



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urch.org.uk

Bulletin 6th March 2022 (1st Sunday in Lent)

The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

6 th March	Rev Dee Brierley-Jones	Family Service
20 th March	Mrs Julie Jefferies	
27 th March	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion / Mothering Sunday

The Pulpit at St Andrew's

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

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

6 th March	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion
HYMNS: Rejoice+Sing 671, 586, 495, 509, Singing the Faith 18, 586		
13 th March	Mr Bob Alger	Family Service
20 th March	Rev Iain McLaren	Baptism
27 th March	Rev Dee Brierley-Jones	Mothering Sunday

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 th March	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion
------------------------	------------------	-----------

Worship on Wednesdays

Wednesday Worship: takes place from 12.00noon till 12.30.

1st Wed of Month at Warden Hill URCC

Rest of the month at St Andrew's. **EVERYONE WELCOME**

Keeping us all safe while worshipping.

Please continue to respect the sensitivities of others around you in church. Thank you.



Prayer Requests this week:

Hanne Lambley, Geoff Harmsworth, Mhairi Turner, Edith McKenzie.

Rev Iain McLaren, our Minister writes:



We are now in the season of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday. The reason Lent begins on Ash Wednesday can be found in the penitential practices of the early Church. It used to be the case that sinners wishing to be reconciled to the Church would be required to perform public penance. This could take various forms, but often included a period of fasting and a period of being barred from receiving communion. It became customary to require penitents to fast for 40 days, in imitation of Jesus in the wilderness, and to time the fast so that they could be readmitted to communion on Easter Sunday. As Sundays are not counted as fast days, this meant the fast had to begin 46 days before Easter, i.e. on the Wednesday before the first Sunday in Lent.

In the Bible ashes are associated both with mourning and repentance (see, for example, Job 42: 6). Penitents therefore signalled their desire to repent of their sin by having ash sprinkled over them at the beginning of their penance and so Ash Wednesday was born. The practice of administering ash to worshippers on Ash Wednesday survived long after the practice of individual penance had died out and is still found in many Christian traditions today.

If, in the 21st century, we wish to recover this sense of Lent as a season for repentance, what is there for us to repent of?

At a global level, perhaps humanity needs to repent of the exploitative agricultural and industrial practices that have polluted our oceans and our atmosphere and brought the planet to the verge of climate catastrophe.

At the level of international relations, perhaps we need to repent of our collective acceptance of the inevitability of war. The greatest tragedy of the current war in the Ukraine is that more was not done to prevent its outbreak in the first place.

In our own nation, perhaps we need to repent of our complacency about the enduring social inequalities that led to some groups suffering much worse from the covid pandemic than others.

In our churches, perhaps we need to repent of our clinging to outdated practices, with the result that we fail to present the Gospel in a way that engages with the spiritual needs of younger generations.

In our individual lives ... well, what do you feel the need to repent of this Lent? (Eating chocolate is not a mortal sin!)

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: (1st Sunday in Lent)

Deuteronomy 26 v1-11
Luke 4 v1-13

Psalm 91 v1-2,9-16
Romans 10 v8b-13

CURC Lent Group

The Lent study group will take place via zoom on **Wednesday's** at 7.30pm. The zoom link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86817591596?pwd=MkkzSzRWdzFPUTViUnZjNitLZStKUT09>

Meeting ID: 868 1759 1596

Passcode: 368163

The course we are following is '**Days to Lament**' from Embrace the Middle East. The study guides cost £2 each and can be obtained from Janet Kemp at St Andrew's. *Rev Iain*

FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

A time for personal and collective reflection in a candle lit space with singing and music from the tradition of Taizé

This special service will be held four times across the churches in the North Cheltenham Team during Lent. It will be held on a Sunday at 6.30 pm. The first service will take place at **St Nicolas on Sunday 6th March at 6.30pm.**

Dates for the following weeks are:

Sunday 13th March at St Mary's at 6.30 pm

Sunday 20th March at St Lawrence at 6.30 pm

Sunday 27th March at All Saints at 6.30pm



Organ recital at St Andrew's by Matthew Martin

on **Saturday 26th March, 7.00 – 8.00,**
followed by refreshments.



