

# The United Reformed Church in Cheltenham

In Touch

December 2011  
January 2012

Dear Friends,

It seems ridiculous to say 'Merry Christmas' and even worse to say 'A Happy New Year', but here we are with a double-bill December/January issue. We could allow ourselves to get depressed thinking that we are not remotely in the mood to think about seasonal festivities just yet; there is surely time enough before the rush of gift-buying, tree decorating, baking and parties?

It takes deliberate effort to make space for Christ during the Christmas season. Maybe that is why the Scriptures offer so many angles from which to view the birth of Christ – parents, aunt & uncle, shepherds, Magi – even the perspective of the prophets who preceded him by centuries.

When we allow ourselves to enter into it, Scripture reminds us that *Christmas is not a task to be done but a celebration to be marvelled at.*

Within the URCiC we have Advent study, carols, drama, a musical, food, nativity plus worship and communion. We're packing lots into this Christmas. In each of our churches, as we prepare, let us look at what we do from the perspective of those passers-by who just might want to find out more about this baby born in a manger. Let us perform and attend these *events not as a task to be done but as a celebration to be marvelled at.*

Enjoy your preparations and may this truly be a season of goodwill.

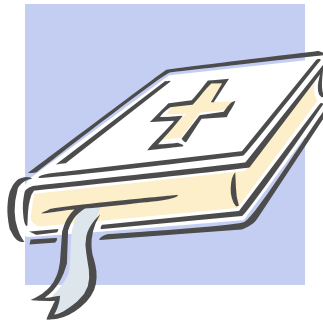
Wishing you every blessing this Christmas and New Year.

Much love,

*Maz*

## THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN CHELTENHAM

**In Memorium: Our prayers:** we hold in our prayers those for whom we are concerned: Margaret Coulthurst, Sadie Smyth, Jack Garside, Alice Brown, Donna Sutherland, George Spence, Lorna Dewhurst, Joy Coskery and Elspet Carter, and Jane Theophilus.



## **WORSHIP and URiC General News**

### **St Andrew's Communion Offering - December**

This month the offering is for one of our regular charities, the URC Retired Ministers' Housing Fund. The fund was established by the General Assembly in 1979 to "provide housing for retired ministers and ministers' widows who could not otherwise be adequately housed."

The scheme was designed to be funded by donations from churches, and also self-funding once it was actually in operation. Where there is a need the fund can provide assistance with purchase or renting of suitable accommodation, taking account of individual circumstances and locations.

Provision is made for the widow, widower or registered civil partner of a minister who dies while a tenant of a fund sponsored property. General Assembly confirms that it is right that ministers who have served the church should have a relaxed and comfortable retirement, and encourages churches to support the fund.

### **St Andrew's Communion Offering – January 2012**

Cheltenham Community Projects is an integral part of the Gloucestershire Community Projects (CCP). CCP works with a wide range of Council, Social and Welfare services and volunteer bodies to provide advice, support and practical help to vulnerable people with problems as diverse as homelessness, family breakdown, criminality, drug or alcohol dependency, mental health and education.

A central contact for many people is Cheltenham 1st Stop in the lower High Street. This is a partnership between CCP and a comprehensive range of support services, including Cheltenham Borough Council. Here initial assessments can be made of people's needs and appropriate courses of action set in train.

CCP Foyer provides integrated housing and educational support for vulnerable young people between the ages of 16 and 25, and it runs two houses in Cheltenham carrying out this work. The Community Services Team organises a range of services to help children, adults and families who are in critical situations where there is no-one else to turn to. The Appropriate Adult Scheme provides volunteers to act as "appropriate adults" for 10-16-year-olds in police custody when family members are unable or unwilling to attend. Other schemes provide support and advice to problem families, to people at risk of losing their homes, and to youngsters who have been excluded, or are at risk of being excluded from school. CCP Education Centre is a registered independent school located in Cheltenham that caters for such youngsters, providing structured education and preparing them to return to full time education.

Thus CCP is a wide-ranging partnership of professional and volunteer bodies bringing help and hope to the troubled and distressed in our local area.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Gift Day Services - St Andrew's 11.00am and Prestbury and The Church in Warden Hill URC at 10.30am.**

Our Gift Day Service will be at the above times where generally a member of the Salvation Army will be on hand to receive our gifts. Please note that, as usual, the gifts must not be wrapped.

