

CHRIST CHURCH

United Reformed and Methodist

CHRIST CHURCH *LINK*

October 2026
November 2026



Prince Edward's Road
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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,

I'm sitting writing this in my garden, enjoying the very tail end of the sunshine as we reach the autumnal equinox. I've been very conscious that we are watching our evenings get longer and start earlier and the summer heat feels a bit like a distant memory. Certainly, my lawn is now telling me that, as I guiltily ignore its even increasing length. But even as I do all of this, I

am grateful that it has indeed returned to green after the heat scorched it during July and August. It is with that on my mind that my thoughts turn to harvest and how we give thanks to God for what we have.

For those of us who watch Countryfile on a Sunday evening, we can't have missed all the anxiety that our farming community has shared with us for the crops in the fields. Whilst a few crops have thoroughly enjoyed the extreme heat (the Sussex grape harvest has apparently done exceptionally well), we know that the cereal staples have fared less well without the rain to plump the heads. Our seasons are running around 3 weeks early this year, and so harvest in October is woefully late. This realisation brings us up short when we consider how the effects of human made climate change is a reality for us now. For many years our poorer neighbours across the world have warned of the effects on them. Now we see the reality brought home to Sussex. And, as I sweep the ash off my windowsills again this year, I can see how close some of our local wildfires have come to our homes.

Our harvests and our climate are inextricably linked. And so, if we wish to thank God for the bounteous gifts we have been given, we also have to care for the world in which they have grown. Being a Christian who wishes to give thanks also means we have to be a Christian that cares about what happens to our world. In an age of modern technology, we are often grateful for some of the advances we have made. I'm grateful that since Covid I have been able to use Zoom for many of my meetings. It means I don't have to get in a car and travel multiple times a day to whichever meeting is happening next. But technology isn't completely the answer either.

As more and more Data Centres are built, to support this move over to an online world and particularly with the increasing use of AI, we also need to be mindful of just how much power and water, finite resources, they use. It is estimated that by next year, the water used to cool AI computing globally will be the equivalent of half the UK's annual use. Given that the world already faces a shortage of drinkable water, and we have already felt the effect of our own hosepipe bans, there are ethical questions to be asked around such an explosion of use without proper strategic planning. No longer is climate change and the use of technology someone else's concern, it is our concern too. Our churches across our Area (both URC and Methodist) are exploring the addition of solar panelling for our buildings and what kind of heating might be suitable for us in the future. At one time, it would have felt rather futuristic. Now it feels a necessity – regardless of what might or might not happen in the Middle East. So, as we come to Harvest this year, let us give thanks to God for the bounteous creation we have around us. But equally, look to how we can be good stewards of it for this and for the coming generations.

Barbara

IBRA Bible Reading Notes and URC Prayer Handbook 2027

In November I will be ordering copies of these for anyone who would like to take them.

Fresh from the Word will cost approximately £15.50 and the **URC handbook** will cost about £7.50 (these prices include postage) depending on how many copies are ordered. I shall be contacting those friends who currently receive copies to check whether they wish to continue.

If you do not already take either of these publications and would like to do so, please would you let me know by Sunday 22nd November. I can provide further information if you would like to know more.

You can contact me at cooper.janet77@yahoo.co.uk.

Janet Cooper

FROM THE SECRETARIES

Welcome to the October-November 2026 issue of ***Christ Church Link***.

We were very pleased to receive the following announcement from the Central Sussex United Area:

“Following the required consultation process, discussions with churches and individuals, the Area Executive Committee recommended to the Area Meeting that Rev Barbara Evans-Routley be re-invited to remain as Superintendent of the CSUA and Minister to her 5 churches for a period of 5 years commencing September 2027. We are delighted to report that, following no objections being received, the Area meeting agreed wholeheartedly with the recommendation. Rev Barbara Evans-Routley will, therefore, remain in her current position until August 2032. Barbara thanked everyone for the care, thought and compassion that had been shown in the process, she was touched by the sentiment portrayed and is looking forward to continuing to work alongside everyone.”

We are also delighted to welcome back Lindsay Frost to his duties as administrative secretary following his period of illness and recovery. Lindsay, you have been missed!

This summer has been one of record heat which has made life uncomfortable for many of those attending our church premises. Christ Church Tots had to avoid the garden for some sessions due to the risks from the burning sun. Some volunteers from Christ Church Lewes provided children’s activities for members of Fitzjohn’s Food Club throughout the school holidays and were forced to set up the craft sessions in the rear hall on occasion to avoid the heat of the sun. The sessions were much appreciated, whether inside or out.

