



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urcic.org.uk

Bulletin 3rd April 2022 (5th Sunday in Lent)

The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

3 rd April	Rev Dee Brierley-Jones	Family Service
17 th April	Mrs Julie Jefferies	EASTER SUNDAY
24 th April	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion then AGM

The Pulpit at St Andrew's

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

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

3 rd April	Rev Iain McLaren	Baptism
HYMNS: Rejoice+Sing 117, 671, 591, 420, 274 ,Singing the Faith 363,539		
10 th April	Mr Bob Alger	PALM SUNDAY /Family Service
15 th April 3.00pm	Rev Iain McLaren	GOOD FRIDAY
17 th April	Rev Iain McLaren	EASTER SUNDAY /Communion
24 th April	Rev Dee Brierley-Jones	

The Pulpit at The Church in Warden Hill

*Details of all **HOLY WEEK** Services can be found in 'Lantern', and 'Grapevine' both available at <http://www.tciwh.org.uk>*

10 th April	Rev Alison Evans	PALM SUNDAY
14 th April	Rev Iain McLaren	MAUNDY THURSDAY /Communion at URCC 7.00 Agape meal, 8.00 Communion service

Worship on Wednesdays

1st Wed of Month at Warden Hill URCC, Rest of the month at St Andrew's. 12.15pm

EVERYONE WELCOME

AGM Season

Prestbury	24 th April	following Worship
St Andrew's	1 st May	following Worship

Please send St Andrew's Annual Reports to Janet before Easter, for inclusion in the Report Book

Warden Hill (TCiWH) Sun 8th May, 12 noon

Rev Iain McLaren, our Minister writes:

First published in 1999 (and still available online from the URC shop), *Companion to Rejoice and Sing* supplies interesting background information about the hymns in our *Rejoice and Sing* hymnbook. There is information about the author of the words, about the composer of the music, and sometimes also about the circumstances that led to a particular hymn being written.



I was browsing through my copy the other day when I discovered that hymn number 374 in the hymnbook, 'O Christ, our Lord, we meet here as your people', was written by Rev Ian Alexander when he was minister of Prestbury URC and Warden Hill URC. I wonder whether any readers of 'The Bulletin' can remember his ministry.

The hymn is written as a plea to Christ to forgive his Church. Seven times the words 'forgive us' appear:

'forgive us when we seek an earthly kingdom ...'

'Forgive us for our arrogant assumptions ...'

'forgive us for the cowardly evasions ...'

'Forgive us for the mixture of our motives ...'

'forgive us for our unforgiving judgements ...'

'Forgive us, Lord, for all our wilful blindness ...'

Forgive us for our casual unkindness ...'

The penitential theme of this hymn is perhaps particularly appropriate during this season of Lent. It is important that we acknowledge our personal imperfection by confessing our individual sin, but it is also important to acknowledge and confess the sin we share in when the Church fails to live according to Christ-like values. Sadly, many people have been put off Christianity because they have seen the Church fail to practise what Christ preached.

Whereas Jesus renounced an earthly kingdom and was loving and forgiving, the institutional Church has too often been preoccupied with status and political influence, too timid to challenge the 'powers that be' and too quick to pronounce judgement against those least able to defend themselves.

The final verse of Ian Alexander's hymn speaks of the Church finding forgiveness through Christ's grace. This will allow the Church to renounce self-interest in favour of following Christ, but this will be costly, for Jesus' ministry led to his Passion. Doing the right thing is not always popular. It can lead to opposition, even persecution. This should not deter us for, to quote the final lines of Alexander's hymn to Christ, we 'find redemption through a true devotion that dares reflect the passion of your cross.'

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: (5th Sunday in Lent)

Isaiah 43 v16-21

Psalm 126

John 12 v1-8

Philippians 3 v4b-14



Prayer Requests this week:

The family of John Hutton, Hanne Lambley, Geoff and Margaret Harmsworth, Mhairi Turner, Edith McKenzie, Cyril Bleasdale, The people of Ukraine. The Family and Friends of Deacon Mark in Ukraine

With sadness we report the death of John Hutton, Member at Warden Hill, on 30th March. Details of Funeral will be published as soon as known.

CURC Lent Group

The Lent study group takes place via zoom on **Wednesdays** at 7.30pm.

Change of link for 6th April only:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82527365835?pwd=R3l5QmdaWUM0TkZwZlFRNWozYUVkQT09>

Meeting ID: 825 2736 5835

Passcode: 953240

Tony Jeans

Family Fun Day

12 April 10.30-2.30pm

Please could you let me have bookings this week to assist with the lunch numbers. fundays@urcic.org.uk

Thanks, *Ann Lewis*

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

 Craft	FAMILY FUN DAY	 Music
	on	
	TUESDAY 12TH APRIL	
	10.30am - 2.30pm	
	Includes LUNCH	 Stories
 Games	Price £2 per adult	

To book your place email fundays@urcic.org.uk



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

We are all invited to a **Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration** of the United Reformed Church's 50th Anniversary/Jubilee.

This will be on Saturday 1st October 2022, 3pm-5pm at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London SW1H 9NH, where the Uniting Assembly and first General Assembly took place.

If you would like to go please let Janet know by Easter so tickets can be ordered. A Coach will be booked later in the summer, when we have a firmer idea of numbers.

If you want to order your own ticket, but be on the coach – just let us know.

Free tickets: www.bit.ly/urc50

Thank you

A **BIG THANKYOU** to everyone who has knitted Chicks for the Anna Chaplaincy to distribute to care homes this Easter. These are a selection of the 130 sent from St Andrew's.

Ann Lewis



What's on across CURC this week

Sat 2 nd Apr	10.00 – 13.00	Repair Café	St Andrew's
Mon 4 th Apr	10:00 - 11:30	Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers	Prestbury URC
Wed 6 th Apr	19.30-21.00	CURC Lent Group	zoom
Thu 7 th Apr	12.45-13.45	Qi Gong	
Fri 8 th Apr	10.00 – 12.00	'Easter Special' Coffee, Chat ++	Prestbury URC
		Chocolate Tombola & Traidcraft Stall	
Fri 8 th Apr	10.00	Footsloggers	
Sat 9 th Apr	14.00	Community Film Show	Warden Hill URCC
		'Respect' cert 12 starring Jennifer Hudson as Aretha Franklin	
Tues 12th Apr	10.30 – 14.00	Family Fun Day	St Andrew's
Wed 13 th Apr	14.00 - 16.00	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
		Speaker: 'Bard of Barnwood' – Margaret Daniels	
Wed 13 th Apr	19.30 - 21.00	CURC Lent Group	zoom
Fri 15 th Apr	10.00 - 12.00	Good Friday Prayers,	Prestbury URC
		Coffee, Chat ++ to follow with Hot Cross Buns	

St Andrew's Charity for March/April : **Maggies in Cheltenham.**

Maggie's restores the joy of living to people with Cancer



MAGGIE'S

Everyone's home of cancer care

Please give to Maggie's, this month's St Andrew's Charity. It's a cause which many people are thankful for.

Maggie's is a charity, entirely free to those who go there, and funded by the kindness of donors and gifts in wills. It also has a vigorous programme of fundraising by supportive well-wishers. It appeals on behalf of the many cancer sufferers in our community who need support beyond their medical needs.

From the Editors

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

Janet Kemp (Design) and Fiona Hall (Technology)