



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urcic.org.uk

Bulletin 11th July 2021

The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

25th July Mr Bob Alger (Communion)
1st August Rev Dee Brierley-Jones

The Pulpit at St Andrew's

All Sunday Services are 11.00am, broadcast on YouTube:

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

11th July Mr Geoff Tizzard-King
18th July Rev Iain McLaren **Followed by Church Meeting**
25th July Mr David Black
1st August Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)

- If you wish to attend St Andrew's services please reserve your seat with Janet before noon on Saturday.
- The next **Church Meeting** will be on **18th July** following Worship. Agendas will be sent out by email

The Pulpit at The Church in Warden Hill

Details of all Services can be found in 'Lantern', and 'Grapevine' both available at

<http://www.tciwh.org.uk>

11th July Rev Iain McLaren (URC Communion)



The General Assembly of the URC takes place from 9-12 July.

You can watch the business sessions on the URC website, on our Facebook page or YouTube channel. The Moderators of the URC General Assembly are warmly inviting members of the denomination to join General Assembly's Sunday worship service on 11 July. The Revd Clare Downing will preach at the service which will be livestreamed from the URC's national website and Facebook

From our Minister: Rev Iain McLaren



“All things are lawful,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other.’ [1 Corinthians 10: 23-24]

‘To mask, or not to mask,’ to misquote Hamlet, is becoming a hot topic as we approach the misnamed ‘Freedom Day’ on 19th July. Christian freedom is always set in the context of our accountability to God. The two greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Christians should not seek their own advantage therefore, but should have equal regard for the welfare of other people. With this in mind, I offer the following couple of contributions to the masking debate.

1. The primary purpose of wearing a mask is to protect other people from breathing in any infected droplets you may be exhaling. We have always known that ‘coughs and sneezes spread diseases’, but until the advent of covid we were very lax about taking measures to prevent infection spreading. In many Far Eastern countries it has long been considered good manners to wear a mask in a confined public space if suffering from a respiratory infection. This is an attitude we also should embrace.
2. Apart from being uncomfortable to wear, masks are also a hindrance to communication. This is a particular issue for people who are hard of hearing, who may struggle to distinguish muffled words spoken through a mask, and for people who rely on lip reading and therefore need to see a speaker’s mouth. Wearing a mask also hides facial expressions like smiles and scowls, making a person’s emotions harder to read. If we insist on wearing masks when there is little danger of passing on an infection, then we risk both miscommunication and unintentionally excluding certain people from our conversations.

After 19th July it will be for each of us to exercise our own judgement regarding mask wearing. Whilst many will decide to dispense with wearing masks, my expectation is that mask wearing post-covid will remain more prevalent than it was before the pandemic.

Yours in Christ

Iain

Rev Iain McLaren can be contacted at:
01242-231602, or 07483118427
revdiain@urcic.org.uk .
Day off on Fridays



Prayer Requests this week:
Andrew Sutherland, Bill and Morag Notman,
John Hutton, Eileen Attwood,
Rev Iain and his family: Diana, Gift, Kimberley and Keke





Congratulations to Annette and Rob Tucker on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 10th July.

Lectionary Readings for this week.

Amos 7 v7-15

Psalm 85 v8-13

Mark 6 v14-29

Ephesians 1 v3-14

In July-August St. Andrew's is supporting the Cheltenham Foodbank.



From your giving St Andrew's hopes to be able to make a substantial donation to the foodbank at the end of August. Make your contribution in the collecting plate at either door. Please use an envelope if you wish it to be gift aided. If you are not attending Sunday services, please send it to David Black. More information on Cheltenham Foodbank can be found on its website.

Please be generous, and Thank You!

Robin Derbyshire

What's on this week?

Footsloggers on Monday 12th July



Meet at Odda's Chapel, Deerhurst, 9.45 for 10.00. Bring waterproofs, a chair and a picnic.

Jenny NEEDS TO KNOW you are coming.

Prayer Time on Tuesdays

St Andrew's will be open for Prayer on Tuesday from 11.00 till 12.00

WE WELCOME ALL

Teatime on Tuesday

Come and join us for an hour of excellent conversation, 3pm on Zoom.

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

ID 955 7054 4462,

Passcode 686988

Zoom Host: Bob



Study discussions on Wednesday's

We are working on a series of discussions based on the Emmaus Course. 8pm on zoom.

EVERYONE WELCOME

<https://zoom.us/j/96204565714?pwd=Rm1iZ01ZWkpYNmVvbXZScFJlSWgyUT09>

Meeting ID: 962 0456 5714 Passcode: 108557

Zoom Host: Alison

Coming soon

Qi Gong aims to reopen at St Andrew's on **Thursday 29th July 12noon to 1pm**. Further details from Tony Jeans.

Eco News

Our second **Regeneration & Repair café** at St Andrew's on 3 July saw 15 items brought in for repair. One person was definitely planning ahead in bringing in their Christmas lights for repair! We have a new volunteer on the sewing tables who did a great job in replacing a zip for me. The next café will be on 7 August.

If you are taking part in **Plastic Free July** or just looking to reduce the amount of plastic you use, Lyn Ricketts shared the Marine Conservation's Society's latest newsletter with me which included 'Calling out pointless plastic packaging' – taking pictures, uploading to social media and including the hashtags #PointlessPlastic and #PlasticChallenge so everyone can see your post. Alternatively, you can email your findings to info@mcsuk.org too.

Equally they are encouraging recognition of businesses which have taken steps to cut down plastic packaging. The Society has a list of 31 simple tips to reduce plastic use – you can download the sheet [here](#). For more information see <https://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/plastic-challenge/take-part-in-this-years-plastic-free-challenge/>

Also from Lyn

Gloucestershire Recycles: July 2021 newsletter. This included useful information on metal recycling, coffee pod recycling (this is something I have recently signed up for). You can find recent newsletters and lots of other useful information at <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com>

Sainsbury's (Oakley) are re-cycling all of the below

- carrier bags
- bread, cereal bags,
- veg, salads flower, fruit wrapping.
- biscuits, cake wrappers,
- toilet, kitchen roll wrappers,
- rice, dry good wrappers,
- cheese wrapper,
- frozen food bags,
- magazine and newspaper wrappers,
- crisp packets,
- film lids from meat, fish, fruit and veg trays

Thanks to Lyn for sharing this info.

Carol Drummond



'Compassion'