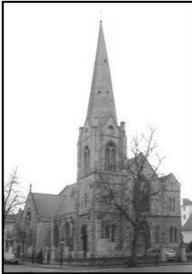


Cheltenham United Reformed Church



In Touch



December 2016
January 2017



*'Through Faith,
Fellowship and Care
We Affirm that Jesus Is Lord'*

CHELTENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

www.urch.org.uk

Minister

Rev Maz Allen 01242 238273

maz@urch.org.uk

Rev Gary Grady 01242 511522

gary@tciwh.org.uk

Welcome to 'In Touch' -

The magazine of **Cheltenham United Reformed Church**, a joint pastorate of the three United Reformed Churches in Cheltenham, sharing a Minister, Rev Maz Allen. The three churches work very closely together, sharing this magazine, the website and all activities.

St Andrew's United Reformed Church is in the Montpellier district of Cheltenham town centre. A former Presbyterian church founded in 1885, it became United Reformed on unification in 1972. Recent renovations now offer an impressive facility, meeting the needs of 21st century Cheltenham.

Prestbury United Reformed Church is in the heart of Prestbury village on the northern edge of Cheltenham. A former Congregational chapel built in 1866, becoming United Reformed on unification in 1972.

The Church in Warden Hill is a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) between the Anglican (St Christopher's) and URC communities of Up Hatherley and Warden Hill in the south of Cheltenham. Ministry is shared between the URC Minister, Rev Maz Allen, and Rev Gary Grady of the Anglican South Cheltenham Team Ministry. Both the Anglican and URC buildings are regularly used for worship.

For other information about the Church in Warden Hill please see 'The Lantern' or visit www.tciwh.org.uk

Jesus said:

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them." (Matthew 18 v20 NRSV)*

News of the Church Family

We remember those who have departed:

Jessie Stredwick, Hilary Eaton, Barbara Tyler.

We are invited to pray for:

Mary Cummings, Elvina Norcott, Mike Wilson, Glyn Jenkins, John Mears, Tony Gledhill, Colin & Paulette Hyde, Jean Bennett.

The Families of Jessie Stredwick and Hilary Eaton.

Our Congratulations go to:

Karen Lewis & Rob Todd on their Marriage.

Thank you.

A warm and sincere thank you to all our friends at St Andrew's for your cards, prayers and good wishes during Elvina's recent stay in hospital. A special thank you to those who visited and gave Keith lifts to Cirencester. We appreciated it very much, so many many thanks.

Keith and Elvina Norcott

Thank you for everyone who sent such lovely cards to celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary. They are really appreciated.

Mary and Fred Cummings

West Midlands Synod Report

The West Midlands URC Synod meeting of 15th October was held at Sutton Coldfield. The Agenda mainly focused on remaindered business from previous Synods and General Assembly, along with the Financial Report. A new Synod Mission Strategy was presented and discussed. Rev. Glyn Jenkins was celebrated as a Jubilee Minister, and Rev Ernest Marvin given an Act of Remembrance.

Janet Kemp

Our Minister Writes:



Dear Friends,

It hardly seems possible that we are talking about Christmas and the New Year already! I find myself thinking ‘what on earth have I achieved this year?’ The weeks merge into one another with unyielding consistency! However, on a positive note, we have made new members, introduced new initiatives, welcomed a new (Anglican) colleague, opened our buildings to community groups and, above all, kept a worshipping presence in each of our areas. We are blessed with hard-working people in our churches, willing to volunteer for various jobs and we thank them all for what they do.

Celebration is at the heart of the Christmas message, as God chose a specific moment in time to touch our hearts and our souls through the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, born to be our Saviour. That first Christmas was nothing like the razzmatazz we experience, of course. Born into poverty and becoming a refugee when still a baby – this is poignant to Jesus’ message, is it not?, the Kingdom of God is about giving, sharing, humility, supporting, selflessness.

There is nothing wrong with buying expensive presents, or eating lavish meals as long as we don’t consider this our right. We must recognize how privileged we are and share our joy where we can.

On New Year’s Eve, I will be with the team in Kenya. Having done a day’s work painting walls, we will enjoy an evening of fireworks and VERY loud music at our hotel. Looking up at the star-studded sky, our prayers will join with yours for peace and health in 2017.

God bless,

Maz

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

22nd January 6.30pm at St Andrew’s

As we are hosting this cluster-service, it would be great to have your support. Please come along.

