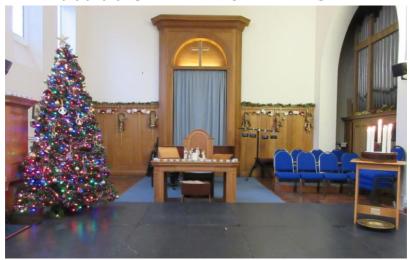
THE TEMPLE RECORD

No 446
Part of the UNITED REFORMED CHURCH





The Temple United Reformed Church, High Street, St Mary Cray, Kent. BR5 4AX

www.temple.urc.org.uk

A lively Church for all ages seeking to follow Christ and serve the Community Sunday Services 11.00am including Junior Church and Crèche

November December 2025

Printing cost £1 - Donations Welcome

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Cover Picture: Christmas but what year?

Editorial

We are very blessed to have such an array of wonderful elders. It looks as though we are on our own for the foreseeable future and this puts a strain on our elders that spend hours preparing the services. I think of all the thought-provoking sermons that have been given along with entertaining children's addresses to keep them focused before we send them to their own acts of worship and devotions such a great improvement from the silly American films and what a response the children give showing they are listening. Deirdre reports she has not seen so many hands up recently showing the children are listening with enthusiasm and want to reply with questions and are interested with

what is taking place. Do show your gratitude to our elders who are very busy people with the extra work on their shoulders above their normal work and chores.

You can also help with very little effort by making sure you support them by regular attendance even if you have had a late night. There is nothing so discouraging for people when they have given many hours researching the weeks bible readings and preparing the children's address sorting out appropriate hymns, the sermon and contacting the other people getting the details right like the electronics, the room, the communion and the music for which we owe a considerable debt to our faithful Neil. Do be a faithful worshipper to help encourage all those who are taking the strain at this difficult time for the URC. Prayerfully support those whose job it is to provide and train our new ministers for the future.

Remember your Temple needs you at this time in whatever role you have been called to support it by being here and involved. Encouraging those who are taking the lead and doing the work is as important as other roles and shows to our visitors, they are important to the Lord.

CHRISTMAS RAMBLE SATURDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2025

Grace and I were sorry to miss the Christmas Ramble last year but were visiting sons in Nottingham and I might have taken in a Boxing Day game of Football.

This year we will meet at Lullingstone Park Lower Car Park by the Visitor Centre at 10.30 sharp. We will follow the well-oiled path so if you are late, you can catch us up or meet to pay for the coffees at the halfway stage. That was the first time of twice Lullingstone is mentioned in this month's Record. Will you spot the second?



Who are these guys and gals and why is Paul hiding?

Well Done Helen

One Big Thank you. Thank you, thank you, to everyone who donated/sponsored myself and Richard (her brother), in aid of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance in Memory of our little cousin Liam who passed away in February 2024 following a RTC with an articulated lorry. Sadly, Richard decided that after a 10k challenge, he was not fit enough or prepared enough to take on the 25k plus bridges, so I flew solo for the challenge. Richard is keen to continue to build up his fitness with more 10k challenges and hopefully take on the 25k when he is fit enough to do so. It was a challenging day due to the demonstrations that were happening in London that day, and last-minute alterations to the route due to the sheer numbers of protesters, and Ultra Challenge organizers keeping us safe, meant that some walkers missed 3 or 4 bridges. I on the other hand only missed 2 and was grateful for this as it meant walking right into the demonstrations which has filed right onto

Blackfriars bridge. I am very pleased that I finished the challenge in 4 hours 23 mins 36 secs and at present raised £643.00 If you wish to donate now I have completed the challenge, there is still time to do so, please visit the link to my donation page: https://www.dsairambulance.org.uk/fundraisers/in-memory-of-liam-congdonH Thank you all again Helen.

Devotions 1

No longer drink only water, but take a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments. The sins of some people are conspicuous and precede them to judgement, while the sins of others follow them there. So also good works are conspicuous; and even when they are not, they cannot remain hidden.

Paul is offering Timothy both practical and spiritual wisdom. "Use a little wine for thy stomach's sake", as the Authorised Version memorably put it, reminds us that God cares not only about our spiritual lives but also about our physical well-being. Faith is not disconnected from everyday life. God invites us to be good stewards of our health and to seek balance between body and spirit.

