



# PORT SUNLIGHT GAZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT SUNLIGHT VILLAGE TRUST

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# PSVT Reopening Plans

*No doubt all of our minds are turned towards the easing of lockdown and the reopening of our lives, and that includes Port Sunlight Village Trust.*

Although we had hoped to welcome visitors back to our museum sooner, the current government guidance is that UK museums can reopen no earlier than 17th May. In the meantime, we are working hard to ensure our visitor experience is top notch and our facilities Covid-19 secure once we reopen. Booking will be essential and numbers restricted.

**Check out our new ticketing hub at <https://tickets.portsunlightvillage.com>**

## In the meantime...

You don't have to wait until summer to have fun. We'll be slowly introducing some old favourites to the village over the coming months along with some new treats including...

- Our popular Food & Beverage concessions will hopefully be making a welcome return to the museum green in April.
- We can't do an Easter trail this year, but we hope you'll enjoy our online egg designing competition – see below.
- By late April we hope to relaunch our guided walking tour programme, and for the first time visitors will be able to tour our museum virtually, including the brand-new SoapWorks exhibition! See the back page for more.
- You can join in some of our brilliant community activities via the Port Sunlight Community Hub Facebook page.
- Visit our YouTube channel which features interviews with members of our team, covering topics from tourism and community to landscape and the built environment.
- Remember that PSVT has Twitter, Facebook and Instagram channels.

## Get the latest information on our reopening plans on our website:

[www.portsunlightvillage.com/latest-government-update-on-the-reopening-of-the-village/](http://www.portsunlightvillage.com/latest-government-update-on-the-reopening-of-the-village/)

Our offices, visitor and community facilities will remain closed to the public, but we are still working behind the scenes and you can still get in touch:

- For PSVT residential and commercial tenant enquiries, including issues relating to maintenance, repair and conservation, contact us on 0151 644 4800 or at [admin@portsunlightvillage.com](mailto:admin@portsunlightvillage.com)
- For community engagement, call Claire on 07592 035 923 or at [c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com](mailto:c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com)
- For group and education bookings, events and guided tours, contact Camella at [info@portsunlightvillage.com](mailto:info@portsunlightvillage.com)
- For fundraising enquiries – including commemorative benches, the Port Sunlight Lottery, legacies, and donations – call Sarah on 07592 035 051 or email [s.preston@portsunlightvillage.com](mailto:s.preston@portsunlightvillage.com)



## Easter Egg-Stravaganza!

Are you feeling creative? Then grab your pens, pencils, paints, glue, plasticine... whatever you have to hand and decorate an egg!

It might be a real egg or a wooden, paper, plastic, chocolate or even biscuit egg – the choice is yours – but once you've decorated it take a photo and send it to us. The most egg-cellent eggs will be awarded Easter hampers of goodies and family passes to our attractions, including the new SoapWorks interactive gallery. There are two prizes – under 16s and everyone else.

The competition is already open! Check out our social media channels for a great new video from Bread & Butter Theatre Company who will tell you everything you need to know about entering. The closing date for entries is Friday 9th April with the winners announced on Tuesday 13th April.

So, get decorating and snapping and send your entry to [a.moore@portsunlightvillage.com](mailto:a.moore@portsunlightvillage.com). We'll share a selection of entries as they roll in.

We're also launching a great new digital village trail for Easter. Created by Puzzleduck, the trail is a fun interactive with quiz questions and activities that guide you around our village using your phone. Watch our social media channels for launch details.





## An update from Paul Harris, Chief Executive of Port Sunlight Village Trust

It is difficult not to get too excited. Spring has arrived, lockdown is easing and Port Sunlight Village Trust is announcing many new and exciting initiatives.

Where else to start but with our reopening plans? As you will read, our plans are well underway, including finally being able to launch our new SoapWorks exhibition and reopening our museum and offices. Be assured that we are opening in as safe a manner as possible, which will include a new ticket booking system to limit the numbers in our venues at any one time.