Maz

Kenya Projects (UK)

Firstly, thank you to all who sponsored me in the Rotary Club ten-pin bowling charity event. I was spectacularly useless, but my team had raised over £1000 and there were other teams there too. The proceeds will be split between Kenya Projects and Air Ambulance. I will let you know when I know the full amount.



An update on our trip – at the time of writing, our St. Stephen's fundraising has just topped £23,000. I have sent £13,500 for the total re-wiring of the Home, plus £1,900 to kit-out a room for the wedding-dress hire shop. We have around 45 wedding dresses to be taken out, in vacuum-bags in our luggage!!

The remaining money will buy school shoes for all 100+ children & young people and will also enable us to take them on an outing. We would love to bring them to our hotel swimming pool. So I am asking for

BOYS & GIRLS SWIMWEAR – ALL AGES. I don't expect it will be easy to find what we want in the local shops. If you have children/grandchildren/great grandchildren who have grown out of their costumes, please may I have them?

There are currently 16 members of the team: 10 raising money for St. Stephen's and 6 for Utugi Boys Home. We may have another young person joining us. One of the team lives in New Zealand and will meet us at Nairobi airport! Please pray for our safe travels and activities – 28th Dec – 11th Jan.

Maz

Christian Aid Fair

Thanks to St Andrews for hosting Christian Aid's Autumn Fair on November 5th - it was a very busy Saturday with all available spaces being used (Everyman, Regeneration, Councillors, as well as Christian Aid).

Joan Sampson, Cheltenham Christian Aid coordinator, is extremely grateful again to the Elders for permission to use the Hall. We are waiting to hear the final total raised but the event was well supported and a large number of lunches, cakes and coffees were sold. As previous years, the Christian Aid projects will benefit by an extra factor of 4 due to EU funding that matches every pound raised by 3 pounds.

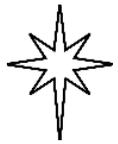
Andrew Veal

Christmas Services

4th December	Gift Service	11.0am	at St Andrew's
		10.30am	at Prestbury
		10.30am	at St Christopher's (TCiWH)

St Andrew's

18th December	<u>10.30am</u>	Carol Service with Jump4Joy Children's Nativity. Conqueror Assembly Church will be joining us.
24th December	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
25th December	10.00am	Family Worship



Prestbury

18th December	3.00pm	Carol Service and Donkey auction
---------------	--------	----------------------------------

The Church in Warden Hill – St Christopher's

18th December	6.00pm	Joint Carol Service at St Peter's
24th December	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.00pm	Midnight Mass
25th December	10.00 am	Family Communion
31st December	11.40pm	Watchnight Service & Bellringing



Carol Singing at Cheltenham General Hospital

Wednesday 21st December at 7.00pm

Please meet at the Chapel

Refreshments afterwards

Contact 0300 422 4286 for more information

Any broken furniture?

That wobbly chair...

That drawer that's falling apart..

*Do you need a handle to
match a drawer or door?*

Don't panic!!

Mike A Fix It

***Wood turning
Furniture Repairs
No job too small***

*9, Glebe Road, Prestbury
Cheltenham GL52 3DG*

**Tel: 01242 236732
Mobile 07970 073812**

Cheltenham Choral Society

Conductor Ian Higginson

**Love to Sing?
Come and join us**

We rehearse on
Wednesday evenings
from 7.30 to 9.30
at Naunton Park School
Naunton Lane.

**cheltenhamchoralsociety.org.uk
Reg Charity No 287756**

Walk, Talk & Get Creative in Cheltenham

A great way: To meet new people & make new friends

To improve confidence, strength, balance and co-ordination

Refreshments and Transport available

Active Balance

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am-12noon, Weekly, £3.00, First class free!

St Luke's Church Hall, Cheltenham, GL53 7HP. Contact Dan McShee 07760 175132

Walk Well Health Walk

Tuesdays, 2pm, Weekly, FREE

The Meadow Café, Old Bath Road, Leckhampton, GL53 7DF. Contact Sean White 01242 774740

Move it or Lose it!

Tuesdays, 12.30 – 1.30pm, Term time, Weekly, £2.50, First class Free!

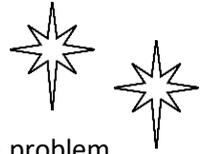
St Andrews Church Hall, Cheltenham, GL50 1SP. Contact Angela Swales 07900 488533

Fridays, 2-3pm, Term time, Weekly, £2.50 First class Free!

