

# NEWSLETTER

MAY & JUNE 2024

[www.saxurcleistonuc.org.uk](http://www.saxurcleistonuc.org.uk)



## MINISTER'S LETTER

### REFLECTING ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

**It's not long till Pentecost Sunday, and I find myself reflecting on the incredible power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

Pentecost is such a special time for us as Christians, one of the three great feasts in the Christian calendar. It's a time to remember and celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the early disciples, as describe in the book of Acts. The Holy Spirit came like a rushing wind and tongues of fire, empowering the disciples to boldly proclaim the Gospel in languages they didn't even know. Can you imagine witnessing such a miraculous event?

But Pentecost isn't just an historical event to commemorate; it's a reality we can experience today. The same Holy Spirit that filled the disciples almost 2000 years ago is alive and active in our lives right now. He is our Comforter, our Guide, our Advocate. He empowers us to live out our faith boldly and to share the love of Christ with others.

Sometimes we might forget about the Holy Spirit or overlook its importance in our Christian lives. We get caught up in the busyness of life, relying on our own strength and wisdom to get through each day. But the truth is, we were never meant to do life on our own. We were meant to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

So, as we approach Pentecost Sunday, let's take some time to reflect on our relationship with the Holy Spirit. Are we allowing her to work in and through us? Are we open to her leading in our lives? Are we seeking her guidance and wisdom in all that we do?

And so, let's pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our church and in our community and in ourselves. Let's pray for hearts to be stirred, lives to be transformed, and souls to be saved. May we be a people who are continually filled with the Holy Spirit, shining the light of Christ wherever we go.

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, let's remember the incredible gift we've been given in the Holy Spirit. Let's lean into her presence and power, knowing that with her, all things are possible.

*Revd David Rees*



---

## NEWS FROM SAXMUNDHAM URC

---



### START THE WEEK WITH A CUPPA



Our “Easter Special” Start the Week, on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, was lots of fun. We indulged (slightly prematurely) in some Apple and Cinnamon Hot Crossed Buns, made tissue paper flowers to “green” a plan cross in readiness for Easter Sunday and listened to some organ music played by Revd Adam.

Our time together concluded with a game of Bingo with Easter prizes such as chocolates, chocolate eggs, chocolate bunnies and a box of actual eggs.



Our next meeting will be on Bank Holiday Monday, **27<sup>th</sup> May** from 10:00 to 11:30(ish). In

**June** we gather on Monday **24<sup>th</sup>** again from 10:00 until 11:30. We plan to share conversation, games, creative activities and more.

### SPRING EVENT & GIFT WEEKEND



On **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May** from **2:00pm to 4:00pm** we have a special event in store a mini-concert followed by afternoon tea. The full details are shown in the display frame opposite.

## SPRING EVENT

### SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY

### 2:00pm – 4:00pm

## SEATED, ONE DAY, AT THE ORGAN

### AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

An entertaining **MINI-CONCERT**  
followed by **AFTERNOON TEA**



PART OF OUR GIFT GIVING WEEKEND  
IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS

The weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May will be our Gift Weekend. Following the positive response last year, we are asking all our friends to consider making a special, “one-off” gift, to support the work and mission of the church.

Gifts may be brought in person to the concert and tea (on 18<sup>th</sup>) or to our Sunday morning service (on 19<sup>th</sup>) or can be made by cheque or electronic transfer (BACS). We hope folk will be able to contribute and thank you for your support.

**Cheques** should be made payable to “Saxmundham United Reformed Church” – They can be sent, by post, to

Saxmundham URC, Chapel Road, Saxmundham IP17 1BJ. For **Electronic Transfer (BACS)** – Saxmundham United Reformed Church, Barclays, Sort Code: 20-98-07, Account No 90791288 – Please include reference “Gift Day”.

## **PENTECOST WORSHIP**



Our Pentecost (Whitsun) Sunday service takes place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 10:45am. It will be led by our Minister Revd Adam Earle. Join us to celebrate the festival day – the coming of the Holy Spirit. This will be a joint service with our friends from Leiston.

## **A SMALL FLOOD, A LEAK AND A LACK OF LIGHT**



Church buildings and resources are both a blessing and a challenge. They serve us well but, from time to time, require attention. Recently, when showing some visitors the church yard, Sue was surprised to discover water gushing through one of the cistern overflows onto the path outside. On further investigation she found that the toilet area, off the hall and the adjacent store room were flooded. Not as dramatic as the one experienced by Noah but a problem none-the-less.

The float valve in one of the toilet cisterns have broken off and so it was overflowing. Sue was able, with help

from our neighbours, to wedge the valve closed and stop the flow.

The following morning, assisted by Revd Adam and his wife Gillian, and a loan of the carpet cleaner (water vacuum) from Leiston United Church, the water was cleared and the valve replaced.

