



## Cheltenham United Reformed Church

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

*Bulletin 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022*

### The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

20 <sup>th</sup> February	Mrs Julie Jeffries	ECO Service
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Rev Dee Brierley-Jones	Family Service

### The Pulpit at St Andrew's

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

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

20 <sup>th</sup> February	Dr Tony Jeans/Mr David Black	
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Mr Bob Alger	
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Mr Bob Alger	Family Service

**Pease 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 <sup>th</sup> March	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion
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### Worship on Wednesdays

Wednesday Worship takes place from 12.00noon till 12.30.

23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb		at St Andrew's.
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	at Warden Hill URCC
Rest of the month at St Andrew's.		<b>EVERYONE WELCOME</b>

### Keeping us all safe while worshipping.

Please continue to respect social distancing, mask wearing, and the sensitivities of others around you in church. Thank you.

**Rev Iain McLaren, our Minister writes:**



Is the mission of the Church to prepare the people of earth to enter into heaven, or to bring heaven down to the people of earth? Some years ago, Lawrence Moore, formerly director of the URC's Windermere Centre, argued in a series of talks given to the URC Holiday Forum that the mission of the Church had begun as the latter, but became the former after Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. I can see merit in this argument.

A religion that preaches all will be well after you die poses no threat to the established order on earth, but is hardly good news for people who, during their lifetime, are poor or hungry or suffer from illness or disability or who are victims of violence or persecution. Yet Jesus preached good news to people on earth. In the Lord's Prayer, he taught his disciples to pray, 'thy will be done on earth, *as in heaven*.' A significant component of Jesus' ministry on earth was his healing ministry. Jesus did not say to the crowds that came to him seeking healing, "Don't worry, your sicknesses and infirmities will be cured in heaven;" he healed them while they were still on earth.

The mission of the Church therefore is to continue Jesus' ministry of bringing good news to people who suffer. This is what motivated medieval monks to set up hospitals to tend the sick. This is the 'raison d'être' for Christian charities, like Christian Aid and the Trussell Trust. This is why Christians support countless other good causes: soup kitchens, night shelters, help for refugees, hospices, etc. Helping others in this way is not a distraction from mission, nor a matter of earning 'brownie points' to get us into heaven after we die. Rather, by seeking to do good on earth, we enact a gospel that is good news for people in the here and now, and not just after they die.

Yours in Christ,  
*Iain*

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

**Day off on FRIDAYS.**

**Prayer Requests this week:**

Hanne Lambley, Geoff Harmsworth, Geoff Tizzard-King, Mhairi Turner,  
The Ndekha Family, Robin Derbyshire, the Barnett Family, Doreen Martin



**Congratulations** to Diana Miles on her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**Lectionary Readings:**

Genesis 45 v3-11,15  
Luke 6 v17-38

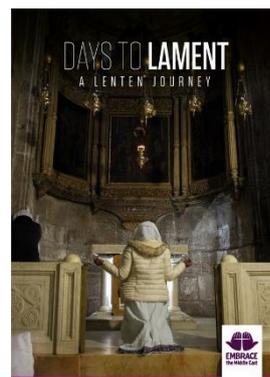
Psalm 37 v1-11,39-40  
1 Corinthians 15 v35-38,42-50

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

## CURC Lent Group

The Lent study group will be on Wednesdays during Lent, 7.30pm by zoom, starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. (Ash Wednesday). Rev Iain will be leading the group, and will host the zoom link. We shall be using: '**Days to Lament**' - a Lent study guide from 'Embrace the Middle East' Janet has ordered the Guides, price £2 each- hopefully they will be with us on Sunday. Please indicate if you will require one –or prefer to send for your own: <https://shop.embraceme.org/collections/lent/products/days-to-lament-lent-study-guide-2022>)

The zoom link will be in next week's Bulletin.



## Family Fun Day - Thursday 24 February

Come and join us at St. Andrew's URC  
for a

**FAMILY FUN DAY**  
on  
**THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

10.30am - 2.30pm  
Includes **LUNCH**  
Price £2 per adult

Craft  
Music  
Games  
Stories

To book your place email [fundays@urcic.org.uk](mailto:fundays@urcic.org.uk)

We still have some places left for the Fun Day. Please invite any family, friends or neighbours if you think they might be interested. All are welcome.

*Ann Lewis*

## Anna Chaplaincy

This year's **Easter craft project** is knitted Easter Chicks. It is hoped to offer these, with an Easter card, a few chocolates and, perhaps, a Bible verse, to as many of the local care homes as possible, for their residents. You will find the pattern attached. Please let me know if you are knitting and return the chicks to me by Sunday 27 March. I will bring a bag of stuffing to Church this Sunday, if anybody would like to take some home.



We have also received a **request for volunteers** to join a group to provide church services for a number of care homes. If anyone is interested in helping with such services please contact me.

*Ann Lewis*

## 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.



## What's on across CURC

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 14.00-16.00

Thu 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 10.30-14.30

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 10:00 - 11:30

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar 19.30 - 21.00

**Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar 12.45-13.45**

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Mar 10:00 - 12:00

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 10.00 - 12.30

Wednesday Social Group

**Talk – Aztecs of Mexico by Neil Meldrum**

**FAMILY FUN DAY**

**To book please email: [fundays@urcic.org.uk](mailto:fundays@urcic.org.uk)**

Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers

CURC Lent Group

**Qi Gong moved from 24<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Coffee, Chat ++

Repair Café

Warden Hill URCC

St Andrew's

Prestbury URC

zoom

Prestbury URC

St Andrew's



### **Organ recital at St Andrew's,**

by Matthew Martin on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Hymn Books at St Andrew's**

As you will have noticed, the Hymn Books and Bibles are now stored on the shelves near both doors of the sanctuary.

If you wish to use them, please collect as you go in to church, and return them at the end.

- Rejoice and Sing, Melody Edition.
- Rejoice and Sing, Full Music Edition.
- Rejoice and Sing, Large Print.
- Mission Praise, Words Edition (and one copy of Full Music Edition).
- Songs of Fellowship, Full Music Edition (two copies).
- New Revised Standard Edition of the Bible.

### **Go Green for Lent**

Challenge yourself and family by choosing one or several of the eco ideas on the **appendix attached to last week's Bulletin**, 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*

### **From the Editors**

Thank you for all the copy that you send. We can be reached on: [magazine@urcic.org.uk](mailto:magazine@urcic.org.uk)

*Janet Kemp (Design) and Fiona Hall (Technology)*