Paul then addresses the nature of sin and good works, which is not a topic that we discuss a lot in the United Reformed Church. Paul notes that some sins are obvious and precede people to judgment, while others follow behind. The point here is not to rush to conclusions about others, nor to judge other people because only God can judge. People may carry hidden struggles, indeed each person may be fighting a battle that no-one else knows anything about. On the other hand, Paul reminds us that good works, whether obvious or hidden, will eventually be revealed. What's done in secret for God's glory will not remain hidden forever.

This is a powerful encouragement for those who feel unnoticed or unappreciated. Whether you're serving quietly in your family, giving generously in private, working hard in the church and the community, or obeying God in small ways when no one is watching, know this: God sees it all. And in God's time, God brings everything into the light. We shouldn't be looking for applause or recognition, but we do well to remember that God is looking for faithfulness.

Today, take care of your body, look after your soul, do what is right even when it's unseen, and trust that God will honour it. We live not for the approval of others but for the eyes of God who sees all.

Prayer

Living God, thank you for caring about every part of my life: my health, my choices, and even my quiet moments. Help me to be faithful in what is unseen, to trust that you see every good work, and to care for my body as a gift from you. Teach me not to judge others quickly, but to walk humbly and patiently. Let me live for your glory alone. Amen

News from the Church in Ukraine

October 23rd 2025

Recently an SGA team member met with a number of Ukrainian pastors to talk about how the war with Russia was impacting the Church in their country.

Among them was Valerie Antoniuk, President of the Baptist Union in Ukraine, who spoke of how, since 2014 when hostilities began, many new churches had been planted in the most affected eastern side of the country. However, following Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine in

2022, more than a hundred of these had to be closed down when their ministers were forced to relocate.

Understandably, and perhaps inevitably, a significant number of pastors have subsequently left the country altogether, but a positive consequence of this has been the planting of over 160 new Ukrainian churches in 15 European countries by displaced people. Nonetheless, it is of greater significance, that **the** Church within Ukraine's physical borders remains strong.



Ministers of the Gospel

In the last three years, as well as new churches being set up by many of the displaced pastors who have moved to other localities within Ukraine, more than 900 additional ministers have been newly ordained and have begun sharing the Gospel within their own country. In addition to that there are 50 missionary evangelists working in Ukraine while 30 missionary families are serving in 22 countries.

Recently Pastor Igor Bandura reported that there have been more than 10,000 new converts over the past three years associated with the ministries of the Baptist Union. [The total number would be greater.] He further commented:

'The numbers we shared speak about the progress of the Gospel. So it's not only the Russian army slowly moving forward, it is the Gospel moving forward, reaching people, and convincing Christians to be courageous and to accept God's calling on their life to become new pastors and deacons.'

It is this sharing of the Gospel that remains at the centre of all that these missionary pastors are doing. Despite the ongoing conflict and the importance of the physical needs of people being met, those leading the churches in Ukraine know how vital the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ is, if new people are to come to faith and new churches are to be established.

SGA remains committed to supporting the indigenous Gospel workers who are serving in such difficult times, helping them to adapt to their new circumstances and providing them with the financial assistance that enables them to continue their vital ministry, unhindered by concerns about how they will care for their families.

This support is hugely appreciated by those sponsored through SGA's Leadership Support programme. The Mission desires to expand this support to enable continued Gospel expansion across this troubled nation.

Ukraine: "We have so much pain in us, but we know we have to live"

In Kharkiv, in Ukraine's war zone, the Church has dedicated itself to trauma healing. ACN's help is like the hand of God, says the local bishop.

Life in Kharkiv, Ukraine, takes place against the constant background of the sounds of war.

"There are permanently drones and rockets and we hear them above our heads, every day," says Bishop Pavlo Honcharuk, the Latin Catholic Bishop of Kharkiv. "The worst are the fibre optic drones, they have a range of 50 km, and they shoot everything that moves and lives. We live in tension."



Special assistance to 25 parishes of the Kharkiv-Zaporizhzhya diocese during the war. Aid to the Church in Need

The buzz of the drones is so constant that residents have begun to fear most when they no longer hear them. "The biggest danger for us is the silence. When there is a silence, we don't know what will happen," the bishop tells Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) during a visit to the charity's international headquarters in Koenigstein, Germany.

