

CONNEXIONS

The magazine of

Lavington

United Reformed Church
Bideford



SUMMER 2024

50p

JULY DIARY DATES

Sun.	7 th	11.00am	Family Worship & HC – Revd Colin Biggs
Sun.	14 th	11.00am	Family Worship – Sabrina Gröschel
Wed.	17 th	10.30am	Elders Meeting
Sat.	20 th	10 til 1pm	Summer Fayre
Sun.	21 st	10.30am	Family Worship – The Minister
		11.30am	Church Meeting
Sun.	28 th	11.00am	Family Worship – Sabrina Gröschel

AUGUST DIARY DATES

Sun.	4 th	11.00am	Family Worship & HC – Mrs Alison Biggs
Sun.	11 th	11.00am	Family Worship – to be advised
Sun.	18 th	11.00am	Family Worship – Sabrina Gröschel
Wed.	21 st	2.30pm	Fun and afternoon tea at Muddiford
Sun.	25 th	11.00am	Family Worship – Revd Colin Biggs

Mission Statement

Lavington's mission is to seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness encompassing the love of Christ and to share this through worship and service.



We are a Fairtrade Church

Dear Friends



The gift of music is a very special one. I would love to be able to play an instrument; perhaps I can learn to play something when I retire. It is a great gift if you are able to play an instrument or to sing or write songs. Last month I was able to see several live performances in Plymouth and at Calstock Arts Centre. Listening to a live performance is quite a different experience to listening to a recorded version and I love watching experienced performers interacting with an audience.

I know many of you enjoy different types of music. At the service of thanksgiving for the life of Val Patt, I discovered that she had seen the Beatles perform live on stage. It was clear that music was important to Val, as was dance. It was through dancing lessons that Val met her husband and they became an accomplished partnership, winning many trophies in dance competitions.

Dance requires much co-ordination and an ability to keep in time to the music. The popularity of programmes such as 'Strictly Come Dancing' remind us of the wide variety of skills required and the practice involved in order to achieve a good routine. When you think of the Bible, you might not think of any obvious references. Indeed, the Puritan Christians had a real problem with dance. It was not something that believed brought glory to God. What a shame! How wrong they were!

Dancing appears in the Bible as a physical response to joyous occasions. One of the first instances of it is in Exodus where Miriam, the prophetess, leads women in a dance and song of victory after crossing the Red Sea safely. Similarly, the Bible illustrates King David's expressive dance of joy and celebration after the triumphant return of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. There are also references to dancing in Jeremiah and Job. In the New Testament, we find dancing to celebrate the return of the Prodigal Son.

Established in Psalms, dancing for God is widely encouraged, giving the worship an added dynamism and liveliness. Moreover, dancing is shown as an express method of prayer and adoration, allowing a distinct and dynamic way to communicate with the Almighty. So may your music inspire you to dance wherever you are this summer!

Every blessing,
Rob Weston

Cover photo

The Tarka statue. It is situated opposite the fish & chip shop on the quay just before the old bridge. Do take a look at it next time you walk along the quay, but be very careful crossing the road, it is busy but there is a pedestrian crossing very close.

Here is the inscription -

TARKA THE OTTER

From the book by Henry Williamson
Sculptured by Rowan Fawdon
Presented to Bideford
Through the generosity of
Bideford Town Council
Torrige District Council
Businesses of Bideford
Bideford & District Chamber of Commerce
and Private Donations

"Tarka passed under the ancient
Long Bridge which the monks
built across their ford..."



Lavington's contribution in the envelopes for Christian Aid Week amounted to £134. Added to that was the profit from the Pentecost Lunch of £100 so our total was £234. Also, 3 people signed up to Gift Aid their contribution and all future contributions. If you would like to know more about the government's Gift Aid Scheme, please speak to our Treasurer, Colin Biggs. I'm sure he would be pleased to explain it to you. The Barnstaple Ladies Choir concert at the end of May raised £406. The overall amount from all the churches in the area is not yet known.

Our next committee meeting won't be until mid July so the dates of other planned events this year, won't be known until then.

