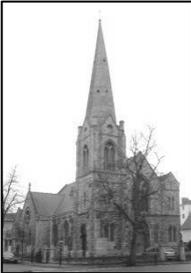


# Cheltenham United Reformed Church



# In Touch



December 2017  
January 2018



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

# CHELTENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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

**Minister** Vacancy  
**Lay Preachers** Bob Alger  
Julie Jefferies  
**Vicar, St Christopher's** Rev. Gary Grady 01242 511522 [gary@tcivh.org.uk](mailto:gary@tcivh.org.uk)

## IN TOUCH

**Editor/ St Andrews** Janet Kemp [magazine@urcic.org.uk](mailto:magazine@urcic.org.uk)  
**Prestbury** Ian Brooks [ibrooks4@me.com](mailto:ibrooks4@me.com)  
**TCiWH** Brian Miles [magazine@urcic.org.uk](mailto:magazine@urcic.org.uk)  
**Advertisements** Brian Smith [adverts@urcic.org.uk](mailto:adverts@urcic.org.uk)  
**Distribution** Fiona Hall [itdistribution@urcic.org.uk](mailto:itdistribution@urcic.org.uk)  
**Website** Fiona Hall [web@urcic.org.uk](mailto:web@urcic.org.uk)

## PRESTBURY URC, DEEP STREET, PRESTBURY, CHELTENHAM, GL52 3AN

**Secretary** Fiona Hall [prestbury@urcic.org.uk](mailto:prestbury@urcic.org.uk)  
**Hall Letting** via the secretary

## ST ANDREW'S URC, MONPELLIER STREET, CHELTENHAM, GL50 1SP

**Secretary** Janet Kemp [standrews@urcic.org.uk](mailto:standrews@urcic.org.uk)  
**Hall Letting** Edith Black [standrews.bookings@urcic.org.uk](mailto:standrews.bookings@urcic.org.uk)

## THE CHURCH in WARDEN HILL, SALISBURY AVENUE, CHELTENHAM, GL51 3BY

**Administrator** Pauline White [secretary@tcivh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@tcivh.org.uk)  
**Hall Letting** Tom Shepley [halls@tcivh.org.uk](mailto:halls@tcivh.org.uk)

## CHURCH GROUPS

**Community Film** Brian Miles [community.films@urcic.org.uk](mailto:community.films@urcic.org.uk)  
**Creative Cards** Ann Standring [ccs@urcic.org.uk](mailto:ccs@urcic.org.uk)  
**Discussion Group** Janet Kemp [magazine@urcic.org.uk](mailto:magazine@urcic.org.uk)  
**Footsloggers** Jenny Evans  
**Little Shepherds**  
**Prestbury Friday Circle** Rose West [pfc@urcic.org.uk](mailto:pfc@urcic.org.uk)  
**Prestbury URChins** Fiona Hall [prestbury.urchins@urcic.org.uk](mailto:prestbury.urchins@urcic.org.uk)  
**Qi Gong** Tony Jeans [qi.gong@urcic.org.uk](mailto:qi.gong@urcic.org.uk)  
**Reading Group** Mary Cummings  
**St Andrew's Toddlers** Ann Lewis [sta-toddlers@urcic.org.uk](mailto:sta-toddlers@urcic.org.uk)  
**Tuesday Forum** Keith Norcott  
**Wednesday Women** Donna Sutherland

# Welcome to 'In Touch'

The magazine of **Cheltenham United Reformed Church**, a joint pastorate of the three United Reformed Churches in Cheltenham. 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. St Andrew's offers impressive facilities, meeting the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> 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 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](http://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:**

Beryl Ames

### **We are invited to pray for:**

Isobel Hitchings, Trevor Childs, Harriet Wright,  
Joyce and Phil Arnold, Joyce Whiting, Tony and Wendy Gledhill

### **Our Congratulations go to:**

Steph James and David Melling on their marriage at St Andrew's.

