to support their mission, funding ministry and community work, maintaining treasured buildings or updating them for new uses. Over a third of Christian Aid's fundraising income comes from gifts in Wills. They are used to support communities around the world to push back against poverty and thrive in the face of challenges like the climate crisis.

Remember, every gift makes a difference, even 1% of your estate after you have taken care of family and friends can be a powerful way to let your values live on and bless the next generation here and overseas.

If you would like to find out more, there are leaflets available at the back of the church



Faith Will...

...leave a legacy.

'I see leaving a gift to Christian Aid in my Will as part of putting my faith into action.'

Cath, from Lancashire, has supported Christian Aid for 60 years, from fundraising for Christian Aid Week to talking about our work in schools. It's an incredible legacy so far – but Cath has also pledged to leave a gift in her Will. She says:

'We need to have compassion and concern for people who are without food, water, medical care and education. So many people don't have the things which we take for granted, I think that is part of the motivation.'

Find out more about leaving a gift to Christian Aid and your church in your Will. Visit caid.org.uk/MyFaith, scan the QR code or search for 'Faith Will' online.

Your Faith is powerful. So is your Will.



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THINKTANK

Wednesday 15 July 2026 at 7.30 pm

(Tea, coffee and cake from 7pm)

Revd. Ben Brown

will be speaking on

"What is Prayer"

Ben is Rector of St Anne's Church in Lewes. Before he came to Lewes five years ago from Merstham in Surrey, he worked as an actor and in publishing. His interests include Christian Spirituality, books, film, and music.

The Lewes Area Churches Prayer Chain

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

In June, we are asked to pray for Eastgate Baptist church

In July, we are asked to pray for TRINITY church

Liz Lunt

Decolonisation in Nigeria; memories from Christ Church in Lewes



Part 1 Brian Wignall

Biology south of the Sahara Teaching in Nigeria.

After taking a degree in Biology and Chemistry in 1962 I went to teach for a period in Nigeria. My school was St. Paul's College, an independent Church of England foundation which was happily integrated with the state secondary school system. St. Paul's College was next to a village called Wusasa in the Northern Region of Nigeria. Also in Wusasa was a very active Church Missionary Society station. Wusasa is situated next to the town of Zaria.

The Northern Region of Nigeria is a Moslem area. The largest tribe living in this area is the Hausa tribe. In 1962 the principal political power lay with the Sultan of Sokoto whose base was situated in the far north of the region. Zaria was nominally under the control of the Emir of Zaria but the power was really shared by the Sultan of Sokoto and the civil authorities in Kaduna, a town to the south of Zaria. My observation at this time was of a harmonious situation and there was no sense of threat from political or religious difference. Shortly after, the civil war centred on Biafra in the south east of the country fought on tribal and economic lines changed

the situation. More recently the development of Islamism has caused major difficulty particularly in the Northern Region.

The district around Wusasa was well populated and typically was farmed on a subsistence basis. Zaria was an administrative centre and market place for the wider area. In fact Nigeria, as a whole is well populated except for the far north which borders on the Sahara Desert. It has a strong economic potential held back by the difficulties outlined above. There are strong institutions such as the Ahmadu Bello University. The town itself is divided between the Moslem area occupied by the Hausa population, the stranger's quarter occupied by the other Nigerian tribes and the European quarter. This division is perhaps indicative of the difficulties involved in creating a nation from what was a British colony taking little notice of traditional cultural boundaries.

There are three tribal groups associated with the regions which are Hausa in the north, Yoruba in the south west and Ibo in the south east. There is also a tribe named the Fulani many of whose members are nomadic and move with their herds irrespective of local or national boundaries. There is also a Fulani group which has settled in the townships and villages of the northern area. When you meet the Fulani you are struck first by their physical beauty and secondly by their air of superiority and even disdain. It is worth remembering that they are a huge group which actually extends throughout North Africa. They were the rulers in Northern Nigeria based in the city of Sokoto historically. After the British took the territory in 1903 they exercised power through the Fulani Sultanate. Today, since Nigeria became a federation of North, South East and South West regions on achieving independence in 1960 Fulani still exercise power by virtue of being part of local and national government.