We have been busy online and have recently launched two new websites, both of which are aimed at preserving the village's history, albeit very different eras. Drawn Together is a fascinating resource which brings together the drawings from 29 architecture firms employed by William Lever during his construction of Port Sunlight. PSVT is proud of its collaboration with partners in the collation of this resource, and I hope that residents find it as engrossing as I do.

Be Port Sunlight is also a great resource, but this time we're asking you, our residents, to contribute. You have already given us a great collection of photos, reminiscences, videos and podcasts that capture our individual and shared experiences of living through lockdown, but we are keen to expand that archive. Explore the collection and learn how you can make your own contribution to our Covid-19 archive on page 5.

Representation from all of our residents is very important to us. To this end, PSVT has appointed EMBED and the Disability Collaborative Network to undertake an organisational review of all aspects of our business to ensure we are as inclusive as possible. That covers everything from recruitment to fundraising, looking at our policies, plans, procedures and communications. The work will begin in April and will be completed by July - we will keep you informed of our progress.

Our commitment to equality is very important to us, and includes ensuring that our staff and Board are representative of our residents and visitors. We are keen to encourage anyone with relevant experience and skills to apply for our new Heritage Manager post and Board membership. These are great opportunities to help take Port Sunlight into the next stage of its evolution. Details are on page 6.

We are looking forward to shortly welcoming visual artist Tod Hanson to the village. He'll be working on an Arts Council England-funded contemporary art installation inspired by our village; a place he describes as "Fantastical architecture on psychedelic daisy-covered lawns. The village is the frothy topping of a gigantic soap factory and its pop graphic commercialism." I'm looking forward to seeing what Tod produces!

Some not so good news is the repair work required on the boating pond. As we outline on page 6 this remedial work will be a challenge, both financially and operationally, but we are working hard to come up with a plan to care for all of our heritage and ensure its longevity. In the meantime we ask for your patience and assure you that the finished work will ensure the pond and fountain remain a source of pride for both current and future residents.

And finally, thank you to all of our funders who have made all of these projects possible, and to you, our residents who have contributed so much to their creation.

Have a great Easter break.

*Paul Harris, Chief Executive,  
Port Sunlight Village Trust.*





# Be Port Sunlight

In recent editions of *The Gazette* we've told you about a Historic England-funded project to capture the experiences of Port Sunlight residents during lockdown and the impact of Covid-19 on all of our lives. Well, we're now pleased to unveil **Be Port Sunlight!**

Be Port Sunlight is a new online hub containing a fascinating archive of audio-visual material which conveys a sense of life in Port Sunlight during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

Featuring everything from homemade NHS 'thank you' signs and pandemic poetry to virtual pubs and a lockdown love bench, it provides a snapshot of the intimate and shared moments which occurred in one historic village and conservation area during this time.



Also, following four themes that reflect the foundations of civic life in the village (architecture, culture, economy and environment), a series of short podcasts feature interviews with locals about their experiences of lockdown.

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE

This launch is just the beginning. We are inviting Port Sunlight's residents, businesses, groups and communities to share objects, photographs and videos that represent their experiences during 2020 and 2021. The *Be Port Sunlight Collecting Project* section of the site explains how you can contribute. All of the material will become a permanent part of PSVT's museum collection and village archive, with an on-site exhibition planned for later in the year. So, get thinking, rummaging and searching for material that best represents your lockdown life.

Be Port Sunlight is funded by Historic England as part of its Covid-19 Emergency Response. It seeks to better understand and document the impact of Covid-19 on the people and heritage of the village.

The findings will be used to inform PSVT's recovery planning and will be shared with other planned communities and Section 19 Towns facing similar challenges.

Visit the site at [www.beportsunlight.co](http://www.beportsunlight.co)

## New guide to extending village properties to be published

Are you a Port Sunlight property owner who is considering an extension or other alteration to your building? If so, you will be pleased to hear that PSVT is publishing a guidebook which will help you make the right choices when making alterations to your home.

The guide was written for property owners and professionals alike and provides guidance on how village homes may be adapted to make them more suited to 21st-century living, focusing particularly on extensions.