## **Pastoral Visiting - St Andrew's**

If you are aware of any person who is unwell or anyone who requires a visit please contact Ann Lewis who will arrange for one of the pastoral team to visit. e-mail: [philann14@talktalk.net](mailto:philann14@talktalk.net)

## **Thank-You's**

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me for walking 6.5k for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk. I made £255.42 for the Charity so I am very pleased. Thank you again.

*Jean Wilson*

**Thank you** to those people who phoned, sent cards, visited and prayed for me over these last few weeks. I am glad to say the operation on my back went well and by the time you read this I should be up and running, well not literally, and back to my normal speed. Special thank you to Peter who has been amazing. Having had to lie on my back for around 20 hours a day he has had to put up with a lot, especially the housework. His humour has kept us going. Again thank you to all.

*Lyn Ricketts*

**This month's Pastoral letter comes from  
Rev Gary Grady of  
The Church in Warden Hill**



Dear Friends

**Change is coming!**

There were shepherds in the fields watching over their flocks, when suddenly an angel appears, followed by the heavenly host proclaiming 'good news to all' about the birth of a baby. The shepherds travel to Bethlehem and find Mary and Joseph in a stable, and the baby lying in a manger, being kept warm by the straw, and surrounded by animals.

How many times have you heard that story? How many times have you seen it portrayed on Christmas cards or on the TV, although it seems less and less these days? It's a wonderful image isn't it, full of love; you can almost feel the warmth of the stable and the straw, and the swaddling bands in which the baby is wrapped?

Christmas *can* be like that for us. Full of warmth, full of wonderful family memories, full of images we treasure and hold dear, that we wrap around ourselves every year. But it can also be a time when we feel things more keenly; the absence of loved ones, financial hardship, or broken relationships. We cannot ignore that for some, Christmas can be a lonely, anxious, cold or unhappy time.

But maybe we can still find comfort in the Christmas story. For it is a story of hope. It brings us back to our childhood as we gaze upon the baby in the manger, every Christmas, year after year after year. Christmas is, after all, traditional isn't it? I don't know about you, but I don't *ever* want it to change!

I don't ever want to stop hearing the story about the shepherds and the angels, or seeing the image of the baby lying in the manger. Christmas is nostalgic.

But then, somewhere in the distance I hear the sound of a small tinkling bell, and it's the bell of irony! That on the very night that the little baby was born, when we so much want nothing to ever change, we are in fact celebrating the greatest moment of change in human history. For that little baby is Jesus Christ. We are celebrating 'the moment' when God becomes incarnate, and enters into *our* history and nothing is *ever* the same again. Immanuel, 'God with us'.

Cont.....

Incarnation means change, it means God coming into our space, into our time, and into our lives. Coming into our comfort zones and *shaking* things up, causing them to be re-created in a new way, and challenging us to confront this change, and to be a part of God's plan for the world around us. How ironic then, that just when we want absolutely nothing to change we are, in fact, celebrating the greatest change ever!

Change is not something that we should fear. Change is part of the natural evolution and cycle of life. It is part of the nature of our lives, our families, our places of work, and our churches. Christmas is a constant celebration, year after year, but *no* year is ever the same, and our lives never remain the same. Each year we are a little older, and (hopefully) a little wiser, but we are still engaged with our God, the God of history, in making things happen. We are all part of the Christmas story!

Next year will be another year full of change; perhaps we will have a new minister among us here in the CURC? Whichever way, it will be a chance for each one of us to step out into our own incarnation, to pick up the gifts God has given us and discern what he is calling us to do.

So, as you prepare for Christmas and 2018, just pause for a moment, welcome those winds of change into your life, and listen for the sound of angelic voices drifting through a cold starry night, where everything is once again possible...because a *very* special baby has come to live among us, and everything *is* now possible, and nothing will ever be the same again.

May God's peace and blessing be with you.