This year's suggested gifts are Selection Boxes and Vouchers from M & S, Smiths, Tesco, Boots, Debenhams etc (anywhere that toys, music, books, toiletries can be bought) or Arts & Crafts items such as Play Doh, Painting sets, Bead making, Knitting, etc

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - 10:50am at St Andrews. Do come early and announce your choice of hymn to practice. See the times of all Christmas Services on pages 6 and 7.

**Short Courses:**

**Advent Course**

Join us for four sessions, beginning:

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November and then Tuesdays 6, 13, 20 December 2pm-3.30pm, at the Church in Warden Hill (URC).

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November and then Wednesdays 7, 14, 21 December 7.30pm-9.00pm, at St. Andrew's URC.

**Birthday Teas at the Manse**

I invite all with birthdays in the relevant months to share in tea and cakes at 19 The Oaks, Up Hatherley. 3pm – 5pm.

Jan, Feb, March birthdays – 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2012

Apr, May, June birthdays – 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2012

Maz

**Hospital Carol Singing**

Hospital Carol Singing on **Friday 23rd December**

Come and brighten the Christmas of patients and staff alike by joining the chaplaincy and other local church members to sing Christmas carols on the wards of Cheltenham General Hospital. Meet just before 7.00pm at the hospital chapel. Any queries, contact Katie McClure 08454 224286.

**URC in CHELTENHAM MORNING PRAYERS****First Tuesday of the month, 10.30am at St Christopher's****2nd to 4th Tuesdays, 11.30am – 12noon at Warden Hill URC**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Prayer Issue</b>
29 Nov (4 Dec)	Isaiah 40:1-11 <i>Mark 1:1-8</i>	Brockworth area, Churches and Schools Pilot groups Church Bible Study groups Prayers for the World
6 Dec (11 Dec)	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 <i>John 1:6-8, 19-28</i>	Abbeydale area, Churches and Schools LEP Partnerships, County Ecumenical Officer Aids victims and support Wedding Ministry Prayers for the World
13 Dec (18 Dec)	II Samuel 7:1-11, 16 <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	Gloucester City, Churches and Schools Hospital, Cathedral, Prison and Chaplaincy Care of offenders Those looking after church buildings Prayers for the World
20 Dec (25 Dec)	Isaiah 9:2-7 <i>Luke 2:1-14</i>	Gloucester County, Churches and Schools County Council, Listening Post, Christmas Open Door Christmas and New Year Services Prayers for the World
27 Dec 2011 (1 Jan 2012)	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Psalm 8, <i>Revelation 21:1-6a,</i> <i>Matthew 25:31-46</i>	Gloucester County, Churches and Schools County Council, Listening Post, Christmas Open Door Christmas and New Year Services Prayers for the World
3 Jan (8 Jan)	Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, <i>Acts 19:1-7,</i> <i>Mark 1:4-11</i>	Brockworth URC Tewkesbury Area, Churches and Schools World Council of Churches Prayers for the World
10 Jan (15 Jan)	1 Samuel 3:1-10, Psalm 139:1-6, 13- 18, <i>1 Corinthians 6:12- 20, John 1:43-51</i>	Ashcroft Church, Cirencester Ashchurch/Northway Area, Churches and Schools Links with families living at distance Prayers for the world
17 Jan (22 Jan)	Jonah 3:1-5, Psalm 62:5-12, <i>1 Corinthians</i> <i>7:29:31,</i> <i>Mark 1:14-20</i>	Dursley Tabernacle Conderton, Overbury Area, Churches and Schools Rural Ministries Ministry of music in the Churches Prayers for the world
24 Jan (29 Jan)	Deuteronomy 18:15 -20, Psalm 111, <i>1 Corinthians 8:1- 13,</i> <i>Mark 1:21-28</i>	Quarry URC Broadway, Stanton Area, Churches and Schools Tourism Warden Hill Urchins Prayers for the World
31 Jan (5 Feb)	Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c <i>1 Corinthians 9:16- 23,</i> <i>Mark 1:29-39</i>	Brierley URC Winchcombe area, Churches and Schools Care of Historic Buildings Tuesday Forum Prayers for the World



### **Christmas Services at Prestbury URC**

*18 December* 3.00pm. “Captain Cat and the Carol Singers” invite you to a family carol service.

#### ***Christmas day:***

*25 December* 10.00am. Family Worship for Christmas Morning.

### **Christmas Services at St Andrew’s**

*11 December* 6.00pm. Annual Carol Service and Festive Supper with the Chartered Management Institute (see Events section for further details).