The guide covers:

- Which village properties are suitable for extension
- What kind of extension is appropriate for your home
- The laws you need to adhere to when altering a listed building in a conservation area
- Making your planning application

The guide was written by PSVT in partnership with Paddock Johnson architects and is intended to be the first in a series of guides on caring for your village home. The guide will be published shortly - watch PSVT social media and our website for details of how you can get your copy.

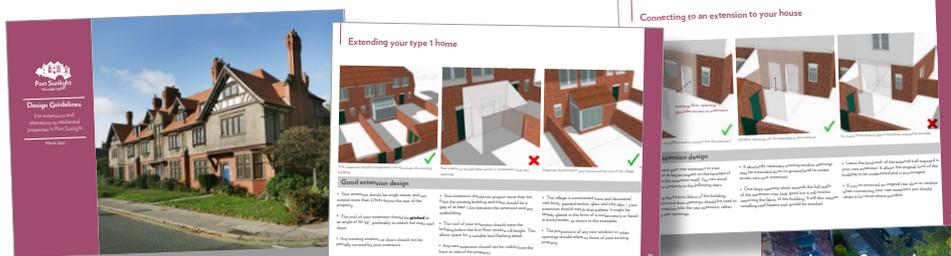


Image: Stratus Imagery



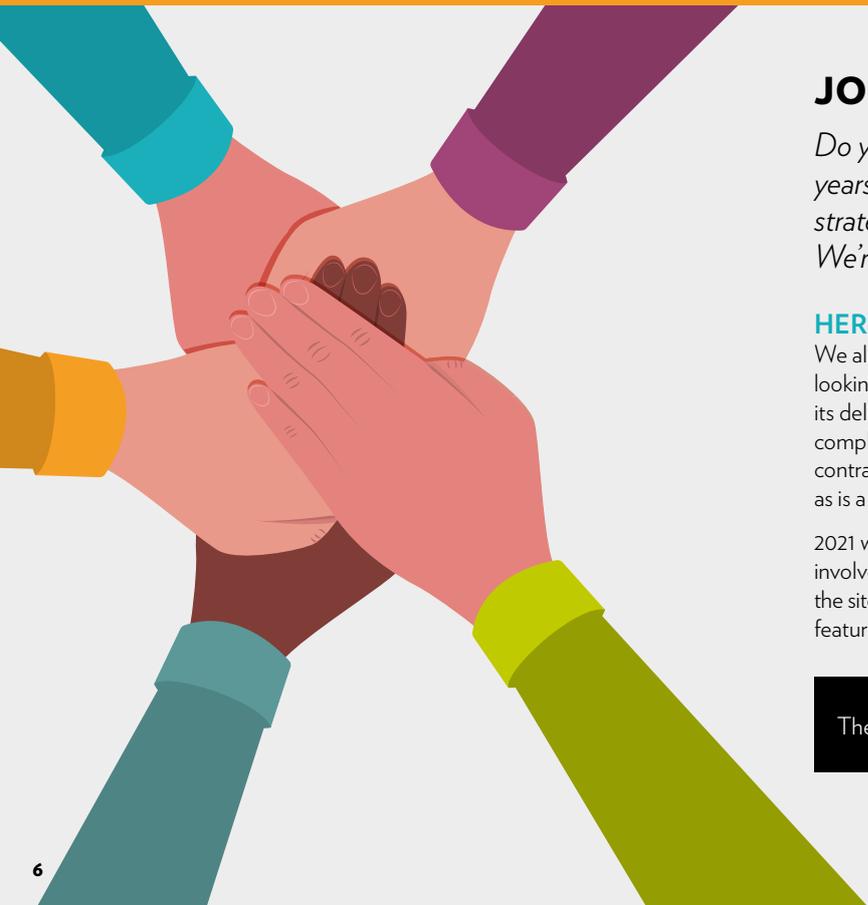
## Boating pond in need of repair

One of the many pleasures of walking around our village in summer is seeing the Sea Piece fountain spraying water into the boating pond at the end of the rose gardens on the Diamond. Unfortunately, specialist surveying has revealed that the concrete base of the pond is severely broken and in need of substantial repair. This is the result of an issue with the pond's original design rather than anything that has occurred since.