*Rev'd Gary.*

## **St Andrew's-tide Celebrations**



The Cheltenham Scottish Society invite members of St. Andrew's U.R.C. to a lunch in the Montpellier Hall on **Sunday 3rd December 2017** after the St Andrews-tide Service starting at approximately 12.30pm

There is no charge for the lunch but donations to a local charity will be gratefully received.

*Doreen Steele*

## CHRISTMAS LIST



Wrap the Christmas tree in tinsel,  
Wrap the lights round silver pine,  
Wrap the glitter paper over  
All the parcels you can find.



Wrap the star in silver paper,  
Wrap the bird in silver foil,  
Wrap the holly and the ivy  
Round the hat stand in the hall.



Wrap the Christmas Cake in icing,  
Wrap the sweets for Santa's Elf,  
Wrap the door of friends to wish them  
Everything you wish yourself



*Anne Grant*

## Christmas Quiz 2017

Keith's Christmas Quiz is back this year – a bumper one to keep us all busy. 100 questions will be yours for the princely sum of £1.50, sold in support of 'Winston's Wish', St Andrew's charity for December. Answers will be available after 7<sup>th</sup> January.

A few tasters for you:

### SOME ANAGRAMS OF CAROL FIRST LINES

1. DISCO IN A TINY DRY ALCOVE
2. SEE KEITH, FOREIGN ART OWNER
3. KEITH HALL HANGS ALL GARDENERS
4. FEATHERS SWADDLING LITTLE SHY ONE
5. CUE ALE! TALLY HO, I'M OFF!

*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 Bethesda Methodist Church  
Great Norwood St.

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

## **Advertising in 'In Touch'**

We are pleased to negotiate for Commercial advertising in 'In Touch'  
at the following rates:

Quarter Page      £22 per annum

Half Page          £44 per annum

One off Quarter page £5

Please contact Advertisements Secretary

Brian Smith for further information:

adverts@urcic.org.uk

## Christian Aid

### Autumn Fair – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017

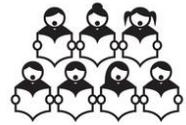
Cheltenham Christian Aid's Autumn Fair at St Andrews raised the excellent total of over £1,500. Because the money raised at the fair will be matched 3 times over by the EU, over £6000 will be donated to the Christian Aid projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Committee is extremely grateful to St Andrews for the use of the hall. Joan Sampson passed on the following message of thanks:

"A big thank you to all who contributed in any way, coming and enjoying the lunches, providing things for the stalls, putting out chairs and tables, manning the stalls, counting the money, etc., etc. The list of people who contributed to making the day a success is endless and we are grateful to all who did their bit. See you all next year!"

### Carols at supermarkets for Christian Aid 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2017

Christian Aid is again organising Carol singing on the two Saturdays before Christmas at supermarkets across Cheltenham – please join in or come and support this event – the money collected is a significant contribution to the year's fund raising.



Christian Aid carol singers and players will be at **Waitrose and Tesco** throughout the day on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December. I am organising a brass ensemble for St Andrews that is playing from 1-2pm at Waitrose on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

We'd like to invite singers to join us at 9AM on 23<sup>rd</sup> December at Morrisons supermarket in Hatherley to sing Carols for an hour – this is a slot for St Andrews URC. If that is too early, join the Church in Warden Hill later at 11AM.

*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**

## St. Andrew's Charity for December WINSTON'S WISH

Winston's Wish was the brainchild of clinical psychologist Julie Stokes. In 1992 she visited the USA on a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship and was inspired by the services for children that she saw there. The result on her return was the establishment in Gloucestershire of Winston's Wish. The Churchill connection dropped away but the name Winston was adopted and Winston the Bear became the charity's mascot.



