



## Cheltenham United Reformed Church

[www.urcic.org.uk](http://www.urcic.org.uk)

*Bulletin 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021*

### Dear Friends

#### Into Lockdown – Again

Due to the new lockdown there are changes in the schedules for all three churches. Sunday worship at St Andrew's and TCiWH are again **ONLY** on line.

### Rev. Iain McLaren

It is our great pleasure to welcome Rev Iain McLaren to the Cheltenham pastorate of the United Reformed Church.

Please see the change in details since the last bulletin about the Induction Service – **NEW** details below.

This will be a special **ZOOM** service on 16<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm. Everyone is invited to link in. It will be a much reduced Act of Worship, due to the current lockdown but we hope to arrange a full celebration later in the year.



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



You are invited to attend the  
Induction of Revd Iain McLaren BA, B.Th  
at St Andrew's on Saturday 16 January at 3pm.



**The Zoom link will be open from 2.50pm to give everyone time to join**

<https://zoom.us/j/97094457672?pwd=SlI4aWN5UHpQUmRoakpaa3hqEVIz09>

Meeting ID: 970 9445 7672

Passcode: 999449

**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

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

### **Prayers on Tuesdays**

These prayer sessions at St Andrew's will be suspended during the current lockdown.

### **Lectionary Readings**

Genesis 1 v1-5

Psalm 29

Mark 1 v4-11

Acts 19 v1-7

### **The Pulpit at St Andrew's**

All Sunday Services are 11.00am, broadcast on YouTube:

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

**During the current lockdown the church will be closed.**

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

10 <sup>th</sup> January	Mr Bob Alger
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev Iain McLaren
24 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev Alison Evans
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Rev Iain McLaren

**One World Week** service will be available on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January from 6.30pm on YouTube.

### **The Pulpit at Prestbury**

**All Sunday Services are 10.30am**

24 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion(TBC)
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### **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 <sup>th</sup> January	Due to the current lockdown the church is closed.
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**ECO** - Don't forget to recycle your Christmas Cards and Stamps – there are collecting boxes at St Andrew's.

## Church Christmas Card. 2020

The video card will be available indefinitely on YouTube at <https://youtube/DZn9MUla9U0>  
If there any difficulties getting access, copy the link then paste it into your browser and go. The link can also be shared. If you click on SHOW MORE below the YouTube player, you will get the details of the music from "Messiah".  
*Sandra & Tony*



## St Andrew's Spire Appeal

Marcus has been busy making these crosses and fish out of the teak of the old doors at St Andrew's. If you would like to order one please contact Marcus Dann: [marcusdann9@gmail.com](mailto:marcusdann9@gmail.com)  
Donations for the Spire Appeal.

## St Andrew's Charity for January/February

### Save the Children

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.  
*Robin Derbyshire*

## Christmas Cards

### Some thoughts from Tony Jeans

At Monday evening's Zoom prayers on 4<sup>th</sup> January, led by Janet, we shared some interesting Christmas cards we had received this year. We revealed a rich tapestry of shared interests, experiences and relationships contained within the simple act of sending and receiving a Christmas card.

I was reminded of one of U A Fanthopre's Christmas poems. UA (who taught English at the Ladies' College) with her partner Rosie, sent a card to a select group of friends each year which they produced on their own little printing press and which presented one of U A's poems. These poems are clever, quirky, witty, challenging and memorable. Indeed, I have sometimes used one of them in an Advent or Christmas service.

The one I had in mind is called **Christmas in Envelopes** and goes like this

*Monks are at it again, quaffing, carousing;  
And stage-coaches, cantering straight out of Merrie England,  
In a flurry of whips and fetlocks, sacks and Santas.  
Raphael has been roped in, and Botticelli;  
Experts predict a vintage year for virgins.  
From the theologically challenged, Richmond Bridge,  
Giverny, a lugger by moonlight, doves. Ours  
Costs less than these in money, more in time;  
Like them, is hopelessly irrelevant,  
But brings, like them, the essential message love.*

U.A.Fanthorpe (1929 – 2009) from the collection "Christmas Poems", published by Enitharmon 2002

The punch is, of course, in the last line. All our concern for family and friends which we show in sending cards (even if, these days they are electronic rather than physical) is a product of love in all its rich variety.

As we prepare to welcome Iain to take up Ministry to us, let us ensure he comes to a community rooted in love, for as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13 v13

***"Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love."***

**Our thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Bulletin in the last year – we couldn't have produced such an interesting and varied news-sheet without you.**

**Janet, Fiona and Brian**