The war that followed the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has had a deep effect on the lives of everyone in the country, but those who live close to the front line know that every day could be their last.

"We know we have to do everything to survive — to live, not to die," says Bishop Honcharuk. "We have so much pain in us, but we know we have to live. And this is our life. We live from one day to the other. Sometimes when we meet each other, we ask: 'How are you?' and the reply is just: 'I'm still alive.' And that is good."

<u>Christmas Greetings</u> to all my Temple family and friends. This year I will be donating to Mercy Ships in lieu of giving Christmas cards, so this is to wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and all good wishes for 2026. Love and blessings, Jane S

Victor G, veteran church and BB member reading last month's Record sent this back.

Having now gone through the latest Record, I'm sorry to read that Phyllis S had passed on (I'm assuming from your short obituary that she is the kind lady whose maiden name was B).

Miss B, as I knew her, was the Sunday school teacher who regularly organised rambles. I'm sorry to admit that I, along with Alan L was sent home by her, from a ramble on its way through Shoreham, for hitching a lift from a passing motorcycle sidecar outfit because we had fallen behind somewhat.

Vic

Spot on Vic; they are the same Phylis we all knew from Sunday School although I never knew about the rambles!

It really is nice to hear news from friends. I still remember the day Vic turned up at our house aged around eleven and played with our group of neighbours the daft games we did in the trees of Kevington Woods.

Incidentally for those older Brigade members there was a ring on the door bell this week and when I answered it, dear old Steve H was there. He worked very hard at Orpington Baptist Boys' Brigade as captain and the Battalion Boys' Brigade, and we became very good friends. He came in and we had a very pleasant hour or so reminiscing about Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade and the Isle of Wight Camps. He now lives in Cambourne, Cornwall and trying not to work as hard.

St Mary Cray Has Ceased to Exist

Very sadly St. Mary Cray has ceased to exist. Only a few people of the 25000 people in St Mary Cray actually know this most sad fact, but going into the future, we will pass on and this most famous and most populous place will leave the memories of us few and be written out of history and the maps of the region. We had an address given to us the other day as:-

The number of the house and street,

Bromley,

BR5 XXX

Where the XXX stands for the correct postcode for anonymity of the person if they should read this. Wrong in every way. They are clearly and, in every way, living in St. Mary Cray.

It struck me that many new people had moved into the area and know nothing of the village and have been misled as to its address. The place has been around since Roman times and was a very large and town like, compared with places a little closer to London and further away. It had its own bath house, and one surmises, individual houses along the River Cray. Charles Darwin's good friend Lord Avebury was a student of ancient history and collected most of his artefacts, mainly stone (flint)

axes along the River Cray, and realised even then that there was quite an industry in making these tools for exporting into the surrounding communities in St. Mary Cray as far back as prehistoric times. Of course, what the natives called the place has been lost in time but there are clues. The Romans called the place South Cray and there are similar places along the river. Like many places they take their names from this River.

Cray is the Roman name for river as in Crayfish (freshwater lobster). You can find many similar names in England that are named the River River where, such as the River Avon the native people misunderstood foreign people colonising a region and that was the name of the river instead of their name for a river.

This place may well have been Christian from about 250 AD since just over the Cray Valley at Lullingstone is the oldest physical evidence in the Roman Villa of Christianity reaching these shores. Along the Darenth Valley there are mainly individual Roman Villas but in St Mary Cray as I said earlier there were individual houses and a communal Bath House indicating a village or small town in St Mary Cray. St Augustine came to Britain in 599ad landing and starting the church on a more formal basis with the blessing of the King through his having the queen on his side who converting the king, hence Canterbury Cathedral the seat of the church in Britain.

In 602ad Augustine told Paulinus, one of the monks who had travelled with him from Rome to go down the Thames and start a church on the River Medway. This was at Rochester.

Once this was successfully accomplished Augustine told Paulinus to move further down The River Thames and fortunately for us he turned into the R. Darenth and then into the River Cray. All along the river he started many churches finally landing near the source of the River Cray just about where the Catholic church is today in 605 AD. The village changed its name from plain old South Cray to St Mary's Cray at Paulinus request and over time and usage to St Mary Cray. You will still hear some of the long-term natives call it St Mary's Cray and you can guess the family has lived here or know someone who retains the old St Mary's Cray. Do not correct them as they have right on their side.