Sacred Hearts Hall, Moorend Rd, Cheltenham, GL53 9AU. Contact Kathy Chesters 07746 672726

The Cheltenham Trust

St. Andrew's Charity for December: **CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS**



In 1971, as part of what was then a new campaign to solve the problem of homelessness, **Crisis at Christmas** opened its doors for the first time. Crisis is the national charity for single homeless people, dedicated to ending homelessness and offering opportunities for a better life off the streets.

Crisis at Christmas provides a good helping of Christmas fare, but also access to health checks and treatments of all kinds, advice on finding jobs and housing, specialist support for addiction, and a few days joining others in a convivial atmosphere.

The Crisis Skylight Centres in major cities provide a wide range of services. There are plans to open more by the end of 2018. Homelessness has been on the increase in recent years, but there is still a general lack of awareness of the extent of the problem, or of the causes and effects. So public awareness and funding are important.

Crisis at Christmas is an introduction to all the services that Crisis provides all year round, and by supporting it we are giving single homeless people a chance to find a home and a new life. More information is available on the website www.crisis.org.uk

Christian Aid Carols at Supermarkets

Christina Aid will again be raising funds through singing carols at supermarkets in Cheltenham in December.

St Andrew's will be singing at **Morrisons in Hatherley** between 9AM and 10AM on Saturday 10th December: please join us singing favourite carols bright and early! Contact Alison Veal if you need to know more details -

St Andrew's is also organising a brass group to play carols and well known Christmas tunes between 1PM and 2PM on Saturday 17 December at **Waitrose in Cheltenham**. Come along and listen, shake a collecting tin and throw coins (or notes!) in the bucket.

Andrew Veal

Down to Earth Electrical



**For all your domestic
electrical needs**

**New lighting
Extra sockets
Fuse board replacements
Re-wires**

**James Hiatt
Tel: 01242 690902
Mobile: 07783 593630**

Part P Approved



MASON & STOKES FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**Tudor Lodge
54, Hewlett Road
Cheltenham**

01242 224877

*A family business providing
a caring service*

Richard and Joy Mason

Help and advice on
Pre-arranged Funeral Plans



SHOWCASE

Dancewear

**FOR DANCE & GYMNASTICS
LEOTARDS, TIGHTS ACCESSORIES**

DANCE SHOES

**BALLET, TAP, MODERN
AND BALLROOM.**

Pointe Shoe Fitting by appointment

FANCY DRESS

**Costumes for Adults
and Children**

Medieval Costumes • Film/TV Themes
From the 1920's to the present day
Masks • Hats • Wigs,
Make-up and Accessories

Lower Ground Floor

14 – 15 Montpellier Arcade, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SU

Open: 10.00 – 5.00 Monday - Saturday

Tel: 01242 224144 info@showcaseonline.co.uk

WWW.SHOWCASEONLINE.CO.UK

Prestbury Christmas Fayre

The **Christmas Fayre** will be on **Saturday 3rd December** from 10.00-12.00.



Lots of gift ideas and necessities will be on sale including wrapping paper and gift bags, cards, jewellery, books, toys etc. There will also be refreshments, tombola, cake stall and a raffle. All are most welcome.

Prestbury URC Friday Circle

The Prestbury Friday Circle is a **new venture** at Prestbury URC. Inspired by the success of our long-running Baby and Toddler Group (URChins), we thought it would be good to try something similar for those at the opposite end of the age range and so the Friday Circle will be a social event for the senior residents of the area.

The Circle is open every Friday morning from 10 – 12 at the URC in Deep Street. It costs £2 per session and all are welcome.

As it is their group, we are hoping that eventually those attending will decide what happens each week, but initially we are planning to have a weekly theme. 'Games' week will have card and board games on offer; on 'Music' week favourite CDs can be brought along maybe leading to a sing-a-long; on 'Bingo' week a fun game might lead to winning a token prize and on 'Talents' week knowledge of baking, gardening, knitting and sewing etc., can be shared (with a sample or two?). We have an offer of nail painting for those who like to keep up appearances. Refreshments are available throughout and we hope there will be interesting conversation and good company.

There is no parking at the Church, but the N, W1, W2 and 606 buses stop right outside and the A bus stops at the top of Bouncers Lane or opposite Seven Posts Surgery.

This is a community scheme that will complement the work done by the Memorial Trust and the St Mary's Tuesday Coffee. We have chosen Friday mornings as we believe there is nothing similar running locally then.

