



September and
October 2024

In Touch

The magazine of the URC congregations in
Maidenhead and Marlow



The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

"I hope and pray that you (and I) may be motivated to think more deeply during this Season of Creation."

Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson. Moderator, the Church of Scotland.

WE ARE PART OF YOUR CREATION

Lord God,

We are part of Your Creation

We look around, we use and abuse
We can see what we'll lose
But now it's time for us to choose

We are part of Your Creation

We moan and we complain
We are quick to point the blame
But everything just stays the same

We are part of Your Creation

We express our concern
We now worry, not if but when
But ... we never seem to learn

We are part of Your Creation

But what we do takes its toll
We look around, what is our goal
We are involved, we have a role

For we are part of Your Creation

The time is now to get involved
To care for all, for we are blessed

We can address what we have
messed

For we are part of Your Creation

Seeing Your beauty all around
The beauty and wonder may still be
found

We commit ourselves for we are
bound

For we are part of Your Creation

Your creation was for all
Help us now to hear that call
We respond for time eternal

For we are part of Your Creation

Bless us as we seek to care
And do everything that we might
dare

We leave a legacy for all to share

For we are part of Your Creation

Let us nurture every generation
In every corner of every nation

For... we are part of Your Creation

Worship at Maidenhead and Marlow

All services start at 10.30 unless stated otherwise

Date	Location and worship leader for Maidenhead	Location and worship leader for Marlow
8 Sept	Keith Whyte	Rob Lewis
15 Sept	Zoom: Maidenhead Elders	
22 Sept	Helen Everard	Rev Margaret Yee, Communion
29 Sept	Joint service in Maidenhead Gordon Campbell, Commitment for Life	
6 October	Bob Robertson, Communion Harvest Thanksgiving	Geoff Cronin
13 October	Stephen Thornton Anniversary	Anna Crawford Harvest Thanksgiving
20 October	Zoom: Martin Beck	
27 October	Maidenhead joins worship at Marlow	Paul Murphy
3 November	Bob Robertson, Communion followed by Church Meeting/AGM	Rev Alan Bolton, Communion

Marlow diary dates

Ukraine collection days

Marlow is open for donations for Ukraine on Fridays from 10am-11am and Sundays from 4.15pm-5pm.

Ukraine vigil

Sundays at 4pm in the Marlow church garden.

House Group

Meets on the first and third Tuesdays every month at Doreen's house. Please contact George Flett for details.

Coffee mornings

Join us for coffee and fellowship at the Ark café every Tuesday, 10.30-11.30am.

Marlow Elders

There will be Elders meetings on 9 September and 14 October.

Church meeting

There will be a church meeting on 8 September

Maidenhead diary dates

Ukraine collection days

Saturdays from 10am-12 noon.

Coffee Morning

From Wednesday 4 September we will meet at the Premier Inn from 11am.

Maidenhead Elders

Elders will meet on Tuesday 10 September and Tuesday 8 October, both at the new time of 2pm.

Church meeting and AGM

Sunday 3 November.

Harvest Thanksgiving services

Maidenhead October 6: Non-perishable gifts will be given to Foodshare.

Perishable goods will be offered to the congregation in exchange for a donation to Foodshare.

Marlow October 13: A decision on the distribution of donations will be notified after the next Elders meeting.

Joint Commitment for Life 29 September at Maidenhead

We will have a 'bread and cheese' lunch after the service with a voluntary donation for Commitment for Life. Information to follow!

Update on Vacancy

As you know, the Pastorate Vacancy Team which is made up of representatives from the four churches in our new Pastorate (St Paul's, Bracknell, Maidenhead, Christ Church, Marlow and Christ Church, Windsor) and our two Interim Moderators (Rev Michael Hodgson and Rev Graham Hoslett) have spent the past couple of months working on the Pastorate Profile. This is the document which has to be produced by Pastorates who are seeking a Minister. Its aim is to help prospective candidates to gain an understanding of the vacant Pastorate. By the time this edition of In Touch is distributed, you will all have seen a copy of the Pastorate Profile and had a chance to review it at a Church Meeting.