**“Every bereaved child should receive the help they need to cope with the death of someone important in their lives.”**

Every day in the UK over 100 children suffer the bereavement of a parent. Currently every year the charity supports some 40,000 children and young people up to the age of 18, supporting parents and carers too. A combination of professionals and volunteers provide an array of services including: residential weekends where young people can share their stories and their grief with others; home assessments; short courses and groups specifically for families and carers; special help for bereavement through murder or suicide; outward bound weekends to build confidence and share experiences; training and consultancy for professionals; a national helpline (08088 020021); and various publications and educational films. Winton's Wish has extended its work across the UK and has a number of regional centres. In many areas there are also now drop-in centres. It has links with other charities and organisations, such as MacMillan Cancer Support and Childline, and special attention is paid to young people affected by bereavements in the Armed Forces. More information is available from the website or from its head office in Cheltenham at Spa House, 17 Royal Crescent, phone (01242) 515157.

### Carol Singing

At Cheltenham General Hospital

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.45pm

Please meet at the Chapel, Refreshments Afterwards

More information from: [spiritualcare@glos.nhs.uk](mailto:spiritualcare@glos.nhs.uk) 0300 422 4286



## Tuesday Teas at St Andrew's

Tuesday Teas are held in the Garden Room at St Andrew's on First Tuesday of the Month: 5<sup>th</sup> December from 2.30-4.30pm

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Please note, there will be NO Tuesday tea in January**



## Wednesday Women at St Andrew's

The Wednesday Women meet on 6<sup>th</sup> December for a Bring and Share Supper and Quiz Night. Meetings are held in St Andrew's and start at 7.15. All welcome.

Please note there will be no meeting in January.

*Elspet Carter*

## Lunch Club at St Andrew's

A reminder that donations from lunch club on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** will be going to the National Star College as part of their 50 year celebrations. If you are unable to make lunch but would like to donate, there will be an opportunity to do so either through the offertory, clearly marking your envelope for National Star or through a special collection point at the Sunday service.

*Alison Staggs*

### **St Andrew's Lunch Club**

St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street

*Does a lovely bowl of thick, homemade soup with a fresh bread roll, followed by a homemade pudding interest you??*

**Then join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 1.00pm and bring a friend.**

All for ONLY £3.00

### **Community Film**

at Warden Hill URC Centre  
2.30pm (doors open at 2.15pm)



**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017**



**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Free entry – Family and Friends welcome

Refreshments available

Future Dates: 17<sup>th</sup> February, 17<sup>th</sup> March

### **Events at Prestbury**

**The Annual Christmas Fair will take place on  
Saturday 2nd December from 10.30am-12noon**

Why not start your Christmas off with a visit to our annual event which will give you a chance to stock up on some presents and essentials for Christmas? There will be cards, paper, books and toys as well as our usual cakes, tombola and teas and coffees.



**January Coffee Morning – Saturday 6th January from 10.30 until Noon**

The first coffee morning of 2018 will take place on Saturday 6th January from 10.30 till Noon. Raffle, Books etc and of course, the toasted teacakes!

**Church Meeting – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December following Morning Worship, 11.30am**

## Christmas Services

### At St Andrew's

26 <sup>th</sup> November	11.00am	<b>Gift Service</b> Revd. Ken Martin (Donations of gifts for the under 6 age group will be sent to the Salvation Army)
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	11.00am	<b>St Andrew's tide Service with Communion</b> Mr. Bob Alger and Ms Jennifer Wood
10 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	<b>"Messages from Bethlehem"</b> (Dramatic readings and carols – a special service presented by Tony Jeans telling the Christmas Story from different points of view.)
17 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	<b>Children's Nativity with Lessons and Carols</b> Led by Worship Group
24 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00pm	<b>Crib and Carol Service</b> Revd. Dr. Dee Brierley-Jones
24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30pm	<b>Midnight Service with Communion</b> Mr. Bob Alger
Christmas Day 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	<b>Christmas Family Worship</b> Dr. Tony Jeans
31 <sup>st</sup> December	11.00am	<b>Morning Worship</b> Revd. Dr. Dee Brierley-Jones
31 <sup>st</sup> December	11.30pm	<b>Watchnight Service</b> To be led by Conqueror Assembly