#### ***Christmas eve:***

*24 December* 4.00pm. Nativity service. There is an open invitation to take part in the nativity scene. Adults are welcome to dress up and tell the nativity story to the children.

*24 December* 11.30pm. Communion service.

#### ***Christmas day:***

*25 December* 10.00am. Family service.

## **Christmas Services - the Church in Warden Hill**

### **at URC:**

*11 December 10.30am Morning Worship*

*18 December 10.30am Family Communion at the URC.*

*29 December 10.30am Morning Worship.*

### **at St Christopher's:**

*27 November 6pm. Advent Carol Service.*

*11 December 4.00pm. Christingle Service.*

*18 December 6.00pm. Carols by Candlelight.*

#### ***Christmas eve :***

*24 December 4.00pm. Christmas Crib Service.*

*24 December 11.30pm. Holy Communion.*

#### ***Christmas day:***

*25 December 10.00am. Family Communion Service.*

#### ***Epiphany***

*22 January 6.00pm Epiphany Carol Service.*





## **Christian Aid - Autumn Fair - Total for event held at St Andrews on the 5<sup>th</sup> November**

The Christian Aid Autumn Fair at St Andrews raised over £1200 - this was a tremendous effort. Joan Sampson, Cheltenham Area Coordinator says:

"A very big 'thank-you' to all who supported our Christian Aid Fair in any way - St Andrews Church, the furniture-movers, the stallholders, the caterers, those who came and those who contributed items for the stalls.

It was a good occasion because we all, from our different churches, worked happily together, we enjoyed renewing friendships with those we had perhaps not seen since the last fair, we enjoyed a splendid lunch together, and above all, you will be glad to know that the total to date is £1212.29.

There are still a few more bits and pieces to come in and I will keep you updated over the next few days and tell you how far we have got with our project target. When you consider what we have raised will be worth £12122.90 for the farmers and villagers in Matabeleland, we can be confident that we shall have made a real difference to their ability to feed themselves."

## **Carols at Supermarkets - Saturday December 17 - URCiC slot at Morrisons - Warden Hill, from 9.00am to 10.00am**

URCiC has a carol singing slot at Morrisons for an hour between 9.00am and 10.00am - please could singers, supporters, bucket shakers and wandering players come along to raise money for Christian Aid's Christmas collection - we need a small group of carollers to sing Christmas Carols for an hour.

If you can't make 9.00am-10.00am the Church in Warden Hill has a slot for carol singing between 11.00am and 12.00noon.

*Andrew Veal*

## **Kenya Projects (UK) 28<sup>th</sup> December 2012 – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

I am looking for 35 people to share this wonderful experience with me.

A third of the places are already taken!

Minimum age 15 unless travelling with a relative. You should be reasonably fit, able to cope with heat, love getting covered in paint and meeting fabulous children! Travel insurance is your responsibility.

The trip costs £1,500 inclusive.

See me for an application form.

**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!!**

*Maz*

### **Forthcoming Events for your Diaries:**

#### **Prom Praise, Albert Hall - 21st April 2012**

The sign-up sheets have been in church so if you have not signed up and you want to go to this Christian 'last night of the proms',

**You must contact Maz as soon as you receive this magazine. Tel: 01242 238273.** Approx. cost for ticket and coach, £40. *Maz*

### **Articles**

#### **The World is Mine!**

Today upon a bus I saw a lovely girl with golden hair. I envied her – she seemed so gay and I wished I were as fair. When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle. She had one foot and wore a crutch but as she passed, a smile. Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I have two feet – the world is mine !

And then I stopped to buy some sweets. The lad who served them had such charm, I talked with him. He said to me ; “It’s nice to talk to folks like you, you see he said ‘I’m blind!’” Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I have two eyes – the world is mine !

With feet to take me where I’d go, with eyes to see the sunsets’ glow. Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I’m blessed indeed – the world is mine !

*Kindly submitted by Pat Gregory (Prestbury URC)*

**“Classic Film” at Warden Hill URC - this month held on 3rd December.** See Events pages for detail.

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### **Changing the world one gift at a time**

This is the freecycle page that will appear in each issue of In Touch.

If you have something that you no longer want that might be useful to someone else, then send a description of the article to the Magazine Editor along with your name and telephone number and if anyone is interested they will contact you. There is no money involved just goods change hands e.g.

### **Freecycle (to be continued in February’s Issue)**

#### **Eco-Church**

Christmas is coming and along with the fun and festivities comes the mountain of waste.

