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| Minister: | Vacancy |
| Diaconate Lead: | Mrs Janet Eastwood |
| Secretary: | Mrs Dawn Davies |
| Treasurer: | Mrs Eve Eates |

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Church Telephone: 01485 533309

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Deacons

Date of Retirement

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Dawn Davies | 2026 |
| Janet Eastwood | 2026 |
| Dawn Patterson | 2026 |
| Tony Ralph | 2027 |
| Eve Eates | 2027 |

Everyone is welcome at
UNION CHURCH
An evangelical family church
serving God and the community

Please bear with me, an editorial is way out of my comfort zone. So, with best foot forward, this is my endeavour.

My heart has been leading me to talk about Churches together and the work going on there. In recent months we have been working closely with The Methodist Church and The Way Christian Fellowship, I **find** this a **huge** encouragement.

As it says in Galatians 3:28 – “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

How amazing and encouraging is that we all serve the One God, but worship in different ways, we have joined together in monthly prayer meetings, Alpha Course and our wonderful Lent Series. As well as the beautiful church services over the Easter Weekend.

Churches coming together at a local level is at the heart of Christian unity. Throughout the country, from the largest of towns to the smallest of villages, the church is active. Because of their shared Christian faith, churches in local areas are forming deeper relationships and working more closely together to serve their local communities in a wide variety of ways. This is often called working together ecumenically. (from www.cte.org.uk)

Romans 12:4-5 “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same

function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

In the Bible there are several references to churches and community working together it was difficult to pick one.

This leads me to thank the Deacons it is most encouraging that we have a Diaconate that works closely and well together, I would also like to thank the Fellowship for all of their support.

I pray that The Anglicans and The Catholics get on board with our Hunstanton Churches together and it is our wish that there will be more joint services/events.

In conclusion as the phrase says, “It is all for one and one for all!”

Dawn D



Thank you to Lucy who has kindly provided the new orchids for the windowsills.

It is pleasing to report that two new people have decided to make their donations to Union by Standing Order each month. By making donations this way it helps us to budget our finances and we can claim Gift Aid too. If you would like to donate in this way, please ask Eve for the church's bank details.



Happy birthday to those members and friends who celebrate their special day in May. We hope you have a lovely

day.

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| <i>6th</i> | <i>Linda Lee</i> |
| <i>14th</i> | <i>Dorothy Hayes & Mags Salter</i> |
| <i>18th</i> | <i>Dan Yeoman</i> |
| <i>21st</i> | <i>David Patterson</i> |
| <i>22nd</i> | <i>Pauline Green</i> |
| <i>25th</i> | <i>Eddie Seely</i> |





Thank you to the following ladies who are donating flowers each week in May. You don't have to be a lady to donate in this way!

5th Daphne

12th Lucy

19th Heather

26th Kay



CHANGE TO THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

It is with sadness that we ask you to remove Mr Frank Smith's name from the church directory. Although Frank and his wife Stella have not been able to attend church services over the past few years, they have been loyal and involved members of Union over a long period of time. Our condolences to Stella on her loss.



"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

The Armour of God

“So put on all the armour that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself. And when the battle is over, you will still be standing firm. Be ready! Let the truth be like a belt around your waist, and let God's justice protect you like armour. Your desire to tell the good news about peace should be like shoes on your feet. Let your faith be like a shield, and you will be able to stop all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Let God's saving power be like a helmet, and for a sword use God's message that comes from the Spirit.” Ephesians 6:13-17 CEV

Paul tells us to put on the helmet of salvation; we know that a helmet is for protecting the head but, more importantly, its most vital function is to protect the brain. Hence it has to closely follow the shape of the skull to be effective and made of material that will resist impact.

So why did Paul associate salvation with a helmet? And if we are already saved when we give our lives to Jesus, then why do we need to put it on each day? The CEV translation above gives a clue: let God's saving power be like a helmet. In other words, we need to cover our minds with the assurance of God's salvation. Satan loves to place doubts in our minds and the world is filled with distractions as well as our own physical desires all combining to take our focus away from the Lord and replacing Him with ourselves.

