



## Cheltenham United Reformed Church

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

*Bulletin 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021*

### **The Pulpit at Prestbury**

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

7<sup>th</sup> November Rev Dr. Dee Brierley-Jones

**14<sup>th</sup> November 10.45 Prestbury War Memorial for Remembrance Sunday**

28<sup>th</sup> November Rev Iain McLaren (Communion) and **Church Meeting**

### **The Pulpit at St Andrew's**

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

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

7<sup>th</sup> November Rev Iain McLaren (Communion)

14<sup>th</sup> November Mrs Margaret Marshall **Remembrance Sunday, 10.45am**

21st November Dr Tony Jeans

28<sup>th</sup> November Mrs Julie Jefferies

### **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>

14<sup>th</sup> November Rev Iain McLaren (Communion) **Remembrance Sunday**

### **Keeping us all safe while worshipping.**

Wearing masks while in church is preferred, though not compulsory. Please respect social distancing and the sensitivities of others around you in church. **Thank you**



### **Prayer Requests this week:**

Rev Iain and his family,  
Geoff Harmsworth, Douglas MacGregor, Charlotte Cummings,  
Hanne Lambley, Louis Ndekha, Mairi Turner,  
The family and friends of Jimmy Brett,  
Ian and Helen Brooks and family,  
The URC community at Warden Hill

**With sadness we report the death of Jimmy Brett, Member at Warden Hill, on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021**



## West Midlands URC Synod Reflections from Julie Jefferies.

at Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield On Saturday 13 October 2021

After a long time on Zoom it was nice to meet friends from across the West Midlands Synod face to face. Wylde Green is the home church of one of our previous ministers -the Rev Joan Winterbottom, she sends her love and best wishes to everyone. Synod started with a presentation from Wylde Green about the past, present and future. Their past had involved many members in large Sunday schools and choirs, the present was based on lots of activities, some started in Lockdown, working with the local community. Wylde Green had a big overgrown space which during lockdown people from the church and community cleared – now they are starting to work further on their Eco Church status starting 'Wild and Green' in the cleared area. Like all churches they have their challenges around the building which needs double glazed windows this is proving a big challenge on a number of fronts.

Synod started with a film and live link from the Legacy of Slavery Task Group – something which really set me thinking about my own white privilege, the things that I have access to and things I take for granted that were probably a benefit from slave trade finances. The group is looking at projects in Jamaica, Ghana and the United States working with the Council for World Mission. The Task Group member said that they were very happy to talk with churches – is this something we as a united pastorate should consider?

There were a number of big decisions to discuss and vote on:

**The Minister's pension deficit** – because of the way the Pensions Regulator cautiously calculates the amount required in the pension fund there is a large deficit across the URC family. Each synod was asked to consider their share of the deficit and how this might be covered. As the number of ministers reduces manses are being sold and the fund contains more money than there will be need for minister's houses. The proposal was to use some of the manse fund to cover our share of the deficit. This was passed by consensus.

**A plan for a major development fund for mission focused churches** – as churches close and the buildings are sold – there will be a pot of money. The treasurer put forward the resolution that the money from Anstey Road Coventry around £1 million be put into a fund to help mission focused churches to make their buildings fit for purpose. Kirsty the Church Related Community worker – explained that Anstey Road, Coventry was doing fantastic work with the homeless, but the Elders recommended closure because all their time was spent trying to maintain an old barn of a building needing so much attention. A percentage of funds will be added to this pot when further church buildings are sold. This was also passed by consensus.

**Deployment of ministers** this is a difficult subject which caused much discussion. Rev Steve Faber, The Moderator of the West Midlands, shared the figures of our fair share of ministry as a Synod and where we should be by 2025. He then shared the deployment figures for each area – Gloucestershire will end up with 2 paid ministers. There was a lot of discussion around vocation, the role of Elders, non-stipendiary ministers, lay preachers and members. Whilst this resolution was around us accepting to work with in our fair share of ministry – it was a difficult decision but in the end was voted through with a majority and some against.