One of the biggest sources of waste each Christmas is wrapping paper, with more than 8,000 tonnes being used each year - the equivalent of approximately 50,000 trees. To make things worse, the Council will not accept wrapping paper in the green recycling boxes. This is because gift paper is often coated with plastic or foil which makes it impossible to recycle; sticky tape, ribbons, bows and greeting cards are sometimes still attached, and these can damage recycling machines.

It is possible to recycle traditional wrapping paper that does not have a metallic or plastic-coated finish or flashy hologram effects and that has had sticky tape, bows, ribbon and cardboard cards removed first. However, the local council guidelines must be followed.

This year, we would like you to consider a number of possible ways of reducing this source of waste:

- rather than opting for shiny patterns on virgin paper, go for a recycled version. 100% recycled wrapping paper is available from various sources such as the [Natural Collection](#) and Oxfam
- re-use wrapping paper
- wrap without sticky tape to make re-using easier.
- Use bags and boxes as an alternative to wrapping paper that can be reused by you, and the person you are giving them to.
- The greenest idea is to dispense with unnecessary wrapping altogether. You could give a present within a present by wrapping the gift in a scarf or handkerchief, using Japanese furoshiki (cloth wrapping) techniques. For those with a computer, find these at [furoshiki.com/techniques](http://furoshiki.com/techniques)

### **Christmas Cards**

Rather than sending Christmas cards to Church friends who you see regularly, why not sign the Big Church Card and give a donation to the Kenya Project. This will save on cards, and raise money for a worthy cause.

After Christmas, we will have a box in the Link Gallery for you to recycle your Christmas cards. These will then be taken to a central recycling point for Charity.

### **Recycling - (at St Andrew's)**

Thank you to everyone who bring their used batteries and ink cartridges to church for recycling. We will be putting a box for old spectacles in the Link Gallery so please find all those old pairs of specs that are no use to you any more. They go to Third World Countries where they can make a huge difference to the lives of people with poor eyesight.

## News from the Church in Warden Hill:

### “Carol Supper”

The annual Supper will be held on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December** at Warden Hill URC starting at 7.00pm. It is a bring and share supper following a short informal (café-style) service.

### “A New Reader at The Church in Warden Hill—St. Christopher’s”

Dr Rachel Tarling was licensed as a reader by Bishop John at a service on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Gloucester Cathedral. Rachel was one of four new readers to be licensed, and five readers were re-licensed to new ministries having moved into the Diocese. All the readers present (including Roy McBane) were able to renew their commitment to the ministry. Rachel’s husband, Godfrey, read the first lesson. About a dozen people from TCiWH attended the service and there were also some from St Matthews church where Rachel’s family worship.

On the Sunday morning following (Back to Church Sunday) Rachel led the service and preached at Warden Hill. Jackie welcomed her as a reader and Rachel read her License which explains what she is able to do.

In time, Rachel will be available to preach in the URCiC churches.



*See the Events section starting on page 16 for other events that are happening at The Church in Warden Hill.*

*Brian Miles*

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## Emmanuel Festival of Decorated Christmas Trees 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Emmanuel Church invites you to take part in our Annual Festival of Decorated Christmas Trees. It’s time to put your thinking caps on and come up with a theme for *your* tree; it can be pretty or quirky, traditional or modern; you can enter as an individual, a family or a group. Entry forms available from the beginning of November.



## **News from Prestbury URC:**

### **Reading Group**

The next meeting of the Reading Group will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at Prestbury URC. The book to be discussed is "Trade Winds" by Christine Courtenay, based on the Swedish East India Company's first journey to the Far East in 1732.

New members are always welcome. If anyone would like to find out more about the group please contact Mary Cummings,

### **Coffee Morning Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 10.30am –noon**

This regular event will also take place at Prestbury URC on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Please do come to join us from 10.30am until noon. There will be the usual mix of coffee, tea, cakes and good company !

*Please see the Events section starting on pages 16 to 21 for other exciting events that are happening at Prestbury URC and other churches during December and January.*

## News from St Andrew's:

### **Kay Boulton - The New Development worker for St. Andrew's**

Kay begins her job on 28<sup>th</sup> November. and is employed for 25 hrs. per week. Her key responsibilities are:

- To develop new initiatives for promoting the spiritual and material resources of the church,
- To develop a fuller use of the church as a place of sanctuary, and
- To challenge Elders and Church Meetings to facilitate forward planning in mission.

The church will be open most lunchtimes and Kay will begin to build up a relationship with the immediate community, to see how best the church can play its part.

