



## Cheltenham United Reformed Church

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

*Bulletin 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021*

*To all our contributors: Thank you for all the copy that you send. Please send in future to: [magazine@urcic.org.uk](mailto:magazine@urcic.org.uk), then it will be sure to reach both Janet and Fiona. Thankyou*

### **The Pulpit at Prestbury**

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

26<sup>th</sup> September Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)

3<sup>rd</sup> October Rev Dr Dee Brierley-Jones (Harvest)

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

All Sunday Services are 11.00am, also broadcast on YouTube:

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

12<sup>th</sup> September Mr Geoff Tizzard-King

19<sup>th</sup> September Rev Iain McLaren Climate Sunday/Harvest

26<sup>th</sup> September Mrs Julie Jefferies

3<sup>rd</sup> October Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)

- If you prefer to use a hymn book during services, please collect one from the shelf at the door and return it at the end of the service. Hymn books are also available to borrow, for use at home.

### **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>

12<sup>th</sup> September Rev Steve Faber, Moderator West Midlands Synod (URC Communion)

### **Lectionary Readings for this week.**

Isaiah 50 v4-9a

Psalms 116 v1-9

Mark 8 v27-38

James 3 v1-12

**Climate Sunday at St Andrew's** Will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September in conjunction with Harvest. The service will focus on the need for Climate Change and the work of the COP26 Conference in Glasgow.

**Our Minister, Rev Iain McLaren is on Study Leave this week.**



**Please Note:**

Rev Iain McLaren can usually be contacted at:  
01242-231602, or 07483118427      [revdiain@urcic.org.uk](mailto:revdiain@urcic.org.uk)  
Day off on FRIDAYS.



**Prayer Requests this week:**

Andrew Sutherland, Eileen Attwood, Geoff Harmsworth, Douglas MacGregor, Pat Brooks, Fred, Mary and Charlotte Cummings, Mary Zakotti, Rev Iain and his family. The family of Elspeth Dick.

The **funeral of Elspeth Dick** will be at St Andrew's on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am, also live streamed. Friends are also invited to the Cremation service at 12.30 and to the Wake at 9 Charlton Park Gate, Charlton Kings.

**What's on this week**

Sat 11 Sept	11.00 - 4.00	Heritage Open Day	St Andrew's
Mon 13 Sept	10:00 - 11:30	Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers	Prestbury URC
	10.00	Footsloggers	Frampton
	7.30 – 9.00	Study/Discussion Group	Zoom ( <i>see below</i> )
Tues 14 Sept	11:00 - 12:00	Prayer Time	St Andrew's URC
	15:00 - 16:00	Zoom Afternoon Tea	
<a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86813681583?pwd=N1hGRUx6Y0FFYkZocVBzTXAwRII3UT09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86813681583?pwd=N1hGRUx6Y0FFYkZocVBzTXAwRII3UT09</a>			
Meeting ID: 868 1368 1583	Passcode: 642768		
Fri 17 Sept	10:00 - 12:00	Coffee, Chat ++	Prestbury URC

**Future Events**

**Macmillan Coffee Morning** 24<sup>th</sup> September at Prestbury URC, 10.00-12.00

**Safeguarding Training** 25<sup>th</sup> September at Warden Hill URCC, , 10.30 to 3.00

**Study/Discussion Group**

It is proposed that the Study/Discussion group should restart its weekly meetings on Mondays at 7.30pm via Zoom. The first meeting will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September. I propose that we follow the Pete Grieg Prayer Course which is designed for small groups and has 8 sessions roughly based around the Lord's Prayer. Each session has a 20 minute video discussion with Pete Greig, followed by discussion and prayer time for the group. Pete Greig is the founder of the 24 hour Prayer Movement and has written several books on prayer. You can find the course by Googling 'Pete Grieg Prayer Course' which takes you to [About | The Prayer Course - The Prayer Course](#) .

Everyone is welcome to join in and I hope to see you there on Monday!

The link for the Zoom meeting is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86817591596?pwd=MkkzSzRWdzFPUTViUnZjNitLZStKUT09>

Meeting ID: 868 1759 1596

Passcode: 368163

*Bob Alger*

# Flushing Away Poverty

## Toilet Twinning



**What is toilet twinning?** Well for just a £60 donation, you can twin your loo with an impoverished family's household latrine, in a country where basic sanitation is often lacking.

Your smallest room becomes the proud owner of a certificate, complete with a photo and GPS coordinates so you can look up your twin's location on Google Maps.

Did you know that 2 billion people don't have anywhere safe to go to the toilet and almost 900 children die every day from diseases linked to dirty water and unsafe toilets?

As part of our **ECO church activities** we have been considering **Toilet Twinning** and we have decided that we should do this as part of the Great Big Green Week (week beginning 18 September).