L and J P

CHURCH MEETING

A reminder that on Sunday 21st July worship will start at 10.30am and be followed by our next church meeting commencing at 11.30am.

Paperwork will be available from 7th July. Please make every effort to attend or if unable to, send in your apologies via any Elder. Thank you.

A, Church secretary

TRIP TO MUDDIFORD URC

We have arranged to visit Muddiford URC on Wednesday 21st August from 2.30pm for fellowship and afternoon tea.

It will be good to meet our friends at Muddiford and this is an opportunity to get to know each other better. There will be a time of socialising, singing and sharing before we chat over tea and cake.

Please put the date in your diary and we will arrange transport nearer the date.

A



Can you believe it! we are exactly half way through 2024! Go on, say it, “I don’t believe it” I’m afraid I can’t change it no matter how much money you pay me!

So, I won’t keep you waiting any longer. Here are the July birthdays. This month we have 2 ladies with very special birthdays, M H and B J will both celebrate their 90th! Being 90 is a remarkable achievement and both of you are still fit and able. Your Lavington friends send you special greetings and love on this wonderful birthday. Go for the “ton” ladies.

Here they are for July –

M H	12 th
B J	15 th
J D	19 th
E G	22 nd

Just 1 birthday in August

G M	4 th
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Your Lavington friends wish all of you very happy birthdays and send you love and best wishes on your own special day.



In July we have 2 couples celebrating wedding anniversaries.

R and S	21 st
P and M J	24 th

In August we celebrate with another 2 couples,

C and A B	5 th
H and J V	21 st

Congratulations to all 4 couples. Your Lavington friends send you all love and good wishes as you celebrate your own special day.

PRAYER DIARY FOR JULY AND AUGUST

w/c 7th July

We pray for the United Kingdom as the General Election has taken place. We pray that those elected to serve the people of our country may do so with integrity and honesty.

w/c 14th

We pray for football fans across Europe as they cheer their teams. We pray for the players that they may be good role models for children who admire them.

w/c 21st

We pray for those who are unable to get out and about, for those unable to join us in worship or at Tuesday Café; may they be strengthened by our prayers.

w/c 28th

We pray for young people as they begin their long school holidays. May their summers be filled with happy memories of playing in the park and picnics on the beach.

w/c 4th August

We pray for our sisters and brothers in the many faith communities within our town. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit in their worship and witness.

w/c 11th

We pray for the work of Amigos as they assist farmers and trainee farmers in Uganda to learn about conservation farming, business skills and life skills.

w/c 18th

We pray for our church fellowship at Lavington URC as we share an outing to Muddiford URC for afternoon tea. May we sense God's presence as we share together.

w/c 25th

We pray for young people preparing to return to school, remembering especially those who are anxious about starting in a new class or a new school. May they be comforted by God's presence.

The Minister

THANK YOUs

J H has asked me to pass on her grateful thanks for the lovely basket of flowers taken to her by J for the celebration of her and C's wedding anniversary in April and also says thank you for the pretty posy for her birthday in June.

Although she is not able to attend worship these days, she still feels a part of the church family which is good because I know that we still think of her as part of the fellowship. Please remember her and C in your prayers.

Editor

To all my friends at Lavington.

Thank you so much for the lovely arrangement of flowers J brought me the other week, it was so kind of you, thanks a lot.

As you know I went into hospital with a heart problem but while there I had a blackout or a fall and landed on my coccyx, badly bruising it. This has been very painful as you can imagine.

My heart problem has been diagnosed as A.F. (Atrial Fibrillation) so, I am going into RDE hospital Exeter later on this week, just for a day so it can be corrected.

Once again thank you very much for the flowers. I am hoping it won't be too long before I am back with you.

God bless you all.

H M.

I have been so cheered by Friends sending Get Well cards, Flowers, Plants and Treats together with Phone calls, Emails, Texts and Messages following my second hip replacement operation – a very big **Thank You** to you all.