Because of Synod restrictions on the use of the 50% grant we have received for this post, we must not expect Kay to be involved in administrative duties such as hall lettings. This is NOT in her brief. The minister and elders are looking at various ideas for relieving David of some of his work-load.

Hopefully, Kay will be in worship on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. when you can meet her before our budget church meeting immediately after the service.

I thank Elizabeth Moss for agreeing to be Kay's line-manager.

### **'Get Into The Picture' - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December - St Andrew's from 6.30pm – 9.00pm**

Following last year's success, there will again be a 'live' nativity scene outside St. Andrew's to coincide with Montpellier late-night opening. I am looking for volunteers to dress up and form the nativity tableau. Four other churches in the central area also take part. Help between 7.30pm – 8pm would be gratefully received. Please contact me on 01242 238273. .

*Maz*

## Qi Gong

Qi Gong consists of gentle exercises and our sessions are especially geared to the needs of older people. It is based on Chinese traditional practice and promotes self healing and self regulation of the body. Members have found the sessions helpful in improving balance and the function of joints and muscles.

We are now back at St Andrew's on Thursday mornings at 11.30am. We meet at about two week intervals but we agree the actual dates month by month. For dates in December 2011 and January 2012, please see the posters in the Link Gallery, visit the URCiC web site or call Tony Jeans

Lida who leads the session will be happy to talk to potential new members. Please call Lida on 01242233949 or E-mail: [lida@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lida@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Redevelopment fundraising so far in 2011

You, as the people involved with St Andrew's, have helped raise over £2,600 so far this year from running the Saturday morning coffee bar and about £1,000 from various stalls.

In addition, the Talents appeal has so far generated £2,500 despite the participation problems we have had on occasion. Other events and the Michaelmas Fair have both raised circa £1,200.

However the star performance has been from those who have earmarked offerings or set up extra standing orders in aid of the redevelopment appeal because that has generated over £11,000 with most of the giving gift aided and that still to be added in for the current tax year.

That means we have raised over £19,500 this year. In view of the other pressures on everybody I wish to congratulate and thank you on behalf of the elders and the appeal committee. It is hard but the appreciation of what we have achieved has been noticeable and it gives us facilities to be proud of.

*David Black*

*Please see pages overleaf for other exciting events that are happening at St Andrew's and other churches during December and January.*



## EVENTS

### December:

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December** - 'Get Into The Picture' - Montpellier late night opening - St Andrew's at 6.30pm.

Come and have your picture taken for free as part of the 'Nativity Tableau' at St Andrew's and use it on your Christmas cards. You can be an angel, shepherd or king. The central cluster of Churches, Gas Green, Salem, Christ Church, St Mark's Methodist and St Andrew's will be there to set the scene.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December**- Qi Gong -St Andrew's at 11.30am. £4 per session.

## **Classic Film Show**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

**Warden Hill URC**

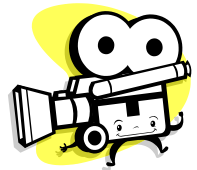
at 2.30pm (doors open at 2.15pm)

**Film - 'Kind Hearts and Coronets'**

(Ealing Studios UK 1949; U certificate)

With Valerie Hobson, Denis Price, Joan Greenwood & Alec Guinness

Free entry - Family and Friends welcome



**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Pensioners' Forum - St Andrew's at 11.00am. Dental Hygiene for the over 60's.**

We had an interesting talk last month from Genevieve Matley on living with Macular Disease. Macular disease is the term for the condition that leads to loss of central vision in the eye due to damage to the macular. It is the most common cause of visual impairment in the developed world and it affects many people as they grow older. Genevieve stressed how important it is to have your eyes checked annually as the sooner the disease is identified, treatment can be given to arrest the disease. However MD on its own will not cause you to go blind and by making good use of your peripheral vision and all the aids and assistance available it is possible to retain a good quality of life. There is a local Macular Disease Support Group which meets on the last Friday of each month from 1.45-4pm; details are available from Genevieve on 01242 576497.


In December our speaker is Tim Eldridge a local dentist who will be giving us advice on dental hygiene i.e. looking after our teeth and gums as we grow older so that we can still enjoy that steak even though we are 90. Coffee bar will be open from 10am and talk will begin at 11am, see you there.

There will be no meeting in January, but we will resume on **1st February** when Ruth Baker a Solicitor from Harrison Clerk will be the speaker.