Matthew Martin is Precentor and Director of College Music at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He was a pupil at Dean Close School before reading music at Magdalen College, Oxford and then studying at the Royal Academy of Music. He has won many major prizes, composes, leads choirs, and gives organ recitals worldwide.

This event is not ticketed, but donations will be appreciated in aid of the St Andrew's Spire Fund.

Please publicise this event as widely as possible, Flyers and Posters are available at St Andrew's for distribution.

What's on across CURC

Mon 7 th Mar	10:00 - 11:30	Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers	Prestbury URC
Tues 8 th Mar	19.00- 21.00	CURC Elders meeting	Warden Hill URCC
Wed 9 th Mar	14.00-16.00	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Talk – Great Western Air Ambulance			
Wed 9 th Mar	19.30-21.00	CURC Lent Group	zoom
Thu 10 th Mar	10.30am	Footsloggers	
Thu 10 th Mar	12.45-13.45	Qi Gong	St Andrew's URC
Fri 11 th Mar	10.00-12.00	Everything Must Go! Book Sale/ Coffee, Chat ++	Prestbury URC
Mon 14 th Mar	10:00 - 11:30	Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers	Prestbury URC
Wed 16 th Mar	19.30 - 21.00	CURC Lent Group	zoom
Fri 18 th Mar	10:00 - 12:00	Coffee, Chat ++ (Traidcraft week)	Prestbury URC
Sat 19 th Mar	09 30 – 16.00	West Midlands Synod	zoom

Please contact Iain or Janet if you wish to attend.

St Andrew's March Charity

If you are being treated for Cancer at the Hospital, it will probably not be long before you hear about Maggie's.

Maggie's is the voluntary charity which supplies many of the information and guidance services which cancer sufferers need during and after their treatment.

It's a peaceful and friendly sanctuary a short distance away from the busy hospital, which exists for anybody living with cancer.

Why Maggie's? Maggie was a writer, gardener and designer, and a breast cancer sufferer. When she and her husband, architect Charles Jencks were sent out into a bleak hospital corridor to digest the news of her cancer's return, they decided to plan something better for cancer sufferers, and so today the Cheltenham Maggie's Centre is a place to turn to for help with any of the problems, small or large, associated with cancer.

Under one roof you can access help with information, benefits advice, and psychological support both individually and in groups, courses and stress reducing strategies. Step into the Centre, near to the Fire Station in College Baths Road, and you discover a building designed on a human scale offering respite and reassurance.

More about Maggie's in later Bulletins. It exists through the generous donations and fund-raising of its many well-wishers. You probably know somebody with cancer, or are a cancer-sufferer yourself.

Please give to Maggie's, the March/April St Andrew's Charity.

Robin Derbyshire



Anna Chaplaincy

This year's **Easter craft project** is knitted Easter Chicks. It is hoped to offer these to as many residents of local care homes as possible. Chicks need to be with Ann Lewis by **Sunday 27 March**



Dates for your Diary

Holy Week

- 10th April Palm Sunday
14th April Maundy Thursday at Warden Hill URCC:
Meal at 7.00pm. Communion at 8.00pm
15th April Good Friday Prayers at Prestbury at 10.00am /Refreshments
Good Friday Service at St Andrew's 3.00pm
17th April EASTER SUNDAY

AGM Season

- 3rd April Warden Hill (TCiWH) AGM
24th April Prestbury AGM
1st May St Andrew's AGM

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

- 29th May CURC AGM with Lunch, following United Pastorate Service, at St Andrew's, 10.30am

Community

- 12th April Family Fun Day at St Andrew's
2nd – 5th June Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday
26th June Montpellier Brass Concert at St Andrew's
2nd July Montpellier Fiesta
9th July Prestbury Village Fair

Botanical Notes



This is a rather unusual Iris which people might not know about. It is a winter flowering iris called the Algerian Iris (*Iris unglucularis*) and it grows to about 12" tall and is this glorious blue colour. This is NOT *Iris reticulata* which is the miniature iris well sold in Gardening Centres for spring flowering.

I found a local stocklist having been alerted to it by my brother who was out sketching in the grounds of a National Trust property where it was out in the grounds in a gravel area in the winter sunshine. *Sandra Jeans*

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)