



## Cheltenham United Reformed Church

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

*Bulletin 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022*

*'Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2022'*



**Have you viewed our E-Christmas Card yet?  
available on:**

<https://youtu.be/tf6BhGMzdWY>

*Our thanks to Tony and Sandra Jeans for producing this for us.*



### **The Pulpit at Prestbury**

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Rev Dee Brierley-Jones	All Age Worship
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Dr Tony Jeans	
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion

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

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

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

2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Mr Geoff Tizzard-King	Family Service /Communion
	<b>Please sit on Pale Blue Chairs for social distancing</b>	
9th January	Mr Bob Alger	
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev Iain McLaren	<b>Church meeting after worship</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Dr Tony Jeans	
30 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev Iain McLaren	

### **The Pulpit at The Church in Warden Hill**

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

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

9 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion
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**Keeping us all safe while worshipping.**

**Wearing masks in enclosed public spaces is COMPULSORY**

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

Thank you.

**Rev Iain McLaren can be contacted at:**  
01242-231602, or 0748311842    [revdiain@urcic.org.uk](mailto:revdiain@urcic.org.uk)

**Day off on FRIDAYS.**



### **No Ordinary Carol Service**

As we step tentatively into the New Year with questions and doubts in our minds, we hold in our memories some of the treasures which this Christmas has left us with: and the very special one of the Carol Service we shared at St Andrew's on 19<sup>th</sup> December with our neighbours, the Brazilian Church and the Cheltenham Conqueror Assembly, the combined congregation caught up in the drama of God coming to dwell with his people in the birth of the baby, the special music which each church brought to the celebration, and the powerful carol singing of the people in response to each of the readings, some of them swaying together with a twinkle in their eyes.



*The Adoration of the Shepherds, Guido Reni (1575 - 1642)*

The Celebration began with the prophecy of Micah that 'he shall appear and be our shepherd, and shall be a man of peace', followed by the expectant lighting of the fourth Advent candle, and the relighting of the first three, by young members of the congregation gathered round. Then two young women's voices blended perfectly in a succession of rising and falling Alleluias, an Agnus Dei to greet the nativity.

A strong bass voice with others in support, sang a medley of the best-known carols, and the people were singing along with him in no time. Then the quartet sang Harold Darke's setting of Christina Rossetti's *In the Bleak Midwinter*, in another perfect blend of voices, and who could not be stirred by that final dramatic clear top soprano G, in 'give my heart'? Indeed Christ was born again in our hearts, as we were led in prayer for God's world and His people on the coming of the Saviour.

Finally we rose for 'Hark the Herald Angels sing' and the bright soaring notes of the trumpet descant gilded our praise and thanksgiving. Pastor Felix was clearly uplifted by the service, as he wrote in an email next morning that 'the message is clear that the body of Christ is one and not divided...Clearly heaven understands all languages. May the Lord continue to bless His Church.'

***Robin Derbyshire***



**Prayer Requests this week:**  
**All those who are ill during the Christmas/New Year season**  
The URC community at Warden Hill

### **St Andrew's January Charity**

We shall be supporting the local charity '**Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees**' during January and February. More information about the work of this charity will be in future Bulletins.

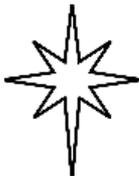
## Lectionary Reading: Second Sunday after Christmas – 2 January

Jeremiah 31 v7-14  
John 1 v1-9,10-18

Psalm 147 v12-20  
Ephesians 1 v3-14



## Epiphany – 6 January



Isaiah 60 v1-6  
Matthew 2 v1-12

Psalm 72 v1-7,10-14  
Ephesians 3 v1-12



## Family Services/All Age Worship at St Andrew's

Starting in February 2022, the 2nd Sunday of the month Morning Worship will be designated as an 'All Age Family Service'. We hope that families will enjoy worshipping together.

## Midweek Worship at St Andrew's

Weekly 'Midweek Worship' in the form of a Prayer Meeting, led by Rev Iain, will start on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 12.00 till 1.00pm, at St Andrew's. **ALL WELCOME.**

## News from St Andrew's

**Front Doors** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December saw Bob and various others working out how the front door at St Andrew's came to be shattered. With the help of the installers it has been suggested that this was simply glass failure as nothing otherwise shows on the CCTV. The building was rapidly made secure by Babbage, our contractors.

*Janet*



## Scottish Society Burns Supper



This will be held at the Lilleybrook Golf Club on **25th January 2022**, a three-course meal with entertainment and all the customary traditions of the event. In the light of possible pandemic restrictions, we cannot yet be certain that this will be able to take place, but provisional bookings are already being made.

