

Great Chishill United Reformed Church

Barley Road

The first event that we will be hosting will be the Service of **Remembrance on Sunday 13th** November. The Service will be led by **Mr Simon Bailey**, Chaplain to the British Horseracing Association and he is also a playing member of Great Chishill Cricket Club. It will start at the War Memorial at 10.50, on the corner of Heydon Road and Barley Road, at which point the names of those from the parish who fell during the wars will be read out, wreaths will be laid, prayers said, two minutes silence held and the Reveille played before we walk down to the **Chapel** to continue the Service of Remembrance. Children are warmly welcomed and the **Schoolroom** will be available for Sunday Club. Following the service there will be a collection in aid of The Royal British Legion, coffee, tea and cakes will be served. We very much hope that many of you will join us.

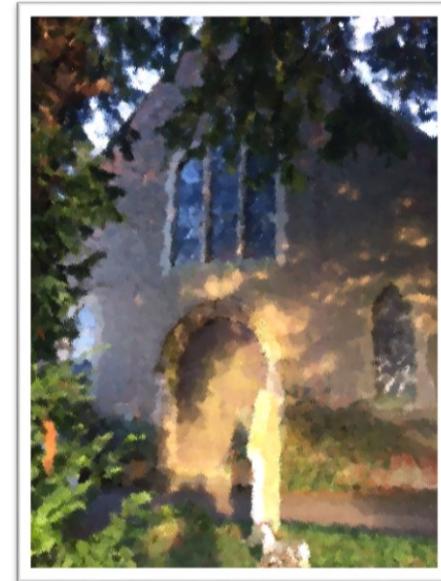
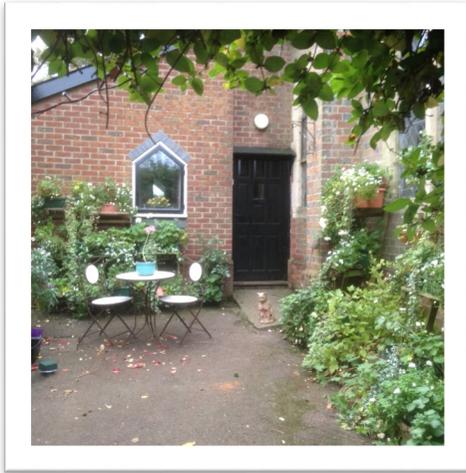
It would give us the greatest pleasure welcoming anyone on this or any occasion.

Angus Gent

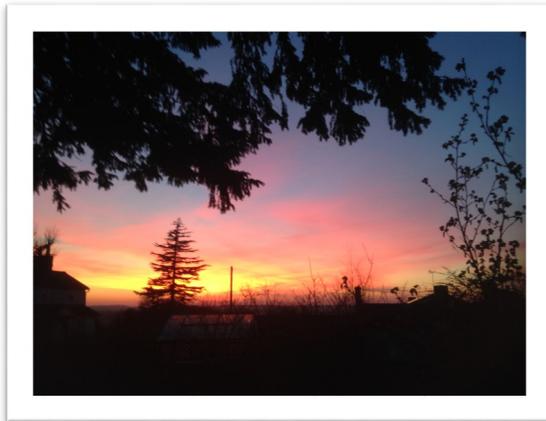
Chapel Secretary

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As you may well be aware we have had great concerns about the falling numbers in the congregation and with Mike and Rosemary Livings moving out of the village to enjoy their new home in Great Shelford. They have given 40 years of devoted service to the **United Reformed Church** in many forms including running the playgroup and being Secretary and Treasurer between them for the past 23 years. For this we can only thank them most sincerely. With this our anxieties have grown that the **Chapel** is not sustainable. As a matter of our huge respect we feel very strongly that it would very wrong to simply close the **Chapel** without exploring areas of increasing the use of this most charming and useful building.

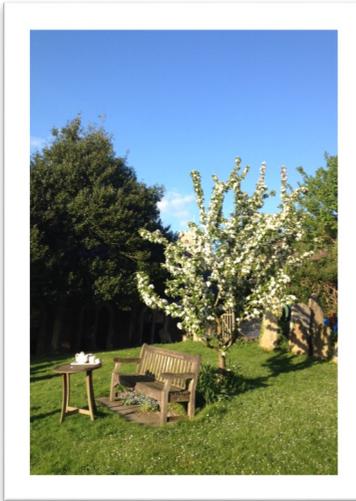




We are also saying a huge thank you to Frances Collinge who has decided to retire from playing the organ after many years of loyal service. If you know of anybody who would like to play for us for an hour every second week, or just once in a while, we would love to hear from you.

We would very much like to make a concerted effort to raise the profile of the **Chapel**, the **Schoolroom** and the lovely **Garden** within the village. We would like to make it a really positive facility for the benefit of all of us who live in and around the village.

Recent events have included the 'Bluegrass concert' following the village Open Gardens, when well over 100 people came and enjoyed the music as well as the beautiful surroundings of the marquee in the **Church Garden**. We have hosted both the Royston Choral Society and the Hertfordshire Police Choir, both of whom made reference to the wonderful acoustics that we enjoy. We have relished the **Chapel** being filled when we have held joint services. Only this last month we hosted more than 20 people for our Harvest Supper, which was held in the **Schoolroom**. The atmosphere was warm, cosy and friendly and was decorated seasonally with all the harvest fruits and flowers. All in all it was a lovely evening. It made us realise that the room is ideal for small parties for ages and is available for hire at a generous rate.



At present we hold services every second and fourth Sunday at 9.30. We are looking to change this in April to the first and third Sunday of the month so the dates do not clash with the parish church. The parish **Youth Fellowship** meet in the **Schoolroom** on the second Sunday of each month between 5.00-6.30, run by Helen Williams, (01799 520398).

In addition to the fortnightly services, we are hoping to promote the **Chapel** with a range of events and activities that will hopefully capture the interest of all ages.

We are looking to introduce a library and reading area in the **Schoolroom**, initially opening once a month, for *tea, coffee and cakes*. We are looking to trial a supper *evening* once a month with a choice of meat or vegetarian menus, and to include wine to accompany your meal. Other ideas for events that we have had suggested to us have included *film nights*, showing old classics or films on request, *music nights, exhibitions, talks and demonstrations* and *reflective services*. With the additional use we will be improving the lighting at the entrance of the church and on the drive, as we are aware that this has been a safety concern for potential users. If you have any good idea or requests for how we can use this valuable space I would be delighted to hear from you. There are many relatives of those who still live in the village buried in the beautiful **Chapel Garden**. We would love to see you come and enjoy the peace and the wonderful views and sunsets, as you take a moment or more to reflect on life in Great Chishill. It would be a real shame to lose this.

We will be using the **Village Newsletter**, the **Link Magazine**, **Village Web Magazine**, the **Village website** and the **Noticeboard outside the URC on Barley Road** to keep you informed as to '**What is going on in the URC**'. Keep your eyes out for what's going on and please help us to keep the **Chapel** open.