In the far north of the region the Sahara Desert is close by and the conditions are dry and desert like. As one travels south the rainfall is greater and there is savannah consisting of grassland, bushes and occasional trees like the Baobab. The Baobab is a remarkable sight in the savannah. It has a very thick trunk which grows high until branches give rise to leaf growth. The nature of the trunk allows the tree to store water during the rainy season for use in the dry season. In the region of Zaria the rainy season lasts from November to April. As one goes further south the rainy season lasts for longer until the nature of the vegetation is tropical forest.

A newcomer to Nigeria is immediately aware of the insect life, much of which, it seems is trying to bite one's legs. Sand flies are everywhere and cause major discomfort although it is true to say that after the initial period of exposure their bites do not cause so much discomfort. A walk in the countryside which consists mainly of grasses and shrubs will involve picking up ticks which we used to remove with lighted cigarettes. At night in the light of Tilley lamps large numbers of moths would enter through the open windows drawn towards the light. Mosquitos were everywhere and because they carried the parasites responsible for malaria in humans which were passed over in their digestive juices it was necessary to take anti malaria drugs every day.



We experienced an invasion of locusts which was in one sense timely because one of the national exams involved study of a named insect and it was easy to provide a locust. Not so welcome was the removal of all the leaves from our hibiscus and jacaranda plants grown with difficulty in the school garden.

Not an insect but a very common arthropod was the scorpion. Scorpions can give an extremely painful sting and it was necessary to be careful and avoid treading on them. When I was first there teaching and it was understood that I was interested in wild life the local children would bring gifts of animals including scorpions which were, in fact, less than welcome. They would often handle them and I could never understand how they did it but was unwilling to try.

Snakes were common but did not feel much of a threat as they slid away as quickly as they could. On one occasion some of the pupils came to me and said I had a very bad snake in my garden. I did not know what to do about it but one night I came out on to my veranda and was confronted by a cobra. I did not know what to do but ran indoors. I went out with a big stick but it had gone and I never saw it again.

On another occasion we had an invasion of toads, an amphibian, surprising in such a dry area. They sat in the grounds of the school and were very harmless feeding on the abundant insects. But it was unnerving when they jumped against your legs in the dark. One mammal which was

in evidence lived in a striking rock outcrop called Kufena soaring above the flat countryside. It was the rock hyrax a small rodent like creature which amazingly is the closest living land relative to elephants.



Botany lesson

Such was the life of a biology teacher but what of the school? It was a boarding school in which the pupils were expected to take responsibility for its smooth running. Our headmaster was Nigerian and a graduate. Our Deputy Head was Nigerian. I do not know what his qualifications were but he was well known in educational circles and a celebrity. He was very friendly and always prepared to play practical jokes, preferably on one of the European teachers. The Europeans were a mixed bunch from Cambridge graduates with teaching

diplomas to 21 year olds with no experience of anything such as myself.

The pupils were older on average than would be expected in one of our schools. They were studying for the same qualifications as pupils in British schools, in our case Oxford University Exam Board papers for GCE 'O' level. They were capable students and were fee paying. They were committed to their studies and success could alter their lives. They were very well behaved but in the direct African manner they were quite prepared to point out how a lesson might have been more helpful. On occasion they expressed their dissatisfaction with the running of the school and there were dramatic confrontations. But if fairness was felt on an issue the pupils would be very prepared to back the school's rules and institutions.

Thinking back, without being very aware of conditions in modern Nigeria I would see a population with enormous potential in academic terms, leadership terms and innate energy terms. As with Africa as a whole, this potential being fulfilled may ultimately benefit country, continent and world-not least in promoting peace between nations in the manner of Nelson Mandela.

