



## Cheltenham United Reformed Church

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

*Bulletin 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021,*

### The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am on ZOOM

<https://zoom.us/j/94776218942?pwd=MENyLzNaNTdTYlhxOVNMBGFjXzN2FjU09>

Meeting ID: 947 7621 8942

Passcode: 009380

6<sup>th</sup> June

Rev Dee Brierley-Jones

**On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm there will be an Extraordinary Church Meeting at the Church to discuss the way ahead.**

### The Pulpit at St Andrew's

All Sunday Services are 11.00am, broadcast on YouTube:

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

30<sup>th</sup> May

Rev Dee Brierley-Jones

6<sup>th</sup> June

Mr Geoff Tizzard-King (Communion)

13<sup>th</sup> June

Mr Bob Alger

20<sup>th</sup> June

Rev Iain McLaren

- If you wish to attend St Andrew's services please reserve your seat with Janet before noon on Saturday.
- St Andrew's Charity/Retiring Collections for May and June will be for Christian Aid.
- Please collect Hymn Books and Bibles for use during worship if you require them.

### 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> June

Rev Iain McLaren (URC Communion)

### Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 6 v1-8

John 3 v1-17

### Trinity Sunday

Psalm 29

Romans 8 v12-17



### Prayer Requests this week:

John Standing, Donna Sutherland and Family, Brenda Manser

Rev Iain and his family: Diana, Gift, Kimberley and Keke

**Rev Iain is on leave this week and next week.**

Our pastoral letter this week comes from Dr Tony Jeans

### ***How a certain light was shed upon the Holy Trinity***

In his delightful 1982 novel *Monsignor Quixote*, Graham Greene charts the progress of Quixote, the village priest (Monsignor by a quirk of fate and an Italian Bishop) and his friend Sancho, the Communist ex-Mayor as they recreate the journeys of Cervantes' hero in post Franco Spain. They travel in an ancient Seat, they drink wine and discuss theology, ethics and politics. They exchange core texts, so Quixote reads Marx and Sancho reads Catholic moral theology. They explore doubt and belief, goodness and evil, forgiveness and penance and doctrines of both the Catholic Church and the Communist Manifesto.

One night, Monsignor Quixote explains to his friend Sancho, his understanding of the Holy Trinity.

*'You see these bottles?'*

*'Of course'*

*'Two bottles equal in size. The wine they contained was of the same substance and it was born at the same time. There you have God the Father and God the Son and there, in the half bottle, God the Holy Ghost. Same substance. Same birth. They're inseparable. Whoever partakes of one partakes of all three.'*

*'I was never even in Salamanca able to see the point of the Holy Ghost. He always seemed to me a bit redundant.'*

*'We were not satisfied with two bottles, were we? The half bottle gave us the extra spark of life we both needed. We wouldn't have been so happy without it. Perhaps we wouldn't have had the courage to continue our journey. Even our friendship might have ceased without the Holy Spirit.'*

Suddenly, Quixote is aware of his error.

*'May God forgive me,' Father Quixote said, 'for I have sinned...*

*I have been guilty of heresy ... I think - perhaps - I am unworthy to be a priest'*

*'What have you done?'*

*'I have given wrong instruction. The Holy Ghost is equal in all respects to the Father and the Son and I have represented Him by this half bottle.'*

*'Is that a serious error, father?'*

*'It is anathema. It was condemned expressly at I forget which Council. A very early Council. Perhaps it was Nicea.'*

*'Don't worry, father. The matter is easily put right. We will throw away and forget this half bottle and I will bring a whole bottle from the car'*

.....

*'I was a little foolish last night, Sancho.'*

*'I thought you spoke very well'*

*'I did make you understand, perhaps, a little about the Trinity?'*

*'Understand, yes. Believe no.'*

*'Then will you please forget the half bottle? It was a mistake that I should never have made'*

*'I will remember only the three full bottles, friend.'*

This Sunday, Trinity Sunday, in the readings, hymns, prayers and in what the Preachers say, we will meet the mystery expressed as "Three in One and One in Three". We will be offered insights into an idea that took the Church around four hundred years to formulate and finally define at the Councils of Nicea and Constantinople.

