



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

www.urch.org.uk

Bulletin 4th April 2021 – Easter Sunday

Services for Easter:

1st April Maundy Thursday 7.30pm zoom led by Rev Iain McLaren
<https://zoom.us/j/94279305547?pwd=WmFYdj1Q0tSaW0yWm5BcjIUMzFkZz09>
Meeting ID: 942 7930 5547 Passcode: 462128
Please have your own Bread and Wine ready for joining in Communion.

2nd April Good Friday 10.30am zoom led by Rev Iain McLaren
<https://zoom.us/j/97572053363?pwd=SBKSHpxbkhkeFplZm1RaVArK1MzQT09>
Meeting ID: 975 7205 3363 Passcode: 451852

4th April Easter Sunday

At Prestbury by zoom at 10.30

Rev Dee Brierley-Jones (Easter Sunday Communion)

Please have your own Bread and Wine ready for joining in Communion.

<https://zoom.us/j/99456566323?pwd=UnQyME1scUkxVUVHWnZiZVdMbZjdz09>

Meeting ID: 994 5656 6323 Passcode: 825991

At St Andrews on live stream at 11.00

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

Rev Iain McLaren (Easter Sunday Communion)

Please have your own Bread and Wine ready for joining in communion.

He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!



Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee © September 2008, Patrick Brannan
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From our Minister: Rev Iain McLaren

This is the second Easter of the coronavirus pandemic. Last Easter the future looked bleak. Places of worship had unexpectedly closed to the public just weeks earlier, there was no defence against the virus and the number of deaths from covid was increasing. This Easter the future is looking brighter. We have rolled out an effective vaccination programme and death rates are falling. The lockdown is being eased. The Church in Warden Hill will be reopening for public worship on Easter Sunday. The elders of St Andrew's and Prestbury will be meeting after Easter to consider a possible reopening of the church buildings in May. We can dare to dream of life in a post-pandemic world. We can begin to have hope for the future.



Hope is the predominant mood of the Easter season. When the Jesus they had seen crucified rose from the dead, this signalled to the disciples that their faith in him had not been misplaced. The resurrection story witnesses to the victory of life over death, to the triumph of hope over despair. It is not going too far to say that, without Easter, the Church would not have come into being. Christianity is fundamentally a hopeful religion and this has been a source of strength during the course of the past year.

I have been re-reading the letter I sent to my then congregation for Easter last year. It seems prescient in retrospect and so I will reproduce the conclusion to that letter here: 'The present time of tears will come to an end The Good News of the Easter story is that Jesus' death was not the end, but the beginning of new life. Note this life is a new life. Unlike Lazarus, who was raised from the dead but then died again, Jesus was raised to a new, eternal life. We can therefore have hope that, when the coronavirus pandemic is finally over, life will be renewed. We will not merely return to life as it used to be before the pandemic, but will embrace a new way of living informed by the lessons we have learned from overcoming the virus. As Christians, we live in the faith that our life will be renewed by Christ's grace.

I will end by sharing the words of the communion acclamation:

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

Yours in Christ,

Iain

Rev Iain McLaren can be contacted at:
01242-231602, or 07483118427
revdiain@urcic.org.uk .
Day off on Mondays.

Prayer Requests this week:

The family of Elsie Hutton

Peter and Alison Kerr and family on the death of Peter's mother Margaret.

Joan Thomson

Eileen Attwood

Please pray for the Ndekha family as they prepare to visit Malawi.



Lectionary Readings

Maundy Thursday	Psalm 116 v1-2,12-19	John 13 v1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday	Psalm 22	John 18 v1-19,42
Easter Sunday	Acts 10v34-43 1Corinthians 15 v1-11	Psalm118 v1-2, 14-24 John 20 v1-18



Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' virtual street theatre

An Ecumenical Production

<http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com/>

A (Palm Sunday) Pilgrimage

Rev Glyn Jenkins, former minister of CURC has produced a YouTube video 'A Palm Sunday Pilgrimage'. Glyn takes us along the banks of the River Wye, from Hoarwithy Church into the city of Hereford. He meets two very friendly donkeys on the way! About 40 minutes. Excellent (JK)

<https://youtu.be/4e4HBVlrkVg>

The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am on
25th April Rev Iain McLaren

The Pulpit at St Andrew's

All Sunday Services are 11.00am, broadcast on YouTube:

11 th April	Mr Geoff Tizzard-King
18 th April	Rev Iain McLaren
25 th April	Rev Ken Martin

The Pulpit at The Church in Warden Hill

Details of Services can be found in 'Lantern', and 'Grapevine' both available at
<http://www.tciwh.org.uk>

In person Worship resumes on Easter Sunday. Please book your seat from the administrator
tciwhsec@gmail.com

11th April URC Sunday Rev Iain McLaren
AGM 18th April

See page 1 above for Easter Services
at Prestbury and St Andrews



LENT discussions on Zoom Wednesday's, 8 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/96204565714?pwd=Rm1iZ01ZWkpYnMvVbXZScFJISWgyUT09>

Meeting ID: 962 0456 5714 Passcode: 108557

Zoom Host: Rev Iain

During Lent Rev Iain McLaren has been leading the group with studies based on Acts 2v42-47, the original stimulus for 'Holy Habits' by Andrew Roberts.

This week: **Worship**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME – COME AND EXPLORE.

Zoom Coffee on Sunday 12.00noon

<https://zoom.us/j/95468666627?pwd=WTliRE96VEZMUjNjDTWl0dmFlbnZ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 954 6866 6627 Passcode: 961729

Host: Alison

Tea Time on Tuesday

EVERYONE is invited to enjoy friendly conversation at 3pm on Zoom. Bring your own cup of tea and join the party. ID 955 7054 4462, Passcode 686988

Zoom Host: Bob

<https://zoom.us/j/95570544462?pwd=Q0VHQVVuWHB1QmpBd2ZDcEZJNlIXUT09>

From The Editors:

Easter Greetings are sent by 31 members and friends of CURC through the video card put together by Sandra Jeans. The link is <https://youtu.be/SN88Y0NCeTQ> **ENJOY !**

(If you see a screen before this plays with 'Before you continue to YouTube..' then click the 'I agree' button to accept all cookies etc or 'customise' to decide which cookies you will accept)

Congratulations to Tim and Dorothy Odell on their Golden wedding anniversary.

Joan Thomson has moved into Faithful House, Suffolk Square. She would welcome phone calls: 01242 541760

'Bursting The Bubble' Quiz Answers

We hope you all enjoyed Keith's seasonal quiz published at the start of Lent. The answers are attached to this Bulletin. He writes that there are only 2 rules.

1. The editor's decision is final
2. In any case of dispute or argument, rule 1 applies.

New Directory

Fiona has been working on producing a new Directory for CURC (members and adherents of all three churches) from data supplied verbally and on GDPR forms. The Directory will be sent out by email. If you would like a copy please contact Fiona.

Anne Strathie's new biography of photographer Herbert Ponting, who travelled to Antarctica with Cheltenham's Edward Wilson, is now available. For more details see

<https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/publication/herbert-ponting/9780750979016/>

Have a Happy Easter

Janet, Fiona, Brian