Please contact Brian Smith to book your place – Tel: 01452 714051

## Supporting Afghanistan through Christian Aid

Despite a cold day in Montpellier Park and a very wet evening outside Smith and Mann's, music from the Montpellier Brass Ensemble and the Royal Oak Brass was enjoyed on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.



The combined total raised for Christian Aid in support of the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Afghanistan is over

£500 and the matched funding for public donations by the UK Government means we have effectively raised over £1000.

Thank you

*Andrew Veal*

## How well do you know Gilbert and Sullivan ???

Geoff Tizzard-King wrote an entertaining pastiche of the Major-General's song (from 'Pirates of Penzance') in 2021 and a group of enthusiasts thought it deserved to be performed. They got together before Christmas and recorded it in St. Andrew's. So with more positive signs that the virus is changing and becoming less of a problem, they offer the results of their labours.

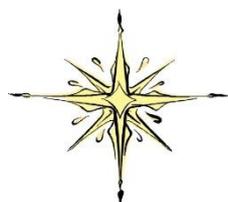
*Sandra*

**Now released**      **ENJOY**

The private unlisted link to the video is <https://youtu.be/nUJVPCKU8W0>

**Thank you Geoff, Andrea and Sandra for entertaining us all.**

## Charlton Kings Community Players



**Let us Be Merry 2021 is Live!**      <https://youtu.be/tPIVcQqfzn4>

The digital version of Let Us Be Merry 2021 **'To the stable'** is available for viewing. Our traditional mix of carols, readings and sketches, the show lasts about an hour

**'Melissa's dress'** a short production produced by Tony and Sandra Jeans is also now available: <https://youtu.be/Hj3dcfiOPyE>

This is a story which originates from a sketch called 'The Three Wise Women' which has been performed in the past in St. Andrew's, Prestbury URC and Gloucester URC.

Please consider donating via our Just Giving pages: [Fundraising for Shelter](#)

Thank you

*Tony and Sandra Jeans*

## Message from Lyn Ricketts

Please keep your used cards and stamps for recycling in aid of the Cobalt Unit.

There will be a box in the Link Gallery at St Andrew's, and at the Thirlestaine Breast Centre opposite Linton House. Please donate before **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January**.      Thank you

## What's on across CURC

Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00 – 12.00	Coffee, Chat ++	Prestbury URC
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	14.00	Community Film Show	Warden Hill URCC
<b>'Mrs Lowry and Sons' starring Vanessa Redgrave and Timothy Spall</b>			
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:00 - 11:30	Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers	Prestbury URC
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	12.00-13.00	Midweek Worship	St Andrew's
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	14.00-16.00	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
<b>'Freshen your feet' – Sam Chidwick, Podiatrist</b>			
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	12.45-13.45	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:00 - 12:00	Coffee, Chat ++	Prestbury URC

## Reading Group

The next meeting of the Reading Group will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 'Karinya'. The book is **'The Seven Doors' by Agnes Ravatn**, a thriller which mixes Jungian and Freudian psychology. Both Waterstones and Amazon have this novel for sale in paperback. Best wishes, good health and Happy New Year *Mary Cummings*

## Food Bank

Thank you for your ongoing support. The items we need most at the moment are: UHT milk, long-life fruit juice, coffee, ketchup or brown sauce, tinned ham, hot chocolate, gravy granules, savoury crackers. We don't need pasta, rice, pulses/beans, soup, tinned tomatoes, cereal or tea as we have plenty of these at the moment.

## Save The Children staff are killed caring for children in Myanmar



News in the press tells us that at least 35 people, including women and children were killed in Myanmar on 24 December by forces of the government junta who were targeting democratic groups. "The military forced people from their cars, arrested some, killed many and burnt the bodies," the charity said. Adding that this included two of their staff. "This news is absolutely horrifying," said the charity's chief executive, Inger Ashing. "We are shaken by the violence carried out against civilians and our staff, who are dedicated humanitarians." Save the Children has some 700 staff in Myanmar, working to care for and protect children, who are exposed to the brutality and privations of the continuing conflict.

***Please pray for the work and the safety of Save the Children staff, and give generously so that their work can go on.*** *Robin Derbyshire*

## Unwanted Toiletries for the Women's Refuge

If you have any unwanted new, or even part-used, women's or children's toiletries received as presents, then please donate them to the Women's Refuge. There is a collecting box in the vestibule at Prestbury or speak to Lynn and Peter Ricketts. The families can arrive at the shelter with nothing and these items are gratefully received. *Fiona*

***To all our contributors:*** *Thank you for all the copy that you send.*

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