If, as is hoped, the Church Meetings of all four churches approve the Profile, it will be finalized in the week of 2 September before being submitted to the Synod Pastoral Committee (North Eastern) for consideration at its meeting on 12 September. If the Pastoral Committee approve the Profile, they will then submit it to the Synod Moderators for them to consider at their meeting on 1 October.

Prior to that meeting, the Wessex Moderator, Rev Michael Hopkins, will meet with the Pastorate Vacancy Team on 23 September to gain an understanding of the Pastorate and what we are looking for in a Minister. This will enable him to speak more knowledgably about our Pastorate at the Moderators' meeting. It will also give the Vacancy Team the opportunity to ask questions about the arrangements for "preaching with a view" and the "call" process.

If Moderators agree, our vacancy will be advertised to Ministers towards the end of October. The whole process has been a lot quicker than we originally envisaged. Many thanks to all those who have been involved in any way in getting us to this stage. We will keep you posted!

Valerie Brownridge

Maidenhead Elders Election for 2025

The election of Elders for Maidenhead URC in 2025 will take place at the Church Meeting/AGM on Sunday, November 3rd. The church is currently in a significant period as we seek a new Minister. We would really welcome additional Elders to bring fresh ideas and participation. It's not too early to start thinking about it now!

If you feel called to serve, or if someone suggests you might make a good Elder, you are encouraged to consider the role carefully and prayerfully. If you wish to nominate someone, just ask them first and then complete a nomination form - I will have a supply of these shortly. Please drop completed forms in the box in the link by Sunday, October 27.

For any questions or more information please contact me directly.

John Holton, Church Secretary, Maidenhead URC

The story so far

We sent our seventeenth part-delivery of aid to Ukraine via Poland by truck eventually on 24 July 2024 as the truck driver had delays with Customs at Dover which moved the dates around. Many thanks for all the people who 'came out of the woodwork' to help load the truck despite the time and dates changing daily.

Donations were brought over from Marlow and combined with the collections at Maidenhead. At Maidenhead every Saturday morning we open from 10.00 am to 12.00 to receive donations and repack and we get regular donations from Waitrose Maidenhead and Tesco in Taplow. We are planning to try and get an additional paid delivery from Iceland and Tesco in Maidenhead which our small team can sort and pack. Marlow are continuing to keep the vigil, collect donations (Fridays and Sundays) be part of the busy lorry packing days and have more concerts in the pipeline.

Jolanta, one of the people who started this effort, is in Poland at present on holiday and has spoken to Ewa (the lady we send the donations to in Poland and then she delivers them into Ukraine) and below is a copy of Ewa's recent WhatsApp message:

*After a break caused by the repair of the bus, another trip. War still brings death and destruction...As long as I receive permission from the military administration to enter Kherson, I will go there, because these people cannot be left alone! Repairing the bus will cost 5,000 PLN (£980), we also need funds for fuel, disinfectants for tools for Kherson veterinarians and two charging stations for our friends who have so far helped others, now they are on the front 🥺
Thank you in advance for every share of the post and every, even the smallest payment EWA*

We will let everyone know how we will proceed going forward but there is obviously need so we will keep going.

Mike Liddle

Ukraine fundraising events in the pipeline!

Great news! There are two Ukraine fundraising events in the pipeline. We hope that the Gill Love Band will play at the British Legion in Marlow one Thursday in October. The second is another concert by Ukulele Mondays at Marlow URC sometime in October/November. Planning for both events is at an early stage but we just wanted to put you on notice!

Valerie Brownridge

Ukraine and International Day of Peace

Childrens' Exhibition of White Angels in memory of the children who died during the war in Ukraine

Program:

- Entertainment activities for children
- Concert featuring three groups :
'Kryla', 'Vivo', 'Dzvin_Ko'
- Raffle
- Sale of handmade Ukrainian toys
- Ukrainian Borscht: the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage and cuisine from Ukrainian restaurants.

**September 21, 2024
6:00PM**

International Day of Peace

**LONDON AUGB
BRANCH**
154, Holland Park
W11 4UH

TICKETS
Up to 5 years - free
From 5 years - £5
Adults (18+) - £10.

