



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urch.org.uk

Bulletin 24th and 31st October 2021

A double edition this week – your editors are both away next week.

Reminder: CLOCKS change on 31st October

Keeping us all safe while worshipping.

Please be aware of the high incidence of Covid in Cheltenham this week.

Wearing masks while in church is preferred, though not compulsory.

We want people to feel comfortable about worshipping in church by doing all we can to protect ourselves and each other. Please respect social distancing and the sensitivities of others around you in church. **Thank you**

The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

24th October Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)

7th November Rev Dr Dee Brierley-Jones

14th November 10.45 Prestbury War Memorial for Remembrance Sunday

The Pulpit at St Andrew's

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

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

24th October Mr Geoff Tizzard-King

31st October Rev Dr Dee Brierley-Jones

7th November Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)

14th November Mrs Margaret Marshall **Remembrance Sunday, 10.45am**

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>

14th November Rev Iain McLaren (Communion) **Remembrance Sunday**



Prayer Requests this week:

Rev Iain and his family, Ann Standing,
Geoff Harmsworth, Douglas MacGregor, Charlotte Cummings,
Margaret Derbyshire, Hanne Lambley, Louis Ndekha,
Mairi Turner, Ian and Helen Brooks and family,
Fiona and Brian Hall and family.

Our Minister, Rev Iain McLaren writes:

We are now just a week away from the UN COP26 conference on the climate. Climate change has been a theme for much of our worship during the Season of Creation from 1st September to 4th October. Now is a time for redoubling our prayers for world leaders to be granted the wisdom to make the right decisions necessary to avert a climate catastrophe.



There are two pitfalls to be avoided when thinking about climate change. The first is thinking climate change is a problem to be solved by other people. Demonstrations by Extinction Rebellion and Insulate Britain have drawn attention to actions our leaders can take to reduce carbon emissions. It is certainly true the government bears primary responsibility for introducing policies designed to safeguard our environment. Nevertheless, there is much we can do as individuals, in advance of government legislation, to reduce our personal impact on the climate, e.g walking, cycling or taking public transport instead of driving, replacing a petrol or diesel driven car with an electric vehicle, replacing gas boilers and better insulating our homes, eating less meat, planting trees. Such lifestyle changes may not be as eye-catching as some of the recent demonstrations, but as more and more people take these small steps over a sustained period of time, business and government will be forced to respond.

The second is giving in to despair over climate change. Sometimes the magnitude of the problem can seem so huge and the results of our efforts so insignificant that we are tempted to give up on making a difference to climate change. We are in danger of becoming resigned to the inevitability of climate change, leading us to face the future with trepidation. Instead, we need to be 'stubborn optimists', persisting in our belief we can change things for the better despite the obstacles that stand in our way.

I owe the phrase 'stubborn optimists' to Jo Love of the Iona Community, who led an online worship workshop I attended on Tuesday. The group I was in was challenged to create a piece of liturgy symbolising 'stubborn optimism'. One member of the group related the story of how one boy at her primary school had planted a bulb upside down. The other children had laughed at him, thinking it would never grow. However, the boy had the last laugh, for his bulb sprouted and then grew upwards towards the light to produce a flower just as tall as the bulbs planted by the other children in the class.

Let us be the sort of people prepared to take apparently futile actions, like planting a bulb upside down, in the stubborn hope that a thing of beauty will nevertheless result. Let us never give up on seeking to save our planet.

Yours in Christ,
Iain

Rev Iain McLaren can be contacted at:

01242-231602, or 07483118427 revdiain@urcic.org.uk
Day off on FRIDAYS.



**Lectionary Readings:
for week beginning 24th October**

Jeremiah 31 v7-9
Mark 10 v46-52

Psalm 126
Hebrews 7 v23-28

For week beginning 31st October

Deuteronomy 6 v1-9
Mark 12 v28-34

Psalm 119 v1-8
Hebrews 9 v11-14

**St Andrew's October Charity of the month is
'Commitment for Life'**

Our giving to CfL supports Christian Aid's work in Central America to help overcome climate problems, support agriculture and alleviate poverty. Thank you for your support of Commitment for Life this month.



