



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urcic.org.uk

Bulletin 3rd January 2021

A Happy New Year to all who read this Bulletin.

Dear Friends

Please note that all COVID restrictions apply to Church Services. Be especially mindful of Social Distancing (1.5m min) at the start and end of services.

Despite now being in Covid restrictions Tier 4, we have lots to look forward to in January – Our new Minister, Rev Iain McLaren will be inducted at a special service on 16th January at St Andrew's. All the details are later in this Bulletin. Iain will be moving into the Manse earlier in the week.

A BIG Thankyou must be extended to Tim Odell who has recently retired from active Eldership after a long period of service to the Church. The Elders have presented Tim with a rose bush which we all hope he will enjoy.

We Congratulate the two couples that have been married at St Andrew's during December. On December 12th Alice Hodder and Rhys Price married by Bob Alger
On December 19th Catherine Pennington and Tom Wallace, married by Rev Maz Allen.

From Ann and John Standring who have moved house to Bishop's Cleeve. Ann wishes you to know her new email address: annstandring44@icloud.com

From Anne Gimingham: 'A number of people have very kindly been asking me how things are with my mother. Thank you very much for all your thoughts and prayers. It was very much appreciated. She has been out of hospital for a few weeks now and although very weak and tired seems to be improving slowly. Once again many thanks. Anne'

ECO - Don't forget to recycle your Christmas Cards and Stamps – there are collecting boxes at St Andrew's.

A reminder that **Tea Time on Tuesdays** Zoom meetings are continuing. **EVERYONE** is invited to enjoy friendly conversation at 3pm. Bring your own cup of tea and join the party.

ID 955 7054 4462, Passcode 686988

<https://zoom.us/j/95570544462?pwd=Q0VHQVVuWHB1QmpBd2ZDcEZJNlIXUT09>



Prayer Requests this week:

Joan and Ian Thomson
Morag and Bill Notman
Joan Osmond

Geoff and Margaret Harmsworth
Sandra and Tony Jeans

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the prayer list, please let us know and they will be included in the next bulletin.

Photo by Bill Cowie of a window at St Andrew's

Prayers on Mondays at 8.30pm

<https://zoom.us/j/96204565714?pwd=Rm1iZ01ZWkpYNmVvbXZScFJISWgyUT09>

Meeting ID: 962 0456 5714 Passcode: 108557

Monday 4th – please bring an interesting Christmas Card

Prayers on Tuesdays

St Andrew's is open on Tuesday mornings from 10.30-11.30am for **Private Prayer**.

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 60 v1-6
Matthew 2 v1-12

Epiphany

Psalms 72 v1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3 v1-12



The Pulpit at St Andrew's

All Sunday Services are 11.00am, broadcast on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0gso0uzwPJq-Onhf6fN2TA>

Please book your seats with Alison Stagg: bastagg@btinternet.com Covid restrictions apply.

Please mention if you do not wish to be seen on camera.

Hymn Books are available to borrow if this would help in following services on YouTube.

3 rd January	Mr Geoff Tizzard-King	Communion
10 th January	Mr Bob Alger	
17 th January	Rev Iain McLaren	
24 th January	Rev Alison Evans	
31 st January	Rev Iain McLaren	

One World Week service will be available on Sunday 24th January from 6.30pm on YouTube.

The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services are 10.30am

3 rd January	Cancelled due to COVID concerns
24 th January	Rev Iain McLaren Communion

The Pulpit at The Church in Warden Hill

Details of Services can be found in 'Lantern' which is available at <http://www.tciwh.org.uk>

10 th January	10.30am URC Holy Communion with Revd Ken Martin
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Rev. Iain Duncan McLaren

It is our great pleasure to welcome Rev Iain McLaren to the Cheltenham pastorate of the United Reformed Church. Iain will be moving to Cheltenham early in January and his induction will be on Saturday 16th January to be conducted by our Moderator – Rev. Steve Faber. Iain's first service at St Andrew's will be on 17th January, at Prestbury on 24th January (Communion), and at Warden Hill on 14th February (also Communion.)



Iain comes to us from East Dulwich, London where his previous pastorate consisted of three churches, one of which is an LEP, similar to TCiWH. Iain has been in the ministry for just over 10 years having previously been in accountancy. He will be working with Gary and the team at Warden Hill as well as at St Andrew's and Prestbury.

One of Iain's beliefs is that the 'One Body, Many Parts' analogy also applies to ecumenical working. No church community is self-sufficient and so we are all called to co-operate with like-minded people in other communities to fulfil God's purpose in our local setting. Iain maintains that amongst his strengths he is a good listener, a good communicator and is not afraid of opposition.

IAIN – WELCOME TO CHELTENHAM and we all look forward to meeting you very soon.

Brian Miles



You are invited to attend the
Induction of Revd Iain McLaren BA, B.Th
at St Andrew's on Saturday 16 January at 3pm.
RSVP bastagg@btinternet.com by 10th January
Alternatively, please watch the livestream at:



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0qso0uzwPJq-Onhf6fN2TA>

NOTE: As we are now in Covid restrictions Tier 4 we recommend you consider your response to this invitation very carefully. The Covid rules restrict the numbers of seats we can use so places will be allocated by ballot. Requests for seats will be acknowledged after 10th January.

St Andrew's Charity support

At their meeting on 10th November the Elders agreed on a range of International, National and Local Charities to support with the Retiring Collection during 2021. It was also agreed that we should support the same charity for two months in order to be able to donate a reasonable sum each time.

Janet Kemp

St Andrew's Charity for January/February

Save the Children



When Ken Martin, on the Sunday following Christmas Day, preached to us from Matthew chapter 2, he highlighted (verse 16) 'Herod fell into a passion, and gave orders for the massacre of all children in Bethlehem and its neighbourhood of the age of two years or less.' Defenceless children have always been the prime victims of adult passions, of war and other violence, of hunger, neglect, disease and malnutrition. When Ken mentioned Yemen, Syria, Myanmar and Sub-Saharan Africa we recognised these examples of chaotic and hostile environments where the chances of children surviving weigh heavily against them.



But child poverty, and early death through malnutrition are not inevitable. There is food enough in the world for everyone, though poverty and rising food prices mean that many families cannot afford it. Relentless hunger weakens children's immune systems and leaves

them vulnerable to infection, disease and death. And for those who survive, malnutrition is a life sentence. **Save the Children** is working on new ways of predicting food crises so that governments can take action sooner. Its teams provide skilled counselling on breastfeeding and complementary feeding, screening for malnutrition, distributing vitamin supplements and helping families improve their incomes.

And at home? **Save the Children** is also working to tackle child poverty in the UK. Britain is one of the world's richest countries, yet rates of poverty are rising, with serious implications for children's future life chances.

Save the Children also campaigns tirelessly against the employment of child labour, and of girls being given in early marriage. It engages with governments to make these practices illegal, and ensures that undertakings once given are honoured.

And when we hear of a major emergency, such as the Beirut explosion, or floods or devastating storms, it is likely that **Save the Children** will be there, caring for the children caught up in the destruction.

Will you please contribute generously, using the plate at the door, if you do not already make regular contributions. Thank you.

Robin Derbyshire

Janet, Fiona and Brian