Part 2 David Smith

A new University in the Tropical Forest

On All Fools' Day, 1967, I and my wife Marion sat in London Airport waiting for a flight to Rome. We had volunteered for the VISTA (Visiting Scientists Teaching Abroad) scheme, conceived and financed by the British Government. Marion (then a member of the Lewes Congregational Church) had been offered a place to teach, at a missionary school in Ibadan, the most advanced courses on A level Scripture which were then commonly available in the school curriculum. We stayed in Rome over the weekend (our first stay there). In the church of Santa Maria Maggiore we enjoyed some of the wonderful art and artifacts brought from the colonies. We left Rome on Monday afternoon and landed in Lagos, then the capital city of Nigeria. Like all arrivals in 1967, we were met with a crowd of little boys saying "Dash me" (give me something), who unknowingly revealed their Portuguese-speaking ancestors. For centuries there had been squabbling about South American treasure. In the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, Pope Alexander 6 decreed that Eastern sites in Brazil should be allotted to Portugal, and those in the west to Spain. Later, the British took Nigeria over but the Nigerian's greeting remained.

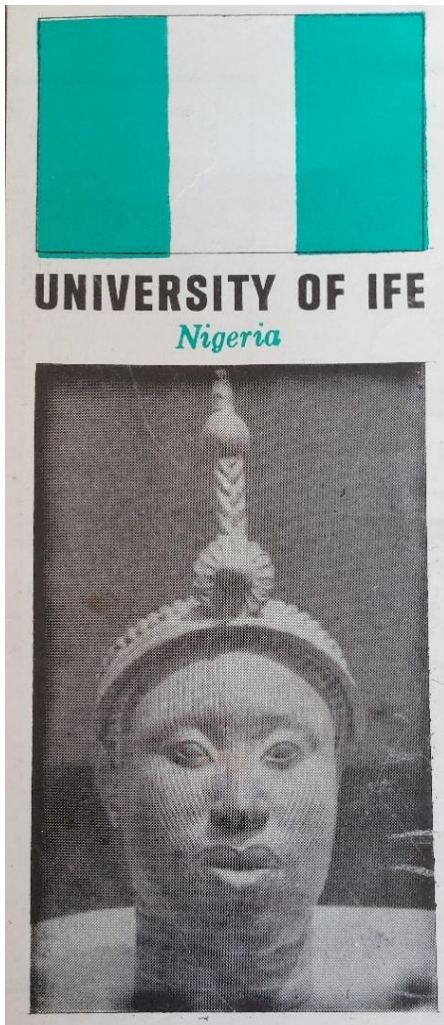


Street in Ife

The University of Ife was well established for the study and teaching of cultural subjects such as history or literature. Universities after the Second World War turned to subjects that can be at once applied to problems, such as science, maintenance, and construction of machinery. Those who have visited countries along the equator will remember the disappointment when they discover

that there are no walks in the cool evenings that we enjoy at our latitude. Instead, about 6-6.30 pm the sun falls rapidly across the western sky and disappears until it rises next day. When we arrived it was dark, hot (yearly average 30°), and raining, as we were in the wet season. The atmosphere was like that of a UK greenhouse, but our bodies quickly adapted, and it was possible to get around with little artificial cooling. Water and heat were ideal for plants, and we could buy bananas, pineapples, mangoes

for a few pence. Apples were expensive, though they were available from a shop near the airport.