**Please Note: there will be NO Morning Service on 24<sup>th</sup> December**



## Christmas Services



### At Prestbury

- |                           |         |  |                   |
|---------------------------|---------|--|-------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | 10.30am | <b>Gift Service</b><br>Revd. Dr. Dee Brierley-Jones<br>(Donations of gifts for the under 6 age group will be sent to the Salvation Army) |                   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> December | 10.30am | <b>Morning Service</b>   | led by the Elders |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> December | 10.30am | <b>Carol Service with Communion</b><br>Mrs. Julie Jefferies  |                   |



### At The Church in Warden Hill

- |                           |         |   |  |
|---------------------------|---------|---|--|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> December | 10.30am | Revd. Stuart Scott<br>Synod Training and Development Officer<br><b>Morning Worship with Communion</b> |  |
|---------------------------|---------|---|--|



## **Tuesday Forum (A Short History)**

As many of you will remember, in the new millennium, St. Andrew's URC was transformed, at great expense, to create a centre of excellence envied by many of the other churches in Cheltenham. This now very professional facility could be made available to the community for a variety of activities from which we would generate income to help pay off the loans and to create a steady income for the Church. Somehow, I was "persuaded" to volunteer to take on the job of "Hall Hiring Officer". The first essential job was to tell people what we had and to let them know how much it would cost to hire any part of the premises. The Chelsea Building Society agreed to print lots of brochures, at no cost, which were then distributed widely across Cheltenham.

There were also groups from our own congregation who also regularly used the premises who were also asked to complete application forms, so that a complete schedule of Hall Hiring could be prepared and published, to avoid the incidence of "double booking". A steady flow of bookings started coming in, and I regularly visited the church to make sure these new "hirers" were made welcome and were happy with how they were being looked after.

Unfortunately, some Church groups continued to believe that they could just continue meeting without telling me! So one afternoon I went to the church to welcome a new yoga class and there was a meeting ongoing in the Garden Room, of which I had no knowledge! I found out that this was a committee meeting of the **Tuesday Forum**. I politely pointed out that I had no knowledge of this meeting and could they please let me know when they next required a meeting room and I would include it on the schedule. They expressed apologies and we had a pleasant talk about the "Forum", during which Joan, the Chairman explained that she was soon be retiring and there was no one to take over. She then asked if I could take it over, on a temporary basis, until someone could be found to take it on permanently. I agreed, of course. But guess what! A permanent Chairman has never been found!!

We have had some wonderful times with the ever interesting Forum speakers and the annual outings. However I have now done this job long enough and wish to retire gracefully at the end of this Forum Year in June. So we are now seeking a new Chairman. It really would be a great shame if this group folded since, for some members, it is their only opportunity to attend the Church, have a chat with friends, and enjoy a convivial "tea and biscuits" experience.

Your help please!

*Ian Thomson*

## **Christmas Memories For A Lady At Sea**

I came across this lovely word “contrariwise” the other day. Not all that common, but it gets interesting when you apply it to well-known sayings. For example, take “a stitch in time saves nine”: contrariwise, how about “a stitch in nine saves time.” “Too many cooks spoil the broth” could, contrariwise, equally apply as “the broth spoils too many cooks”, couldn’t it? Consider “Happy Christmas”, or “Merry Christmas.” We all hope Christmas is so, but sometimes it isn’t.

So, what was your most memorable Christmas?, or, contrariwise, your least enjoyable Christmas? Whatever it was, come and share it with us and let’s sing a carol or two about it anyway. So, at the **Forum Christmas meeting on December 12th tell us your Christmas stories, happy and sad, and sing a few carols to celebrate. Oh, and bring along something delicious for our Bring and Share Christmas tea.**

And that does it for 2017. OK, so on to 2018, which begins with the excitement of the AGM on January 9th 2018. Don’t worry, we’ll have the annual bonus of a short film to ease the burden of making serious decisions. And on again to our programme for 2018.