For more information please call Fiona Hall email the team at pfg@urcic.org.uk

St. Andrew's Charity for January 2017

OPEN THE BOOK

'Open the Book' is now well established as a means of giving primary school children contact with the Bible and some of its stories.

As a charity it relies not only on donations but also on volunteers, an equally valuable resource. All volunteer groups use the same 3-year programme that provides specially designed texts, which are arranged in a planned sequence for use on a day each week agreed with the school. The same group visits the same school each week and presents a Bible story in dramatic form. Those taking part need some preliminary reading, and rehearsing and plans have to be made for costumes and props, and even portable bits of scenery. In addition to the cast there may be parts the children can play, so costumes and props must be arranged for them too. On the appointed day the cast and all their gear will be transported to the school and the little drama will be played out as part of the school assembly. Several classes, amounting to a 3-figure audience, will be entertained for some 10-15 minutes with a graphic retelling of a Bible story. And that could be the first time some of the children have had any contact with the Bible. In an audience of 5-7 year-olds there is always plenty of enthusiasm to take part, and it is very clear that they enjoy doing it. Generally audiences are attentive and appreciative. Indeed they are disappointed if for some reason there is no 'Open the Book' visit.

Feedback is universally positive, from children, teachers and parents. The volunteer "actors" themselves also derive a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction from the weekly sessions, in the knowledge that the children are enjoying some exposure to the Bible, not just from the actual stories but also from the underlying messages they contain. Open the book is continually spreading to fresh schools. It is delighting young children, and volunteers unflinchingly describe their part in it as "quite hard work but great fun". Thus it is a very successful undertaking that continues to justify our donations of time and money.

St Andrew's Lunch Club

St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street

1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 1.00pm

Soup, Bread Roll and Dessert £3.00



Community Film

Saturday 10th December 2016
Warden Hill URC Centre
at 2.30pm (doors open at 2.15pm)

)

Classic Film

Saturday 7th January 2017
Warden Hill URC Centre
at 2.15pm (doors open at 2.00pm)



Both Events Free entry – Family and Friends welcome
Refreshments available

Please note: there will be no Classic Film in February. (Ed)

Charlton Kings Community Players

Let Us Be Merry 2016

Travelling to Christmas

Our annual seasonal show will be on
Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

in Sacred Hearts Hall

Entry £5 at the door

Words and Music for the Season

Coffee – tea – mince pies - bar

Memories

Members of Cheltenham United Reformed Church, and friends, have been reminiscing about their World War Two experiences to Sandra and Tony Jeans. These stories have been embedded into the Charlton Kings Community Players new production '**Some Sunny Day**'.

Harriet Wright – life in the WRNS on Orkney including marrying an RN PO serving on the Arctic Convoys. (photo)

Keith Norcott – in the air raid shelter, evacuees, fear of gas attacks (From "Chalk on My Shoes").

Elvina Norcott – "What connects water, sand and salmon?" - Wartime experiences (two collected stories).

Mary Cummings – food parcels from Northern Ireland, duck eggs and American Chocolate.

The late **Reg Jeans** – a close shave for an American truck driver.



Frank Probett (TCIWH) – the Dunkirk evacuation, the Blitz and being an evacuee. (From "**The Copper's Kid**").

Joan Osmond (Christ Church – member of Friday Bible Study Group) – rationing, "make do and mend", gas masks and identity cards (From "**Quite an interesting Childhood**"). '**Remembering**' (poem about remembrance at times of war).

Tony Jeans – his recollections of the period '**Fragments of the War**' (national archive 'The People's War' compiled by BBC).

Charlton Kings Community Players



to be performed on 15th, 16th & 17th February 2017 at 7.30pm.

Directed by Martyn Fry.

Produced by Tony Jeans.

Storybook & Exhibition by Sandra Jeans.

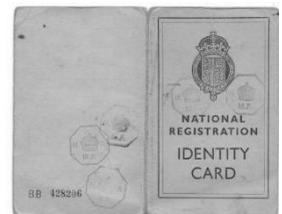
In the Performance Hall at St Edward's School, Cirencester Road.

Tickets £ 7.00 and £4.00 for age 16 or under
(2+2 ticket £20.00) available in January 2017

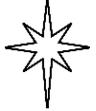
Our show is set in 1947 and is based on WW2 reminiscences from the local community together with songs of the period. We have included material from a number of people associated with St Andrew's and The Church in Warden Hill.

Exhibition of artefacts and documents telling the story of WW2 and the 1940s.

Material has been collected, edited or written by Sandra and Tony Jeans.