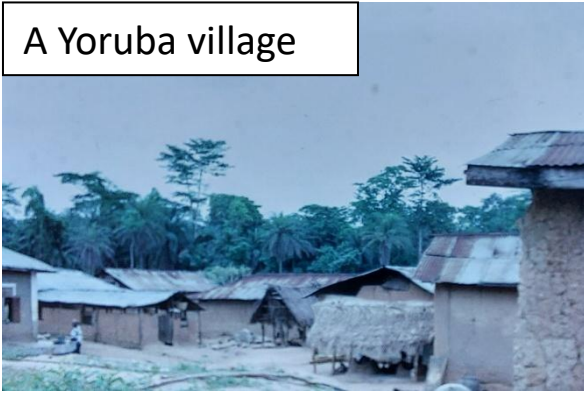
A British colleague and a representative of our new Nigerian University of Ife met us and we were soon installed in our house on the campus of the University of Ibadan, where students and University of Ife science staff had to be accommodated until their campus was completed. We formed a relay team with house, car, and insurance handed on from person to person. One morning I was at work, and Marion was on her way to school, when she was arrested by soldiers in central Ibadan. Her insurance was invalid. The University administration had forgotten about her, but she managed to persuade the soldiers to let her go.

During our stay, I taught the third year of the Ife chemistry class: to two students! How inefficient, you may say. But the purpose of a new course is to grow, as students wish to have the full range of topics, stimulate innovation, to install new equipment e.g. for diagnosis and

treatment of disease. After several amalgamations and new starts, Ife University is now part of Obafemi Awolowo University, which serves the Ondo State. A recent prospectus says the University had 244 students in 1962 and 30,000 in 2025. I was delighted as a care home resident to meet Ife graduates on the staff. They were not born in 1967 but their parents showed us much kindness.

The Republic of Nigeria came into being as a single jurisdiction by a series of Acts of Parliament (1960-1967) covering a nearly square block of territory with sides of 400 miles. The Southern boundary is the sea of the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean, the west boundary the open Atlantic, the west-east oriented north boundary is adjacent to the Sahara Desert where it is too dry for much agriculture, and the east boundary is with ex-French colony Cameroon, which is both geographically and historically like those of Nigeria itself. This climatical diversity dominates the cultural diversity that determined what we saw. In the Northern

A Yoruba village



province the population was largely Muslim, and the jurisdiction functioned through the strict occupying British army. In the South West, the Yoruba people were governed like our local authorities with local kings or obas was like our county governments. To the East, village assemblies of the Ibo tribe were prominent in making working

systems for peaceful local trade.

When our teaching period had finished, we arranged two journeys, one north-south and the other west-east, so we could see some of the interesting places in the Western Province. Several Nigerians planned to come with us, but, as we got ready, it became clear that Yoruba and Ibo could not travel together. “You’ll be all right on your own,” they said. And so it was. We carried bottled water and disinfectant, but no rifle or explosive. We drove north to the new dam at Kanji, one of four in the new Niger water system, and enjoyed the mosquito-free buildings (They only like dirty water). The system as a whole enables some of the power of the tropical weather to be used for drinking and industry.

Then we drove East to Onitsha, a characteristic African market town with several air-size hangers where goods are exchanged. On the way home we passed through Benin and saw some of the Benin bronzes. Later we saw larger collections of this form of Nigerian art at the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum or a



Oshogbo street and mosque

Museum in Berlin. Argument about who should look after such artifacts continues. We left Nigeria by air and stayed overnight at the beautiful Muslim city of Kano. The hotel was as comfortable and the food suitable as for rich travellers of the 1930s. As we took off for Franco’s Barcelona the beginning of the Biafran civil war was announced.

We end on an optimistic note. Ambrose Reeves, Bishop of Johannesburg, who lived in Lewes for a while, and Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town, insisted that ex-colonial states were rebuilt with deeply Christian principles. Through the black African concept of *ubuntu* (reconciliation) was squeezed even into the most bitter constitutional negotiations after World War 2. At a 1967 Church Meeting, Marion and I described the difficulty of recruiters looking for Nigerian young people without adequate education to become teachers and governors after independence. Some of our older members were enraged. Had we not fought to defend the whole Empire? But much decolonisation reveals pivotal changes in social and scientific development. One of the leading centres for this new academic study is in the School of Global Studies at Sussex. Its leader is Professor Alan Lester, who spoke at our Christ Church Thinktank in June 2024.

