



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urch.org.uk

Bulletin 18th 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>

18th July Rev Iain McLaren **Followed by Church Meeting**
Agendas have been sent out by email. Zoom if required from 11.45.
25th July Mr David Black
1st August Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)
8th August Mr Bob Alger

Following the announced Government **changes to the Covid regulations** for effect from 19th July, the Elders at St Andrew's recommend that we continue with the systems currently in place:

- ✓ Masks will continue to be worn indoors, but we can now SING.
- ✓ Social distancing will be maintained.
- ✓ Seating arrangements will continue. Please continue to sign in or contact Alison Stagg. New lists will be available on Sunday 18th July. Seating plans will continue, using the pale blue chairs.
- ✓ Coffee after the service will resume on 1st August in the Hall. Social distancing requires NO MORE THAN 6 people sitting at a table.

Regular reviews of these requirements will be carried out.

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>

8th August Rev Iain McLaren (URC Communion)

From our Minister: Rev Iain McLaren

'Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ... For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past ...'

[Psalm 90: 2,4]



On Monday I went on my first 'Footsloggers' walk (thank you to Dorothy Odell and Carole Fletcher for organising this). We started from Deerhurst, where parts of the parish church go back to the 9th century, which corresponds with the time of King Alfred's battles against the Vikings. Nearby is Odda's Chapel, which dates from 1056 – ten years before the Battle of Hastings. As I stood inside this Saxon chapel, I reflected upon what Christianity would have been like a thousand years ago.

Church life and worship would have been very different from our own, with prayers and Bible readings spoken in Latin and the sermon in Old English. There would have been no AV system nor organ, though it is possible there might have been some sort of musical accompaniment. Most of the congregation would have been illiterate. They would have had no scientific understanding of the world. They would have been subject to seemingly random bouts of disease, with only poorly understood herbal remedies to treat them. Life expectancy would have been low. Yet, like us, they would have drawn inspiration from the life and teaching of Jesus, who walked this earth in a much earlier era to theirs.

The Church has changed dramatically in the intervening thousand years, in ways our ancestors could not have imagined. The Church has changed, but the Church has endured, because God is eternal. It is helpful to remember this when reflecting upon the state of the Church today. We lament the Church of 20 or 40 years ago and express concern for the future of the Church next year, in 5 years or in 10 years, but, when seen in the context of a two-thousand-year Church history, this is just a short span of time. We may be living through uncertain times, but there is no need to be overly concerned about the future of the Church. The Church has survived worse situations in the past and will overcome similar challenges in the future. God has not finished with his Church yet.

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, Geoff Harmsworth
Rev Iain and his family: Diana, Gift, Kimberley and Keke



Lectionary Readings for this week.

Jeremiah 23 v1-6

Mark 6 v30-34,53-56

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2 v11-22

St Andrew's July/August Appeal for The Cheltenham Foodbank an Update

Thank you to everybody who has already given to this appeal.

Three weeks ago we quoted Church Action on Poverty saying that many people such as single parents, the disabled and those requiring care, were not in a position to take up such employment as was on offer, and so must continue to rely on available state

benefits. Many were hoping that the £20 supplement to universal credit, added during the pandemic, would continue, even though the omens were not favourable. Last week the government, arguing that the uplift is no longer needed, confirmed that it will stop at the end of September. It is very likely that more people, and their children, will then experience food insecurity, that is insufficient nutritious food to ensure good health.

Our local Foodbank, in common with others countrywide, are building up their resources to meet present demands and in anticipation that they will increase. We ask you to hold people and families who go short of food in your prayers. Every continuing act of generosity on your part, both in kind and in cash, will help others in our community to enjoy a healthy and happy life.



Robin Derbyshire

25th July at St Andrew's

Next week I will be leading worship at St Andrew's on the theme of Faith, particularly in Remote Places. Ann will lead the singing of hymns. As part of the service Roger Wyse from **Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)** will give us a presentation on how this charity serves difficult to access communities in a variety of countries where land and sea transport can be affected by weather and theft.

To show our appreciation for their faith over the last 76 years that has enabled them to help more communities and NGOs, including distributing vaccines, the collection next week will be for this charity so can I ask that you consider whether you can contribute to this extra charity either on the day or online.

David Black

Help needed:

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.

Stewards will be needed – I have had some offers – but would welcome more, to cover an hour at a time.

Full details of all the Heritage week activities will be in the published brochure – coming soon.

Janet Kemp

CURC Directory 2021, is still available

Contact Fiona 01242-511143/ prestbury@urcic.org.uk for your online copy.

Safeguarding Training

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. **ALL ELDERS** and those who work with children and/or vulnerable adults are **expected to attend** a Safeguarding Training. Please put this date in your diaries.

Contact Julie Jefferies, juliejefferies@googlemail.com or 01242-232892 to book your place.

*Our terrace garden
Geoff and Sarah*



What's on this week?

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/June



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

Wednesday Social Group meetings are planned to 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 are delaying reopening till **Thursday 9th September 12noon to 1pm** at St Andrew's.

Further details from Tony Jeans jeanstda@jeanstda.plus.com