With a “Ho Ho Ho” and a “La La La”



James Bond surveying his herb garden in December would be a Christmas mint spy, wouldn't he? Yes, it's that time again, the season of crackers and funny hats. And of course the pantomimes are coming round again. Oh yes they are! Like that one about the camel, and the usual old favourites like Aladdin, Cinderella, Mother Goose and Puss in Boots (the one about the chemist's cat), and so on. Whatever you may think of them they have one thing in common - they're entertaining stories. And at this time of year there are plenty more of those around - good Christmas stories: “White Christmas”, “A Christmas Carol”, “It's a Wonderful Life” and so on. And let's not forget the Nativity Plays and the Mummings.

But what about our own personal Christmas stories?

We shall be telling our own Christmas stories at the Forum Christmas Meeting on Tuesday 13th December. We've all got stories to tell, so come along and let's hear them, and bring some goodies for our seasonal bring and share tea.

Then it's “Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly, fa la la la la la la la” and into the New Year, which brings us to the **AGM on 10th January 2017**. Oh yes it does! I just checked AGM on Google and it came up with Anti-Gravity Machine! Let's stick with the ‘Annual General Meeting’, followed by a short film.

Our first speaker in 2017 will be **Fiona Hall, on Tuesday January 24th, speaking about “The Man Who Was Airbrushed from History.”** This expands on an earlier talk in which Fiona introduced us to a Victorian character who I confess is temporarily airbrushed from my memory. So here's a chance to discover who airbrushed him and why.

Tuesday Forum meets at 2.30 pm in the Garden Room at St. Andrew's URC. There's always a warm welcome and a fair helping of tea and biscuits to round the afternoon off.

Keith Norcott

Classic Film

This will be the last season I shall be organizing Classic Film shows. I would be very pleased if someone would take over and I would be willing to offer advice.

Blessings and Peace.

Tony Jeans

Royal Albert Hall

SATURDAY 22nd APRIL 2017

A Christian 'Last Night of the Proms'

Cost approx. £47 (depending on numbers)
Coach travel, leaving Cheltenham 4pm and returning approx. 1am

**A £40 deposit per person is required by
17th DECEMBER 2016**

Send to Revd. Maz Allen, 19 The Oaks, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham GL51
3TS along with your contact details.

This is a wonderful experience and the LAST ONE Maz will organize.
Don't miss it!!

'Getting to Grips with the Bible'

An ecumenical course designed to help us be more confident in
reading/understanding the Bible. **Open to all.**

At Brockworth URC, 2.30pm – 4pm.

13th December, 17th January, 31st January

Transport can be arranged.

Maz

CURC Discussion Group

Tues 31st January 2017

Did Martin Luther mean to start a Revolution?

To be led by Janet Kemp

2017 is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his '95 Theses' to the door
of Wittenburg Church.

Everyone Welcome

Janet Kemp

Kilimanjaro Adventure

Cowper wrote that "God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform", and I think that this may be the case with me. Until the tragic death of my friend Richard in 2004 I would probably never have thought about an adventure such as climbing Kilimanjaro. Richard was only 43 and as fit and active as anybody you could come across. He died of a heart attack whilst we were playing cricket.

Every year since then we have taken part in a memorial challenge in Richard's memory. The challenges have included long distance walking, climbing, caving, canoeing and gorge walking amongst others. It was most likely doing these that made me think what I would like to do in life other than work, play and watch football, now that I am unable to run any more. On Boxing Day 2015 I read an email from the **British Heart Foundation** inviting people to take part in a variety of challenges, one of which was climbing Kilimanjaro. I leapt at the chance. It also combined raising money for the British Heart Foundation.

Despite doing a lot of walking I now had to build on my core strengths, walk long days consecutively and put in more work (or some!) in the gym and the swimming pool.



The time of the challenge came around quickly, and on 18th September we landed in Tanzania after an overnight flight. The next day we set off on foot from the Machame Gate following the Machame Trail which would take us up the west side of the mountain and then loop round the South Summit Circuit to the south east from where we would make our ascent to the summit.

The first day was a steady climb up through the rain forest and then onto the moorland where we camped. The porters were brilliant, especially as they have to carry your kitbag as well as their own gear and also some of the myriad items required for setting up camp and providing cooked meals. We only had to carry our rucksack and went at a much slower pace than they did.