What's on:

Mon 25 th Oct	7.30 - 8.30	Study/Discussion Group	
		https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86817591596?pwd=MkkzSzRWdzFPUTViUnZjNitLZStKUT09	
	Meeting ID: 868 1759 1596	Passcode: 368163	
Tues 26 th Oct	11:00 - 12:00	Prayer Time	St Andrew's
Wed 27 th Oct	2.00 – 4.00	Wednesday Social Group Speaker is Patrick Furley – 'The Magic Lantern Show'	Warden Hill URCC
Fri 29 th Oct	10:00 - 12:00	Coffee, Chat ++ Coffee Morning in aid of 'Maggies'	Prestbury URC 
Mon 1 st Nov	10:00 - 11:30	Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers	Prestbury URC
Mon 1 st Nov	7.30 - 8.30	Study/Discussion Group	zoom link see above
Tues 2 nd Nov	11:00 - 12:00	Prayer Time	St Andrew's
Thurs 4 th Nov	12.45 – 1.45	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Fri 5 th Nov	10:00 - 12:00	Coffee, Chat ++	Prestbury URC
Sat 6 th Nov	10.00	Repair Café	St Andrew's

Tuesday Teas

Many of us have enjoyed meeting on zoom on Tuesday afternoons during the past 18 months. Our thanks to June Macpherson-Rait for hosting. It is now time for a break, we will return in January if there is a call for this social occasion.

Coming Soon – dates for your diaries

At St Andrew's on Saturday 13th November

Christian Aid Autumn Fair

Contact Alison Veal for more details; 01242515797



Quiz Evening with Fish and Chips Supper

At St Andrew's, on Saturday 20th November 2021,
6.45 for 7.00pm.

ALL WELCOME

Watch out for further details.

Footsloggers

Friday 15th October

Churchdown

On a clear, dry, warm day 14 people enjoyed a walk starting from the Churchdown Council Offices, making our way through to the middle base of Chosen Hill for about 4 miles, passing arable fields being planted with winter wheat. As we climbed higher up, the view over the distant Malverns, Gloucester and the surrounding countryside was appreciated by all. The well known landmark of St Bartolomew's Church in Churchdown, which is Norman dating back to 1175 was visible as we passed by. After the walk 16 friends met for midday lunch at the Brickhampton Golf Course complex just outside Churchdown.

The next walk will be on Monday 15th November.



Marcus and Florence Dann

The Wednesday Social Group at Warden Hill URCC

The Group hits gold again! Feeling lonely I turn up for our meeting. T.W.S.G is the best medicine there is for all the multiple ailments our later years bring. Good happy company and companionship cures all ills in an instant. Please remember our group and its benefits are there for you all to share.

October 13th saw Elizabeth Tebby Germaine telling us the story of her Mothers "Escape from the Far East". This adventure story was a change from our cheery usual talks. It was a tale of bravery and determination as the heroine trekked across Burma just keeping ahead of the invading Japanese army. The story was illustrated with wonderful historic photos. Elizabeth presented the dangers with pace and verve. Her Mother was surely a remarkable woman whose example of fortitude we can all aspire to emulate.

Please join us for a "lighter" joy on 27 October with "Magic Lantern Show". Please pardon the pun!

John Howe - Your chairperson

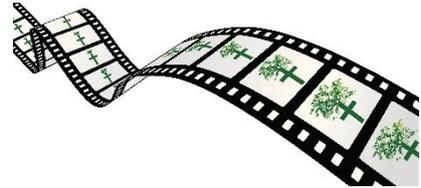
ECO News

A Silent Vigil is being held every day from 11 am to 3 pm during the COP26 event from Sunday 31st October to Friday 12 November on Cheltenham Promenade, by the War Memorial.

The Green Church Showcase

You are invited to the **Green Church Showcase premiere screening: Tuesday 2 November, 5 - 6pm**. This will be broadcast live from St George's Tron in Glasgow during the COP26 climate talks. Watch the whole event online or, if you're in Glasgow, join the audience in the church.

Tickets are free. Please register so we can send you details of how to join the event online: churchtimes.co.uk/greenchurchshowcaseLIVE



Prestbury Coffee, Chat++ will be supporting 'Maggies' on Friday 29th October



Maggie's in Cheltenham is an important local cancer support charity providing professional and caring services for all cancer patients, their families and friends. The centre in College Baths Road, is always active and welcoming for those needing medical and practical advice, or simply a listening ear and warm emotional support as they go through times of pain and doubt.

Everything offered at Maggie's is free of charge, supported financially by many donors and energetic fund-raisers.

By visiting Prestbury on Friday morning you will be able to help out.

Birthdays, Christmas, Special Events
Don't forget our very own range of *Greetings Cards*

'Creative Cards'

70p each or 3 for £2.00

On sale at all our Churches

To all our contributors:

Thank you for all the copy that you send. Send to: magazine@urcic.org.uk, then it will be sure to reach both Janet and Fiona. Thankyou