



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urcic.org.uk

Bulletin 15th August 2021

The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

22nd August Mr Geoff Tizzard-King (Communion)
5th September Rev Dr 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>

15th August Mrs Julie Jefferies
22nd August Dr Tony Jeans & Ms Carol Drummond
 ECO Service – hear about plans for a Psalm 23 Garden
29th August Rev Dr Dee Brierley-Jones
5th September Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)

- Alison Stagg will be doing the seating plans during August.
- 5th September is Cheltenham Half Marathon – check your route to church and parking availability.

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>

12th September Rev Steve Faber, Moderator West Midlands Synod (URC Communion)

Lectionary Readings for this week.

Proverbs 9 v1-6
John 6 v51-58

Psalm 34 v9-14
Ephesians 5 v15-20

Prayer Requests this week:



Andrew Sutherland, Eileen Attwood, Geoff Harmsworth, Douglas MacGregor, Pat Brooks, Fred & Mary Cummings & Family, Rev Iain and his family.

It is with sadness that we have learned of the death of Elspeth Dick, a member of St Andrew's, on Friday 6 August 2021. Please pray for her family.

From our Minister: Rev Iain McLaren

'So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.' (Acts 1: 23-26)



I am sometimes asked why I chose to become a minister. My reply is that I did not choose to become a minister; I believe God called me into ministry. Ministry in the Church is a calling – a vocation – not a career choice. The calling comes from God and the challenge for the Church has always been how to discern who God is calling into ministry. It is clearly not sufficient for someone simply to announce God has called them to be a minister. There are too many people with only a shaky grasp of theology and lacking good pastoral and communication skills who are nevertheless convinced they would be good ministers. There are also people with all the qualities required to be an excellent minister who are too modest and self-effacing to consider putting themselves forward for a position of Christian leadership. There needs to be some way of weeding out the former and encouraging the latter, whilst remembering that the final decision is God's.

When the apostles had to choose who should take up the ministry position vacated by Judas they prayed and cast lots. Prayer has continued to play a vital role in discerning Christian vocation, but casting lots rapidly fell out of favour. In the United Reformed Church we believe God's will is best discerned through the deliberations of the various councils of the church: Elders' Meeting, Church Meeting, Synod and ultimately General Assembly. All play a role in discerning calls to exercise ministry in the URC.

The process begins with a candidate being recommended by the Elders' Meeting and Church Meeting of their local church. Following assessment by representatives of Synod and an Assessment Board, acting on behalf of General Assembly, a decision is taken on recommending the candidate for theological training. Once training is successfully completed there is a further step. The candidate must receive a call from a pastorate or similar body prior to being ordained. The process is long and is intended, not only to discern whether a candidate is being called into ministry, but also what form of ministry they are being called to exercise. This could be traditional full-time stipendiary ministry, part-time or non-stipendiary ministry, chaplaincy, special category ministry or ministry as a church-related community worker (CRCW). It is not unusual for a candidate to begin the process with one form of ministry in mind, but to end up being pointed toward a different type of ministry.

Julie Jeffries of Prestbury URC is currently testing a call to non-stipendiary ministry. This Sunday, 15th August, she will be leading a service at St Andrew's that is going to be assessed as part of the process. Please pray for Julie as she prepares for this service, for the assessors as they write up their report and for subsequent interview panels as they formulate their decisions. Help them to discern what God is calling Julie to do.

P.S. Please note I am away on leave from 15th to 29th August inclusive.

Yours in Christ

Iain

- **Prayer Time on Tuesdays**

St Andrew's will be open on Tuesday from 11.00 till 12.00 **WE WELCOME ALL**

- **Teatime on Tuesday** **ALL WELCOME**

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/June

Happy Birthday to Amelie, daughter of Viera and Graham, who will be 1 year old on 20th August.

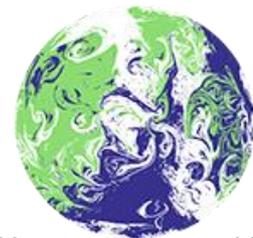
Exploring the Meanings of 'One World'



This is part of the logo for One World Week which we will be marking in October, but with the word 'Week' chopped off, for we are bound to go on thinking about '**One World**' for much longer than a week.