On the second day we set off up through steeper terrain to our camp at Shira Camp. This was followed by a short acclimatisation walk in the afternoon. The idea is to walk high and sleep low, so we would camp at a lower height than we had walked to in order to try and acclimatise to the altitude and reduce the chance of altitude sickness.

Day three saw us walking through the alpine desert as we made our way to the Lava Tower which stands at 4,600 metres. We then descended to our camp site. That night I suffered some of the horrible effects of altitude sickness but fortunately it had dissipated a bit before we set off clambering up the Barranco Wall. This was another day of acclimatisation before we made our way on 23rd to our base camp, arriving at 2pm as we would have an early start that night.

At just before midnight we set off on the 6/7 hour climb up to Uhuru Peak, the summit of Kilimanjaro. It was dark and cold and the pace was very slow as we walked in single file, head torches on and with our eyes fixed on where we put the next step. It was hard going but the porters helped us on our way by singing various songs and assisting those who needed aid as we walked up the zig-zag towards Stella Point.

To help me keep my mind active I sang various songs (to myself) including the entire score of *The Lion King*, some relevant hymns, including "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "One more step along the way". This helped pass two or three hours and then I listened to some music as we continued our way upwards. We got to Stella Point early and had passed that before the sun put in an



appearance, part way between Stella Point and the summit so that we arrived at the top bathed in early morning sunshine. I looked at my watch and saw we had achieved it in six and a half hours. Apart from a couple of mini blips on the way up I had felt fine but having arrived I felt on top of the world, although I was actually on top of Africa as Kilimanjaro is the highest peak on the continent at 5,895 metres.

It was a really unbelievable experience and I still get goose bumps occasionally when I think about it. The photo I had taken with the famous sign shows me with a small pocket size photo of my family which I had taken all the way to the top. Having had to put up with the training and preparation they had literally been with me every step of the way.

There are so many people to thank for their help and support, I am just glad I was able to achieve this not just for myself but also to raise money to fight heart disease, the major cause for deaths in the UK. We all know somebody that has been affected by heart problems and raising money for the British Heart Foundation can hopefully prevent this from being the case.

Eric Moore

M.C.S.
AUTOSOLUTIONS

MOT's

SERVICING & REPAIRS

01242 234511

UNIT 3 CROOK'S IND EST
CROFT STREET
LECKHAMPTON
CHELTENHAM
GL53 0ED

Phil James
Proprietor

Cheltenham Property Maintenance
No Job Too Big Or Too Small

20 Seneca Way
Wymans Brook
Cheltenham

01242 236872
07790 902397

cc_s@blueyonder.co.uk

HOME FLAIR CATERING
Catering For Every Occasion
Home Cooked Food at Affordable Prices
Menus individually designed for your occasion

Weddings
Christenings
Dinner Parties
Business Lunches
Funerals
Hot and Cold Buffets

Small Enough to Care, Big Enough to Cope

Cheryl Parsons
(01242 675374)

Regeneration/Repair Café

The film of the Repair/Regeneration café produced by Kevin Snyman from West Midlands Synod is now available at <https://youtu.be/AbqjqLr0aPg>. This was shown at St Andrew's during the service on 6th November.

Carol Drummond

Wednesday Women

The talk at Wednesday Women by Dave Entwistle of Vision 21 included lots of interesting information. Here are some snippets from Dave to mull over:

- In the last 6 months solar panels have generated more electricity than coal in the UK - 7000 GW hours for solar compared to 6300 GW hours for coal. The first ever day solar was more productive than coal was 9th April 2016.
- Coal fired power stations supplied 39% of world's power in 2015 compared to renewables, which provided 23%.
- Since 2010, shops and supermarkets selling more than 32kg of batteries a year (approximately 345 x four-packs of AA batteries) by law must provide a recycling point for customers to dispose of their unwanted batteries free of charge.
- In Britain, we use over 600 million batteries every year, that's an average of 21 batteries per household. Used batteries, including worn out re-chargeable ones, contain many chemicals including Lithium, Manganese, Cadmium and Cobalt, which can pollute the soil and groundwater when thrown away in the street or put in household waste.
- In 2014, the UK met its non-statutory battery recycling target of 35%, but by the end of this 2016, a legally binding target of 45% battery recycling must be met.
- Our members with Scottish roots may be interested to know that on Sunday 30th October, Scotland's wind turbines generated 106% of the country's energy needs.

The December meeting will be a festive bring and share supper and quiz on Wednesday 7th at 7.15.