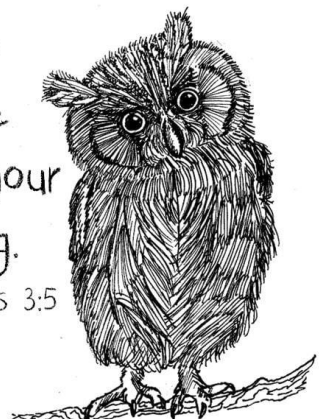
Our kitchen water heater (under the sink), which provide hot water for washing up etc. has also sprung a leak but thankfully not causing a flood. We are very grateful to local plumber, Chris Buzzard, who not only confirmed the problem but replaced the heater in a very short time frame.



Our TV screen that we use to display hymns and play music for our worship each week, as well as for our recently revived Film Afternoons, has failed. The problem was with the backlights who enable the image on the screen to be seen. Sadly, a repair is not possible and the warranty has expired so we will be having a new one shortly.

Trust in the LORD  
with all your heart  
and lean not on your  
own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5



---

## NEWS FROM LEISTON UNITED CHURCH

---



### WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



On Sunday 7th April, at Leiston United Church, as part of our Sunday worship we were thrilled to include the baptism of Freddie, son of Emily and Kierran. It was wonderful to see so many folk in church, including Freddie's family and friends, a fair number of whom were similarly new to the world.



The service was led by our minister Revd Adam and was, in fact, the first baptism he had conducted since his ordination in 2022 and was the first baptism in the church for seventeen years. As part of the message Adam spoke of the meaning of Freddie's names. Freddie means "Peaceful Ruler" and Michael means "Who is like God?" or "Gift of God" all very appropriate.

Family friends read the two passages from the Bible and the hymns included two chosen by Emily and Kierran, "All things bright and beautiful" and "Lord of all hopefulness."

We continue to pray for Freddie, Emily and Kierran and support them in any way we can.

### PROJECT 40SEVEN AGREEMENT AND PROGRESS



We have, for some time, been working to secure agreement with the URC Eastern Province Trust, who own the church building and the land associated with it, to secure agreement for Project 40Seven to "officially" have access across Church Square and the passage way. The assurance of this agreement will enable them to advance some of the aspects of their plans.

After a considerable time, during which the agreement was being examined and approved by the trust legal advisors, we are pleased to report that the signed copies of the agreement are now complete. We very much hope that Project 40Seven will now be able to proceed with some of the exciting and ambitious aspects of the development of the building.

We continue to value the developing partnership with the project, especially the mutual support between the Food Bank and the Community Larder.

## FOOD BANK SUPPORT & VOLUNTEERS



The food bank provides an important resource for folk in the community on a regular basis. We are grateful to everyone who supports the project with financial and donations of food and resources.

In September, one of our key support volunteers, will be heading off to university so we will be in need some additional help. If you are able to offer help on a regular or occasional basis please do contact Marion and David who would be very pleased to hear from you. Telephone: 01728 831446, email: [david@foster50.plus.com](mailto:david@foster50.plus.com) or call in on a Friday or Saturday morning and have a chat.

## LEISTON FOOD BANK

LEISTON UNITED CHURCH

OPEN WEEKLY

FRIDAYS 10:00 – 11:30

SATURDAYS 10:00 – 11:30

## COMMUNITY COFFEE

LEISTON UNITED CHURCH

OPEN WEEKLY

FRIDAYS 10:00 – 11:30

SATURDAYS 10:00 – 11:30

---

## LEISTON CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

---

### COMMUNITY PRAYERS



Our next LCT community prayer gathering will take place at **Leiston United Church** on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May** at **10:00am**. Come and join us as we bring the community, the nation and the wider world to God in prayer.

In June we gather again at **Leiston Baptist Church (John Street)** at **10:00am** on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June**. All are welcome to join on this occasion as well.

The next meeting for the LCT representatives will be at **10:00am** on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** Leiston United Church.

## LEISTON CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

### PENTECOST CELEBRATION & "PICNIC"



**19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024**

**15:00 CHURCH SQUARE**

**A SHORT, SIMPLE TIME OF  
WORSHIP FOLLOWED BY A  
BRING-AND-SHARE TEA.**

URC EASTERN SYNOD  
SOUTH SUFFOLK  
AREA PARTERSHIP

# CELEBRATION WORSHIP & AFTERNOON TEA

## SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 16:00 @ HADLEIGH URC

Last year around fifty folk from across the churches within the South Suffolk Area Partnership, gathered for worship and a magnificent tea at Needham Market United Church. This year we will gather again, this time at **Hadleigh URC** [IP7 5DL] at **16:00** on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July**.



As last year, our service will be led by the Moderator of Eastern Synod, Revd Lythan Nevard. Everyone is welcome to come and join this special event.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY EVENT

# PSALM-A-THON

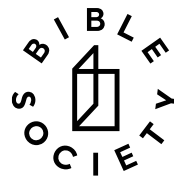
SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024

CHURCH SQUARE - LEISTON



The psalms are precious to so many people for so many reasons. Often described as the “Hymn Book” of the Bible they are ancient, beautiful, challenging and comforting. They address the whole rainbow of human fears, concerns and joys, some are from the voice of an individual, some from a community perspective.

