



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urcic.org.uk

Bulletin 13th February 2022

The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

20 th February	Mrs Julie Jeffries	ECO Service
27 th February	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion
2 nd March	ASH WEDNESDAY	
6 th March	Rev Dee Brierley-Jones	

The Pulpit at St Andrew's

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

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

13 th February	Mrs Julie Jeffries	ECO Service
20 th February	Dr Tony Jeans/Mr David Black	
27 th February	Mr Bob Alger	
2 nd March	ASH WEDNESDAY	
6 th March	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion

Please note: Montpellier St is being closed from 22nd Feb for three weeks. Access to St Andrew's will be restricted

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>

13 th February	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion URC Church Meeting
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Worship on Wednesday's

Wednesday Worship: (Prayers and Readings) takes place from 12.00noon till 12.30.

First Wednesday in the month at Warden Hill URCC starting on 2nd March.

Rest of the month at St Andrew's. **EVERYONE WELCOME**

Keeping us all safe while worshipping.

Wearing masks in enclosed public spaces is no longer compulsory, but it is recommended that you still do so in crowded spaces where others are not known to you.

Please respect social distancing and the sensitivities of others around you in church.

Thank you.

Rev Iain McLaren, our Minister writes:

'If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.' (1 Corinthians 12: 26)



This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday. Racial Justice Sunday began in 1995 as a response of the Methodist Church to the racist murder of the Black teenager, Stephen Lawrence, two years earlier, the Lawrence family having been members of the congregation of Trinity Methodist Church, Plumstead, South East London. These days Racial Justice Sunday is an ecumenical event, sponsored by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). For Racial Justice Sunday 2022, CTBI is inviting churches to focus on the three R's of **Remembering** (the importance of racial justice), **Reflecting** (on human diversity and thanking God for it) and **Responding** (by working to end injustice, racism and ignorance through prayer and action).

All human beings are made in the image of God, however, if we spend most of our time socialising with people who look like us, it can be tempting to dismiss the experience of people who have been unfairly discriminated against on grounds of their race or skin colour as being of no relevance to us. It then falls to the victims of racial injustice to shoulder the burden of fighting against racial injustice. This is very unfair. It also runs counter to Paul's teaching to the Corinthians that all church members have a duty to care for one another for 'if one member suffers, all suffer together'. For this reason, racial justice is every Christian's business, not just a matter for people who are Black, Asian or from some other ethnic minority.

Working for racial justice covers how we conduct ourselves in the Church (through eliminating conscious and unconscious bias), but also extends to campaigning against racial discrimination in wider society, in such areas as immigration, education, employment, housing, healthcare and the criminal justice system. Commitment to racial justice is not just for one Sunday a year, but should inform all that we do throughout the year.

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:

Pat and Dave Barnett and Family, Hanne Lambley, Geoff Harmsworth,
Geoff Tizzard-King, Mhairi Turner, The Ndekha Family

Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 17 v5-10
Luke 6 v17-26

Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15 v12-20

St Andrew's February Charity

Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees

Our Money will help Cheltenham – 'Town of Sanctuary' - to offer Refugees a warm welcome and a helping hand.

The organisation we are supporting this month, **Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees**, is a volunteer-led charity which supports asylum seekers from the moment they move in. Members say 'We want to build a kinder and more inclusive society, supporting migration, asylum and resettlement wherever it takes place.'



Imagine arriving in a strange town, coping with a language not your own, with very little money (£6 a day) until and unless that is, you have successfully applied to be a recognised as a refugee, and not just an 'asylum seeker'. Your phone runs out of money, so you can't talk to people you left at home. You have no meeting place and talk to your friends, who have also fled their homes. You don't know how to get your children into a school, and anyway your family is 'digital poor' that is to say without laptops or other digital devices which everyone these days seems to need to access services, learning opportunities and generally to communicate.



But then you discover CWR, the kind and resourceful people who make it their job to provide meeting opportunities with other refugees, see your phone is topped up, run English conversation classes, introduce you to a faith group, if that is what you want, help you with your refugee application, and even run summer picnics and Eid celebrations. They may even be able to provide your family with a precious laptop, and could find you a bike so you can get around more easily.

These are the people who several years ago, moved by the reports of refugees left to their own devices on arrival, quickly discovered how to give them the practical welcome they needed, and raised the money for this. This is the money we are asking you to donate right now.

One thing that people need who arrive with only the clothes they are standing up in, are those **good clothes of yours** that don't fit you like they used to, or you have discarded them for other reasons. As the Bulletin reported last week, the Home Office is sending a significant number of asylum seekers, mainly men, to the county just now, hence the urgency of this appeal for clothes. ***Please leave them in the Mews Room by Sunday, 13 Feb, or if there is any problem contact Robin: rmderbyshire@btinternet.com, 01242 862367.*** We hope to take them to the sorting depot next week.