This work is a huge undertaking, both in terms of the cost and in choosing a solution that balances preservation with having a functioning pond and fountain for all to enjoy. While we consider all of our options, PSVT is undertaking condition assessments of all our monuments and landscape

features. A specialist company will be brought in to do this work, starting in early summer. It is likely to take a few months to complete, but we will be left with a comprehensive understanding of the features' conditions, treatment and prioritisation needs. It is important that PSVT understands its liabilities in terms of these important monuments and this knowledge will enable us to plan ongoing renovation, repair and cyclical maintenance.

In the meantime, the fountain will remain turned off and the pond empty. Rubber matting has been installed to protect the base from further degradation and will be removed once the repair works start. We will keep you updated on our progress.



### JOIN US!

*Do you have a love of heritage, commitment to Port Sunlight, years of relevant experience and the drive to help us deliver our strategic plans? If so, you could be the person to join our team. We're looking to fill a number of posts.*

#### HERITAGE MANAGER

We already have a ten-year Conservation Management Plan and are now looking for an experienced and dynamic heritage professional to lead on its delivery. The right individual will be a strong manager, adept at running complex projects with volunteers, colleagues and external consultants and contractors. Experience of building and sustaining partnerships is a must, as is a commitment to engaging people with their heritage.

2021 will be an exciting year for the village and the right candidate will also be involved in initiatives including co-commissioning a public realm strategy for the site; contracting condition assessments of all our monuments and landscape features; and managing a study to better understand the village's significance.

There is more information on these opportunities on our website. [www.portsunlig](http://www.portsunlig)

## “...the frothy topping of a gigantic soap factory...”

*That's how visual artist Tod Hanson described Port Sunlight recently.*

*The context was the Meeting Point programme – a project to partner six museums in the North of England with artists who will create new pieces of work in response to the museums and their collections.*

We are delighted to say that Tod is one of those artists and Port Sunlight will be providing the inspiration for his piece. He already has some ideas: “I would like to rework and interweave Port Sunlight’s architectural forms and decoration, together with the influences of the factory environment, the language of advertising, and the effects of war and gardening. I will bring all this together as a fantastical decorative hybrid painted-environment that sits between past, present and future, evolving from Gothic revival chocolate-box ‘Victoriana’ to computer game sci-fi theatricality.”

After a year’s delay because of Covid-19 Tod will be on-site in May/June, with his installation being open to the public in July and likely on display until September at the Church Hall.

Meeting Point is funded by Arts Council England through Arts&Heritage’s National Portfolio Organisation funding. It aims to bring new visitors to participating museums, to enable audiences to view collections and history in a different way, and to support the sustainability of museums and heritage sites like Port Sunlight.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**Port Sunlight**  
VILLAGE TRUST

### JOIN OUR BOARD

We are also recruiting new Board members. This is an exciting time in our evolution and we are looking for people with senior experience in heritage conservation, museum development, visitor attractions, commercial management, fundraising and income generation, and project management to help us realise our ambitious plans.

Several of our current trustees are reaching full term, and we want to take this opportunity to increase the diversity of our Board so that it is more reflective of society and those we serve. Applications are particularly encouraged from female, BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) and younger candidates as well as people with disabilities. All Board positions are voluntary.

[portvillage.com/about-psvt/jobs-and-volunteering/](https://www.portvillage.com/about-psvt/jobs-and-volunteering/)





## Sharing love and hope

All of our lives have changed over the last year and The Sunlight Stitches are no exception. This enthusiastic group of knitting fans has been forced to adapt, but thankfully has really flourished during the pandemic.

Throughout the pandemic the group has kept busy, working on various knitting projects including little hearts for hospital patients and baby items for the maternity unit at Arrowse Park Hospital. The members have also recently worked on a project which involved knitting hearts and rainbows for

a special yarn bombing installation on our village green. This has been hugely popular with residents and visitors alike, and the group encourages the community to add their own textile hearts to The Stitches' efforts. Check out the yarn bomb on the green beside the museum for inspiration.