The formulation is to be found in the Nicene Creed which is 760 in *Rejoice and Sing*.

The Trinity idea is one of the most difficult in Christian theology. It is incomprehensible to Jews and Muslims and has caused some people from a Christian tradition to move to those faiths or to embrace Unitarianism. But it offers the possibility of deep insight provided we recognise the limitations of any metaphor or analogy such as three bottles of wine or the shamrock used as an illustration by St Patrick.

In our contemporary world, we are conscious of the astonishing nature of Creation – the Cosmos, the Living World, the subatomic, and the subtle and challenging ideas behind them which science has revealed. We are linked as never before to the whole of humanity and can see the need for healing, peace, repentance, forgiveness, redemption. We have available to us almost without limit communication, thought and imagination in the arts and sciences and all creative endeavour.

The thinkers of the Fourth century who formulated the Creed, especially those from what today is Turkey – Basil, Gregory, their sister Macrina and their friend the other Gregory – recognised God in action in different ways in their pastoral work but experienced the Oneness of Love within the Church and thus in God.

A living Christian community today, can experience God in a rich and varied way. We can recognise creation, incarnation and inspiration everywhere we look and be conscious of unity. For such a community, there are indeed three full bottles.

*Tony Jeans*

## **Dates for your Diary**

*(Government restrictions permitting)*

**27<sup>th</sup> June will be the United Pastorate Service and CURC AGM 10.30am at St Andrew's.**

The service will include celebrations for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CURC and the Re-Induction of Elders. A Buffet lunch will be held after the service with the AGM between courses.

**10<sup>th</sup> July** will be a 'Welcome Garden Party' for Rev Iain, 3.00- 6.00pm at St Andrew's

## **What's on this week?**

### **Prayer Time on Tuesdays**

St Andrew's will be open for Prayer on Tuesday from 11.00 till 12.00

**WE WELCOME ALL**

### **Teatime on Tuesday**

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

Bring your own cup of tea and join the party.

<https://zoom.us/j/95570544462?pwd=QOVHQVVuWHB1QmpBd2ZDcEZJNlIXUT09>

ID 955 7054 4462,

Passcode 686988

Zoom Host: June



### **Study discussions on Wednesday's**

We have embarked on a series of discussions based on the Emmaus Course. 8pm on zoom.

**Week 7**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

<https://zoom.us/j/96204565714?pwd=Rm1iZ01ZWkpYNmVvbXZScFJlSWgyUT09>

Meeting ID: 962 0456 5714

Passcode: 108557

Zoom Host: Alison

## Coming Soon

**Repair Café** at St Andrew's reopens 5<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00am

**Footsloggers** aim to restart in July – contact Jenny Evans for details nearer the time.

**Qi Gong** aims to reopen at St Andrew's in July

## ECO News

The Daily Mail and Keep Britain Tidy are teaming up for the **Great British Spring Clean** which takes place from 28 May to 13 June 2021 - <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/home>.



**Anne Gimingham and I plan to do a litter pick in the streets around the church on Saturday 12 June. We'll meet at St Andrew's at 11 am and will take no more than 1 hour.**

*Carol Drummond*

## From Rev Dee

The Bible Study group that meets at Rev Dee's house will be restarting on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Topics range widely across the religious spectrum. New members are invited. Please contact Rev Dee Brierley-Jones if you are interested in joining - 01242-673786.

## From Sandra Jeans



Sandra has made and sent for distribution a 5 minute video of her brother Ian's garden. A flavour is in these lovely pictures of tulips. Over 150 people have now viewed this video and found it useful for reflection. Please enjoy and pass on to anyone you know who would enjoy it, particularly keen gardeners.

<https://youtu.be/on7HMGTMf5g>

## ***Bill Cowie has been busy!***

**'The Horse, the Oat and the Song' By William Cowie**

The recollections of a childhood and early adulthood growing up in rural Aberdeenshire in a bygone age, in the hope that those who follow on, knowing where they came from, will have a better idea of where they are going.

*£7.99 plus postage from [www.newgeneration-publishing.com](http://www.newgeneration-publishing.com)*