The **Community Cuppa** continued to run every Wednesday during the summer from 0900 to 1200 offering free tea and coffee, and a range of activities from crafts to jigsaw puzzles and books. A small but regular group continue to enjoy the peace and calm of meeting in the church each week in this way. If you have not done so, do come and see what goes on. We have

also enjoyed the occasional free lunch provided by Fitzjohn Food Club volunteers.

We enjoyed a bring and share lunch after the Congregational meeting on 2 August. At the meeting we heard of a long list of works needed on our building and indeed the new steps have now been completed.



Claire's grandson Rupert testing the beautiful new steps

Carpet cleaning has also taken place and the front door locking mechanism has been fixed. Many thanks to Alan and Irene for the work that goes into organising this work. We also heard a comprehensive report from our Lay Worker Hannah Clark of the work she has done in the recent months. Thanks to Hannah and our new administrative worker Emily Gowers for their contributions to the life of our church.

Discussions regarding the food composter have continued and we are hopeful of the installation of a food composting system in the next few weeks.

Claire Bell, Acting Church Secretary

CHRISTIAN AID AUTUMN ROADSHOW IN BRIGHTON



Tuesday October 13 from 19:00 - 21:30

Lewes Road United Reformed Church
Saunders Park Rise
BRIGHTON
BN2 4EU

You'll have the opportunity to:

- Hear inspiring stories of hope, resilience and transformation from South Sudan.
- Learn more about Christian Aid's work and the difference supporters like you are making.
- Explore how your church and community can continue to support communities through prayer, fundraising and campaigning.
- Meet other Christian Aid supporters, exchange ideas and be inspired to give, act and pray.

Book at:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/autumn-roadshow-brighton>

CHRIST CHURCH WALKS



Our **August** walk was hastily rearranged following the unfortunate derailment near Lewes which took place near the footpath we would have been using. We had a walk from the Bishopstone Road along the footpath to the abandoned Tide Mills village, across the railway and along the beach to the Sailing Club for a well deserved cup of tea.

Our **September** walk took us to the **Ouse valley** through Lewes along a route which was not possible in August. At that time, the whole area was cordoned off in the immediate aftermath of the Lewes railway derailment, which injured around 30 people.

On our walk on September 20, contractors were still working hard on restoring and strengthening the railway embankment. Investigators are still working to establish the full circumstances of the derailment, with buckled rail tracks or clay shrinkage in the embankment, due to the prolonged and extreme heat over the summer, being identified as possible causes.

Our 2.7 miles /4km walk took us along the river bank on the outward leg. Continuing railway reinstatement works , with a reduced cordon,



meant that we had to go a little further towards Hamsey before we could cross back into the woods below Offham. The return leg took us back through Landport and The Pells in nice sunny weather.



On **October 18th**, our walk will be at **Barcombe Cross**. The 2.7 mile /4km route will cover fields, woodland and a nature reserve. Meet at church at 13:30. The walk will start from the car park alongside the village store in Barcombe (BN8 5DH).

On **November 15th**, for our last walk of the year, we will meet at church at 13:15 (afternoons are getting shorter by that time) and start from Monk's House NT car park at the bottom of The Street in **Rodmell** around 13:30. Monk's House – the former home of Virginia and Leonard Woolf – is closed to visitors during November, so the car park should be available. We will walk down to the Ouse and then follow the river embankment down to Southease Bridge (pictured below) and return through Southease village. The village has one of the Ouse Valley's round towered churches, containing some medieval wall paintings.

All pretty flat and about 3 miles/ 5 km distance.



THINKTANK

Wednesday 18 November 2026 at 7.30 pm

(Tea, coffee and cake from 7pm)

Alison Byrne

will speak on

‘The Soul of the Secondary School: Faith, Values, and Personal Development Today’

Alison will explore how classrooms have become the front line where modern secular values, personal identity, and traditional faith collide. From the rise of smartphone culture and statutory RSE to Ofsted character judgments, this talk examines how schools navigate "the soul of the adolescent," asking whether secular education can ever be truly neutral and what it means to offer young people a coherent moral vocabulary today.

Extra Thinktank meeting – Wednesday 21 October at 7:30 pm

On Wednesday 21 October, there will be an extra Thinktank meeting when we will be showing the video of the National Emergency Briefing (NEB). This is a public information programme designed to communicate the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis in the UK. It was first held on 27 November 2025 at Westminster Central Hall, where over 1,200 politicians, business leaders, and civic figures attended. The event was chaired by Professor Mike Berners-Lee and opened by broadcaster Chris Packham, featuring eight leading experts who presented high-level, unfiltered briefings on threats to food supply, health, national security, and the economy while outlining potential solutions.

HARVEST

Our church Harvest celebration will be at our Second Sunday service on Sunday 11 October at 10.30 am

There will also be a Harvest celebration in collaboration with Fitzjohn's Community Food on 28 October from 3-5pm. This is a family-friendly event which includes a hot meal, apple pressing and other entertainment. All free.