I haven’t finished with this lovely word “contrariwise” yet. No doubt my regular readers, all three of them, can recall the old song “All the nice girls love a sailor.” Go on, indulge me, try a bit of recalling. Maybe they do. But, contrariwise, do “All sailors love a nice girl?” No not you, Doris! See what I mean? Furthermore, I think it’s an accepted fact that men find ladies in uniform very attractive, traffic wardens excepted of course. So, shiver me timbers, or timber me shivers, we have a lady in uniform, a sailor no less, coming to talk to the Forum. Yes, on **Tuesday January 23<sup>rd</sup> Harriet Wright will tell us all about “My Life as a Wren”**. Ship ahoy then, and let’s get on board for a bit of contemplation of the naval.

Start your “Happy New Year” with Forum at 2.30 pm in the Garden Room at St. Andrew’s URC. By the way, you might like to note our outing in 2018 will be to Houghton Court, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

*Keith Norcott*

## **Vegetable Sales**

The sum raised for the vegetable sales on Sundays at St Andrew’s is £24-40.

*Marcus Dann*

## Qi Gong at St Andrew's

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

On Thursdays: 14<sup>th</sup> December, 4<sup>th</sup> January

Starting at 12.15 pm. Cost £5.00 per session.

**New members welcome.**

**Contact Lida** 01242 233949 [lida@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lida@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Footsloggers

The walking Group for all ages, abilities and dogs!

We rarely take on more than 5 miles, and as few stiles as possible.

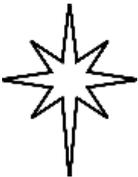
Why not try?

Contact: Jenny Evans at [jenny21evans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jenny21evans@hotmail.co.uk) for more details

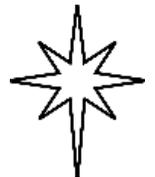
Reminder: AGM will be at St Andrew's on 25<sup>th</sup> January



### Charlton Kings Community Players



## Let Us Be Merry



Our annual seasonal show.

A Christmas Celebration

Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 7.30 pm

at Sacred Hearts Church Hall

Entry £5 at the door, door opens at 7 pm

Music, Drama, Readings/Monologues

Coffee Tea Mince Pies Bar

## **Regeneration/Repair Café at St Andrew's**

December's Repair Café on 2<sup>nd</sup> December will include a weaving demonstration. We will also have Christmas craft stalls in aid of church funds.

Please note there will be **NO** Repair café in January.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December, the BBC has a new daytime TV programme called '**LET'S GET A GOOD THING GOING**' January 2018. The first episode will start on 4<sup>th</sup> December and run for the rest of the week, Cheltenham being one of five towns involved. Tune in and you may see some familiar faces/places .....

We will be offering the **Big Church Christmas Card** again in December where rather than giving individual cards, we sign one big card and give donations in lieu. This year our card will be made by the Ndeka children and donations will be given to Open Door.

## **Wednesday Social Group at Warden Hill URCC**

Art like beauty is in the eye of the beholder and despite Half Term causing cancellation of "Art in Cheltenham" we replaced that talk with two examples of 'Art' which were truly a joy to behold. We enjoyed - a) A wonderful talk and demonstration of belly dancing and b) groaning tables of Turkish Meze.

What skills were shown by Ann Blagden in her cunningly constructed mixture of historical information, philosophy, culture and flavours of the Middle East. What skills of dance movement and costume manipulation. At one point she looked very likely to fly around the room -a delight!! Who needs Strictly when Ann is dancing? Talking of flavours - cumin, sumac and garlic were to the fore in my selection of favourite Turkish starters. These dishes were well received as evidenced by some people making three visits to the tables and kind folks helping with the washing up. My kitchen at home is now back to normal with all the dishes and cookery books back in place.

