



## Cheltenham United Reformed Church

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

*Bulletin 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021*

### **The Pulpit at Prestbury**

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

22<sup>nd</sup> August                      Mr Geoff Tizzard-King (Communion)  
5<sup>th</sup> 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>

22<sup>nd</sup> August                      Dr Tony Jeans & Ms Carol Drummond  
  **ECO Service** – hear about plans for a Psalm 23 Garden  
29<sup>th</sup> August                      Rev Dr Dee Brierley-Jones  
5<sup>th</sup> September                    Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)  
12<sup>th</sup> September                Mr Geoff Tizzard-King

- Alison Stagg is doing the seating plans during August.

### **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>

12<sup>th</sup> September                Rev Steve Faber, Moderator West Midlands Synod (URC Communion)

**The Cheltenham Half Marathon is on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September – do check your route to church and parking availability. <https://www.cheltenhamhalf.co.uk/road-closures-information>**

### **Lectionary Readings for this week.**

Joshua 24 v1-2a,14-18  
John 6 v56-69

Psalm 34 v15-22  
Ephesians 6 v10-20

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

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

18<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> September is designated 'Big **Green Week**'

## From our Minister: Rev Iain McLaren

*'Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.'* (John 6: 68)

One of the misconceptions concerning Christian faith is that it is about giving assent to a series of intellectual propositions. Such an understanding is implied in such expressions as 'the Christian faith' or 'statement of faith'. Critics of Christianity have derided it for requiring 'belief in six impossible things before breakfast'.



Human beings are naturally curious and so we are always seeking meaning and purpose in life. We have questions and we are attracted to people who seem to offer answers to our questions. No doubt, what initially attracted many people to Jesus was that he claimed to offer answers to their questions. However, by the end of John chapter 6, many people in the crowd had taken offence at Jesus. Either they did not understand his teaching about him being the 'the bread of life', or else they understood but did not accept it. Many disciples drifted away and ceased to follow Jesus. Jesus addressed his twelve special disciples and asked them whether they intended to leave him.

Simon Peter replied on behalf of all twelve. He did not say that they all understood all of Jesus' teaching. He did not say they all accepted Jesus' teaching without qualification. He did not say they had no more questions about Jesus' teaching. He did say, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." This is faith expressed as trust in a person. Simon Peter and his companions had faith in Jesus in the sense that they trusted him to be their leader.

This is what Christian faith is. It is not belief in a set of facts. It is about belief in a relationship. It is about trusting a person, namely Jesus of Nazareth.

*Yours in Christ, Iain*

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



### Prayer Requests this week:

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

The **funeral of Elspeth Dick** will be at St Andrew's on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am, also live streamed. Friends are also invited to the Cremation service at 12.30 and to the Wake at 9 Charlton Park Gate, Charlton Kings.

### **"Welcome Party" Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September. 3.00-6.00pm at St Andrew's.**

We have purposefully left the main organisation late due to perceived possible changes in Covid regulations. This has not happened so:

**Are you available:** to help set up tables between 2 and 3pm?, to help in the kitchen?, to help serve?, or to help clear up ?

Please let Janet, Alison Stagg or Fiona know.. Thank you

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Gemma and Alex Veal on their A level success and their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthdays!

**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

**Coffee, Chat and Extras**



**Where?** Prestbury URC

**When?** Every Friday 10.-12am from **September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**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, **4<sup>th</sup> September**. From 10.00am.

**Bible Study/Discussion Group**

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

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

**Qi Gong** will be reopening on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 12noon to 1pm** at St Andrew's. Further details from Tony Jeans [jeanstda@jeanstda.plus.com](mailto:jeanstda@jeanstda.plus.com)

**Heritage Open Day** at St Andrew's will be on **11<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> September**. This will be from 10.30 to 3.00 with coffee and lunch breaks.