*Ann Lewis*

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Wednesday Women - St Andrews at 7.00pm. Bring and share supper.**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December - C4 Children's Choir - 'Silent Night' - Prestbury URC at 7.00pm. All very welcome.**





**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Gotherington Singers** - St Andrew's at 7.30pm. 'Mistletoe and Wine' evening with guest pianist Alex Kirk. Musical Director - Margaret Crompton, Accompanist Michael Barrett.

The choir will be singing songs like: Jingle Bells Rock, Santa Clause's coming to town, Winter Wonderland, Mary's Boy Child.

Tickets £8 from Showcase Fancy Dress and dance Hire, Cheltenham 01242 224144. Supporting the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Christingle Service** - The Church in Warden Hill - St Christopher's at 4.00pm. All are welcome.

We will be making the Christingles on the Saturday afternoon before at 2.00pm at St Christopher's.



**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Tuesday Forum** - St Andrew's Garden Room at 2.30pm. **Christmas Party**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Knit and Chat** - St Andrew's Garden Room 1.00pm to 2.00pm. Coffee and tea provided. If you like to join, please call in. More information from Lizzie George



**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
Details of the walk led by Joan Thomson are to be found on Church Notice Boards nearer the time. All are welcome.

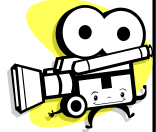




**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - C4 Children's Choir - 'Silent Night'** - The Church in Warden Hill URC at 7.00pm. All very welcome.

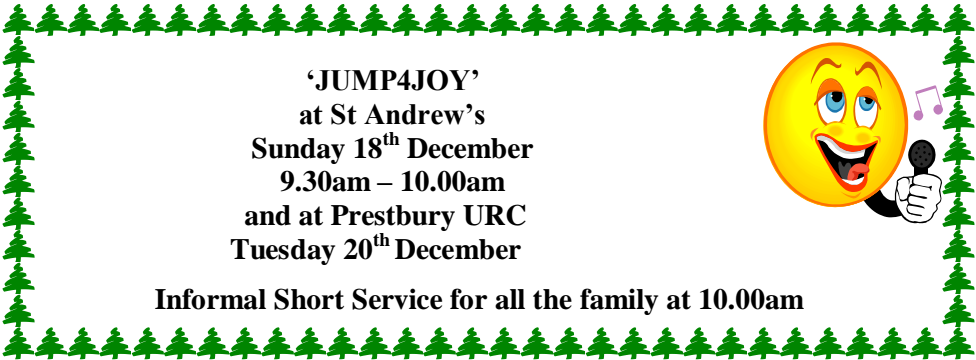


**Community Film Show**



**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Warden Hill URC**  
at 2.30pm (doors open at 2.15pm)  
**Film - 'Nutcracker' (Cert PG)**

Free entry - Family and Friends welcome  
Refreshments available



**'JUMP4JOY'**  
at St Andrew's  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
**9.30am – 10.00am**  
and at Prestbury URC  
**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**



**Informal Short Service for all the family at 10.00am**



**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December- Prestbury URC at 3.00pm**  
**CAPT. CAT & THE CAROL SINGERS**  
By Jeremy Lloyd

Enjoy a carol service with a difference as Capt. Cat and Vicar Mole take you through a medley of traditional carols whilst keeping an eye on those naughty mice!

## January 2012:

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Coffee Morning** - Prestbury URC from 10.30am until noon.

Please do come along. There will be the usual mix of coffee, tea, cakes and good company !

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January - An Evening with Winchcombe Concert Brass** - Prestbury URC at 7.00pm. Come and hear the Winchcombe Concert Brass playing seasonal, modern and old favourites. £5 to include refreshments – all profits to church funds. Everyone most welcome.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January - Tuesday Forum** - St Andrew's at 2.30pm

The Annual General Meeting. Please come along and support this meeting which begins at 2.30pm in the St Andrew's Garden Room, followed by tea and biscuits.

*Barbara Russell-Smith*



**‘JUMP4JOY’**  
**at St Andrew's**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012**  
**9.30am – 10.00am**

**and at Prestbury URC**  
**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**Informal Short Service for all the family**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January - Flowers Band Concert**- St Andrew's at 2.30pm. All invited. (Championship Brass Band) Compère Pete Wilson. In aid of St. Christopher's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal

Tickets £10 (Concessions £8) available from [tickets@tcivh.org.uk](mailto:tickets@tcivh.org.uk) or Sheila (694204) or at TCiWH Christmas Fair on November 26th. On sale from Nov 26<sup>th</sup>



**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January -  
Footsloggers.** Details of the walk to be led by Bob and Kate Alger will be found on church notice boards nearer the time. Lunch and further walks meeting will follow at St Andrew's. Please bring your diaries.