The group meets on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons in the month at 2.00pm**. Please spread the word.

*John Howe*

**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  
Christenings • Dinner Parties  
Funerals • Hot & Cold Buffets

**Cheryl Parsons**  
**(01242) 675374**  
**homeflaircatering@gmail.com**

## St. Andrew's Charity for January

### **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**



Almost 150 years ago Methodist minister Thomas Stephenson renovated an old stable block and gave a home to two homeless boys who were living under the arches at London's Waterloo station. With the backing of the Methodist Church that initiative developed rapidly and became the National Children's Home. Since then the charity has continued to expand and has become a nationwide organisation, 'Action for Children,' taking action on behalf of some 370,000 children, young people, parents and carers. Around 1.5 million children in the UK suffer from some form of neglect; abandoned, hungry, or living in chaotic conditions. Of that number there are many thousands of families who are beyond the reach of the Social Services.

The charity is currently running some 650 community projects, for example funding breakfasts and after school clubs, and providing extra help for struggling parents. Of particular concern are the children starting school with no personal or social training and unable to care for themselves.

'Action for Children' also supports and invests in the "Read On, Get On" campaign to improve literacy. Since 2011 it has been publishing its annual Action for Children Red Book, which examines the changing needs of families and children, and the ability of the various services to cope. 'Action for Children' provides help with fostering and adoption, intervenes to stop abuse or neglect, involving the Social Services or the police as appropriate, and influences policy at all levels of government and administration. There are some 7,000 staff and volunteers running over 600 services for children, teenagers, parents and carers every year.

Anyone who needs help can drop in to any of the charity's children's or family centres, or call the local or national help line. Locally in Gloucestershire the number is 01452 894300, nationally 01923 361500, and the national email enquiry address is [ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk)

### **Creative Cards**

On sale at Prestbury, St Andrew's  
Warden Hill URC Centre and St Christopher's

**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

## The Pulpit in January

Worship Leaders/Preachers at Prestbury, St Andrew’s and on URC Sundays at The Church in Warden Hill (See back cover for other services)

### At St Andrew’s

7 <sup>th</sup> January	Mr. Bob Alger (Communion)
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Dr. Tony Jeans
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Revd. Canon Richard Atkins
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Revd. Ken Martin



### At Prestbury

7 <sup>th</sup> January	Revd. Dr. Dee Brierley-Jones
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Revd. James Taylor, Interim Moderator
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Revd. John Beardsley (Communion)

### At The Church in Warden Hill

14 <sup>th</sup> January	Revd. John Beardsley (Communion)
--------------------------	----------------------------------

## Some more Tasters for Keith’s Christmas Quiz

SOME CRYPTICS TO STIMULATE YOU



A bit of a square but a good king	_____
The full dozen and that’s the end of it	_____
A baby for Christmas, relatively speaking	_____
A little banger eaten in Schipol at a café	_____
Handel used him on reflection in Shanghai as it happens	_____

## **Synod Report**     13/14 October 2017, Birmingham

This Event was attended by Janet Kemp (St Andrew's), Julie Jeffries (Prestbury) and Louis Ndekha as visitor.

The whole event focussed on Missional Discipleship under the general title of 'Vision4Mission', with emphasis on the new National initiative being developed by URC:

### **'Walking the Way: Living the Life of Jesus today'**

a renewed focus on lifelong Christian Discipleship and Mission.