We acknowledge the help given us by Neil Fisher and Ian Christie-Miller in the preparation of this document.

CHRIST CHURCH WALKS

Our **April walk** took us on an urban route in **the centre of Brighton**, starting at the Clock Tower right in the heart of the city's bustling shopping area.

A short distance north, and ducking down into some narrow twittens, brought us into quiet and attractive residential streets which few of us had seen before. The whole walk was quite a revelation. We passed a few old late c.18 and early c.19 buildings constructed from “bungaroosh”, a peculiar Brighton building material which loosely translates as “anything you can get your hands on”, ranging from brick to flint to beach pebbles to grit to sandy lime, all mixed together. Bungaroosh is notoriously crumbly and prone to damp penetration. Read more about it here:

<https://www.londondampcompany.co.uk/bungaroosh-probably-the-worst-building-material-in-the-world/>

The walk then took us a bit further north to the streets around Brighton Railway Station, where we found much more of interest, including a vintage garage and filling station and a remnant of old railway track now turned into an attractive high level walking and cycling route: “The Brighton Greenway”. There was also lots of public art to be seen, both authorised and unauthorised (alias graffiti)

Thank you to Andrew and Sally Buxton for leading us on one of our more unusual and interesting church walks, which whetted our appetite for other urban walks in the future.



Brighton graffiti



Bungaroosh

Our May walk took us to **Red House Common**. This forms part of Chailey Common, one of the largest areas of common land in SE England, about 9 miles/14 km north of Lewes. It has extensive areas of gorse, bracken and woodland which are home to thriving bird and insect communities. Some open parts of the common are grazed by Exmoor ponies. It looks and feels a bit like the New Forest , transplanted into Sussex. In its centre are a windmill and Chailey Heritage, a facility catering for people with learning disabilities or recovering from serious head injuries.

Red House Common has a huge number and variety of birds. We paused our walk to listen to the birdsong, which was like a spirited dawn chorus despite our visit being in the early afternoon. This prompted several of our group to get out their phones and use the Merlin software, which can listen out for birdsong and identity its source (species of bird) using AI-driven “voice recognition”. This really added to our enjoyment of the moment

You can download Merlin software here or search for Merlin bird app in the Google Playstore. . It is great for the back garden as well as country walks

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/>

The June walk will be part of our trip to **Knepp Estate, near Horsham in West Sussex**, on Saturday 13 June (see article below)

The July walk will be on Sunday 19 and will take us to **West Park and Lake Wood on the edge of Uckfield**, an area which includes mature woodland, large rocky outcrops and a lake. It is a Local Nature Reserve. Our walk will be about 2 miles /3 km. It is generally flat, but with a few steep sections. Meet at Christ Church at 13:30 to car share over to Uckfield



Lake Wood

CHRIST CHURCH SUMMER OUTING AND WALK KNEPP ESTATE – RE-WILDING PROJECT - WEST SUSSEX



The **Knepp Re-Wilding Project** is in the countryside between Horsham and Worthing in West Sussex (RH13 0NQ). We are planning a trip there on **Saturday June 13**, leaving Lewes late morning and getting back early evening travelling by car share

The Project began in 2000 with the idea of letting nature recover and take over on the 3,500 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 short walk of about 3 miles /5 km on the public footpaths in the estate, to see what we can find.

Please let me know if you are interested. A “sign up “sheet for expressions of interest is at the back of the church

Here are the Knepp web sites

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

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

Lindsay Frost

TOTS JOIN NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

The National Month of Prayer (NMOP 2026) is asking church based pre-school groups to “send a sheep” to display at a parliamentary reception for MPs, toddler group leaders, and other guests at Westminster on Monday June 1.

The meeting will emphasise the huge role played by local churches all over the UK in making provision for the under 5s, all of which is done with little or no taxpayer support.