Toilet Twinning works in a number of countries and as we have connections with Malawi through the Ndekha family we have chosen to twin with Malawi.

Malawi is one of the least developed countries in the world and more than 62% of Malawians live below the poverty line. Toilet Twinning's local partner AG Care is working with thousands of families in three large districts in central and southern Malawi to enable them to build their own toilet, and have access to safe drinking water.

### **Without proper toilets and clean water, people are trapped in a vicious cycle:**

- They're likely to become sick through sanitation-related diseases.
- Illness means they cannot work or farm their land, so they earn less or grow less food.
- Children often miss school, because they are sick or because they're busy collecting water.
- Girls often drop out of school altogether when they start their periods if there are no toilets or changing rooms.
- Parents have to pay for medicines or food, so they may fall into debt.
- Women and girls risk being attacked or bitten by snakes as they go to the toilet in the open, especially if the culture dictates that they have to go out at night.

Water and sanitation projects enable families to build a toilet, have access to clean water, and to learn about handwashing and other hygiene principles. Dignity is restored when the whole family can use a private, hygienic toilet at their home and no longer have to squat in the bush.

**During the Climate Sunday Service on 19 September there will be a collection specifically for this project so please give generously and we will see how many of our church toilets we can twin with toilets in Malawi. Thank you.**

*Anne Gimingham*

## **St Andrew's September Charity of the month is 'Commitment for Life'**

*Our giving to CfL supports Christian Aid's work in Central America to help overcome climate problems, support agriculture and alleviate poverty. Please support Commitment for Life this month.*



## **Following the 7.2 Earthquake in Haiti on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**Ali, a friend of Janet, is a theatre nurse who volunteers in Disaster areas. She is currently in Haiti, following the recent earthquake, with Samaritan's Purse. Ali tries to send bulletins from wherever she goes.**



### **Haiti 28<sup>th</sup> August**

“Thank you all for your prayers as over the last ten days I have been in Haiti. I finally reached the field hospital on Thursday afternoon completing the very last part of the journey in a chinook helicopter surrounded by crates with our supplies. The advance party had erected quite a few tents so we had somewhere to sleep, installed some power and water supplies and had decided upon the layout of the hospital. The operating theatre was the third or fourth large tent erected on a very hot day. We worked late into the night on both Thursday and Friday to try and erect the hospital and on Saturday afternoon we completed our first surgery. Since then we have done a further 21 operations. Some setting bones with metal work in various ways and then cleaning many injuries that had been sustained but not treated. It has been both very hot and very wet, creating a distinctly sweaty sensation. As of this afternoon (Friday) an air conditioning unit was added to the operating room so we can operate under much improved conditions. At one point we had enforced water breaks for all the scrubbed team. As is the way of disaster response work, having had the hospital open for nearly a week the build team are now becoming creative. We have a hand table and a step in the operating theatre. Both made out of wood and covered in blue tarpaulin so we can wipe them clean. One of the team is a retired naval corpsman who was a surgical tech in the navy and has carried on in civilian life with the same kind of job. The other is a nurse that I have worked with before in Ecuador. The anaesthetist is an old friend but both the surgeons are new.”

### **Haiti 4<sup>th</sup> Sept**

“It’s been just over two weeks since I arrived in Haiti and the operating room has been open for just 14 days. In that time we have completed over 50 surgeries and seen over 1200 patients. The mix of surgeries is mostly orthopaedics and general, particularly dealing with wounds sustained during the earthquake that have not been able to be treated as they should. The youngest patient has been about 21 months and the oldest in their 90’s. We have had helicopters in and out and been very grateful for the willingness of groups to provide us with the air support. One in particular was a young patient who required an urgent tube placing in her chest and then airlifted to another facility that could better care for her. The air ambulance that came to transport helped to organise the hospital to where she was transferred. Another group called by with some supplies that they could not utilise and thought that we could, which we can. The hospital will be open for another two weeks and then any patients that we still have, will be transferred to other hospitals in the locality. By then they will have more room. One local mission hospital has been partnering with us and taking the bigger cases that we cannot provide adequate care since we are a small unit. In return, we are taking some of the cases we can manage for them.

### **This type of partnership is so important in these crises.**

The water projects continue to supply so much water that the local water authority is sending lorries to collect water to distribute to other areas who still do not have clean water. Tarpaulins continue to be given out with the Samaritan’s Purse method being applauded. We make use of churches as they will know the local community and who requires help. My days are beginning to blend a little but I do have a change of staff next week. Two of the OR staff are leaving along with the surgeons and anaesthetist. They are all being replaced and I already know 3 of the 5 arriving.

**Please pray for the work of Disaster Teams worldwide.**

*Ali Herbert*