It is so pleasant to be in the lounge with all the colours, smells and tastes to cheer me as I await time to heal the operation site and new joint. Hopefully it won't be too many more weeks until I will be back amongst you all once again. Love to you all. J xxx

A PRESENTATION



As many of you will know, our good friend, Revd Tony Coates has been poorly for some time.

However, recently he reached the 60th anniversary of his 'Ordination to Ministry' back in 1964.

To recognise this achievement the URC has awarded him a

'Certificate of Service'.

A short ceremony took place last week at home and the Certificate was presented to Tony on behalf of the URC by Revd John Robinson.

I was invited and after the presentation we shared coffee and sticky buns, yum, yum and fellowship!

Tony started his Ministry at the City Temple London, where he was the Assistant Minister. From there he became the Free Church Chaplain at Keele University in Newcastle, Staffordshire. At one time he worked for the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland as the English Translator. Plus, several Pastorates over the years. His final church was at Hutton and Shenfield, Essex. From there he retired and with his wife retired to Westward Ho!

Those who have worshipped here for a long time will know that Tony has lead worship here many, many times over the years. He has also conducted funerals and baptisms here. On a personal note, he also took part in my marriage service.

Tony, we send you congratulations and love on your wonderful achievement. Thank you for all that you have done for Lavington over the years. We have greatly appreciated your Ministry to us. Thank you. *Editor*

JULY ROTAS

MINISTRY of FLOWERS

We thank those who are providing flowers for our sanctuary this month and Those who arrange them if asked to do so.

7th Mrs A B
14th Mrs H M
21st Mrs J C
28th Mr P J

VESTIBULE DUTIES

7th Mrs L C
14th Mrs L B
21st Mrs A B
28th Revd C B

VESTRY DUTIES

7th Mrs A B
14th Mrs L C
21st Mrs J P
28th Mrs J C

COMMUNION

Prep 7th Mrs J D / Mrs A B
Servers Mrs L C / Mrs A B

READERS

7th Mrs A B
14th Mrs J P
21st Mrs S M
28th Revd C B

SUNDAY COFFEE Mrs J D
OFFERTORY STEWARDS Mr & Mrs R C

AUGUST ROTAS

MINISTRY of FLOWERS

We thank those who are providing flowers for our sanctuary this month and those who arrange them if asked to do so.

4 th	Mrs L B
11 th	Mrs L B
18 th	Mrs J D
25 th	Mrs M M

VESTIBULE DUTIES

4 th	Mr P J
11 th	Mrs H M / Mrs J C
18 th	Revd C B
25 th	Mrs L C

VESTRY DUTIES

4 th	Mrs J D
11 th	Mrs L C
18 th	Mrs A B
25 th	Mrs J C

COMMUNION

Prep	4 th	Mrs J C / Mrs L C
Servers		Mrs J P / Mrs J D

BIBLE READERS

4 th	Mrs J C
11 th	Mrs J D
18 th	Mrs A B
25 th	Mrs H M

SUNDAY COFFEE	Mrs A B
OFFERTORY STEWARDS	Mrs A B & Miss J S

TUESDAY CAFÉ ROTA – JULY

	KITCHEN	REFRESHMENTS	TEAS/COFFEES
2nd	JD LB	AB LC	JP JS
9th	JD BG	LC JS	KQ CB
16th	JD AB	JC LC	HM JS
23rd	JD JS	JC LC	MT WH
30th	JD AB	JP C	RS BG

TUESDAY CAFÉ – AUGUST

	KITCHEN	REFRESHMENTS	TEAS/COFFEES
6th	JD JS	JC AB	LC WR
13th	JD BG	JC JS	HM LC
20th	JD HN	JC RC	JS JP
27th	JD AB	JS CB	LC MT

NEWS of the LAVINGTON FAMILY

As we went to print for the June Connexions, we had just received the sad news that **V P** had died. Since then, her funeral service has taken place at Lavington with Rob leading the service. It was a traditional service with her immediate and wider family attending with some Lavington folk present. V's son Richard, played the organ for the whole service just as he had done when his father Les died 10 years ago.

This was followed with the committal at the North Devon Crematorium then returning to Lavington for refreshments. In the coming days please remember V's family in your prayers.

