

Cheltenham United Reformed Church

In Touch



July /August 2012

Welcome to *In Touch* – the magazine of Cheltenham United Reformed Church.

Cheltenham United Reformed Church is a joint Pastorate of the 3 United Reformed Churches in Cheltenham. This means that they share a Minister – Revd Maz Allen – and indeed they work very closely together in all respects. New readers, who may also be new to the area, can be assured of a warm welcome at all 3 Churches:-

St Andrew's United Reformed Church is situated in Cheltenham town centre. It is a former Presbyterian Church built in 1885. Recent renovations have retained its essential character whilst at the same time delivering an impressive facility meeting the needs of the 21st Century. Current membership is around the 100 mark.

Prestbury United Reformed Church serves the village of Prestbury to the north of Cheltenham. It is a former Congregational Chapel built in 1866. Current membership is around the 20 mark. Services are normally held at Prestbury on only the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month.

The Church in Warden Hill is a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) between the Anglican and URC communities serving the large residential districts of Hatherley and Warden Hill to the south of Cheltenham. Sunday morning services currently alternate between St Christopher's and the URC Centre with a typical congregation of 85. Ministry is shared between the URC Minister (Revd Maz Allen) and members of the Anglican South Cheltenham Team Ministry of whom the Revd Jacqui Hyde has particular responsibility for The Church in Warden Hill. The Church in Warden Hill has its own church magazine – *The Lantern* – but its activities and events are also publicised in this *In Touch* magazine.

The website of the Cheltenham United Reformed Church (www.urcic.org.uk) and the website of The Church in Warden Hill (www.tciwh.org.uk) are further sources of information about the churches.

Dear Friends,

I never knew that turning 60 could be such fun! Thank you SO MUCH for your cards and good wishes and for helping me raise over one thousand pounds for Kenya. Brilliant! It was lovely to see so many of you at the party; I hope you enjoyed it as much as me. Our ‘entertainers’ did a wonderful job and I am proud of them all!

I am sure a number of you will be celebrating significant birthdays or anniversaries this summer as well as cheering on our athletes (and not forgetting the dreaded exam results). I pray this will be a time of relaxation and recharging of batteries for those of you who spend much of the year volunteering your time for the work of our churches. A big ‘thank you’ hardly seems enough for the amount of commitment offered, but nevertheless, it is a ‘thank you’ from the heart.

Did Jesus ever take a holiday, I wonder? He only got involved in his first reported miracle of changing water into wine because his mother nagged him; he was not even allowed to enjoy a wedding reception. When he wanted time to think and pray, huge crowds flocked to him and he ended up feeding them. When he spoke in his home synagogue neighbours wanted to stone him, and when he was enjoying having a foot massage with perfumed oil he was accused of encouraging unnecessary extravagance. Yet, when he felt vulnerable and wanted his disciples to stay awake, they promptly fell asleep. In between the pages of our gospel narrative I want to think that Jesus had time to relax, to have fun, to fool around with his friends, to sing and dance.... In modern parlance, ‘to chill out.’

Come rain or shine, I pray you will be able to chill out this summer. You deserve it!

Maz

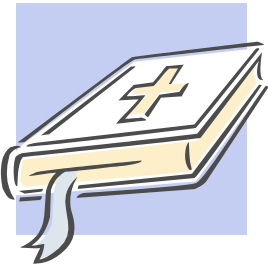
CHELTENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

In Memoriam: It is with sadness that we report the passing of Beryl Davies who has died on 5th June, following a fall. Our love and sympathy go to her family from all her friends at Warden Hill.

We also report the loss of Sadie Smyth from WH who died in hospital on Wednesday 13th June, following a bad fall. Our love and sympathy go to husband Eric and family and friends.

Our prayers: we hold in our prayers those for whom we are concerned: Eric Smyth and family, Doreen Steele, Brenda Manser, Hugh Crawford, Theo Webber, Dorothy Austin, and Mary Cummings.

Weddings: Congratulations to Nick Taylor and Donna Lewis who get married at St. Andrew's on 28th July.



Jubilee New Testaments

We hope you liked the Jubilee New Testaments and that everyone who wanted one received their copy. They were paid for out of the profit which CURC received from the Creative Card Team, so **thank you** to the Team and please keep buying the cards the profit made does benefit our Churches. We still have £600 left which will be spent on a specific item for each Church.

Ann Lewis

A New Name but the same place

I expect by now most of you will have noticed that we are referring to the Warden Hill United Reformed Church complex as '**URC Centre**'.