There will be no meeting in January

Carol Drummond and Elspet Carter

C.C.S
CHELTENHAM
CLEANING SPECIALISTS

Phil James



Industrial
Commercial
Domestic

20 Seneca Way
 Wymans Brook
 Cheltenham

Tel: 01242 236872
 Mob: 07790 902397
 email: cc_s@blueyonder.co.uk



JASON BOND
CARPET FITTING

Carpets & Domestic Vinyl
 Supplied & Fitted

“Shop at Home Service”
 Full Range of Carpets & Vinyl Available
 Contract Work

Tel or Fax
01242 708305
Mobile 07850 317703
 www.jasonbond.co.uk
 Email: jason@jasonbond.co.uk
 5 Abbots Close, Cheltenham

Over 20 Years Experience
 Competitive Rates



Hampton House
 CARE HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

OPEN DAY - EVERY DAY

Elderly CARE you can rely upon.
Professional CARE you can trust.

- **Newly built** luxurious bedrooms
- **Refurbished** throughout in 2014
- Conscientious **staff** whenever you need them, **day** and **night**
- **Freshly prepared meals**, cooked with pride
- Daily activities and entertainments

Come and have a look around without obligation – you’ll be pleasantly surprised!

For more information call **01242 520527** or visit our website
www.hamptonhousecare.co.uk
 Hampton House, 94 Leckhampton Road, Cheltenham, GL53 0BN

Footsloggers 21st October 2016 Croome Park



At 10.00am on a cold but sunny morning, thirteen intrepid walkers set out to discover the secrets of Croome Park, near Pershore. Their trusty guide, known as the 'Gate Keeper', led them through beautiful parkland, with distant views of the Malvern Hills.

It was very good of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to provide so many excellent photo opportunities, with glinting lakes, eye catching buildings and several follies. It would have been four miles of pleasant, easy walking if the farmer had not decided to harrow his field the day before!

After lunch in the Canteen a number of the group enjoyed a visit to the museum about RAF Defford, whilst others took the opportunity for some retail therapy in the shop.

Jenny Evans

Footsloggers AGM will be on Friday 20th January 2017.

Chamber Concert

Ensembles for horn, clarinet, harp, flute, strings, and wind quintet.

Music by Mendelssohn, Beethoven and other gems

SATURDAY 7th JANUARY 2017 - 2.30 pm

At St Andrew's Church, Montpellier Cheltenham

Tea and Cake

Free Admission, Retiring collection

Qi Gong

Gentle exercises especially geared to the needs of older people based on Chinese traditional practice, promoting self-healing and self-regulation of the body.

At St Andrew's, On Thursday 1st and 15th December 2016, 5th January 2017, Starting at 12.15 pm.

Cost £5.00 per session.

New members welcome.

contact Lida 01242 233949 lida@blueyonder.co.uk

Diary for December 2016

Thu	1	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Sat	3	10.00	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	3	10.00	Christmas Fayre	Prestbury
SUN	4	12.30pm	St Andrew's Tide Lunch	St Andrew's
SUN	4	11.00am	Gift Service	St Andrew's
SUN	4	10.30am	Gift Service	St Christopher's
SUN	4	10.30am	Gift Service	Prestbury
Mon	5	5.30pm	Christmas Tree Service	St Christopher's
Wed	7	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Wed	7	7.15pm	Wednesday Women	St Andrew's
Thu	8	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Sat	10	2.30pm	Community Film Show	Warden Hill URC Centre
Mon	12	7.00pm	Carol Supper	Warden Hill URC Centre
Tue	13	2.30pm	TLS Study Group	Brockworth
Tue	13	2.30pm	Tuesday Forum	St Andrew's
Thu	15	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Wed	21	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Thu	22	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's

**Please see Page 5 of this magazine for all
Christmas Services
across Cheltenham United Reformed Church**



Diary for January 2017

Wed	4	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Thu	5	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Thu	5	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Sat	7	10.00am	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	7	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Prestbury
Sat	7	2.15pm	Classic Film Show	Warden Hill URC Centre
Tue	10	2.30pm	Tuesday Forum	St Andrew's
Sat	14	9.30am	Bell-Ringing Peal Attempt	St Christopher's
SUN	15	10.30am	Anniversary and Lunch	St Christopher's
Tue	17	2.30pm	TLS Study Group	Brockworth
Wed	18	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Thu	19	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Fri	20	1.00pm	Footsloggers Walk and AGM	St Andrew's
Sat	21	2.30pm	Community Film Show	Warden Hill URC Centre
SUN	22	6.30pm	Wk of Prayer, Christian Unity	St Andrew's
Tue	24	2.30pm	Tuesday Forum	St Andrew's
Tue	31	2.30pm	TLS Study Group	Brockworth
Tue	31	7.30pm	Discussion Group	Prestbury

