



LEISTON &  
SAXMUNDHAM  
UNITED CHURCH  
ONE CHURCH IN TWO PLACES

The United Reformed Church  
& Methodist Church in Partnership

# TOGETHER

## Quarterly Newsletter May, June & July 2026

### Minister's Letter

#### Democracy – Showing Up Matters



With local elections coming up on 7th May, it's hard to avoid the language of democracy - manifestos, debates, promises, blame and frustration. For some, it

all feels energising; for others, a bit wearying and even a turn off. But wherever we land, this moment offers a gentle nudge to reflect on something deeper than politics alone: participation, responsibility, and the kind of community we're helping to shape.

Democracy, at its heart, is about showing up. It's about recognising that our voice matters - not because it is louder or more important than someone else's, but because it is part of the whole. And that idea resonates strongly with our Christian story.

There isn't a single "go-to" Bible passage about voting, of course, but there are plenty of threads we can draw on. You might think of Jeremiah 29:7, where the exiles are encouraged to "seek the welfare of the city." Even in a place that doesn't feel fully like home, they are called to invest, to care, to play their part. Or Micah 6:8, with its simple but searching call "to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." That's a pretty good compass for any public decision-making.

In the New Testament, Romans 12 paints a picture of a community where every person has a role to play - different gifts, shared purpose. And 1 Corinthians 12 pushes that further: the body only works when every part is engaged. No one is dispensable. No one is irrelevant.

If you prefer something more narrative, you might look at the appointment of leaders in Acts 6:1–7, where the early church responds to a practical problem by involving the community in choosing trustworthy people. It's not modern democracy, but it does reflect shared responsibility and participation. You could think of democracy like a choir. One voice alone can be beautiful, but the richness comes when many different voices commit to singing together.

None of this is about telling anyone how to vote. That's personal, and often complex. But it is about recognising that choosing not to engage is, in its own way, a decision too - a decision to opt out of community participation.

I know it is 'only' a local election, and it won't directly affect big global issues. But perhaps this local election is an opportunity - not just to mark a ballot, but to pause and ask: what does it mean for me to seek the good of my community? How might I take responsibility, however small it feels?

Democracy isn't perfect. It can be messy, frustrating, and often disappointing. But at its best, it's a shared act of hope - rooted in the belief that together, our participation can make a difference.

And doesn't that reflect the call of Christ? In his name, to make a positive difference to those around us.

Blessings,  
*David*

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## News

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On **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June** we will be sharing worship together at **14:00** at

Saxmundham Chapel, led by Revd David. This will be our annual "Gift Day". We hope you will be able to come and join the service which will be followed by tea.

However, even if you are unable to attend, we are asking you to consider making a special, 'one off' gift to help support the work and mission of Leiston and Saxmundham United Church - one church in two locations.

Gifts may be brought in person to the service; or can be made by cheque or electronic transfer (BACS).

Cheques should be made payable to **Leiston and Saxmundham United Church**. They can be sent by post to Leiston Church, High Street, Leiston IP16 4EL or put in the letterbox of either church.

BACS electronic transfer details:

Account Name: Leiston and Saxmundham United Church  
Bank: Barclays

Sort Code: 20-98-07  
Account No: 90791288  
Please include reference 'Gift Day'.

In addition, if you are able to Gift Aid your donation, then we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 given. If so, ask for, complete and return a gift aid form, with your gift, to our treasurer, Marion Sillett. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed over the last year.

In 2025 the cost of running the church, in total, was £30,950. That is about £85 per day or £595 per week. In 2026 this is predicted to be slightly lower, the world and expenses are, as you know, unpredictable, so please give, prayerfully, as you are able.

## Worship Round the Table



Jesus often gathered at table with friends (and "not-so-friends") to share a meal,

fellowship and worship. During Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, we gathered on several occasions, around a table, to share simple, conversational and reflective worship followed by something tasty to eat. Bacon sandwiches and sausage rolls featured on a number of occasions, along with filled rolls, snacks, fruit and cake. All washed down, of course, with tea, coffee or juice.

