



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urcic.org.uk

Bulletin 5th September 2021

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

<https://www.cheltenhamhalf.co.uk/road-closures-information>

The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

5th September Rev Dr Dee Brierley-Jones

26th September Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)

The Pulpit at St Andrew's

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

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

5th September Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)

12th September Mr Geoff Tizzard-King

19th September Rev Iain McLaren Climate Sunday/Harvest

26th September Mrs Julie Jefferies

- We are no longer doing seating plans.
- Our thanks to Ann, Alison and Geoff who have kept us in good voice during the past year. Now we can ALL sing.
- If you prefer to use a hymn book during services, please collect one from the shelf at the door and return it at the end of the service. Hymn books are also available to borrow, for use at home.

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.

Isaiah 35 v4-7a

Psalm 146

Mark 7 v24-37

James 2 v1-10,14-17

From our Minister: Rev Iain McLaren

I spent the week of 21st to 27th August at the URC Holiday Forum at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. Holiday Forum, in one form or another, has been going for over seventy years now, always meeting at the same location, with the exception of last year when covid restrictions meant the event was online only. It was good therefore to meet up again with old friends in person this year.



The daily format for Holiday Forum is always the same. After a generous cooked breakfast (for those up in time), there is all-age worship followed by children's activities and, for the adults, a theme presentation by a guest speaker. This year's theme leader, Professor Anthony Reddie, black theologian and author of '*Is God Colour-Blind?*', appeared via video link to lead sessions covering sameness and difference in the world, in the Bible and in the Church. The material, though challenging, was presented in an easy-going style with plenty of self-deprecating humour.

Afternoons at Forum are set aside for games, excursions and free time and there is usually some form of evening entertainment. All activities are optional, and it is perfectly acceptable to spend the whole day in your room, should you so choose.

The Forum family is incredibly welcoming, and, after a first visit, people tend to come back again. A bursary fund exists to subsidise the cost of attending for people who would otherwise find it difficult to afford a holiday. Support is currently targeted on families with young children and older people living alone. A feature of Holiday Forum is that participants cover an age range from very young to very old with a fair number of people in between, something sadly no longer true for most church congregations. In conversation one evening with a 25-year-old woman who was brought up a Christian but no longer attends church, I asked what she would be looking for in a church to encourage her to join it. She replied, the same sort of atmosphere she encountered at Holiday Forum. I subsequently reflected that Forum includes all the ingredients necessary to be a church: worship (including a celebration of Holy Communion), Bible study and fellowship. Instead of meeting for an hour every week, it is a church that meets for one week every year. New members are always welcome.

Yours in Christ,

Iain

 HOLIDAY FORUM faith, fun and fellowship	<p>www.urcholidayforum.org.uk Facebook Page facebook.com/URCHolidayForum Facebook Group http://bit.ly/HolidayForum @URCHolForum hello@urcholidayforum.org.uk</p> 
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Please Note:

Rev Iain McLaren can be contacted at:

01242-231602, or 07483118427 revdiain@urcic.org.uk

Day off on FRIDAYS. (please note change)



Prayer Requests this week:

Andrew Sutherland, Eileen Attwood, Geoff Harmsworth, Douglas MacGregor, Pat Brooks, Fred, Mary and Charlotte Cummings, 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.

What's on this week

Fri 3 Sept 2021	10:00 - 12:00	Coffee, Chat ++	Prestbury URC
Sat 4 Sept 2021	10:00 - 13:00 15:00 - 18:00	Repair Café Welcome Party for Iain	St Andrew's URC St Andrew's URC
Tues 7 Sept 2021	11:00 - 12:00 15:00 - 16:00	Prayer Time Zoom Afternoon Tea	St Andrew's URC
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86813681583?pwd=N1hGRUx6Y0FFYkZocVBzTXAwRII3UT09			
Meeting ID: 868 1368 1583		Passcode: 642768	
Wed 8 Sept 2021	14:00 - 16:00	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Thu 9 Sept 2021	12:00 - 13:00	Qi Gong	St Andrew's URC
Fri 10 Sept 2021	10:00 - 12:00	Coffee, Chat ++	Prestbury URC

Heritage Open Day at St Andrew's on **11th September**. Open to the public from 11.00am – 2.00pm. There will be a talk entitled '**The House that moved**' from 2.30 till 3.30pm by Tony and Sandra Jeans. Tickets for the talk can be obtained from 'The Suffolk Anthology', Suffolk Parade. Collect IN PERSON. Brochures are available.
Janet Kemp

Safeguarding Training – 25th September, 10.30 to 3.00 at Warden Hill URCC.

Psalm 23 Garden

At St Andrew's we are responding to an initiative of the Bible Society to create a Psalm 23 garden. The idea was explained to the congregation at the service held on the 22nd August, which can be viewed on the St Andrew's YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0gso0uzwPJq-Onhf6fN2TA>

The Bible Society project is explained on their web site

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/psalm-23/the-garden/>

We will be providing regular updates on progress and our aim is completion by Easter 2022.

Tony Jeans and Carol Drummond

Coffee, Chat++ at Prestbury URC

The new Friday venture was launched this week with several familiar faces returning for refreshments and a chat. The legendary toasted teacakes made their re-appearance and we also had cakes, produce and books for sale.



The 'knitting lady' Sheila was there and in the weeks to come she will be available to give advice on your current knitting projects, help to those who want to start knitting or crocheting and as a special project will help anyone interested in making a dementia 'Twiddle Muff' as the hospital would like as many made as possible – so do come along if you are interested in knitting with a natter and coffee!