This is because we felt that now the two churches have come together we ought to have a 'snappier' name that wasn't so long as it was. We refer to the Anglican complex as St Christopher's so by renaming the URC buildings as URC Centre it keeps both churches and halls with 'neat' titles.

BIRTHDAY TEA

For all with birthdays July, Aug and Sept
tea at Maz's Manse 19 The Oaks, Up Hatherley
Sat. 1st Sept. 3-5pm.

St Andrew's News:

St Andrew's Communion Offering for July - Listening Post

Everyone goes through a time in their life when they experience difficulties they cannot sort out themselves. It may well be a problem that is painful, embarrassing or just plain unmanageable and so impossible to discuss with family members or close friends. However, times of emotional distress do not have to be endured alone, and it can be helpful to talk to a trained counsellor, someone who is not directly involved in the situation.

Listening Post is a professional, Christian counselling service, run on a voluntary basis. It was founded 20 years ago and it provides a counselling service for Christians and non-Christians over 18 years of age, regardless of circumstances.

Listening Post counsellors are given professional training, and there are also courses available to help volunteers develop listening and counselling skills. In Gloucestershire there are three Listening Post counselling centres, in Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud. Listening Post makes no charge for its services, but asks its clients to make a donation according to their means. There is no public funding, so all of its income must come from corporate and private donations.

St Andrew's Communion Offering for August - The Air Ambulances

If a patient can reach hospital within 60 minutes of injury - known as the "the golden hour" - their chances of survival increase dramatically. The Air Ambulance service can provide such a rapid response to emergencies.

Operating from strategically located bases in the region, the Midlands Air Ambulance helicopters can reach an emergency very quickly and the maximum flying time to hospital from anywhere in the region is less than 15 minutes.

The Midlands Air Ambulance operates three helicopters covering Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and West Midlands - the largest operating area in the UK. Since 1991 the ambulances have flown more than 34,000 missions, not far short of 10 a day. Each ambulance carries a pilot, two paramedics or flight doctors and a full array of life support medical equipment.

The Air Ambulances receive no government or lottery funding, but need some £6 million a year to keep the helicopters flying. All the funding comes from donations from the public and businesses. The county Air Ambulance Trust was launched in 1993 to help fund operational costs and infrastructure projects like new helipads or updates to existing ones. Nationally the Association of Air Ambulances is a representative body for all the Air Ambulances in the UK.

A little bit of factual nitty-gritty to illustrate where the money goes: on average each helicopter uses 130 litres of fuel per mission: on average each mission costs £1,230: 40% of the missions involve road accidents: the service serves 177 hospital A and E departments throughout the UK.

The helicopters and crews of the Air Ambulance service can and do regularly make the difference between life and death, and it is the donations, large and small, that keep them flying.

Pensioners' Forum – Wednesday 4th July – Disabled Care & Mobility
Our speaker this month is Steve Warburton from Disabled Care & Mobility, a well-established Mobility Company. Apart from the usual mobility aids such as scooters, stairlifts, wheelchairs, life-recliner armchairs, they also specialise in vehicle adaption and fit hand controls, car swivel seat systems, person hoists and boot hoists.

Last month we tried exercises from the Otago exercise programme. The exercises are designed to help older people improve their balance and posture and also to help those recover their mobility after knee and hip operations. The exercises strengthen your leg muscles and keep you mobile as you get older. You can obtain further information from the Cotswold Physiotherapy Centre at 105-107 Bath Road, telephone 01242 228019.

There will be no meeting in August, we will resume on 5th September when the speaker will be from 'Warm and Well' providing advice on keeping warm in winter.

The coffee bar will be open from 10am and the talk will begin at 11am. Please invite your friends and neighbours.

Ann Lewis

Pensioners' Forum
at
St Andrew's United Reformed Church
(near Queen's Hotel)

Programme for 2012
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the Month

You are invited to the following Talks 11.00am – 12 noon

Wednesday 4 July **'Disabled Care & Mobility'**
Steve Warburton

No meeting in August

Wednesday 5 September **'Warm and Well'**
Getting ready for Winter

Wednesday 3 October **Acupuncture**
Julian Kingscote

Wednesday 7 November **Safer driving with age (SAGE)**
Garry Handley

Wednesday 5 December **Management & Prevention of Falls**
Will Carr, St Paul's Centre

FREE ENTRY – ALL ARE WELCOME
Coffee Bar open from 10.30am – 12 noon
Coffee/Tea 50p

The Montpellier Jubilee Fete and St Andrew's Jubilee Tea Party

Montpellier Street was buzzing with people all day on the 2nd June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. There were lots of things to do from admiring classic cars to a slow bicycle race. There were plenty of different stalls to spend your money on, including some of our own selling items from homemade fudge to a chocolate tombola. Over 30 jubilee crowns were made by children on our craft stall.