This is the sheep prepared for Christ Church Tots by Claire Bell. It will be sent off to “join the flock” at Westminster



The theme is Jesus The Good Shepherd and the key scripture is John 10 v 14-16

1 2 7 7
make them count

NATIONAL MONTH OF PRAYER for Toddler groups June 2026

Pray for your local toddler group, its leaders and all the families it comes into contact with.

For more information, ideas and resources visit the Facebook Group - 1277
www.1277.org.uk/resources

MORE ABOUT THE 1277 GROUP

1277 is now being recognised as a movement of people (not an organisation), consisting of toddler group leaders, denominational leads, church leaders and people with a heart for the 0-5's and their families.

The name comes from the average number of days between birth and the start of nursery education for a child in the UK

What are our aims & objectives?

Our main aim is to support church-based toddler groups. More specifically we try to:

- Raise awareness with church leaders to understand, support and value toddler groups both locally and nationally within churches and communities
- Create more local networks between toddler groups for mutual support and prayer
- Signpost leaders to resources, training and ideas
- Raise awareness of effective strategies for developing spirituality and faith in toddlers and their families.

And our objectives are to:

- Promote conferences /events and resources for group leaders both nationally and locally especially the National Month of Prayer
- Increase the reach of the 1277 Make Them Count movement to a wider audience
- Share the vision with church leaders
- Collate research and other information about toddler groups in the UK
- Encourage toddler groups in UK to adopt good practice on support for volunteers, health and safety issues, etc

Church Calendar for June 2026

- Wed 3 9.30 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study
- Thu 4 7.30 pm Pastoral Leaders meeting
- Fri 5 9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 7 10.30 am Morning worship led by Ian Srodzinski
- Wed 10 9.30 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study
7.30 pm Church Council (discussion)
- Fri 12 9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sat 13 10.30 am Summer Outing and Walk to Knepp Estate
- Sun 14 9.30 am Prayer Meeting in the Quiet Room
10.30 am Second Sunday worship
- Wed 17 9.30 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study
- Fri 19 9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 21 10.30 am Morning worship led by Christine Sweet
- Wed 24 9.30 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study
- Fri 26 9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 28 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion led by
Rev Roger Wood

Church Calendar for July 2026

- Wed 1 9.30 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study
- Fri 3 9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 5 10.30 am Morning worship led by Stuart Dew
- Wed 8 9.30 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study
7.30 pm Church Council (business)
- Thu 9 7.30 pm Mission Committee
- 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 9.30 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study
7.30 pm Thinktank
- Fri 17 9.30 am - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 19 10.30 am Morning worship led by Tom Lunt
1 pm Church Walk
- Wed 22 9.30 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Sun 26 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion led by
Rev Dr Richard Goldring
- Wed 29 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Sun 2 10.30 am Morning worship led by
Rev Barbara Evans-Routley
11.45 am Congregational Meeting

Rotas for June 2026

	7	14	21	28
Preacher	Srodzinski	2nd Sunday	C.Sweet	Wood
Welcoming	Brian	Andrew	Janet	Brenda
Vestry	Alison	Alison	Alison	Alison
Coffee	Glenda & Alan	Rod & Aly	Brian & Joan	Judy & Ian
Transport	Brian	Irene	Claire	Brian
PowerPoint	Irene	Neil	Tom	Graham / Neil
Organ	Norman	Second Sunday	David	Norman

Rotas for July 2026

	5	12	19	26
Preacher	Dew	2nd Sunday	Lunt	Goldring
Welcoming	Linda B	Graham	Brian	Graham
Vestry	Janet	Janet	Janet	Janet
Coffee	Brenda & Alison	Judy & Ian	Glenda & Alan	Rod & Aly
Transport	Neil	Irene	Claire	Brian & Joan
PowerPoint	Irene	Neil	Tom	Graham / Neil
Organ	Norman	Second Sunday	David	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.