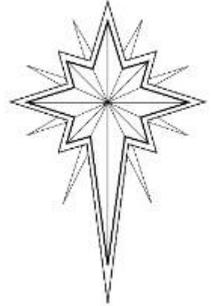
Diary for February 2017

Wed	1	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Wed	1	7.15pm	Wednesday Women	St Andrew's
Thu	2	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Sat	4	10.00am	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	4	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Prestbury
Sat	4	2.30pm	Community Film Show	Warden Hill URC Centre

(Please see 'The Lantern', Magazine for the Church in Warden Hill for other activities. Ed.)

From the Editor

A **BIG THANKYOU** to everyone who has contributed to 'In Touch' this year. Some months I have had more copy than space, so I am now building up a reserve of articles. Everything that you have given me **WILL** be published at some point. Obviously, date related items have to have priority. Keep the ink flowing!



Having had such a mild autumn, it doesn't seem possible that Christmas is so near now, but by the time you read this Advent will be with us.

**Wishing everyone a
Very Happy Christmas
And
Prosperous 2017.**

Janet Kemp, Editor

Please ensure that all items for the next edition of 'In Touch' are with the Editor by midnight on
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2017
at
magazine@urcic.org.uk

Distribution is on the 4th Sunday of the month. Any alterations to the distribution, e.g. change of address, method of delivery, or cancellation should be sent to Fiona Hall. The current edition of 'In Touch' and some back numbers, amended for legal and privacy reasons, are available on the Church website.

(See inside front cover of 'In Touch' for relevant email addresses)

Regular Weekly Events 2016/17

Monday

10.00am	Prestbury Urchins	Prestbury URC**
5.15pm	Rainbows	Warden Hill URC Centre**

Tuesday

10.00am	St Andrew's Parents & Toddlers	St Andrew's
10.30am	Tuesday Prayers & Communion	Warden Hill URC Centre
5.15pm	Brownies	Warden Hill URC Centre**
7.30pm	Bible Study House Group	St Christopher's**

Wednesday

9.15am	Little Shepherds	St Christopher's**
2.15pm	Senior Club	St Christopher's
7.00pm	Bellringing	St Christopher's

Thursday

5.30pm	Beavers	St Christopher's**
6.00pm	Brownies	St Christopher's**
6.45pm	Cubs	St Christopher's**
7.45pm	Scouts	St Christopher's**

Friday

10.00am	Prestbury Friday Circle	Prestbury URC
10.30am	Bible Study House Group	Cleeve Hill Home**
6.15pm	TCiWH Choir Practice	St Christopher's

** Term Time Only

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors, the Elders, the Ministers, or of any authoritative body of the United Reformed Church

Church Services

St Andrew's URC

Every Sunday	11.00am	<i>Morning Worship</i> <i>(Communion Service on 1st Sunday)</i>
3 rd Sunday	9.30am	<i>Jump4Joy</i> <i>(an informal short service for all the family)</i>

Prestbury URC

1 st Sunday	10.30am	<i>All-age Worship</i>
3 rd Sunday	10.30am	<i>Morning Worship</i>
4 th Sunday	10.30am	<i>Communion</i>
2 nd & 5 th Sunday		<i>No service</i>

The Church in Warden Hill

Sunday morning services are **all** held at **St Christopher's**

1 st Sunday	10.30am	<i>Family Worship</i>
2 nd Sunday	10.30am	<i>Communion in the URC tradition</i>
3 rd Sunday	10.30am	<i>Morning Worship</i>
4 th Sunday	10.30am	<i>Communion in the Anglican tradition</i>
5 th Sunday	10.30am	<i>Communion or Morning Worship</i>

During term time New Shoots for younger members (2-14) takes place during the morning service

2 nd Sunday	3.30pm	<i>Messy Church at URC Centre</i>
------------------------	--------	--

Evening services are at St Christopher's **except** 4th Sunday at URCC

1 st & 3 rd Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Communion</i>
2 nd Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Evensong</i>
4 th Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Evening Worship at URC Centre</i>
5 th Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Communion or Evensong</i>

Weekdays

Monday-Friday	8.00 am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Christopher's</i>
Tuesday	10.30am	<i>Communion at URC Centre</i>