**Accounts and budget for 2022** – there is a large deficit from the support given to churches to help pay their Maintenance of the Ministry during the pandemic but with investments performing better than expected, it was agreed that we would operate with the proposed budget for 2022.

**Election of a new Synod Clerk** – Rachel Wakeman was inducted as the new Synod Clerk. Other subjects included Safeguarding, Children and Youth work and the URC 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2022. All Elders and people working with children or vulnerable adults eg through pastoral visiting etc

should now take the online safeguarding training and then attend an intermediary Zoom, unless they attended the face to face training at the end of September 2021. To log in to the online training you will need to e-mail [matthew.baxter@urc.org.uk](mailto:matthew.baxter@urc.org.uk) to get access to the learning hub safeguarding foundation course just follow this link [www.urclearninghub.org.uk](http://www.urclearninghub.org.uk).

The Moderator asked local churches to consider what they wanted to do to celebrate the **URCs 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, in 2022** – do we want a Synod family day and if so what would you like to see included or have you got better things to do on a Saturday and just want to stick to a local celebration. Do let an Elder know your thoughts so we can feed back to Synod.

Anyone can attend Synod as an observer the next meeting is on Zoom on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022– so you can stay in the comfort of your own home. The October 2022 Synod is planned to be a residential. If you want to know more about any of the topics then please speak to Rev Iain, Janet or Julie. Do feedback your thoughts and ideas on the Legacy of Slavery Task Group offer and on what you would like to do for the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the United Reformed Church.

*Julie Jefferies*

**Rev Iain McLaren can be contacted at:**  
**01242-231602, or 07483118427      [revdiain@urcic.org.uk](mailto:revdiain@urcic.org.uk)**  
**Day off on FRIDAYS.**



### **Lectionary Readings: for week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> November**

1 Kings 17 v8-16

Psalm 146

Mark 12 38-44

Hebrews 9 v24-28

### **ALL SOULS 'Remembrance and Thanksgiving' Service.**

Each year there is a special All Souls service at St. Christopher's, Warden Hill, where we can remember and give thanks for the lives of those whom we love but see no longer. This year the service will be on **Sunday 7th November** at 6pm. The names of those who have died in the past year will be read out – if you wish to add a name to that list, please let the stewards know before the start of the service.

### **The Psalm 23 Garden at St Andrew's**

There is still an opportunity to join the Task Group. Please contact Tony Jeans.

### **Daily Bible Study**

I shall be putting in my order for the daily study from the International Bible Reading Association for 2022 - "Fresh from the Word" this week. The cost of the handbook is £10.99 plus postage but we can get a discount if a number of people subscribe. Please contact me if you are interested.

<https://shop.christianeducation.org.uk/AA200109>

*Tony Jeans*

### **From St Andrew's Premises Committee**

1 The Elders at St Andrew's have been discussing replacing the chairs in the Hall and Garden Room. There will be a sample chair for you to test in the Hall on Sunday. Please try it and leave your comments.

2. We have mislaid one of the tall speakers. If anyone knows its whereabouts please contact Janet or Tony. Thankyou.

**St Andrew's November Charity of the month is the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.**



**The Legion asks our help for those injured on active service**

It's November again, when we remember the many service men and women who returned from their war experiences physically or mentally damaged. Iraq and Afghanistan, the most recent wars we have been engaged in, have created a new generation of military war victims who need caring and rehabilitation. In recent years much progress has been made in understanding and treating the effects of the violence of military conflict on those taking part. In this The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal plays a major part.