The Lewes Area Churches Prayer Chain

Christ Church is a link in the Lewes Area Churches Prayer Chain and is the focus of the Lewes Area Churches Prayer Chain in November. Through our prayers we can “encourage one other and give each other strength” (1 Thessalonians 5 v 11)

In October we are praying for St Mary’s Church Ringmer. Here are the prayers sent by Rev’d David Bouskill. Please pray for:

- Discernment for moving forward in God's will.
- Comfort of the Holy Spirit - we have had more than usual deaths of regular, committed Christians in our congregation this year.
- Strength to proclaim the Good News and Love of God in our daily lives.
- Practical guidance as we seek to renew the church sound system and AV capabilities.

From 11th -17th October it's Prison's Week: <https://www.prisonsworld.org/>

Please remember HMP Lewes and pray for:

- Victims of crime
- Offenders and those in custody
- Families of all affected
- Those working in probation, prisons, police, courts, and for chaplains
- Those administering care and justice in communities

CTLA Prayer for Lewes Area takes place on the third Saturday of each month from 8am-9am. On 17th October we will be praying for St Mary’s and other local places/people/events and situations and on 21st November we be praying for Christ Church.

If you would like to join, email Liz at lunt.liz1@gmail.com and she will send you the Zoom link

TEARFUND BIG QUIZ

We will be holding a Big Quiz on the evening of the 14th November, which will include a light supper. Teams will be made up by all the groups that use the church, as well as the congregation. All proceeds go to the Tear Fund.

Church Calendar for October 2026

- Thu 1 7.30 pm Pastoral Leaders meeting
- Fri 2 9.30 - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 4 10.30 am Morning worship led by Claire Bell
- Wed 7 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
 12.30 - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 1.30 – 2.30 pm Bible Study
- Fri 9 9.30 - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 11 10.30 am Harvest - Second Sunday worship
- Wed 14 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
 12.30 - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 7.30 pm Church Council
- Fri 16 9.30 - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 18 10.30 am Morning worship led by Tom Lunt
 1.30 pm Church Walk
- Wed 21 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
 12.30 - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 7.30 - 9 pm Thinktank Extra - showing of National
 Emergency Briefing
- Fri 23 9.30 - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 25 10.30 am Morning worship led by Jolly Pett
- Wed 28 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
 12.30 - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 3 pm – 5 pm Community Autumn Harvest Celebration

Church Calendar for November 2026

- Sun 1 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion
 led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley and Kerry Halliday
 11.45 am Congregational Meeting
- Wed 4 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
 12.30 - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 1.30 - 2.30 pm Bible Study
- Fri 6 9.30 - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 8 10.30 am Second Sunday - Remembrance Sunday
- Wed 11 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
 12.30 - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 1.30 - 2.30 pm Bible Study
 7.30 pm Church Council
- Fri 13 9.30 - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sat 14 7 pm Tear Fund Big Quiz
- Sun 15 10.30 am Morning Worship led by Rev Dr Richard Goldring
 1.30 pm Church Walk
- Wed 18 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
 12.30 - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 1.30 - 2.30 pm Bible Study
 7.30 pm Thinktank
- Fri 20 9.30 - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sat 21 7 pm Lewes Christian Arts - Quiz
- Sun 22 10.30 am Morning worship led by Gwyneth Watkinson
- Wed 25 10 am - 12 noon Community Cuppa
 12.30 - 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting
 1.30 - 2.30 pm Bible Study
- Fri 27 9.30 - 11.30 am Christ Church Tots
- Sun 29 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion
 led by Rev Roger Wood

Rotas for October 2026

	4	11	18	25
Preacher	Bell	2nd Sunday	Lunt	J Pett
Welcoming	Graham	Andrew	Brian	Janet
Vestry	Janet	Janet	Andrew	Glenda
Coffee	Rod & Aly	Judy & Ian	Brenda & Alison	Brian & Joan
Transport	Brian	Irene	Claire	Lindsay
PowerPoint	Graham/Neil	Neil	Tom/Neil	Irene
Organ	Norman	Second Sunday	David	Norman

Rotas for November 2026

	1	8	15	22	29
		Remembrance			
Preacher	Barbara	2nd Sunday	Goldring	Watkinson	R Wood
Welcoming	Linda B	Brenda	Graham	Andrew	Brian
Vestry	Lindsay	Lindsay	Lindsay	Lindsay	Lindsay
Coffee	Linda B & Janet	Glenda & Alan	Rod & Aly	Judy & Ian	Brenda & Alison
Transport	Neil	Brian	Irene	Claire	Brian
PowerPoint	Tom	Neil	Graham/Neil	Tom	Irene
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.