The Catholic Church was a large Church and in ruins when I was a lad in the very centre of St. Mary Cray High Street (under Forgefield Court). The churches along the River Cray were all called St Mary's at Paulinus' request. However, after his death the small church in the small hamlet outside St Mary Cray was renamed St Paulinus Cray, now St Pauls' Cray, in Paulinus' honour for all his work, and the church (for its first 1500 to 1600 years) St Paulinus' Church.

To give you some idea of the dominance of the village in the very early 1800s River power was supreme, and the River Cray had three or four breweries and two papermills in its first 5 miles. One of these breweries was the Snellings Brewery opposite "The Temple." Their grand house is still there but as many historical buildings in St. Mary Cray has gone to wrack and ruin. The Snelling family had 5 or 6 daughters; records are hazy, but Lilian Snelling was still alive in the 1960s and living in the house. She became one of the greatest botanical illustrators in the world of her time. She was an illustrator of Curtis' Botanical Journal and later its editor for 37 years. It is the oldest botanical Journal in the world and is still published from Kew Gardens. One of the paper mills was on the corner of Station Road and Crav Avenue. This mill was owned by William Joynson and produced a very special hard-wearing paper used for the country's legal documents and more importantly for the country's bank notes. One of my great friends in the Boys Brigade and at the Temple Church, Andrew S started work there in the 1960s.

William Joynson who owned the Paper Mill was of course a very rich man. He lived in the early 1800s and used his money to travel around Italy. Here he saw very ornate churches known as Temples. He attended the Parish Church in St Mary Cray, as everybody did in those days, but after morning church, he went on with his family to a smaller gathering of the Congregational Church that used to meet in an upstairs room in the Elizabethan Manor House still in St Mary Cray High Street now called the "Mary Rose." You will know the one, it has a church like arched window upstairs. While travelling around Italy he thought, when I get back to England, I am going to build one of these Italian churches for my church. This was in the late 1840s at the time of the great Exhibition. He was keen to get it finished in time for Prince Albert's

Great Exhibition of British achievements and he managed it. This was a marvellous edifice and dominated the village centre. His old house was a Georgian Town House next door to the Temple with a conservatory covering the whole of the back wall. All these buildings in the centre of St. Mary Cray dominated the village centre and many were damaged by a War time land mine. The Catholic Church was obliterated, the Temple foundations were severely damaged, and the wooden houses between turned to match wood. One of my friends had a lucky escape as she had gone to stay with her grandfather in a different part of the village that night. The old Temple had to be pulled down in 1952. Incidentaly, the Georgian town house was pulled down by Orpington council. If you want to see what it looked like you will need to go to Sidcup, between the hospital and the High Street where you will see two beautiful identical ones in lovely park land. Your council does not seem to want to preserve any of your history. If it hadn't been for two teams of retiring builders our Tudor Cottage and Elizabethan Manor House would have suffered the same fate. With this destruction it is no wonder how the village has all but disappeared but there are a few of us left and a the few remember the joy of going to school in the wonderful Georgian Manor House of Kevington fortunately still in St Mary Cray as far as I know.

Now for those of you who have moved into St. Mary Cray and have been misled or not known this here is the way to tell where you live. If you live in BR5 you either live in:-

- 1.St. Mary Cray
- 2.St. Pauls Cray
- 3.Petts Wood

If you live in BR6 you unfortunately live in:-

- 1. Orpington
- 2. Chelsfield
- 3. Locks Bottom
- 4. Farnborough
- 5. Downe

Of these the most historic is Chelsfield!

This was a national scheme to speed up the Mail sorting. Its predecessor was Post Towns, and we were attached to Orpington, and this became obsolete when Post Codes took their place, but some people thought Orpington classier or did not realise it had been superseded. It suited both the Post Office and Orpington. Now yearly parts of St Mary Cray absorbed. This year they seemed to have taken the part of Sevenoaks Way opposite the paddling pool.

In the 1920s for administrative purposes the government chose to arrange the small towns and villages into blocks and for administrative purposes to have a centre where the administration could be run from. But places retained their names. This was unfortunate since we had built a railway station close to St Pauls Cray which in this arrangement meant they sunk St Pauls Cray into Sidcup and District Council. The Boundary between the two villages St Pauls Cray and St. Mary Cray was always hazy and did not matter too much except that we had built the local Secondary Modern School and railway. Most of the children from St Pauls Cray attended the school along with those from St. Mary Cray.