The new state-of-the-art Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, which is part funded by RBL, provides skilled care and support for wounded, injured and sick Armed Forces personnel. Within the Centre the RBL provided funds to build this Royal British Legion Complex Trauma Gym; the largest of the DMRC's indoor spaces. Here patients with complex injuries can focus on regaining mobility, fitness and independence. As part of RBL's commitment to support service personnel in leading dignified and fulfilled lives, it makes a huge impact in helping those suffering from major trauma or injury in service. It is at the heart of patients' recovery and rehabilitation, meeting all exercise therapy needs, and is run by an expert team of MoD physiotherapists and specialists.



A member of the staff there, a qualified physiotherapist says: "I think it's really important that we rehabilitate our patients to the best of their ability. Post injury in a facility like this gives us the best opportunity to do this. And having the equipment from the aquatic centre to the gyms to the outdoor experience really enables us to rehabilitate our patients across a range of environments, get them outdoors, get them moving, get them back to things that they will do in the community and back to work as well."

Please look out as usual for your poppy to buy and wear. This year St Andrew's has made the Royal British Legion our Charity of the Month. Please give to RBL, through the offertory plate, or by your usual method of giving. On behalf of the service men and women who need skilled help in their rehabilitation, Thank You.

*Robin Derbyshire*

**What's on:**

Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.00	Repair Café	St Andrew's
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10:00 - 11:30	Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers	Prestbury URC
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	7.30 - 8.30	Study/Discussion Group	
		<a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86817591596?pwd=MkkzSzRWdzFPUTViUnZjNitLZStKUT09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86817591596?pwd=MkkzSzRWdzFPUTViUnZjNitLZStKUT09</a>	
	Meeting ID: 868 1759 1596	Passcode: 368163	
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	11:00 - 12:00	Prayer Time	St Andrew's
		<b>With regret, this session will now be closed till after Christmas.</b>	
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.00-4.00	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10:00 - 12:00	Coffee, Chat ++	Prestbury URC

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Christian Aid Autumn Fair

from 10.00am



Everyone is very welcome to the Autumn Fair - an annual event at St Andrews Church, Montpellier Hall, run by Cheltenham Churches Christian Aid committee.

This year we are supporting Christian Aid's Global Hunger Emergency Appeal rather than a specific project. This appeal was launched in June in response to the desperate experience of countries like S Sudan, Nigeria and Afghanistan where hunger and food insecurity have been exacerbated by covid, the climate crisis and continued conflict.

So please start your Christmas shopping at our Autumn Fair, and give your support to this event and to Christian Aid.

There will be **COFFEE SHOP** **STALLS** delicious **LUNCHES** and **DESSERTS**.

Can you make donations for the stalls?

**Books  
and cards**

**Christmas gifts and goods  
Cards by local artist**

**Cakes and preserves  
Silent auction of promises.**

**Chocolate boxes**

If you have any new or barely used donations for the book or gift stall, I will be placing a marked box for donations in the link corridor at St Andrews.

If you are able to bake for the cake stall, or provide one of your homemade jars of preserves that would be wonderful! Preserves can be left in the donations box, but I would kindly ask for the cakes, and homemade biscuits to be dropped off on the day, from 8.30 onwards!

Lastly :- Do you have a skill or time you can offer for the Auction of Promises? - Let me know and I will add it to the list!

Many thanks *Alison Veal* 01242515797



### **Quiz Evening with Fish and Chips Supper**

At St Andrew's, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021,  
6.45 for 7.00pm. £6 per person - please pay at event.  
Teams/Tables max 6 people.

Please let Janet, Brian, Fiona or Jenny (as appropriate)  
know if you are coming by **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November**.

Please indicate if you have special dietary requirements.

**ALL WELCOME**

### **Coffee, Chat++ in Aid of Maggie's Cancer Support**

The Coffee Morning held to raise fund for Maggie's raised £140. Thank you to all who contributed.

### **To all our contributors:**

*Thank you for all the copy that you send. Send to: [magazine@urcic.org.uk](mailto:magazine@urcic.org.uk), then it will be sure to reach both Janet and Fiona. Thankyou*