At the Tea Party Andrew Veal's Quintet 'Royal Oak Brass' provided wonderful music while around 70 people enjoyed a fabulous spread of food and an impressive jubilee cake made and decorated by Elizabeth Floyer Moss.

The Montpellier Raffle rose over £1,000 for Maggie's Cancer Care and St Andrew's Tea Party raised over £300.

Many thanks to all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it such a fantastic day.

St Andrew's Christian Bookshop

The shop will be open from 10am – 2pm Monday to Friday, offering a selection of books, cards, music and gifts.

Do come along and have a browse! We'd love to see you.

Kay

HELP!

Do you enjoy meeting people? Do you like reading books? Do you have a spare hour or two? I would love to hear from you as I need help in the bookshop.

Please speak to me if you can help.

Kay





Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee outside St Andrew's

Wednesday Women Group - Wednesday 4th July - St Andrew's at 7.30pm. Donna Sutherland - On Independence Day, join us at St Andrew's for an American themed bring and share supper.

Doors open 7.15pm. The Wednesday Women program is normally held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Andrew's with the exception of August. All meetings start at 7.30pm with a charge of £2.00 per event.

Note: the next is on Wednesday 5th September.

Knit and Chat Group - Thursday 19th July- St Andrew's Garden Room 1.00pm to 2.00pm. Coffee and tea provided. If you would like to join, please call in. More information from Donna Sutherland *Note: there is no meeting in August, the next meeting is on Thursday 20th September.*

Footsloggers:

Friday 23rd July - Footsloggers Walking Group.



Details of the walk followed by lunch at St Andrew's, to be led by Cecil Anderson are to be found on Church Notice Boards nearer the time. All are most welcome.



Wednesday Women visit to Neal's Yard

The June event for Wednesday Women was a visit to Neal's Yard in Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. Margaret and Sarah hosted the evening for us. We began by learning a bit about the history of Neal's Yard, from their beginnings in Covent Garden to the present day and their values based on a naturalistic approach to health and beauty. We then divided into two groups. Margaret and Sarah each took a group for around half an hour and then we swapped over.

The weather amazingly was dry enough for us to learn about herbs in the home whilst sitting out in their pretty courtyard garden. Over a glass of wine (much more appealing than the herbal tea!), we learnt of the different uses of herbs and their applications.

We then went inside to hear about natural beauty. There were plenty of opportunities to sample the various products. Afterwards, we had the opportunity to take advantage of the discount offered on the products (which many if not all of us did!) and to ask Margaret and Sarah any questions. Both ladies were very friendly and approachable and we all had a very enjoyable evening. For more information see:

<http://www.nealsyardremedies.com/cheltenham-store>



Eco Church

Freecycle: Have you any useful items you no longer need that might be of use to someone else - please let Ann Lewis know with full details of the item and please leave your telephone number so we can get back to you.

A Yogurt Maker and Coffee Maker - Electrical, and Anthony Worrell-Thompson Juicer (3 items). Phone Carol Drummond .

*Gents Bicycle and Office Supplies (folders & guides) (free of charge) .
Phone Tony Jeans .*

3 sets of freestanding shelves 6 foot high, suitable for garage outhouse or workshop etc. I think they come apart but haven't figured out how. Also a large workbench with attached vice. Call Keith Norcott .

Flower Festival in St Andrew's Church - August 25th to 27th (Bank Holiday)

The flower festival to be held in St. Andrew's from August 25th - 27th will now have an Olympic theme, and will be entitled "Going for Gold".

Anyone who would like to support this by flower arranging, helping with refreshments or setting up, please come to a meeting in the sanctuary, at 10.00am on Thursday 26th.July.



St Andrew's Quiz Evening

Thank you to the 24 people who supported the church by coming to the quiz evening. We made £127.