**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January - Knit & Chat - St Andrew's from 1.00pm to 2.00pm**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January - Tuesday Forum - St Andrew's at 2.30pm.**

There will be a talk by Ann Grant on 'Mr Robert Burns (Poet)'. Please come along and support this meeting which begins at 2.30pm in the St Andrew's Garden Room, followed by tea and biscuits.

*Barbara Russell-Smith*



## Future Events:



### ‘A Man For This Season’

A Community Passion Play  
Charlton Kings 6 April 2012  
by  
Peter Grainger

‘*Whose Birthday Did You Say?*’ 2000

‘A production so powerful that it touched the hearts and minds of all who saw it or shared in it’.

Charlton Kings Churches and Community Players will be staging a specially-written Passion Play within the community on Good Friday 2012. The actors and audience will gradually make their way through Charlton Kings from Holy Apostles Church on the London Road at 11.00am, via Sacred Hearts Hall and Garden to St Mary’s Church, encountering local people along the way. The climax will be reached in front of a large crowd in the Precinct.

Josh is a charismatic young man who has gathered around himself a small group of primarily young people who are becoming increasingly concerned about the state of society today. They believe they should be doing something about it by engaging with the public and taking their message out to the people face-to-face. Without much success in the Town Centre they are now hopeful of Charlton Kings. Unfortunately they meet rather more resistance in the community than they expect...

The five Acts of the production will be in the hands of five local directors with actors and ‘backstage’ support from the ‘Community Players’ and each of the five Churches of Charlton Kings.

**AUDITIONS will take place in the Baptist Church and Lounge at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th December 2011 for the main characters of the drama, aged 16 to 60.**

**If possible we would like under 25s (eg ‘Disciples’) to come on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and over 25s (eg ‘Witnesses’) on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>.**

To find out more about this major community project please phone Peter Grainger on 526947 or email [petgra274@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:petgra274@yahoo.co.uk).

## **Administration**

For many months now, the In Touch and other interesting articles are made available for you to read on the church website: [www.urchic.org.uk](http://www.urchic.org.uk), thankfully uploaded each month by our webmaster, Fiona Hall.

Should you wish not to receive your paper copy of In Touch (to save paper) and / or would like the Church notices sent to you by email, please feel free to email the church office with your request.

The In Touch Coordinators for respective churches are as follows:

### **Prestbury URC**

Please see Ian Brooks directly or forward contributions via e-mail ([ianbrooks444@btinternet.com](mailto:ianbrooks444@btinternet.com)). Contributions most welcome.

#### **Prestbury URC - Church For Hire!**

If you would like to hire the main church and/or the hall and kitchen for a children's party, meeting, exercise class or group then Prestbury URC is available for hire at a reasonable rate. If you require more information then please call Fiona Hall or via email [prestbury@urchic.org.uk](mailto:prestbury@urchic.org.uk)

### **The Church in Warden Hill**

Please see Carole Pennington or Brian Miles directly or forward contributions via e-mail: [magazine@urchic.org.uk](mailto:magazine@urchic.org.uk) or to church office, [office@urchic.org.uk](mailto:office@urchic.org.uk). Likewise contributions very welcome.

### **St Andrew's**

Please see John Standring directly or forward contributions via e-mail: [magazine@urchic.org.uk](mailto:magazine@urchic.org.uk) or to church office, [office@urchic.org.uk](mailto:office@urchic.org.uk).