On **24 September** 'Coffee, Chat++' will become part of the '**World's Biggest Coffee Morning**' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. There will be cakes to buy and a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. Please do come along and support this excellent cause.

Fiona Hall

Prestbury URChins (Mondays 10.00 – 11.30 at Prestbury URC)

The Baby and Toddler Group will be restarted on **Monday 13th September**. Obviously there will be measures to make it as COVID safe as it can be, but we hope that what will be our 25th year will be as enjoyable as ever for all those who come along.

Fiona Hall

Footsloggers Thursday 13th August

A small, select group of Footsloggers gathered in the Forest of Dean for our August walk. We started by walking through the Cyril Hart Arboretum next to Speech House before heading around Speech House Lake and on into the Forest. On the return leg we went along Trafalgar Avenue past Nelson Grove, the names commemorating the visit of Nelson to the area in 1802, following which an Act was passed by parliament that said that the Forest of Dean was to be planted with oaks for the Royal Navy.



We all enjoyed a picnic in the arboretum at the end of the walk.

Our next walk is on **Monday 13th September** and will be around Frampton.

Jenny Evans

St Andrew's September 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. Please support Commitment for Life this month.



Extreme weather like torrential rain and flooding followed by months-long drought have affected 2.2 million people in the Dry Corridor, comprised of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Millions need urgent food assistance in the face of the climate and COVID-19 crises. The pandemic will push even more people into poverty and hunger, and threatens a region where economic shocks, erratic climate, displacement and insecurity have already taken a heavy toll.

Climate Change drives a farmer to emigrate

We hear many reports of how would be immigrants from Central American countries arrive at the border with the United States but are refused entry and are sent back home. Recently the Channel 4 programme Unreported World followed a Guatemalan farmer trying to migrate to the US. His story illustrates how the problems of climate change, worsening growing conditions, poverty, corruption and the woman's role all make life difficult in Central America.



Gonzalo is a farmer in the 'Dry Corridor' in Guatemala. He grows maize and corn to feed his wife and three young children. But now the soil is a parched wasteland. Two hurricanes have been followed by a drought, and new seed will not grow as there is no moisture in the dust, so his children go hungry. His brother has made the hazardous journey successfully to the United States, has a job in Houston, Texas, and sends money back to his family. Gonzalo decides to do the same. He borrows \$12,000 from a loan shark to pay for a conduct over the US border. He can have three attempts, and if he fails, his farm and land will be forfeit. Leaving his wife, who is fearful of losing him, he departs.

At first the journey in the truck is easy, the checkpoints are empty, but he must cross Mexico where unscrupulous cartels prey on the many would-be migrants, demanding as much as \$1500 to be allowed to cross into the US. It is a huge criminal business. Migrants on the move can be virtually kidnapped, their children stolen from them. They are in danger of disappearing completely. The reporter who is tracking Gonzalo by radio loses touch with him. Has he made it across the Rio Grande? It is three weeks before the news comes. The Mexican police have caught him, and have sent him back home. Undeterred he decides to have another try. We can only hope that he succeeds.

Robin Derbyshire

ECO News

Climate Sunday Service at Glasgow Cathedral

A letter from the organiser's:

This is a crucial moment in our movement for climate justice, as churches across Britain and Ireland play their part in the run up to COP26. We're hopeful that the service will show unity among Christians calling for climate justice, encourage engagement and activism around the climate crisis and be an opportunity to call on our national leaders to be bold and ambitious at COP26. We hope you will be part of the energy and excitement of the weekend. We need all of us to be part of this to make it the best it can be. In order to help with this, we wanted to send some important information about the event, to help you share, promote and make noise about this important moment.

What time? The livestream begins at **3.30pm on Sunday 5 September**, with worship opening at 4pm.

Where? Contributions will be made from across four nations, and will be made on site at Glasgow Cathedral and digitally. Watch the event here:

<https://www.climatesunday.org/nationsclimatesundayservice>

What's happening? The service will showcase the services, commitments and actions taken by local churches across Britain and Ireland for climate justice, as well as contributions made by national denominations, charities and NGOs.

Livestream Details

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwilrYRqudg>

Share it on YouTube through Glasgow Cathedral's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/glasgowcathedral>

Social Media -Please share the details ahead of Sunday.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qghljUIMy6ljYVnwsQdGZE_E-iYXaSc69O7fm_hK06E/edit?usp=sharing

On Sunday, we will be live posting on the Climate Sunday social media pages.

Find us at: Twitter: @ClimateSunday

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClimateSundayUK> Please Retweet and Share.

We have the chance to make this a really special and significant moment in the life of our churches and in the movement towards climate justice - so please do get involved.

Every blessing and many thanks,

Climate Sunday Team

Climate Change Happening:

From Louis Ndekha In Malawi 2nd Sept

"Our summer is meant to be official by now. However, the weather seems to be behaving strangely this year. Instead of being dry and hot, its been raining in Zomba, where we live. When I called my mum in the village (250 miles away) she said she was very cold. By cold she meant 16 degrees. This against the background that in a typical September the temperatures in that area would usually be around 40 degree centigrade. People are worried that this may affect the onset of the rains (and cause drought) which normally come from October at the peak of the hot and dry season."



Climate Sunday at St Andrew's Will be held on 19th September in conjunction with Harvest. The service will focus on the need for Climate Change and the work of the COP26 Conference in Glasgow.