By Mariia Petrinets

For Paypal payment
& donations email: Ukraineangelsmemoryforever@gmail.com

For tickets scan QR-code



За інформаційної підтримки  **USPUK**
Universal Sponsorship
Pathway UK

**UKRAINE IN ANGELS' MEMORY
FOREVER**





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LONDON

DNISTER
RESTAURANT

Ukrainian Pub

Mariia Petrinets, whom we know from angel and doll making workshops and from Spivochi choir, has been very busy over the last few months organising a charity event in London to take place at 6pm on Saturday 21 September which is International Day of Peace. It is titled 'Childrens' Exhibition of White Angels', in memory of all the children who have died during the war in Ukraine. It will be held at the London branch of AUGB (The Association of Ukrainians in

Great Britain), 154 Holland Park W11 4UH. She would be delighted to see any of us who are able to go along. I plan to get the train there so let me know if you would like to join me. All the details are on the poster above.

Alison Holton

Farewell to David and Jo

On Saturday 6 July, we held a special tea at Maidenhead to bid farewell to David and Jo Downing. About 50 of us, mainly from our Maidenhead and Marlow churches, tucked into a delicious finger buffet – thank you everyone for bringing such a variety of food to share.

We all then moved into the church for the presentation. Valerie and John, the two church secretaries, said a few words of reflection and thanks, before handing over the different gifts. The photobook was a collection of photos taken over the 8 years David and Jo were with us. (Both our churches also have a copy if you wish to look at it and will be kept as a record of an active 8 years in our churches.)

Then came the parcel wrapped in silver paper... a stone rabbit! What was the significance? It had been skilfully sculpted from local Zimbabwean leopard rock



by ArtPeace, the stone carving community in Zimbabwe which Marlow has supported for many years. We then watched a moving video in which these talented Zimbabweans thanked David and wished him well for the future.

A video of songs sung for David by Spivochi, a card covered in signatures, flowers and a sum of money completed our farewell gifts and good wishes.

On the afternoon of Sunday 14 July we all gathered at Marlow for David's final service. Titled 'A Time of Thanksgiving', we reflected on certain aspects of his time with us and joined in the URC Liturgy of Leaving. We sang rousing hymns but it has to be said the singing of the blessing at the end, both verses, brought a few tears! We then all filed out to the church garden for the Ukraine vigil, followed by lots of tea and cake and farewell hugs. We shall certainly miss them both!

Alison Holton

And from David and Jo

Thank you....

It already feels like such a long time ago that we left! But, thank you for our party, the very kind, generous and poignant gifts! Thank you for the time together on our last Sunday as well... and the cake! Thank you from both of us to everyone who came, set up, prepared, served, and cleared up!

We are settling in. Our house is getting straight, and we are working out the local area. I think we can admit, we've had a cider or two along the way! It has been great meeting people here... especially as some of the Synod staff know Marlow, some people at the local Church of England church used to live in



a town called Maidenhead, and someone who works on the steam trains used to live in Burnham!

Taunton is treating us well, we have found the lovely park, the Ukrainian cafe, our best local coffee shop (which is only 10 mins walk from our home.... In the crematorium!). I can assure you, everyone we have taken there has come back!

So far my time has been spent doing a variety of things including some planning meetings, booking some training, and getting to know the office staff. Car parking is always interesting at the Synod office... especially as it is complicated by Marks and Spencer being so close! Jo has been busy helping her mum move. But we have found that there are certain things around here that are great... Steam trains, cricket, cider, cream teas, roads with grass up the middle, the local butchers, and the local people!

It was emotional leaving, and it has been emotional settling in. But so much will be happening over the next few months it feels like we are gearing up for things! If any of you are able to come to my induction it would be great to see you. But if you can't, your prayers would be just as welcome.

You will all continue to be in our prayers...

God bless,

David and Jo

A musical farewell



Congratulations to Maidenhead's Music Director Mateusz who is getting married in mid-September. He will be around for a while after that but has advised me that he will be relocating to Poland in late November. Before that he will be travelling to Italy for some performances, so sadly his last Sunday with us will be 3 November.