The members have also picked up new technology skills; meeting up each week on Zoom (or outdoors when weather and restrictions have allowed) and chatting via their active WhatsApp group. This contact has really kept the group together.

Sunlight Stitcher, Judith Knowles, said: "We have grown our friendships, cheered each other up when we were downhearted, helped each other out with practicalities when needed and just generally kept each other going. In a funny way it has been quite a precious time! Now that spring is in the air and vaccinations are progressing, hearts are lifting once again and we are looking forward to being able to meet up again face-to-face, probably outdoors at first and then eventually back in Bridge Cottage."

## THE SUNLIGHT SKETCHERS

*Formed in 2018, The Sunlight Sketchers is a committed group of art enthusiasts who until last year met weekly at Bridge Cottage Community Hub.*

Like The Sunlight Stitches, their activities have been somewhat limited by lockdown, but also like The Stitches they have embraced modern technology and now meet online.

This adaptation has enabled members to keep the group going, to generally support one another and, of course, to share their works of art! The group sets regular projects so members always have something to work on, which helps boost members' motivation while honing their artistic skills. It also helps maintain friendships through difficult times. The hope is that as the weather improves and restrictions lift The Sketchers will once more be able to meet on the grass by the museum and enjoy a coffee together. In the meantime, The Sketchers say they will continue to keep calm and carry on with their drawing.

If you're interested in joining either The Sunlight Sketchers or The Sunlight Stitches contact Claire Bates on 07592 035 923 or at [c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com](mailto:c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com)



## Ready, steady, bowl!

There are two reasons that the Port Sunlight Village and Works Bowling Club members are excited about the weeks ahead. First, the recent government announcement that Covid-19 restrictions on certain sports are to be eased, which will include crown green bowling. Second, their bowling green, located in the heart of the village on Bolton Road, has been maintained to a high standard, ready for the teams to play!

While their bowling skills may be a little rusty, the members' IT skills have certainly improved over lockdown. In a recent Zoom meeting, members heard that the club is eagerly waiting for guidance from the British Crown Green Bowling Association before safely bowling once again from the end of March. Everyone at the club is looking forward to the forthcoming season with a number of exciting, new events planned.

While watching a match on a warm summer's evening is very pleasant, taking part is even better. If you would like to become a member of a very friendly bowling club, contact Kevin Turner on 07840562392.



## A message from the Port Sunlight Players

"A huge 'thank you' to everyone who supported 'our home' - The Gladstone Theatre - through the recent hard times. We are currently awaiting confirmation of dates and we hope to be back on stage and entertaining you again in our lovely, local, community theatre very soon! Keep an eye out on our social media for updates.

And if you've found yourself wanting a new hobby recently, why not join us? There are lots of roles available including on stage, backstage, props, costumes or just making a great cup of tea! Everyone is welcome. Just drop us a message on Facebook.

We look forward to seeing you soon."

The Port Sunlight Players

<https://www.facebook.com/PortSunlightPlayers/>

## TUNE IN, TAKE PART AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Social media has been a huge source of support for many over the last year, and our Port Sunlight Community Hub Facebook page is no exception. If you've not visited already you are encouraged to check it out. It features live weekly activities including exercise, yoga, mindfulness and chi-gung classes, as well as gardening tutorials. It's also a great place to keep up to date with what's on in the village and is a vital way to connect with others in our community.

Don't worry if you don't have a Facebook account as you can view the page without. You can also access past classes. Simply search for Port Sunlight Community Hub or go to:

[www.facebook.com/groups/483691748649116](https://www.facebook.com/groups/483691748649116)



# Pandemic Poetry

With extra time on our hands during lockdown many of us have begun writing. The PSVT team was pleased to recently hear from resident,

Jane Thomas, who began writing poetry some time before the pandemic. In fact, at the beginning of lockdown Jane ran Zoom poetry sessions with

Claire Bates at the Community Hub, and even set up the Port Sunlight Poetry group with PSVT and Arts Council England support.