The boundary they drew went around the school and because the children in St Pauls Cray had to be administered by the new body, they had to be found places in the New Sidcup and District Council. At this time there were no Secondary or Primary Schools in Orpington or St Pauls Cray, and the children had been used to walking into St Mary Cray where there were two primary schools and a secondary School and only a tiny infant school in St Pauls Cray connected to St Paulinus Church.

With the centre of the areas administration in Orpington they started taking an increasing role in the new council and area and spent an increasing amount of the wealth generated in St Mary Cray in Orpington, notably by spending a large amount of it on vanity projects like their new High Street. St Mary Cray's High Street stretched from the Blue Anchor pub at the junction of St Mary Cray High Street and Station

Road all the way to the junction with Lower Road. The top part of Poverest Road was renamed Kent Road when the Orpington By-pass was built and cut Poverest Road in two to save confusion.

The High Street with Kent Road stretched for a mile and a quarter which will give you some idea of how dominant the village was and how the village was the largest village/town in Western Kent up to the mid nineteenth century. In the 1960s for an English project, I had to write a travel brochure, and I chose to write one for St. Mary Cray. During my research I found out in the Orpington District Council there were 65 industries. One was Farnborough Engineering in Farnborough of course, 62 were in St Mary Cray. The other two might have been in Orpington but I have no evidence for this.

Bombing during the war from the air meant that the planes carrying the bombs followed the railway lines into London. The reflection from the railway lines of the moon guided them in. The German Pilots were instructed to drop bombs not used in London on the railway tracks on their way home. It was a horrendous job with so many defences around London that the risk to German aircraft of being shot down was very high and it was known that one or two pilots dropped their bombs early on the track before reaching London and returned early before they were shot down. One of these types of bomb was known as a Landmine. This bomb dropped from a great height and was very powerful and heavy. It came down on a parachute to a certain height timed to go off just above its target height and the blast on the surrounding area blew most of the buildings around down. The whole centre of St. Mary Cray High Street was taken out for about a guarter of a mile, when one of these land Mines went off over the centre of St Mary Cray.

You might wonder how such a tumbled down High Street as ours could maintain so many shops. One has to turn the clock back and imagine what it was like in the 1950s forward. With 62 major employers many were employing 100 each and the larger ones such as Morphy Richards employing 2000+. In the rest of the country after the war many of the ladies had to leave the work they did during the war, so that the returning soldiers had employment.

However, many of the men in St Mary Cray found work in London with better pay and moving into the good houses being built in estates all around St. Mary Cray. There were many trains, and they only took 21minutes to Victoria. There were only two lines to London in those days There was a set of railway points on the large bridge outside St. Mary Cray Station so that at least one train stopped outside St. Mary Cray so it could return immediately to Victoria to pick up more passengers.

In answer to the question why the dilapidated High Street survived, there were so many people employed in St. Mary Cray, most of them ladies, they had to bus them in from as far away as the Medway Towns. With few people having refrigerators, the ladies had to do their shopping during their lunch break especially for their meat and fresh produce an almost daily shop. I worked as a butcher boy during this period and knew there were seven butcher's shops on the High Street, St Mary Cray.

Few people had the time to go into Orpington and shop during their lunch hour and could not be late back or they would be sacked. A well-known local businessman Harry Hinton who owned Jupiter Construction would come into our butcher's shop regularly in the 1960s and tell my boss that there was good news he had submitted yet another set of plans to Orpington Council to re-develop St Mary Cray High Street and had an agreement that Marks and Spencer's would come into it. All this was in vain because Orpington was not going to allow St Mary Cray High Street's rebuilding. You can see what the "American Mall" built on the Morphy Richards site in the heart of St. Mary Cray has done to Orpington High Street.

If you care about this historic place, write to the Post Office, the London Borough of Bromley, or refuse to write Orpington on your address but write St Mary Cray with your Post Code. We could win this. You can be sure I do. Only your house number and postcode are needed.

Family Folklore

Katie told Grace something that Willow said and I wondered whether it would enter the Percival family folklore, like something that entered ours. This was nearly 50 years ago. Zoe was just over 5 years old with Richard 3 and John one. We were all around the family table having Oxtail soup when the following conversation started.