Various strategies for developing 'Walking the Way' were explained in a number of workshops:

#### **'Holy Habits'**

This workshop was led by Andrew Roberts describing his book of the same name which explores the missional life of the first Christian community as described by Luke in Acts 2v42-47. Resources have been developed to help churches explore these habits in worship and the life of the church. *(Janet)*

#### **Evangelism and Discipleship.**

One thing that caught my attention was the emphasis on the need for local churches to hold regular mission meetings (as opposed to the usual church business meeting) and the development of mission and evangelism strategies. In addition, another thing that felt insightful was the fact that "the church is the church only when it exists for others"- D. Bonhoeffer. *(Louis)*

#### **Missional Discipleship and Church Growth**

This workshop was led by the Moderator Steve, who reminded us that there are no easy answers, but we must have faith that God will do what is required, 'God gives Growth'. We need to PRAY. *(Janet)*

#### **Animating Evangelism**

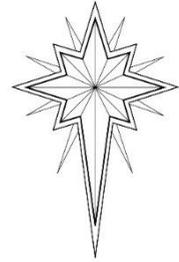
This workshop emphasised the need for churches to cultivate a lifestyle of discipleship in the whole of its worship and congregational life. *(Louis)*

**Synod Business** focussed on the Financial Report, the new ECO Policy of the URC and the proposed new Synod Manse Policy, which was not passed and is being recirculated for further discussion.

*(More about all of the above is available from Janet and Louis)*

## **From The Editor**

**Wishing everyone a  
Very Happy Christmas  
and  
Prosperous 2018**



### **Answers to last month's 'Bible Cake' Quiz:**

Butter, Sweet-cane/Sugar, Honey, Eggs, Figs, Raisins, Almonds,  
Flour, Spices, Salt, Milk

Instructions: Beat,/Ground, Boil, Bake

Detail will depend on which version of the Bible you used!

*Janet Kemp, Editor*

Please ensure that all items for the next edition of 'In Touch' are with  
the Editor by midnight on  
**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018**  
at  
**magazine@urcic.org.uk**

Distribution is on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

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

## Diary for December 2017

Sat	2	10.00am	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	2	10.30am	Christmas Fair	Prestbury
Sat	2	2.30pm	Community Film Show	Warden Hill URCC
Tue	5	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea	St Andrew's
Wed	6	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Wed	6	2.00pm	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Wed	6	7.15pm	Wednesday Women	St Andrew's
Thu	7	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Fri	8		Footsloggers	
Tue	12	2.30pm	Tuesday Forum	St Andrew's
Thu	14	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
SUN	17	3.15pm	Deaf Community Church	St Christopher's
Wed	20	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Wed	20	2.00pm	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Thu	21	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's

**All Christmas Services are on pages 12 and 13**

## Diary for January 2018

Wed	3	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Thu	4	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Thu	4	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Sat	6	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Prestbury
Tue	9	2.30pm	Tuesday Forum	St Andrew's
Wed	10	2.00pm	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Wed	17	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Thu	18	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Sat	20	2.30pm	Community Film Show	Warden Hill URCC
SUN	21	3.15pm	Deaf Community Church	St Christopher's
Tue	23	2.30pm	Tuesday Forum	St Andrew's
Wed	24	2.00pm	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC

## Diary for February 2018

Thu	1	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Sat	3	10.00am	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	3	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Prestbury

## Regular Weekly Events 2017

### 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
5.15pm	Brownies	Warden Hill URC Centre**
7.30pm	Bible Study House Group	St Christopher's**

### Wednesday

9.15am	Little Shepherds	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	Friday Circle	Prestbury URC
10.30am	Bible Study House Group	51 Bournside Road**
6.15pm	TCiWH Choir Practice	St Christopher's

\*\* Term Time Only

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

# Church Services

## St Andrew's URC

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

## Prestbury URC

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

## The Church in Warden Hill

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	10.30am	<i>Family Worship</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	10.30am	<i>Communion in the URC tradition</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	10.30am	<i>Morning Worship</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10.30am	<i>Communion in the Anglican tradition</i>
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10.30am	<i>Morning Worship</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3.30pm	<i>Messy Church at <b>URC Centre</b></i>

Evening services are at St Christopher's **except** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at URCC

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Communion in the Anglican tradition</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Evensong</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Evensong</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Evening Worship at <b>URC Centre</b></i>
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Choral Evensong</i>

Weekdays

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