A blow to the head in any situation but especially in battle, is going to be potentially lethal and it doesn't matter how great the rest of your armour is; if you are not wearing a helmet then you are vulnerable. Our hope in our Saviour is

paramount if we are intending to triumph over Satan's attacks.

"But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet." 1 Thessalonians 5:8 NIVUK

"He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak."
Isaiah 59:17 NIVUK

Both the Old and the New Testaments use the same imagery which points to the eternal demonstration of God's promise of deliverance from the effects of sin.

However, during difficult times, it can be a challenge to maintain that hope, particularly when we are surrounded by news of death, civil unrest, famine, disease and destruction in the world. By soaking in God's word and remembering everything He has done in our lives and remaining close to Jesus in daily prayer, we are covering our heads with the "helmet of salvation". We are all plagued by doubts at some point in our lives but the difference between succumbing to those doubts or conquering them is by having scripture embedded in our hearts and in our minds.

"Because you are close to me and always available, my confidence will never be shaken, for I experience your wrap-around presence every moment." Psalms 16:8 TPT
This psalm, written by David, holds complete assurance in the saving power of God and Peter quotes the same scripture in his sermon on the day of Pentecost:

"This is the very thing David prophesied about Him: 'I continually see the Lord in front of me. He's at my right hand, and I am never shaken. No wonder my heart is glad and my glory celebrates! My mouth is filled with His praises, and I have hope that my body will live'" Acts 2:25-26 TPT

Each day we face a spiritual battlefield which can overwhelm us in time if we don't remain vigilant. Our salvation is assured when we become Christians but our mortal lives can be lived out in timidity or in fullness as we wrestle with our human frailties; we have a Heavenly Father who wants to lavish His love on us and nurture us so that we may accomplish all that He created us for.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27 NIVUK

And that peace, which protects our hearts and minds, comes from the certainty of our salvation. So let's live our lives boldly and with confidence in our Saviour who has placed a crown of life upon our heads:

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

James 1:12 NIVUK

Amen? Amen!

Dawn Patterson

Thank you Polly for the gift bags of Easter eggs that you kindly gave us at the Easter Day morning service. A lovely gesture, and very much appreciated.



When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. Acts 2:1-3



HALL CARPET APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the purchase of the hall carpet tiles. We will be closing the appeal at the end of April, but if you still haven't bought a tile[s] please write your name in a square[s], place your donation in one of the envelopes and hand to Eve. The total sum donated will be reported in the June issue of the Newsletter.

Walking with God
'*Enoch walked with God.*'

Genesis 5:24 KJV

Did the people in Scripture who 'walked with God' ever stumble? They did. Did they get off track sometimes? Yes. But when their feet hit the floor every morning, their commitment was to walk with God throughout the day. They drew on His strength, endeavoured to do His will, and aimed towards the goal that He had set for them. Paul writes, 'I...beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called' (Ephesians 4:1 NKJV). That means you must know the direction God is leading you in and stay in step with Him. When He acts – you act. When He pauses – you pause.

As a believer, your life shouldn't be compartmentalised into what's sacred and what's secular. The Bible says, 'In him we live, and move, and have our being' (Acts 17:28 KJV). You can't say, 'In *this* situation, I'm operating under my own steam, but in *that* situation, I'm operating according to the Holy Spirit within me.' The Holy Spirit doesn't come and go from your life; He is always with you! Here is a Scripture you need to think about: 'Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created' (Revelation 4:11 KJV). What an awesome thought: you were created to bring pleasure to God!

So, one of the most important questions you can ask yourself – and frequently – is, 'Lord, are my ways pleasing to you right now?' (see Proverbs 13:5-6). When they are, you will discover that the direction He takes you in is always the right direction; His timing is always the right timing, and the results you get are always the right results.

This excerpt was taken from the free devotional, The United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) Word for Today, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF. For more information, please speak to Jan Groom.

UCB LISTEN...UCB WATCH....UCB READ...UCB.CO.UK



The deadline for the
June 2024 issue is,

May 20th

but items can be submitted at
any time.