On **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July** local Christians will be reading through all 150 psalms (with some presented in song or with musical backing). We will be set up in Church Square (adjacent to the United Church in Leiston). Folk will be sponsored to read for a particular period of time and we will be raising money for the Bible Society.



The Bible Society was established two hundred years ago with the aim of ensuring that Bibles are made available, throughout the world, in local languages. This work continues today with many around the world having benefitted from the past and ongoing work of the Society. Please support this event and help us celebrate the Psalms together.

# WORSHIPING TOGETHER

Leiston United Church is continuing to work closely in partnership with Saxmundham United Reformed Church as we move forward in faith. We are establishing a pattern of worship services which includes joint services at the different locations as well as continuing with afternoon worship at Leiston. Our worship for May and June will be as follows.

## MAY 2024

	LEISTON UNITED	SAXMUNDHAM URC
5	10:30 Sunday Worship with Communion Revd David Rees	←←← JOINT SERVICE @ Leiston
12		10:45 Sunday Worship Mrs Sue Liddell
	14:00 Afternoon Worship Revd Adam Earle	
19	→→→ JOINT SERVICE @ Saxmundham	10:45 Pentecost Sunday Worship Revd Adam Earle
	15:00 PENTECOST CELEBRATION Church Square	
26	→→→ JOINT SERVICE @ Saxmundham	10:45 Sunday Worship Mrs Allison Smith

## JUNE 2024

	LEISTON UNITED	SAXMUNDHAM URC
2	→→→ JOINT SERVICE @ Saxmundham	10:45 Sunday Worship with Communion Revd David Atkins
9	10:30am Sunday Worship Mrs Sue Hardy	10:45am Sunday Worship Mrs Sue Liddell
16		10:45am Sunday Worship Revd Adam Earle
	14:00 Afternoon Worship Revd Adam Earle	
23	→→→ JOINT SERVICE @ Saxmundham	10:45 Sunday Worship Mr Nigel Crisp
30	10:30am Sunday Worship Rev David Rees	←←← JOINT SERVICE @ Leiston

Please keep hold of this page and take careful note of the time and location of our services this week. We have also made alterations to the website [www.saxurcleistonuc.org.uk](http://www.saxurcleistonuc.org.uk) and have a reminder poster displayed at both church locations.

We look forward to developing our partnership further over the next few months.

---

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY & FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

---

### **MAY 2024**

- 8 19:00 Fruitfulness on the Frontline**  
Training via Zoom (See Advert)
- 14 10:00 LCT Community Prayers**  
@ Leiston United Church
- 15 10:30 Leiston United Church**  
Annual General & Church Meeting
- 14:00 CommuniTEA Chinwag**  
@ Leiston United Church
- 14:00 Saxmundham URC**  
Elders' Meeting
- 18 15:00 May Event – Mini Concert & Tea**  
@ Saxmundham URC (Gift Weekend)
- 19 15:00 Leiston Christians Together**  
**Pentecost Celebration & Picnic**  
Church Square, Leiston
- 21 14:00 CommuniTEA Chinwag**  
@ Fromus Centre, Saxmundham
- 22 19:00 Fruitfulness on the Frontline**  
Training via Zoom (See Advert)
- 27 10:00 Start the Week with a Cuppa**  
Saxmundham URC

### **JUNE 2024**

- 5 19:00 Fruitfulness on the Frontline**  
Training via Zoom (See Advert)
- 8 URC Eastern Synod – Big Day Out**  
10:00 – 16:00 Trinity Park, Ipswich
- 11 10:00 LCT Community Prayers**  
@ Leiston Baptist Church, John Street
- 18 14:00 CommuniTEA Chinwag**  
@ Fromus Centre, Saxmundham
- 19 14:00 CommuniTEA Chinwag**  
@ Leiston United Church

- 19 19:00 Fruitfulness on the Frontline**  
Training via Zoom (See Advert)
- 24 10:00 – 11:30 Start the Week with a**  
**Cuppa @ Saxmundham URC**

## **LET US PRAY**

### **Your Prayers Are Heard**

When we hear the news and watch the various troubles and conflicts that rage on around the world we can be disorientated and fearful. In these times of storm let's rest all the more on the God, our solid rock, through Christ and not give up praying or bringing the world to God.

Over the next few weeks please continue to pray for:

- **Gaza, Palestine and Israel**
- **Ukraine**
- **Haiti**
- **Sudan**

Lord, bring peace and hope to this troubled, warring world. Help us to hold fast to you, and do all we can to radiate your love and light through our words and our actions. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.



The next edition of the Leiston United Church and Saxmundham URC joint Magazine will be published in July.