Jane sent us a poem she recently penned about Port Sunlight and its characters and we're very pleased to reproduce it here.

Jane is currently working on a pamphlet on the subject of Alzheimer's which many of us will look forward to seeing.

More on Jane and her work here. [www.janethomas.org](http://www.janethomas.org)

## 'Today in the Village'

*by Jane Thomas*

He will be there on his bench giving her news about the kids and the kid's kids, the daffodils,  
the headlines, the snow

Alan, the postman, will be pushing his trolley wishing again he had checked the forecast  
before swapping his shift

The young bespectacled parcel man will be racing to do all his drops in order to clear the  
child seats before three

The eccentric artist from the South Coast will be sitting near the fountain, breathing lightly,  
*he'll never find me here*

The old factory supervisor from number thirty-three will be remembering how as boy he  
balanced on the ledge

The ice cream man will be thankful that he's here not down at the sea, with chips and  
burgers for competition

The Auntie will be letting the little girl know all about the cement statues and the soldiers  
and football fans they remember

The teacher will be telling her charges to put their phones away and learn how to tell the  
time from the analematic sundial

The coach tourists will be following the trail to the final stop — the Levers with their fictional  
children at their feet

The roses will be blooming and blessing their good luck at having their own nursemaids  
while others just get muck

The Art Gallery guard will be standing on the steps remembering how we used to have to  
tussle for a tagged bag of nappies

And the breeze will still be blowing the Unilever scents of spring awakening, ocean escape  
and comfort blue into all the yards.





## The Peace Rose

France 1940: For the last five years rose breeder, Francis Meilland, has been developing a beautiful new rose with large yellow flowers, flushed with a little pink at the edges. Europe is at war and Francis knows that Nazi Germany is on the march. To save his prized creation, he sends cuttings to friends across the world. His rose makes it onto the last plane to leave France for the USA before the Nazi invasion. For the next five years it is kept safe while the war burns. In whichever corner of the world the rose is hiding it is given a different name: 'Goia' (Joy), 'Glory Dei' (Glory of God) and in the USA it is called 'Peace'.

This stunning rose was officially named 'Peace' and released on the day Berlin fell - 2nd May 1945.

This rose, now a symbol of hope and peace, became an ambassador for the cause of global peace, and at the inaugural meeting of the United Nations each delegate was gifted this rose with a note that read:

*"We hope the 'Peace' Rose will influence men's thoughts for everlasting world peace."*

This remarkable rose, one of the most popular and evocative in history, now has a home in Port Sunlight. In February, it was planted outside The Gladstone Theatre by Nicky Evans.

When you enjoy the beautiful flowers over the coming years remember this flower's special place in world history.



## MESSY CHURCH ACTIVITIES FROM CHRIST CHURCH

Are you looking for activities with an element of faith and spirituality for your children? If so, get in touch with the Christ Church Messy Church Team.

Every week the team sends out faith-based activity sheets, and on the first Saturday morning of each month holds a 'Zoom' Messy Church Session. During March the group is exploring Lent, with activities including making Lent Paper Windows, Blessings Jars and Lent Prayer Pretzels. The sessions include songs, stories, a gallery of the children's crafts and blowing out the birthday candles.

To receive the activity sheet and details of the Zoom Messy Church Session, email Liz at [bulletin@ccpsurc.info](mailto:bulletin@ccpsurc.info) with your details and your child's name. The activity sheets are also available in the blog section of the church website - [www.ccpsurc.info](http://www.ccpsurc.info) - and in the Weekly Bulletin section of the Facebook page.



## HOLY WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH URC

Minister Reverend Ian Smith reminds us of the significance of Holy Week and Easter and invites you to join him in a Zoom service.

