



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urch.org.uk

Bulletin 29th August 2021

The Cheltenham Half Marathon takes place on 5th September – do check your route to church and parking availability.

The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

5th 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>

29th August Rev Dr Dee Brierley-Jones
5th September Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)
12th September Mr Geoff Tizzard-King
19th September Rev Iain McLaren

- We will not be doing seating plans after this week.
- Our thanks to Ann, Alison and Geoff who have kept us in good voice during the past year. Now we can ALL sing.

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>

12th September Rev Steve Faber, Moderator West Midlands Synod (URC Communion)

Lectionary Readings for this week.

Deuteronomy 4 v1-2,6-9 Psalm 15
Mark 7 v1-8,14-15,21-23 James 1 v17-27

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

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

18th-26th September is designated '**Big Green Week**'

From our Minister: Rev Iain McLaren

1st September marks the beginning of the Season of Creation. The Season of Creation, which continues until 4th October, is an annual worldwide ecumenical activity that brings together churches from the Catholic, Lutheran, Orthodox and Reformed traditions to reflect on our shared Christian vocation to care for God's creation. The theme for the Season of Creation 2021 is 'A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God', 'oikos' being a Greek word meaning 'home' or 'household'. This year's symbol is Abraham's tent, symbolising a place of hospitality where all God's creatures, human and non-human, are kept safe in our common home. The challenge is to preserve our planet as a place where life, in all its different forms, may continue to flourish.



As part of their commitment to being an Ecochurch, St Andrew's will be holding a Climate Sunday service on 19th September. It is appropriate that this falls during the Season of Creation as the greatest threat to the integrity of the world created by God is currently climate change driven by manmade carbon emissions. Climate Sunday is an initiative of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and it has special significance this year as the UK will be hosting the COP26 conference on climate change. We are being invited to lobby our politicians to show leadership at this by taking bold action to avert a crisis. Our climate pledges will be presented at a national Climate Sunday service, to be held at Glasgow Cathedral on Sunday 5th September at 4pm (if you would like to join this online, please see here: [Nations' Climate Sunday Service: Churches Prepare for COP 26 Tickets, Sun 5 Sep 2021 at 16:00 | Eventbrite](#))

Important though political action is, we cannot escape from the fact that people living in developed nations, like our own, are going to have to make significant lifestyle changes if we are to reduce the carbon emissions that generate climate change. The recent IPCC report highlighted changes to our diet, to our means of transport and to our homes. We are going to have to eat less meat. We are going to have to use less-polluting methods of transport. We are going to need to redesign our homes so that they can be heated and ventilated more efficiently. As we prepare for this Season of Creation, I invite you to pray about what each one of us can do to make this planet a safe home for all of God's creatures.

Yours in Christ,
Iain

P.S. Please note I am away on leave from 15th to 29th 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 16th 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 4th 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

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 **New Link ******

Come and join us for an hour of excellent conversation, 3pm on Zoom.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86813681583?pwd=N1hGRUx6Y0FFYkZocVBzTXAwRlI3UT09>

Meeting ID: 868 1368 1583

Passcode: 642768

Zoom Host: Bob/June

Coffee, Chat ++



Where? Prestbury URC

When? Every Friday 10.-12am from **September 3rd**

What are the 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, **4th 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 **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 will be reopening on **Thursday 9th September 12noon to 1pm** at St Andrew's.

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

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.

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 25th September**. This will be from 10.30 to 3.00 with coffee and lunch breaks.

ECO News

August's Repair Café went well with 25 items brought in for repair. Thanks to everyone who supported the event. The next café will be on 4 September.

Last month, Jenny Evans carried out a new wildlife survey in the church gardens at St Andrew's. You may remember that Jenny did the last survey in May when our nectar score was an F against a national average of D and the number of bees our lawn supported was calculated as 340. This time, we did much better, scoring a B against a national average of D. The total bees our lawn supports is now calculated at 3996. Leaving the grass a little longer and letting the wildflowers grow has made a big difference. The full results are available on the noticeboard of the Link Gallery.

Did you take part in the Big Butterfly Count? In our garden, we spotted 2 large whites, 2 gatekeepers and 2 speckled woods.

News of the important new focus of giving at St Andrew's

Our St Andrew's schedule for supporting selected charities has it that after two months giving to the Foodbank, we move on to another cause. But the need for our local Food Bank and for others throughout the country remains. Some say that those without work will all soon train for new skills and find new jobs, and be self-supporting again, but others fear that it will not be so simple, that the food banks which grew in importance with the pandemic will remain a permanent feature of our national life. The Church Action on Poverty works to keep us in touch with hunger in our country, and will alert us to continuing needs. We are reminded of the answer Jesus gave to this question:

Lord, when did we fail to help you when you were hungry..? [Matt 25.44, as in the Poverty and Justice Bible]. Thank you for your giving to the Foodbank.

So we move on to supporting Christian Aid work in Central America, through Commitment for Life. CfL is a means of enabling churches to learn in depth about a region of the world which needs our help. So rather than concentrating all the information in one surge, the Bulletin week by week has been



painting for us pictures of the life and people, their problems and solutions. The next two months are special, firstly because they include Harvesttime, and our stewardship of God's gifts in His world, and then the great build-up to the international conference COP26 at the beginning of December, when the great crisis over climate change and the causes of it must be addressed and drastic actions taken. Central America is very relevant to this issue, as its people are prime sufferers from the developing extremes of world climate. We at St Andrew's will stay alert to their needs and will give generously as always, I am sure.



Robin Derbyshire