Robin Derbyshire

Organ recital at St Andrew's

by Matthew Martin on Saturday 26th March, 7.00 – 8.00, followed by refreshments.

Donations in aid of the Spire Fund. Please publicise this event as widely as possible - Flyers and Posters are available at St Andrew's for distribution.



What's on across CURC

Mon 14 th Feb	10:00 - 11:30	Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers	Prestbury URC
Wed 16 th Feb	19.30 zoom	CURC Worship Group	
Thu 17 th Feb	19.30	Reading Group	
Fri 18 th Feb	10:00 - 12:00	Book Sale & Coffee, Chat ++	Prestbury URC
Wed 23 rd Feb	14.00-16.00	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Thu 24 th Feb	12.45-13.45	Talk – Aztecs of Mexico by Neil Meldrum	
Thu 24 th Feb		Qi Gong	
		Family Fun Day	St Andrew's

To book please email: fundays@urcic.org.uk

CURC Lent Group

The Lent study group will be on Wednesdays during Lent, 7.30pm by zoom, starting on 2nd March. (Ash Wednesday). Rev Iain will be leading the group, material to be followed yet to be confirmed.

World Day of Prayer Service at Highbury Chapel, 7.00pm on 4th March.

Sustainability Festival

On 12 February from 10-5pm at St Philip & St James' Leckhampton, to help people learn about the things they can do to make an eco-difference in your home, business/work, life and community.

Carol Drummond

Show the Love

Throughout February, people across the UK will join together to show the love for everything we want to protect from the climate crisis. St Andrew's service on **13th February will have an eco theme (as will that at Prestbury on 20th February)** so if you have one of the felt green hearts from previous **Green Hearts'** services, please wear this to the service. If you don't have one or can't find it, there will be a small number of available on the day. For more information, see <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>

Go Green for Lent

Challenge yourself and family by choosing one or several of the eco ideas on the **attached list/appendix** and see what you can achieve during Lent. If you find a good plant based recipe please pass it on to me and if there is enough I could create a recipe book for everyone to use. *Ann Lewis*

Everything Must Go! - Bargain Book Sale

History – Romance – Cooking – Travel – Thrillers – Crime – Classics – and more....

Come along to Prestbury URC on Friday 18th February from 10 till Noon and pick up a bargain

And coffee as well!



'Keith's Column'

For many years Keith wrote regularly for 'In Touch' our previous newsletter/magazine. We welcome him back and look forward to hearing his enjoyable 'take' on events.

AS ONE DOOR CLOSES.....

I stepped into the lift in Dunelm and pressed the button for the first floor. Before I knew it a lush, honey-smooth contralto was telling me "Doors closing." And they did. The lift's resident contralto then told me "This lift is going up." Jolly nice of the lift to make promises like that, but it didn't need to, did it? After all it's what lift's do, isn't it? I mean if the doors hadn't closed I'd have been left standing there looking like some unwilling shopper who'd been told "Wait there till I come back." But it was worth using the lift just to hear it talk to me like that. It was the sort of voice that lured sailors to their doom, made Adam partial to a bite of Cox's Orange or Granny Smith, persuaded my uncle Charlie to take out life insurance on his goldfish. When we got to "first floor" and "Doors opening" I couldn't stop myself from saying "Thank you."

Then I had this sudden awakening (epiphany? check on that); I was standing there chatting to a lift! There was a fleeting vision of people nudging each other and whispering "Steer clear of this one, talks to lifts you know." It's very worrying, this business of machines talking to us. Cash machines, self-checkouts, cars, lifts, they're all at it. I expect by now you're saying to yourself, or maybe you're saying to your answer machine, or the self-checkout at Morrison's or the lift you're standing in, where is all this leading?

Well, it's the doors you see, those swish new ones at St. Andrew's. And they do don't they, swish silently back and forth? Not very chatty though, don't tell you a thing. But don't fret; I've had this great idea. We should ask that Dunelm lift's enchanting contralto to make some recordings for the church doors. Wouldn't it be good if, when the doors saw someone coming, that ghost-like lady crooned "Good morning, doors opening"? And, when someone left, she could bid a friendly farewell with "Doors closing. Goodbye, have a nice day." Another great idea! This latest facial recognition technology could make the doors speak to us on a personal level. You could actually have "Good morning Alice Springs, doors opening." Even better, these very clever modern electronic sensors could detect your current situation and offer advice. For example, how about "Good morning Alice Springs. You don't look too well today, so go home and relax. Doors staying closed." This could really catch on, eh? Talking doors everywhere, helping us in our daily routines. Yes, the elders should definitely consider adding these wonderful new aids. Those doors – clearly an open-and- shut case, I'd say.

Oh, I've just had another great idea; supermarket trolleys that talk to you. Hmm.....

Keith Norcott



From the Editors

Thank you for all the copy that you send. We can be reached on: magazine@urcic.org.uk
Janet Kemp (Design) and Fiona Hall (Technology)