This was the last one in the current session. Thank you all again,

Lyn and Peter Ricketts

‘Get Up and Grow More!’ workshops - Vision21

As part of this project, Erin will be running a series of four free, informal workshops that will begin at 7:00pm:

Limited numbers so booking will be required, so contact Erin Baker on 07432673069 or email ebaker@vision21.org.uk

	<i>Salads, Herbs & Edible Flowers</i>	<i>Compost, Green Manures & Free Fertilisers</i>	<i>Planting For Winter</i>
Cheltenham	Tues 10 th July	Tues 7 th Aug	Tues 4 th Sept
Tewkesbury	Wed 11 th July	Wed 8 th Aug	Wed 5 th Sept
Cirencester	Thur 12 th July	Thur 9 th Aug	Thur 6 th Sept

QI GONG

**At St Andrew's
with
LIDA VLČEK**

NEXT SESSIONS

**Thursday
5th July 2012 at 11.30am**

**Cost £5.00 per session
Arrangements for future sessions
to be announced**

**Gentle exercises especially geared to the needs of older
people**

**Based on Chinese traditional practice
Promoting self healing and self regulation of the body
New members welcome – call Lida for information**

News from Prestbury URC

Garden Coffee Morning – 7th July

Please join us for our monthly coffee morning which this month will be held, by kind invitation, in the garden of our neighbours, Janet and John White at 2 High St. This is a chance to explore their lovely garden which lies just behind the church. If wet we will retreat back to our usual premises!

The August Coffee Morning on 4th August will be held at the church as usual.



Reading Group – ‘David Copperfield’ - Wednesday 5th September 7.30pm start

The next meeting of the Reading Group will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th September at Prestbury URC. To celebrate the anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth, the book we will be discussing, will be 'David Copperfield'. New members and/or past members would be most welcome. For any further information contact Mary Cummings

Prestbury Diamond Jubilee Street Party – Monday 4th June

The whole village and beyond were invited to a massive street party from noon on the Monday Bank Holiday. The Burgage was closed to traffic from 8.00am until 6.00pm and the road and the Scout Field lined with stalls. The weather was kind and not at all like the day before so the crowds exceeded all expectations – 1500 had been hoped for, 2500 actually turned up! There were barbeques, ice creams, a pigroast, a coffee stall, crafts, produce and antiques to buy and games, children's activities, tombolas and raffles. There was a go-cart track by the hotel and a fire engine where you could hold an Olympic torch.



St Mary's Church offered a Prayer Tree on the Burgage, a magnificent display of flowers and Royal memories in the Church. The Plough and Royal Oak also took part with live music and refreshments. There were displays of Scottish Dancing, and Belly Dancing (with audience participation!) and a children's parade of King and Queens.



Prestbury URC had a busy stall selling jewellery, produce and Creative Cards, and offering a Royal Teddy to be named, and 'pet roulette' for the children .



During the afternoon, the big marquee was the setting for 'Prestbury's Got Talent', a competition hosted by 'The Musicman', with 26 entries. Our own C4 Choir bravely took part with a song from their latest musical and performed brilliantly, but unfortunately were not placed. The party continued into the evening with a barn dance in the marquee followed by live music till late.

News from the Church in Warden Hill

Traidcraft Report 2011

Our income over the last year was £2738.03 and our expenditure was £2423.60, which leaves a balance of £314.43 to be carried over to 2012. (The accounts have yet to be audited). These figures are down by about £500 on last year, which together with the £1000 drop the previous year means we are not selling nearly as much as in previous years, and the amount that we have available for the emergency fund will be about £150 instead of the £250 we usually give.

Traidcraft goods are available after every morning service at the Church in Warden Hill and once a month after morning worship at St Andrew's. We also have the Traidcraft stall at fundraising events in Warden Hill, and I would be happy to arrange for goods to be available at fundraisers either at St Andrew's or Prestbury. They are a good opportunity to promote Fair Trade.

The spring and Christmas catalogues were again popular this year, but I am always able to order more goods. Catalogues are available throughout the year in all Churches, please take a look and let me have any orders. If you can't find a catalogue, please let me know.

Thank you to everyone who has bought from the stalls and catalogues this year, it is down to you that we are able to keep going. I am always trying out new ranges, so it is worth keeping an eye on the stalls just in case. If every member of the congregation bought just one item regularly, our sales would shoot up again, and we would have more funds available for the emergency fund. So how about it?

This enterprise could not work without a huge team effort. Tom Shepley receives the boxes for us, Margaret Meads and Eileen Attwood unpack the goods and price them, Celia Hodges recycles the cardboard, I do the ordering and keep the accounts, Alison Veal runs the stall at St Andrews, Margaret, Celia and I run the stalls at TCiWH. My sincere thanks to everyone involved.

Carole Pennington

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen held on 22nd June 2012

During the afternoon of 22nd June, I was very privileged to have been invited to a service in Gloucester Cathedral to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. I was there representing Girlguiding Gloucestershire as Joint County Commissioner and we were accompanied by 2 Guides and 2 young Guiders from the County. Also there were 2 of the Guiders who run the Rainbow Unit which meets at the St Christopher's building.