He has asked if he could give a "farewell" performance for us on **Saturday 2 November** as he has really enjoyed being part of our church. He says 'he will miss our church very much' and would love to visit, perhaps even accompany

a service sometime, if we need someone and he happens to be in London at the time!

I do hope you will be able to come along and support his final performance with us - he has been a very supportive member of our church and we will certainly miss his wonderful expertise.

John Holton

Maidenhead Prayer Chain: an update

Maidenhead URC has had a prayer chain for many years and we would like to renew it. There is no shortage of need for prayer.

How does it work? Members volunteer to set aside time when there is a request for prayer to focus on that person or situation. This is done individually, not as a group, but with the knowledge that others are praying.

Would you like to be part of the prayer chain? Or do you need prayer?

Linda Nightingale is going to organise the prayer chain again and would like to hear from anyone who would like to join it. And also from people who have been on it for a while just to confirm if you are happy to continue. You can get Linda's phone number and email address from Mila:

administrator@maidenheadurc.org.uk

Linda will need your phone number and email address (if you use email).

If you would like to receive the prayerful support of others please also let Linda know.

Liz Robertson

Reform Magazine – Church Life Review

Both churches have received additional free copies of the September edition of Reform. It contains a section about the Church Life Review and the impact it will have on the United Reformed Church. This begins with a helpful article by the General Secretary, John Bradbury, setting out the story of the Review so far.

Phase One has now been completed and work has started on Phase Two whose main objectives are to investigate new ways of working, analyse the outcome of

those investigations and to deliver recommendations to an extraordinary session of the General Assembly in November 2025. The hope is that the review will lead to changes which will “unburden local churches and equip the URC to flourish in a changing world”. This is going to have an impact on all URC churches. I urge you all to borrow one of these free copies and to read about the Review. We can apply for additional copies if need be.

Valerie Brownridge

A wedding in the family

Some of you at Maidenhead will remember our three children - Caroline, now living in New York; Natalie, married to Clive and living in Spain, parents to three-year-old James; and Simon in Australia. They all attended Junior Church and were all members of the uniformed organisations.

Simon and Bushra have just renewed their vows at the Compleat Angler in Marlow on their exact 4th wedding anniversary, and are now parents of baby Lawrence.

They had married in Bondi, Australia with only two witnesses on 9 May 2020 during Covid so we were delighted to celebrate en masse on

the most glorious of days after the wettest of springs!

Three days later some of us were able to travel to Spain to enjoy a celebration party at Natalie’s and Clive’s restaurant.

Alison Rose





The
United
Reformed
Church

**The General Assembly
of the United Reformed Church
invites you to the induction of the
Revd David Downing
as Moderator of the South Western Synod**

The service will be led by the Moderator of the General Assembly,
the Revd Timothy Meadows,
and the preacher will be
the Revd Jenny Mills

Date/Time:

Saturday 5th October 2024

Starting at 2.30pm



It is intended that the service will also be
available via Zoom - details to follow.

Location:

Westfield United Reformed Church, Bridgwater

Church address: Westfield URC, West Street, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 7EU.



Parking is available on St. Matthew's Field, adjacent to the church.



There is a railway station in Bridgwater which is just over a mile from
the church, approximately a 25 minute walk.

We encourage car sharing and the use
of public transport as much as possible.

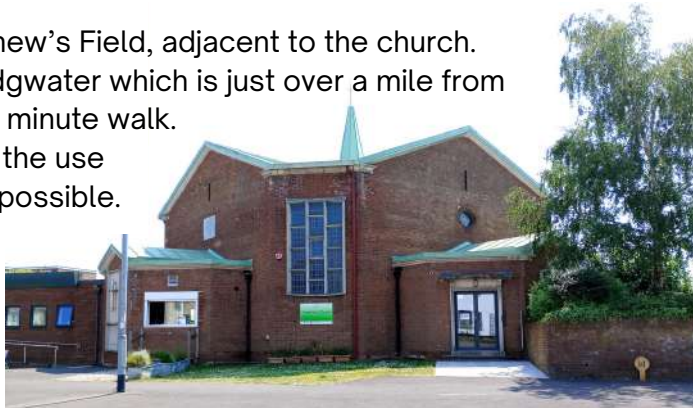


Refreshments will be available
after the service.