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<b>DECEMBER DIARY</b>				
1	Thur	6.30pm	SA	'Get Into The Picture', Montpellier late night opening
3	Sat	10.30am	P	Coffee Morning
		2.30pm	URC	Classic Film 'Kind Hearts and Coronets'
4	Sun	10.30am	P	<b>Mrs Julie Jefferies <i>Family Worship - Gift Service</i></b>
		10.30am	URC	<b>Carole Pennington/Celia Hodges</b>
		11.00am	SA	<b>Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i></b> . A short meeting will follow after the service to present the 2012 budget.
		6.00pm	SC	<b>Evening Service <i>Communion</i></b>
5	Mon	7.00pm	URC	Carol Supper
6	Tues	2.00pm	URC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent Course
7	Wed	11.00am	SA	Pensioners' Forum
		7.00pm	SA	Wednesday Women
		7.30pm	SA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent Course
9	Fri	7.00pm	P	C4 Children's Choir 'Silent Night'
10	Sat	7.30pm	SA	Concert – Gotherington Singers
11	Sun	10.30am	P	No service
		10.30am	SC	<b>Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i></b>
		11.00am	SA	<b>Revd Dr John Sutcliffe <i>Gift Service</i></b>
		6.00pm	SA	<b>Institute Management - Carol Service and Buffet supper</b>
		4.00pm	SC	<b>Christingle Service</b>
12	Mon	2.30pm	SA	Tuesday Forum - Christmas Party
13	Tues	10.00am	P	Jump4Joy
		2.00pm	URC	3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent Course
14	Wed	7.30pm	SA	3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent Course
15	Thur	1.00pm	SA	Knit and Chat
16	Fri	9.45am		Footsloggers – Joan Thomson
		7.00pm	URC	C4 Children's Choir 'Silent Night'
17	Sat	2.30pm	URC	Community Film 'Nutcracker'
18	Sun	9.30am	SA	<b>Jump4Joy</b>
		11.00am	SA	<b>Revd Maz Allen</b>
		3.00pm	P	<b>Fun family Carol Service – "Captain Cat &amp; the Carol Singers"</b>
		10.30am	URC	<b>Revd Jacqui Hyde <i>Communion</i></b>
		6.00pm	SC	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>
20	Tues	10.00am	P	Jump4Joy
		2.00pm	URC	4 <sup>th</sup> Advent Course
21	Wed	7.30pm	SA	4 <sup>th</sup> Advent Course
24	Sat	4.00pm	SA	<b>Revd Maz Allan <i>Nativity Service</i></b>
		11.30pm	SA	<b>Revd Maz Allan <i>Communion</i></b>
		4.00pm	SC	<b>Revd Jacqui Hyde <i>Crib Service</i></b>
		11.30pm	SC	<b>Revd Jacqui Hyde <i>Communion</i></b>
25	Sun	10.00am	P	Mrs Julie Jefferies
		10.00am	SA	<b>Revd Maz Allen <i>Family Worship</i></b>
		10.00am	SC	<b>Revd Jacqui Hyde <i>Communion</i></b>

<b>JANUARY 2012 DIARY</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Mrs Julie Jefferies <i>Family Worship</i></b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>URC</b>	<b>Roy McBane</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i></b>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Evening Service <i>Communion</i></b>
6	Fri	10.30am		Bible Study House Group restarts
<b>8</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>No service</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Archdeacon <i>Communion</i></b>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Revd Maz Allen</b>
10	Tues	2.30pm	SA	Tuesday Forum - AGM
<b>15</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Jump4Joy</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Tony Jeans</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Roy McBane</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>URC</b>	<b>Revd Maz Allan/ Revd Jacqui Hyde <i>Communion</i></b>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>
16	Mon	9.45am		Footsloggers – Alison & Peter Kerr
19	Thur	1.00pm	SA	Knit and Chat
<b>22</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i></b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Dr Rachel Tarling/Jacqui Hyde <i>Communion</i></b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Revd Dr T Sampson</b>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Epiphany Carols</b>
24	Tues	10.00am	P	Jump4Joy
		2.30am	SA	Tuesday Forum
<b>29</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>No service</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>URC</b>	<b>Jacqui Hyde/Pam Dainton</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Revd Maz Allen</b>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Evening Service <i>Communion</i></b>
<b>FEBRUARY DIARY</b>				
1	Wed	11.00am	SA	Pensioners' Forum
<b>5</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Mrs Julie Jefferies <i>Family Worship</i></b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Revd Jacqui Hyde <i>Family Worship</i></b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Revd Richard Cleaves <i>Communion</i></b>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Evening Service <i>Communion</i></b>
<b>Weekly Meetings</b>				
	Mon	10.30am	P	Urchins
	Tues	10.00am	SA	Parents and Toddlers
		10.30am	SC	Tuesday Prayers (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month)
		11.30am	URC	Tuesday Prayers (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month)
		2.30pm	SA	Tuesday Forum (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month)
	Wed	9.15am	SC	Little Shepherds
		3.15pm	URC	“Toast” (Term Time)
	Thur	10.00am	SA	Coffee Bar (and Saturday 10.00am)
	Fri	10.30am		Bible Study House Group
		6.00pm	P	C4 Children's Choir (Term Time)