The magnificence of the Cathedral lent itself to the pomp and ceremony of the occasion which was attended by the Royal Highnesses, the Earl and Countess of Wessex.

The cathedral choir and junior choir led the singing; prayers were said for Her Majesty and our County. The Earl of Wessex read from Philippians Chapter 4, and we also heard words from the Queen's 21st birthday speech to the young people of the Empire in 1947, in which she dedicated her life to the service of her people. The Very Reverend Stephen Lake, Dean of Gloucester, gave the sermon, during which we learnt a lot about the history of Lamprey Pies! (A 2 foot high Lamprey Pie in the shape of the Cathedral had been presented to the Royal couple to take back for the Queen prior to the service).

The Taiko drummers from the Milestone school gave an awesome and very loud performance. The service ended with the National Anthem.

After the service our party, which also included the Scout County Commissioner and 3 Queens Scouts, was ushered through the Cloisters into the Garth by a Deputy Lieutenant where we were lucky enough to be introduced to both the Earl and the Countess. The Countess is President of Girlguiding UK, so it was very special for all of us to be able to meet her and chat about guiding. I presented her with a badge depicting our County Standard, which will be celebrating its 60th birthday next year.

It was a really memorable afternoon for us all, and I felt very lucky to have been part of it.

Carole Pennington

Senior Club at St Christopher's

On April 25th Mike Stratford gave a very interesting talk with illustrations about the life and works of Edith Cavell. Born on 4th December 1865, at Swardeston, near Norwich, her father was the Rector and served there until he was 84. Edith was educated at home until she was 16 and there was a strong emphasis on caring, sharing and principles, which she followed all her life. She went to three boarding schools to finish her education where she became fluent in French.

After a brief spell as a governess, she trained as a nurse for 4 years at the London Hospital, later becoming Matron at Shoreditch. In 1907 using her fluency in French she was in charge of training nurses in Belgium. When the war started in Belgium in 1914, Edith nursed the injured. Brussels surrendered and the Germans made the hospital into a Red Cross institute. She then had to treat Germans and allies in separate areas. There were many casualties from Mons and also refugees. She hid them in the basement. When the Belgians realised this they assisted her to organise escapes through Holland. Before the Germans discovered her she had managed to help 210 British, French and Belgian troops to escape successfully. The Germans got suspicious on the 5th August 1915; she was arrested and charged with espionage and because of her upbringing, she told them the whole story. Edith was interrogated in French; however, the case was written up in German, so her answers could be misinterpreted. She was put into solitary confinement and on 7th October that year she faced a military tribunal. US and Spanish diplomats tried to help to no avail. At 0700 on 12th October 1915, she and one other faced the firing squad. They were buried on the firing range, and the other 33 arrested were given a reprieve. There was condemnation throughout the world, the response from American ladies in particular to go to France to nurse was enormous and a turning point of the war. Volunteering for the Army doubled because of her execution. In 1919, her remains were returned to England. A service attended by the King and Queen was held at Westminster Abbey and she was finally buried in Norwich Cathedral. Famous words of Edith's are "Think only of me as a nurse who tried to do her duty" and at her death, she still said she held no hatred.

May 2nd, we held a Beetle drive, one lucky member winning 5 prizes. Fr. Brian Torode visited us on the 9th May, his talk and films being entitled "The Dead End".

We heard how up to 1800 funerals were conducted at the graveside in the local parish churchyards. Affluent people from Tivoli were buried at Leckhampton and Catholics were interred at Broadway. The town cemetery was in what we now call Churchill Gardens and this soon became full. Cheltenham Council looked at several local plots including Hesters Way, Benhall and the Park [now the University of Gloucestershire]. People living near the Park were horrified; they did not want hearses passing their properties and immediately many houses were put up for sale. The vicar of Prestbury eventually sold the large plot at Bouncers Lane to the Council. The burial chapels were built, one for Anglicans the other for Non Conformists. These Chapels have been called “The best example of burial chapels in all England” Catholics were still buried at Broadway. One chapel was converted to a crematorium in 1938, by local builder William Knight who also built buildings. Many famous people are buried at Bouncers Lane. We were shown pictures of them, their graves, shown where they lived and told all about their lives. This was an interesting and informative afternoon about “The Dead End “of Cheltenham.

Tim Turton came to us on May 16th to inform us about what used to be called Community Transport, now called Third Sector Services. This is a wonderful scheme for the frail, elderly and anyone who cannot use public transport. Customers pay £10-00 a year to join and then £3-30 each way for local trips [this price is increasing shortly], so much cheaper than taking a taxi. Booking can be taken 2 weeks in advance. