



THE REVIEW

May 2023





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THE REVIEW

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Editor's note: The next *Review* will be for June 2023. Items for inclusion need to reach me by 21st May.

Thank you.

Editor: sheila@sheilabrain.com



Advertising Space

We are still looking for local small businesses who might be interested in placing an advertisement in the *Review*. Do you have any contacts with anyone who might like to advertise their services for a small fee? Or do you have any suggestions about ones that we might approach? If so, then please can you let me know and we will follow it up. Thank you!

Sheila Brain

Sunday Worship in May

Sunday 7th	Revd Peter Brain (<i>communion</i>)
Sunday 14th	Revd Janine Atkinson
Sunday 21st	Revd Janine Atkinson (<i>Annual Church Meeting</i>)
Sunday 28th	Pentecost Sunday Revd Michael Diffey



Our church motto:

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

From the minister...

Sunday 30th April is our Songs of Praise Service, with people donating towards the Mission Fund for our 3 charities this year to have their favourite hymn sung, either during worship, or after a shared lunch at a good old sing-along (we'll let you know how much we raised once we know!)

Music and song have been a joyous way of praising God for many thousands of years



Read Psalm 150

Trumpets, horn, lute, harp, tambourine, strings, pipe, clashing symbols, everything that has breath is to sound, move and dance to God's praise

Some of the hymns that we still sing were written several thousand years ago. They are Psalms set to music, as some of them were at the time they were written

Jesus knew the words of the Psalms well. I suspect that, like us, he had what I call a 'remembered hymn book' words from hymns that come readily to mind (although I can sometimes can't remember the first line!) Like us, Jesus would have easily remembered some of them because they were set to music. For example, Jesus would have sung the Psalms 113 – 118, traditionally sung every year at the Passover meal (take a look at them sometime). The Gospel writers, Matthew and Mark tell us that, after they had finished eating and drinking the Passover meal, and 'when they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives'

Some Psalms we know very well indeed, like Psalm 23 ‘The Lord’s my Shepherd’. Tunes help us to remember them, long after other memories have vanished into thin air.

Psalm 8 was a Psalm set to music. How do we know? Because (depending on the translation) before the Psalm ‘text’ it probably says “*To the leader: according to the Gittith. A Psalm of David*”. ‘The Leader’ would have been the music leader and ‘the Gittith’ the tune the words were set to.

We assume that King David wrote this Psalm... well because it says so! Thousands of years ago, he was saying WOW! Wow to God, whose handiwork he saw all around him.

Read Psalm 8

I wonder ‘What things make **you** say WOW! to God?’

Have a go at writing your **own** version of the Psalm! Write your own words on the dotted line

O Lord, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world!
When I look at

.....

O Lord, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world!

And there you have it, your own Psalm!

Why not sing your own favourite hymn at the top of your voice, bash some pan lids together, let your body move (even if it’s only a little) in praise of God, who gave us the gift of music and movement to enrich life and soul and who sings and dances with us! And enjoy!

Through God’s Spirit, God can make divine music and dance a divine dance with us! We are God’s partners, each and every one of us!

Rev. Janine

Pentecost 2023

Sunday May 28th is Pentecost – the day we often refer to as the birthday of the Christian Church! Originally a Jewish festival, it marks for us the day the Disciples received the Holy Spirit. Because of it they were enlivened and emboldened to preach the good news about God, made known through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Because of that day, countless millions of people have heard and responded to Jesus for themselves, through faith and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.



A Personal Pentecost Prayer

Breathe, Lord God, your Holy Spirit into my mortal being.
Give life and vigour and dynamism to my love for you.
Kindle the flame of your love in and through me
so that I will radiate the love and glory of your being.
Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Creator, Christ and
Encourager, I do not want the gifts that the world offers us,
but the peace that you give.
Fill me with your Holy Spirit,
so that I may be a blessing to the world.
Help me to encourage others
and build others up in faith
to meet the challenges of this time.

Amen



News of the Church Family

We extend our sympathy to Sheila Johnstone on the death of her mother after a difficult illness in hospital over the last few weeks. Peter Schaessens is now a resident in The Homestead Care Home in Elwyn Road.

Several members have been unwell recently. If you are willing to pray for the members of the fellowship who are unwell, please let me know. The list can be emailed to you at the beginning of each month or a printed version delivered to you. If you would like your name to be added to the Prayer List please let me know.

The plants in Church on Easter Day were distributed to the housebound members of the Church Fellowship and were much appreciated.

Jenny Newman

Flowers in Church

Grateful thanks to Jenny who donated and arranged the pedestal for Easter, and to everyone who helped to decorate the church so beautifully. Particular thanks also to Angela for the church window display.



14th May : The flowers will be donated and arranged by Jean Curl, with thanksgiving.

Please don't forget to let me know if you would like to donate the flowers for a particular date.

Lyn Bellamy

Love and congratulations to all who celebrate an anniversary or birthday in May.



Glenorchy Bible Book Group

Continuing our look at some of **Jesus' Parables**, join us on **Wednesday 17th May - 2pm to 4pm** and (roughly) monthly from then on. *Watch this space for future dates*



Together we'll explore the twists and turns in the stories Jesus told and maybe discover some surprises and treasures along the way!

Oh, and did I say there's free tea, coffee and biscuits!

The Manse

We would like to say a big **thank you** to you all, not only for your welcome to Glenorchy URC and Exmouth, but also for your care, kindness and understanding as we have undertaken, not one, but two house moves



1. From Mirfield in Yorkshire to Exmouth and the 'temporary' manse and
2. into the newly and beautifully decorated and carpeted Manse at Halsdon Avenue.

We are feeling much more at home and settled now, although there are still (and probably always will be) boxes to unpack! The Manse is a lovely home for us!

Rev. Janine, Mike and Nat



**PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO READ THIS PAGE AND
THINK ABOUT THE SITUATION IN WHICH WE FIND
OURSELVES AS A FELLOWSHIP**

Glenorchy prides itself on being a warm and welcoming church, where people feel at home and cared for. But the reality is that maintaining the fellowship needs a whole team of people to ensure that our activities are well run and our buildings are properly maintained and fit for purpose. In recent years, the number of those actively involved has dwindled and we are left with a handful of people bearing a considerable workload between them. If anything should put any one of them out of action, we might find ourselves in real trouble, without many of the things we take for granted, like coffee and fellowship after the Service, and Communion prepared and cleared away once a month, among other things

So this is more than the usual plea for more volunteers – we are putting out a real challenge to ask every single one of our members and friends if there is a small job that you might be able to share in doing, to relieve some of the pressure.

And yes, we know that none of us are getting any younger, and that some people have real health and mobility problems that limit activity. That is understood. But there are all sorts of ways of helping that need not be very demanding on time and effort – after all, the more people are involved in something, the less often your turn needs to come up on the rota!

Annual Church Meeting - Sunday 15th May

At the Annual Meeting we need to fill a number of vacancies

Elders : 2 new Elders needed. You will find a nomination form in this month's *Review (or sent online)*. Please return it to Jenny Newman by 15th May.

General Purposes Committee: New members are urgently needed to keep an eye on the fabric of the church, and stop it falling into disrepair. You don't have to do the jobs yourself (!!) - just have a practical mind and a willingness to share your ideas about things you have noticed that you think might be improved or perhaps need repair. If you can offer a bit of common sense into the mixture, then that is just what is needed. Talk to Bob Austen to find out more.

Catering Committee: a new team is needed to share the task of ensuring that refreshments are available for special occasions. There are a number of people willing to provide cakes and sandwiches etc, but it needs someone to co-ordinate that and make sure it happens! Once again, it is a case of offering some common sense and being part of a little group rather than it being an expert. Talk to Jean Curl

Job Café : Volunteers needed to help on the door as people arrive, and with refreshments in the kitchen. You don't have to be there every week, just on a rota to be called on once a month or so. Talk to Pam Diffey or Peter Brain

...not to mention Power Point operators, coffee servers, readers, meet & greeters, singers in the choir.....

2022 FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the Annual Church Meeting the accounts for 2022 will be presented for approval. Here is a summary of the facts and figures—if you would like to have a copy of the full accounts, please request one from Sheila Brain or Jenny Newman.

General Summary

There was a deficit of £20,861 at the end of 2022 which was a decrease of £33,471 from the 2021 surplus. Income (of £75,212) was exceeded by expenditure (of £96,073), so reserves were used to meet the increased costs .

Receipts

Income of £75,212 was a 10.2% decrease on the £83,748 in 2021. This was essentially due to reduced offerings as a result of changes in membership and attendance. Most other forms of income for the two years were roughly the same with both having reduced activities due to pandemic effects, though there were increased special collections. Increased hall rents offset the loss of Manse rental costs due to the termination of the lease. Offerings still remain the largest single item of income and accounts for 46% of total income. The Church is grateful for this continued financial support of all those of our Church and in the community.

Payments

Expenditure has seen an increase from £71,138 in 2021 to £96,073 this year. This was mainly due to increased Church utilities and running costs, and increased Manse costs, mainly due to the refurbishment which ended in 2023. Church utilities costs have increased from £7,502 in 2021 to £10,368 in 2022, whilst Church running costs showed an increase from £12,804 in 2021 to £17,612 in 2022.

The Manse costs increased from £3,197 in 2021 to £13,298 in 2022, when the let to tenants ended, and the start of the refurbishment (completed in the first quarter of 2023 at a total cost of £25,000). Ministry & Mission payments showed a small decrease from £35,652 in 2021 to £33,792 in 2022. This cost remains our largest single expenditure, accounting for 36.6% of our expenditure.

Church Organisations

The appendices to the accounts show the financial activity, and the current state of the various church groups, which are financially autonomous within the church itself. Despite some reduced activity due to the impact of the pandemic, the organisations managed their finances as well as they could in the circumstances. As in previous years those accounts have been drawn up by the various members concerned and were then examined and found correct by Mrs. Sheila Johnstone to whom our thanks must be recorded.

Investments

Cash reserves were required to be utilised to cover the deficit resulting from increased Church costs and the Manse refurbishment, whilst short term investments also showed a 12% reduction in value. It is prudent that certain money is put aside as insurance against the unexpected, and to furnish future projects/refurbishments. Completion of the Manse refurbishment in the first quarter should be covered by legacies which will also restore some of the other loss of reserves.

Continued over.....

Future Outlook

Ideally the Elders meeting, as Trustees, should have in hand an amount equal to at least 6 months` regular expenditure as reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expense. The Reserve fund has sufficient balance at present, to meet such a commitment.

General expenditure in the running of the Church should be met from normal income. The weekly free will offering envelopes and Gift Aiding (for tax payers) and direct bank debiting, may be an area needing further attention.

Conclusions

It is true to say that we have paid our bills and managed our affairs during a challenging time. With careful management we should still be able to balance the Church finances in the foreseeable future.

Thanks need to be recorded to members of the General Purposes committee, and to all the fellowship at Glenorchy for their individual contributions to the life and witness of the church. Particular thanks are due to our bookkeeper, Allan Jackson, who manages our finances so well, and goes beyond the call of duty to deal with some complicated matters. Thanks also to our appointed accounts examiner Mr. Ian Harrison for his valued help and advice.

It would be wonderful if we could see an increase in weekly giving to help us meet the bills and ensure we don't arrive at an unheated church! If you could join the free will offering scheme, that is a big help — or even better to arrange payment by Direct Debit to the bank. Ask Jean Curl for details. And of course, tax-payers (including pensioners!) can Gift Aid it for extra income. Please speak to Sheila Johnstone about this.



Mission Committee update:

A brief note this month. Do pencil into your diary the afternoon of **Wednesday June 21**, Midsummer Day, to enjoy a selection of your favourite poems or short prose sequences on the theme of summer or holidays

Further details and tickets available in June.

Peter Brain



Christian Response to Eastern Europe

The March truck returned to Exmouth on 11th April and was immediately reloaded with more humanitarian aid for Moldova. The damage caused by vandals in March has been cleared up

by the volunteers, and the broken windows boarded up.

The Warehouse in Spiders Lane, off Marley Road will be open on Wednesday 3rd May 10am -3pm and again on Saturday 15th 10am -1pm. If you are able to take your donations directly to the Warehouse, it will be much appreciated. I will be available to collect any donations on Tuesday 2nd May between 11am-12.30pm or after 5pm.

If you have access to a laptop, computer or tablet, visit cr2ee.org.uk and there is a video of the lorry being loaded.

Jenny Newman

Walking Group

As both Bob Austen and Peter Street are away in May, there will be no walk this month.

Details of next month's walk in the next issue.





Lunchtime Concerts have now finished until the new season starts in October.

Obituary

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, did far more than a normal person's share of work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results, "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else sometimes appeared superhuman. Were the truth be known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to the things Someone Else did?

When there's a job to be done... remember—we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

On the Committee!

Since my late teens I have participated in the activities and committees of the wider United Reformed Church – within Districts (as were), Synods and at a National level, as well (of course) as in my local Church. As part of my responsibility within and love of the United Reformed Church I currently serve on two United Reformed Church National Committees.

The Congregational Fund Board makes one-off small or annual grants to Ministers of Word and Sacrament (in the The United Reformed Church, the Union of Welsh Independents, the Congregational Federation, and the Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches) and URC Church Related Community Workers who are elderly and / or infirm and in financial need and some finding it hard to make ends meet whilst undergoing ‘accredited’ Ministerial Training. We meet every 6 months on ‘Zoom’ or in person and make decisions in between times via email conversations on applications for grants.

The URC National Childrens’ and Youth Work Committee.

We support and resource Children’s and Youth Work throughout the United Reformed Church with events, training, on-line and paper-based resources, supportive networks and we direct the work of the Childrens’ and Youth Work Department at Church House in London. This committee meets more frequently during the year for residential 24-hour meetings and Zoom Meetings.

So, if you hear that I am away in London or elsewhere, I may be participating in the wider life of the URC and (perhaps) not galivanting about!

Rev. Janine



Coronation Day: The URC prays for King and Queen

Published by the URC on 24 April 2023



As we approach a time of national rejoicing, the United Reformed Church prays that Almighty God will bless Their Majesties the King and Queen on their coronation at Westminster Abbey on 6 May and grant them every happiness in their new roles.

At the heart of the Coronation is a service where the King will be anointed in a rite going back to the earliest days of the English monarchy. The Church of England, as the established *English* Church, has the honour, and burden, of presiding – with other denominations and religious traditions getting cameo parts.

In a typically British piece of ritual, much pomp and ceremony will take place to anoint and crown someone to a purely symbolic office with no real independent power. Such authority that the King has can only be exercised with the advice, and consent, of the government. Such guidance and advice that the King may give to ministers is necessarily private and, of course, can easily be ignored.

The URC stands in a tradition of British Christianity which was, at best, rather ambivalent about the monarchy.

Our spiritual ancestors welcomed the Commonwealth in the Civil War era and argued, after all, for the execution of Charles I! Passages in the Old Testament which showed God warning against the Jewish people establishing a monarchy were used as guidance in the Civil War era and the identification of the monarchy with the Church of England added another layer of complexity to our history.

Thankfully, the turmoil of those years is long behind us and, in a much more secular age, differences between Christian denominations are less acute. The URC, and its antecedents, were – and are – eager to play a key part in the civic life of our nations; each year we continue a long tradition of sending an Address To The Throne from our General Assembly where we comment on the issues of the day, presumably in the hope that His Majesty will send those comments on to various government departments.

In our contemporary society, and certainly within our congregations, there are a variety of views on the monarchy, yet we can unite in wishing Their Majesties The King and Queen well today.

We pray that they will feel God's presence as they are anointed and throughout His Majesty's reign. We hope that they will use their office well and use their voices at the centre for those on the margins of our bitterly divided society. We pray that His Majesty The King reminds us of the importance of spirituality and religion in the lives of our nations. Above all, the URC commends their Majesties, The King and Queen, to God's care and protection.

Prayer

Eternal God, you order and govern our world and all that is in it,
we pray that you will bless Charles and Camilla today
as they are crowned and anointed,
that amid the pomp and ritual,
they may feel your loving presence,
that they may fulfil the roles prescribed for them,
and that we may, in this kingdom, be better governed,
and always reminded of your eternal Kingdom which is to come.

Amen.



Introducing Lisa - Tesco's Community Champion



Lisa O'Shaughnessy is the new Tesco Community Champion who is keen to promote the work of the Food Bank – she's already popped down twice to see what we do and her enthusiasm is infectious! Lisa cares passionately about linking with the

community of Exmouth to support food distribution and avoid food waste. She makes sure that the Food Bank trolley remains in a prominent position at the front of the Tesco store on Salterton Road. She also alerts us to any special offers or excess stock that we might be interested in. If you spot Lisa in the store she'd love you to stop and have a chat.

Healthy Eating on a Budget

We have been working with Littleham Primary School and Learn Devon to provide a five-week 'Cooking on a Budget' course for parents of children at the school. The Food Bank provided what the tutor from Learn Devon needed to help ten parents cook a healthy, nutritious meal. They then took the meal home to feed their families each Friday night.

The course fed 42 people a week and has been really well received by the parents involved. They have learnt to cook with new ingredients, such as lentils, and have been enthusiastic about encouraging their children to try new things. One parent said: "I cook from scratch now but I never bothered before."

The course has proved to be so successful that we hope to be able to support other schools and organisations to run their own versions.

You can read the full Foodbank Newsletter on the notice board — there is only room to print a few extracts here in the *Review*. Thank you to all who put food and other donations in the Exmouth Food Bank box at church. These are much appreciated. Money donations can be placed in the Green box on the table in the church entrance. As reported each month, the demand for food continues to increase so your support is still needed. **Jenny Newman**

Puzzle Corner

A topical sequence!

Sweden; 1950-1973

France: 1643-1715

England; 939-946

Babylon; 605-562

Egypt; 1279-1213

England; 1376-1399

UK etc.; 2022 –

Judaea; 37-4;

Ethiopia; 1871-1889



As for last month, do you grow **Geranium**, **Lungwort**, **Edelweiss**, **Nasturtium**, **Oxlip**, **Red-hot poker**, **Campion**, **Heartsease** or **Yarrow**?

Advance Notice : Tuesday June 6th/ Wednesday June 7th

Please note that the church room will be closed all day for two days for safety reasons when scaffolding is erected to enable the overhead lights to be re-aligned. **Bob Austen**

May Calendar

Tuesday 2nd

2pm Elders Meeting

Wednesday 3rd

10am Art Group

Thursday 4th

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 6th

No Coffee Morning

(Coronation Day)

Sunday 7th

10.30am Family Service

with Holy Communion

Revd Peter Brain

Wednesday 10th

10am Art Group

Thursday 11th

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 13th

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 14th

10.30am Family Service

Wednesday 17th

10am Art Group

Thursday 19th

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 20th

10am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

with stalls

Sunday 21st

10.30am Family Service

Revd Janine Atkinson

11.30am Annual Church Meeting

Wednesday 24th

10am Art Group

Thursday 25th

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 27th

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 28th Pentecost

10.30am Family Service

Revd Michael Diffey

Tuesday 30th

2pm Craft Group

PRAYER
changes things

**“Never forget the three powerful
resources you always have available
to you: love, prayer, and forgiveness”.**

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

A Baby Cries -

A poem written at Eastertime 2023

(Used with permission)

A baby cries.

In clean swaddling, wrap him.

Lay him gentle in the straw

beneath the warm breath of beasts.

This precious night, remember, O beloved,

sustain and comfort thee in the dark days

unto what ending?

Fain would'st not foresee.

On a hill on Calvary beneath a Cross,

within the shadow of that Cross

a mother weeps no matter angels

reach with longing arms to take;

no matter this.

In tumult toils the Earth,

a Kingdom passing; dark the skies

while fall a mother's tears,

Her baby cries

Coral Embury

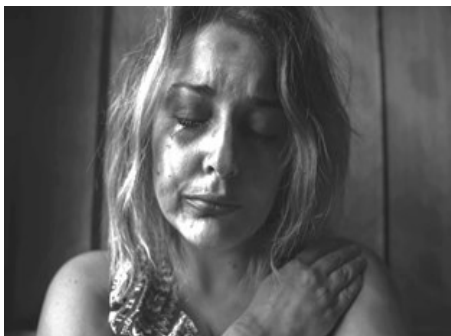


Image: www.unsplash.com

Kat J kj2018

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