To assist with catering, please
RSVP by 14th September 2024,

giving details of any specific
dietary requirements. Email replies will be appreciated where possible.



Contact Us

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The
United
Reformed
Church
South Western
Synod

Summer fun

With the onset of Autumn (a sad fact but true) Maidenhead will once again be reverting to having our Coffee Mornings at the Premier Inn (behind the church) on Wednesday mornings at 11am. All welcome!



It was really nice to be able to visit people's gardens and/or homes in July



and August and I would like to say a big thank you to all those who gave us their hospitality as well as those who attended.

John Holton

Anne's Cookie Cake

If you try this out, why not try using Fairtrade chocolate or Fairtrade sugar? And bring some to coffee after service?

Maidenhead's summer coffee mornings were treated to this cake and wanted to share the recipe. It is from Good Housekeeping Food magazine and available on-line. It's crispy on the outside and gooey in the middle.

Anne Kaye told us: 'I call it a Cookie Cake. I often try new recipes – some are successful and some are not. They could be too complicated, too sweet, not very nice to eat etc. This is simple and easy and useful if you have a hungry family or guests who want something different.'



Ingredients

150 g unsalted butter, softened, plus extra to grease

125 g light brown soft sugar

60 g granulated sugar

2 medium eggs
2 tsp. vanilla extract
200 g plain flour
2 tsp. cornflour
1/2 tsp. bicarbonate of soda
150 g milk or dark chocolate, cut into 1-2cm pieces
Flaked sea salt, optional

Directions

Step 1: In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugars until pale and fluffy then beat in the eggs and vanilla until combined. Sift over the flour, cornflour, bicarbonate of soda and quarter of tsp fine salt, and mix with a wooden spoon until combined.

Step 2: Mix in the chocolate chunks. Cover and chill for at least 1hr (up to 24hr).

Step 3: Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan) mark 4 and lightly grease a rough 21cm (at the base) ovenproof frying pan or skillet. Scrape in the cookie dough and press to level (it doesn't have to be neat).

Step 4: Bake for 25min, or until golden and the centre of the cookie looks set. Leave to cool for 5min (or completely). Sprinkle over some flaked salt, if using, and serve with spoons, or in slices, with vanilla ice cream, if you like.

Once cool, slice and transfer to an airtight container. Keep at room temperature for up to 4 days.

Some advice found in a church in France

- When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God'. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phone.
- If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.
- If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.

Diana Robertson

Fundraising challenge in Marlow

Kailey and her mum Ailsa will be walking 30 miles in September for Dementia UK. You can find sponsorship forms in both churches and they would really appreciate your support!

Ride and Stride!

On 14th September Bucks Historic Churches will be holding their annual *Ride & Stride* event to raise funds for maintaining historic churches. Christ Church, Marlow will be welcoming participants, as usual.

If you would like to take part in visiting churches and raising funds on foot or bicycle, please contact www.bucks-historic-churches.org.

Sheila Blair

Scout Group Family Camp

Once again we spent a weekend in mid-July at Paccars campsite near Chalfont St Peters. This time there were 20 adults and 18 young people having fun doing all sorts of activities, including cooking their own meals.



We were lucky with the weather and got all the tents down dry. The annual report of a busy year just gone is available in the Link for you to pick up if you wish.

Alison Holton



Fairtrade Fortnight – September 9 -22

This year Fairtrade has a focus on the effects of climate change on the farmers they work with.

Meet Jaime Alberto García Flórez, a coffee farmer from Colombia. Jaime works on his farm in the North of Colombia and worries about the future of coffee as the effects of climate change continue to worsen.

‘We live from coffee. We fight for coffee so that we can have this tradition in the future for our children... we are in danger because of climate change. It’s really here.

The temperature is too high so we have had to replace some coffee with cocoa and plant trees between our remaining coffee bushes to give them shade. We are the first generation to feel the change and the last generation to be able to change it.’