"The week leading up to Easter follows the emotional roller-coaster that begins with Jesus entering the city of Jerusalem on a donkey and ends with an empty tomb. The crowds waved palm branches and welcomed him as King, but just a few days later he was betrayed and arrested. The following day another crowd was calling for his crucifixion and he was executed. Early on the Sunday morning the tomb was empty - he was alive.

"Our worship through Holy Week and Easter follows that story. From the excitement of Palm Sunday, through the agony of betrayal and death of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, to the joy of resurrection on Easter Sunday. Join with us as we remember and celebrate the amazing love of God this Easter."

- Palm Sunday 28th March - 10.30am Zoom service - "Ride on! Ride on in majesty."
- Maundy Thursday 1st April - 7pm Zoom service - "An upper room did our Lord prepare."
- Good Friday 2nd April - 10.30am Zoom service reflecting on the events of Good Friday - "There is a green hill faraway."
- Easter Sunday 4th April - 10.30am Zoom service, celebrating Easter - "Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son."

**Joining Sunday Worship from Home**

We continue to offer our Sunday Worship on Zoom. You can either join Zoom with video on a PC, Tablet or Smart Phone, or you can phone in on a landline or mobile phone and simply listen to the service.

**The stream will open at approximately 15 minutes before the start of each service, if you arrive early, you will be placed in a waiting room and then admitted when everything is ready.**

**Joining with video on a PC, Tablet or Smart Phone:**

**Option 1**

- click on the following zoom link: [Christ Church Sunday Worship Zoom](#)
- Please select 'Speaker View'.

**Option 2**

- open the Zoom website or app and enter the Meeting ID and Password:  
**Meeting ID:** 984 9741 4236  
**Meeting Password:** 674153
- Please select 'Speaker View'.

**Joining with audio on a landline or mobile phone:**

- Choose and dial any one of the phone numbers listed below (if the phone number you choose is engaged try another phone number).

|                         |               |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Dial-in numbers:</b> | 0203 481 5237 | 0208 080 6592 |
|                         | 0203 481 5240 | 0131 460 1196 |
|                         | 0203 901 7895 | 0330 088 5830 |
|                         | 0208 080 6591 |               |

- Key in the **Meeting ID: 984 9741 4236**, followed by '#'.
- When asked for Participant ID press '#'.
- Key in the **Meeting Password: 674153**, followed by '#' again.

**Stay and Chat:**

- Following the service there will be an opportunity to stay on Zoom and chat with others. You will be invited to unmute.

**Christ Church Website Address**

For more information about Christ Church visit [www.ccpsurc.info](http://www.ccpsurc.info)

# Welcome to

## Soap Works

Did you know that soap used to smell really bad and that you had to grate it like cheese? Have you ever wondered what makes it bubbly?

And did you know that soap has changed the lives of millions of people, not least those who have lived and worked in Port Sunlight?

You can explore these fascinating facts and more at SoapWorks – the new family exhibition at The Port Sunlight Experience!

SoapWorks is an interactive experience that's bubbling with ideas about soap, science, history, the environment, public health, perfume, advertising, business and household chores.

It was designed to encourage children to engage with the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths), to learn about the science of soap and its life-saving properties, and of course to have fun!

**Biffa Award**

Building communities. Transforming lives.

**AIM** Association of Independent Museums

Visit SoapWorks at The Lyceum – Port Sunlight's historic schoolroom – from 17th May.

Buy your timed ticket (which includes access to Port Sunlight Museum and the Edwardian Worker's Cottage) at <https://tickets.portsunlightvillage.com/>

SoapWorks was made possible with thanks to funding from AIM Biffa Award History Makers.



*Have you got a story for a forthcoming issue of the Port Sunlight Gazette? Contact the PSVT office by phone 0151 644 4800 or email [feedback@portsunlightvillage.com](mailto:feedback@portsunlightvillage.com)*

**Port Sunlight Village Trust**

23 King George's Drive, Port Sunlight, Wirral CH62 5DX

T 0151 644 4800 F 0151 645 8973 [admin@portsunlightvillage.com](mailto:admin@portsunlightvillage.com) [portsunlightvillage.com](http://portsunlightvillage.com)

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