It has been lovely to see **C and L W** in church over the past few weeks with C looking and feeling so well. Unfortunately, **G M** has been in RD and E hospital these last few days waiting to have emergency surgery on one of her ears. I now know that she has had the operation and has been discharged. We wish you well G and send love and good wishes to you for a good recovery. **J C** continues to make good progress following her hip operation earlier in June, for which we are all thankful. R keeps us up to date on J's progress and we are looking forward to seeing you again soon J. **H M** has been in a lot of pain recently since her fall and we know she has another hospital appointment at the RD and E hospital this week as they deal with another health issue. H, we hope that very soon you will soon start to feel an improvement. Recently it has been good to see **P and P H** at Tuesday Café. We look forward to seeing you both again when the time is right for you.

The Lavington family send love and prayers to all those who are anxious, stressed, or worried; those awaiting or undergoing treatment any housebound or those unable to join us for worship. May you all be surrounded by God's peace, hope and love.

Editor



FAVOURITE HYMN

My God, how wonderful thou art

Frederick William Faber (born in Yorkshire in 1814, died in London in 1863) was brought up in the strictest of Calvinistic environments, but during an extended membership of Oxford University, he came under the influence of John Henry Newman and became an ardent member of the strongly Anglo-Catholic “Oxford Movement”. After a brief period as a Church of England Rector in Huntingdonshire, he entered the Roman Catholic Church. He continued as a close friend and follower of Newman, ultimately starting a community in London which became the Brompton Oratory.

This hymn, one of Faber’s earliest, dates from about the time he moved to London and, despite its origins in the communities of Anglo-Catholicism, has found a place in the hymn books of most mainstream denominations. This is, no doubt, due to its marriage of the intensely personal (*My God yet I may love thee*) with an overwhelming sense of the majesty of God.

It has been suggested that the hymn could be seen as some sort of sequel to the search for security in Newman’s hymn “Lead kindly light” (544 in Rejoice and Sing) with the ‘seeker’ emerging to find clarity and peace.

As with many hymns, seemingly particularly from the 19th century, there has had to be some alterations to the text, leaving out 2 of the 9 original verses and recognising that some words have changed their meaning (“awful” in v.3 has widely been changed to “awesome”). But modern worshippers can sometimes be quite literal minded and a concept such as “*Prostrate before thy throne to lie and gaze and gaze on thee*” (the original wording in v.7) has been affected by the practical difficulty of gazing at anything except the floor while lying prostrate!

Faber’s other hymns include “Was there ever kindest shepherd” (R&S 353) as well as “O come and mourn with me awhile” (Congregational Praise 135) and “O Saviour, bless us ere we go” (Congregational Praise 634).

C

Lavington URC

Summer Fayre

Saturday 20th July 2024

10am to 1pm



Coffees/Teas



Cakes/Savouries

New Stall

Raffle

Bric a Brac

All welcome



Gifts / savouries for stalls are welcomed



MINISTRY of FLOWERS



From the time of the ancient Egyptians, people have been using flowers for display and celebration. There was some interest in flowers in medieval times, but they really burst onto the scene right across Europe in the 16th century. Garlands and floral decorations were used in ceremonies and flowers began to appear in

paintings. Explorers brought exciting new plants back from their travels and different styles of flower arranging developed in different countries.

Interests changed as the years passed; by Victorian times the fashion was for big displays and in the 20th century there were wider influences, for example from Japan where the art was very old. Interestingly, in Japan, flower arranging was traditionally restricted to men, though here in Britain it was often seen as a suitable accomplishment for young ladies. Flower shows and horticultural societies flourished and of course, they still do.

English churches were spending a lot of money on flowers and greenery for displays as far back as the 15th century. The custom grew during the reign of Elizabeth 1, when decoration in churches was becoming rather plain.

Flowers were used to mark special occasions. There were festivals - Christmas, Easter, Whitson (Pentecost) – as well as Saints days and weddings etc. Flowers in season were used for appropriate days such as St John's Wort for St John the Baptist's day. Particular flowers became symbolic – for example – lilies were associated with the Virgin Mary and funerals; holly and ivy were used at Christmas.