Zoe: Mummy what is Oxtail soup

Grace: It's made from the tail of an ox.

Puzzled look on Zoe's face.

Grace tried to explain what an oxtail was referring to ox or cow's tails. Zoe increasingly puzzled expression.

Richard age 3 suddenly said: Only they wash them very, very carefully don't they Mummy?

At which point Grace and I nearly fell off our chairs with laughter.

Even more puzzled look on Zoe's face and she came out with.

Zoe: I don't get that.

This made us laugh still more.

Since that day whenever a similar incident occurs, we say: Only they wash them very, very carefully don't they Mummy.

When Katy told the story of going shopping with little Willow to the supermarket. Willow was under the impression they were finished shopping for the day when Katy started down the clothes isles when a little voice piped up, "This isn't the way out!"

It all came back with the conversation with Zoe and Richard those fifty years ago and I wondered whether when Adam or Katy vary the plan and the children query it, whether they will come out with the expression, "This is not the way out is it Mummy"?. They will probably grin at each other, and the children will wonder what it is all about.

For Eleanor, Mercy's friend and new inhabitants of St Mary Cray

Devotions 2

Reading

1 Timothy 5: 1 - 2

Do not speak harshly to an older man, but speak to him as to a father, to younger men as brothers, to older women as mothers, to younger women as sisters—with absolute purity.

Reflection

Sometimes in the New Testament there is a possible confusion in the Greek, since the word 'presbuteros' is sometimes used to denote an office in the Church (Elder) and sometimes used in a more ordinary sense as an older person (a male older person here). There is the same ambiguity in English now of course, but we generally work it out quite easily. Here, in 1 Timothy 5, it seems to be about an older man, rather than a church Elder. And the hearers of this letter are being exhorted to treat others (presumably in the church community) as they would family members. Speak to an older man as you would to a father, to younger ones as your brother, to older woman as your mother, and younger women as sisters. The advice seems to be addressed to younger people, and we might recognise the 'ageism' that might make people 'harsh' towards older people, and perhaps also the way that sexual attraction might intervene, sometimes inappropriately.

It has become a common assumption in Christian circles that we are family; brothers, sisters, siblings. Minutes of church meetings among some early Congregationalists reveal a culture in which people were given no titles except 'brother' or 'sister'. This can, at its best, create a culture both of equality and also, potentially, of respectful affection. In the company of the Church we are not comrades, members (as in a club), or part of a hierarchy. We are siblings, family, held together in affection, mutually responsible for one another, bound in love. For some, this might be a rather awesome, even unwelcome, thought. Better to be 'friends' perhaps; like-minded, freely chosen, free to go different ways, welcome company.

Take a moment to imagine the people with whom you worship and share Christian community. Are they friends or family?

Prayer

God of love, thank you for my siblings, for all my relations, in faith.

Give me grace to cherish them, to care for them and spend time with them, to nurture love and respect, to grow in understanding of them.

And may I have the grace to receive their love for me, to weather any arguments, and to know that I belong, in your family, always, Amen.



Happy Christmas to all our Readers



NORMAL WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday	9.30am 6.15pm	BUTTERFLIES PARENT, TODDLER & BABY CLUB Boys' Brigade ANCHOR BOYS (5-7yrs.)
Wednesday	9.30am 6.15 pm	BUTTERFLIES PARENT, TODDLER & BABY CLUB Girls' Brigade EXPLORERS (5-8 yrs.)
Thursday	6.15 pm 7.30pm	Girls' Brigade JUNIORS (8-11 yrs.) Girls' Brigade SENIORS & BRIGADERS (12+yrs.)
Friday	6.00 pm 7.45 pm	Boys' Brigade JUNIORS (8-11 yrs.) Boys' Brigade COMPANY & SENIORS (12+yrs.)
Saturday	10.00am	MISSION GROUP COFFEE MORNING- 2nd Saturday of month
Sunday	11.00am	Sunday Service in church and on Zoom.

Want to know more? - See our "Welcome" leaflet available in the Church Vestibule or visit our website at www.templeurc.org.uk

January February 2026 TEMPLE RECORD
Please send news, articles and notices by
Sunday 28 December 2025
or you will be unlikely to receive a Record before mid-February
Earlier does help