In November another event, the United Nations Climate Change conference COP26, takes place in Glasgow [1-12 November]. Recent devastating climatic events have underlined the necessity for nations to accelerate action to correct misuse of the world's natural resources, especially fossil fuels.

During the Cold War we used the phrase Third World to indicate that part of the world, usually the less developed part, which took no part in the struggle between communism and capitalism. Nowadays **One World** sets aside political differences and says all nations and peoples have an equal right to share in the world's resources which promote and enhance life. This is a rebuke to rich and highly developed nations who over-consume fossil fuels, creating a climate elsewhere, where reliable agriculture is impossible. COP26 has adopted this photo of our planet seen from space, suggesting how the climate we create on earth swirls across the planet according to natural laws which no nation on earth can control. The fires and floods which have afflicted parts of the world regarded as secure from such disaster underline this. Mankind has no option but to come together and use what we have responsibly.



There are also world problems which COP26 will not be addressing, but are very much our concern, as we share in **One World**: such things as hunger, disease and homelessness. Two weeks ago we looked at the plight of the people of Yemen. This week comes a new and more urgent appeal from the United Nations Refugee Agency, UK:

'Dramatic shortfalls in global aid for Yemen, including a proposed cut by the UK Government of almost 60%, are just the latest in a series of devastating blows to hit the people of Yemen. For displaced families already struggling to survive, this is catastrophic. Millions of lives are at risk already from the threat of brutal violence, coronavirus, famine and an economic collapse. A cheque to Freepost UK for UNHCR (full address), marked 'for Yemen' will provide lifesaving help to families in Yemen.

Robin Derbyshire

Climate Sunday will focus on the need for Climate Change and the COP26 Conference.

This will be held on 19th September at St Andrew's in conjunction with Harvest.

18th-26th September is designated '**Big Green Week**'

Reading Group

The next meeting of the Reading Group will take place on **19th August** at 7.30pm at 'Karinya' Swindon Lane, GL50 4PF. The novel is 'Hamnet' by Maggie O'Farrell. Anyone interested is most welcome. Phone Mary Cummings on 01242 243216 to find out more.

Coffee, Chat and Extras



Where? Prestbury URC

When? Every Friday 10.-12am from **September 3rd**

What are Extras? Could be any number of things. Come and find out! Do you make cards/craft items? Would you like a market place.? Please contact Julie Jefferies on 232892 or Rose West on 581165 for further details.

Repair Café at St Andrew's, **4th September**. From 10.00am.

"Welcome Party" for Iain. **Saturday 4th September. 3.00-6.00pm at St Andrew's**. Please let Janet, Fiona or Brian (as appropriate) know if you want to attend.

Please could you let us know if you are willing to bake some individual cakes for this event.

Bible Study/Discussion Group

This group will reconvene in September on **MONDAY's**. Topic to be decided.

Wednesday Social Group meetings will start on **8th September** from 2.00-4.00pm in the Warden Hill URC Centre. 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Further details from Brian Miles 01242-862142.

Qi Gong will be reopening on **Thursday 9th September 12noon to 1pm** at St Andrew's. Further details from Tony Jeans jeanstda@jeanstda.plus.com

Heritage Open Day at St Andrew's will be on **11th September**. The Church will be open to the public from 11.00am – 2.00pm. Tony and Sandra Jeans will then be giving a talk entitled **'The House that moved'** from 2.30 till 3.30pm. Tickets from 'The Suffolk Anthology', Suffolk Parade, Collect IN PERSON. Brochures are available, printed and on-line.

Janet Kemp

Safeguarding Training – Important for ALL

The Synod Safeguarding Officer, Donna Gordon, will be leading a **Safeguarding** training session at Warden Hill URCC on **Saturday 25th September**. This will be from 10.30 to 3.00 with coffee and lunch breaks.

Just a reminder that **ALL** items for inclusion in the Bulletin should be sent to magazine@urcic.org.uk so they reach both Janet and Fiona together and won't be missed off if one of us is on holiday. Thank you.