With support from Fairtrade, farmers in Jaime’s co-operative are learning new ways to produce more sustainable, more eco-friendly coffee that could help save future production.

They practice dynamic agroforestry like planting shade trees to boost soil quality and cope with higher temperatures. The co-operative has invested in improving coffee harvesting and drying, carried out a wastewater decontamination project, and provided training to members of the co-operative.

From these adaptations there has been habitat restoration, beneficial microorganisms in the soil, and better fertilizer management Jaime says, “*I believe there are things we can all do to help maintain nature’s natural balance that will help protect our environment and our future.*”

Where small holder farmers and workers can protect the forests local to them, we can support on a global level by continuing to purchase Fairtrade products.

Photo: Jaime Alberto García Flórez, coffee farmer from Red Ecolsierra Co-operative in the Sierra Nevada region of Colombia © Chris Terry 2024



Screening of “Where Olive Trees Weep” 22 September

Some of you may remember Mary Saunders who gave a talk at a Maidenhead discussion evening a few years ago about her experience of being one of the foreign volunteers helping Palestinian farmers in the West Bank during the olive harvest. By their presence they hoped to dissuade settlers from attacks, but also make the harvest faster so farmers would be less exposed to violence. Mary is now part of a group of local, concerned pro-Palestinian Marlow residents called “Marlow Palestine Solidarity” who are trying to raise awareness of the decades’ long occupation of the Palestinian Territories.

The group approached us to ask if they could hire Marlow URC to screen a film called “**Where Olive Trees Weep**”. The film was produced over three weeks in May-June 2022, in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, and the occupied territory of the West Bank: Jericho, the Jordan Valley, Hebron, Bethlehem and the outskirts of Ramallah and has won a number of international awards. It follows, among others, Palestinian journalist and therapist Ashira Darwish, who has worked in Palestine for the BBC, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, grassroots activist Ahed Tamimi, Israeli journalist Amira Hass, who writes for Ha’aretz and Dr. Gabor Maté, a holocaust survivor who is known for his work on trauma, addiction, stress and childhood. In addition to giving the historical context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the film explores themes of loss, trauma and justice. You can watch a trailer of the film at

<https://whereolivetreesweep.com/>

The film lasts about one hour forty minutes and will be shown at Marlow URC on Sunday 22 September at 7pm (doors open at 6.30 pm). The event will be free but a donation of £5 per person towards the costs of running the event would be very much appreciated. Those wishing to attend will need to register in advance using the link below.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/marlowpalestinesolidarity/1370966>

There will also be merchandise stalls selling ethical and fair-trade products, in aid of Palestine.

Valerie Brownridge

Commitment for Life 29 September - prayer

Gordon will be leading this service for both congregations at Maidenhead. This prayer from the CfL resources reminds us of the choices we face as Christians.

*We choose a world of justice,
where resources are not hoarded, but equally distributed;
in which we work for a world made fit for future generations, caring for one another in peace.*

We choose, we choose God, for God is justice.

*We choose a world of peace,
in which people no longer destroy one another,
and all are respected for their uniqueness.*

We choose, we choose God, for God is peace.

*We choose a world of love,
in which God's love for all is known, where each person is accepted and celebrated,
through whom God's purpose for the world is fully revealed.*

We choose, we choose God, for God is love.

*We choose a world of joy,
where the joy of God in all creation is fêted, where the goodness within all is gladly known.*

Where we join creation's song of praise.

We choose. We choose God. Amen.



Contact us

Maidenhead	Marlow
Maidenhead United Reformed Church West Street, Maidenhead SL6 1RL www.maidenheadurc.org.uk	Christ Church United Reformed Church Oxford Road, Marlow SL7 2NL www.christchurch-marlow.org.uk
Please contact a Church Secretary or the Administrator until a new Minister joins us.	
Church Secretary: John Holton 07481 020157	Church Secretary: Valerie Brownridge secretary@christchurch-marlow.org.uk 01628 523367
Church Administrator: administrator@maidenheadurc.org.uk Office: 01628 635781 (For urgent matters contact Church Secretary)	Church Treasurer: Tom Craig
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The logo on the cover this month is from the URC Joint Public Issues Team	