Nowadays we are used to having flowers in our homes and similarly in our churches every week, not only for special occasions, though we continue to mark those days too.

As you know Lavington has an annual 'Flower Rota' for those people who are pleased to contribute to the beauty of our sanctuary week by week by providing flowers and we thank Jill, Liz (Braunton) and Alison who gladly arrange flowers for anyone who asks them to. Following the Sunday service, Jill distributes those flowers in order to support, celebrate or thank and in all cases to bring further enjoyment. Please speak to Jill, Alison or Liz if you would like to be included.

Article taken from Hayes Free Church URC magazine. Ed.

ECO CHURCH NEWS

Christian Climate Action (CCA) is a community of Christians supporting each other in acts of non-violent direct action and public witness, as a way of following Jesus Christ in the face of climate breakdown. To explore the various options of non-violent ways to raise awareness of Climate Change they have arranged an online workshop on Wednesday 17th July, 7.00pm-8:30pm, led by Holly. For further details visit:

<https://christianclimateaction.org/events/>

They also hold **daily prayer meetings** on Zoom at 9am.

Rob

PREMISES NEWS

To assist in keeping the halls and church clean, we have purchased a steam cleaner which will help to keep our floors even cleaner.

The light-weight aluminium ramp has been well used this past month, enabling access to the main church entrance for those with mobility issues (including those using wheelchairs and electric mobility scooters). Being much lighter than the previous ramp this one is much easier to carry around and put in place.

Rob

FOUR WORMS AND A LESSON TO BE LEARNED

A Minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his sermon. Four worms were placed into four jars. The first in a jar of alcohol, the second a jar of cigarette smoke, the third in chocolate syrup and the fourth in good, clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon the Minister reported the following results: the first worm in alcohol, dead. The second worm in cigarette smoke, dead. The third worm in chocolate syrup, dead. The fourth worm in good, clean soil, alive!

The Minister said to his congregation, *“what did you learn from this demonstration?”* Silence. Then a little old lady sitting in the back pew (you’ll all know her) replied, *“as long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate you won’t have worms!”*

That pretty much ended the service!

From a church magazine

Fun Page

The three words in each clue have a fourth word in common.
e.g. Axe, Pitched and Ship = Battle

1. Bone – Door – Pedal _____
2. Designer – Protective – Warm _____
3. Consenting – Education – Hood _____
4. Circle – City – Sanctum _____
5. Bitter – Curd – Drop _____
6. Fire – High – Moon _____
7. Carbon – Cat – Right _____
8. Deck – Reaches – School _____
9. Bracelet – Offensive – School _____
10. Every – Near – Some _____
11. Cake – Famine – Mashed _____
12. Breeze – Gull – Red _____
13. Coaching – Keeper – Sign _____
14. Bin – Disposal – Land _____
15. Dog – Stud – Wing _____
16. Bacon – Blue – Pastry _____
17. Artichoke – Theatre – Trotter _____
18. Bath – Stitch – Wet _____
19. Collector – Management – National _____
20. Arranging – Corn – Passion _____

Answers to June Quiz

1. Mousehole 2. Deal 3. Ryde 4. Sandwich 5. Blackpool 6. King's Lyn
7. Bournemouth 8. Cowes 9. Whitstable 10. Redcar 11. Morecambe
12. Poole 13. Wick 14. Looe 15. Swansea 16. Ayr 17. Fishguard
18. Lulworth 19. Flint 20. Oban

Who's who at Lavington URC

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Church & Hall Bookings

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Enquiries for weddings and baptisms are welcomed.
Please contact Church & Hall Bookings Secretary above.

**The September issue of Connexions is due out
on Sunday 1st September**

**Please give items for inclusion to Janet Palmer or send by email to
palmer.jan@tiscali.co.uk**

Before or at the latest – Sunday 25th August

Connexions is edited by Janet Palmer
Printed and assembled by Jenny and Ricky Cawsey