Sometimes we include communion in these table gatherings. This gives a precious insight and meaning to the gather, just like the disciples gathered in the Upper Room.

We are considering whether we might introduce a regular, monthly, weekday worship and lunch. This would begin at about 12:30 and last about an hour,

including worship and lunch. If you would support such an idea please let Marion, David or Sue know and then we can make plans accordingly.



On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April we held our film lunch at

Saxmundham Chapel. We actually watched two films, each about 30 minutes long. The first was “The Plank” with a star-studded cast including Eric Sykes, Arthur Lowe, Frankie Howard, Joanna Lumley, Charlie Drake and Reg Varney – all great sitcom actors of their age. The story follows the fate of two builders trying to acquire a floorboard plank to complete a job. The film is in the style of a “silent-movie” without dialogue.

The second film was “It’s Your Move” another “Sykes Silent” film including another array of comic actors such as Tommy Cooper and Bernard Cribbins. This one, as the name suggests, was all about moving house.

Our lunch had a “builders” theme and included cheese planks, sandwiches, fruit, cake and brick shaped chocolate brownies built into a wall! We catered for twenty but, on this occasion, there were only eight of us so we had plenty to eat! Please note the date of our next film lunch which you can find on the back page.



Our worship on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April was a Hybrid service, led by the elders and

prepared by Revd Adam – the first of our two annual services focussed on Caring for

Creation and Eco-Church. Our theme was “Hope for the Future”.

Sometimes when we consider the state of the World and the climate it seems to all be bad news. But there are some surprising things going on by way of encouragement and hope. We explored some of these and reflected on how Jesus is our hope and invites us to be part of his work in caring for the world and sharing hope with others.

Here are some of the good news stories we considered:

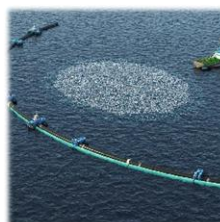
### **Rebuilding Coral Reefs with 3D Printing**



There are a number of projects around the world making use of 3D printing techniques to provide structures on which coral may grow. Coral reefs are

important for coastal defence but also for the health of the oceans.

### **Cleaning Rivers & Oceans**



Work is being undertaken to capture and remove huge quantities of plastic and other waste from our oceans and rivers. Boats, barriers and capture

devices are used and the problem is being reduced as a positive rate. This means healthier oceans and rivers for wildlife and for us. Captured material can also be cleaned and recycled.

### **Replanting Rainforests**

Our survival is tied up with the rain forest which capture huge amounts of carbon from the atmosphere and help to provide the oxygen we breath. There are significant projects engaged in replanting and rewilding forest and other vital habitats.

## Events

### Forthcoming Worship

Please see, and make sure you keep, the separate sheet distributed with this newsletter. This gives full details of the services, including the venue and leaders, for May to July 2026.



Leiston and Saxmundham United Church



### Spring Mini-Concert and Afternoon Tea

## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May

1:00pm Saxmundham Chapel

No Charge for Admission  
Donations Invited.

### All Are Welcome



The forthcoming dates for Start the week, beginning at 10:00am, are as follows: **25<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> July.** Pop the dates in your diary and we look forward to seeing you. All are welcome.



## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June

13:00 Saxmundham Chapel

We begin with a French themed lunch followed by the film.

### All are welcome!

We do not charge for admission but welcome donations to cover costs and support the wider work of the church.

Leiston and Saxmundham  
Christians Together



## Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August

10:30am to 12:30am

Church Square - Leiston

We will be reading all 16 chapters of the Gospel According to Mark, interspersed with music and song.

Our aim is to raise money for local charities so all donations are welcome.

The next edition of the "LSUC Together" Quarterly Newsletter will be available in August. The Pastorate "Connect" Magazine will be available in June.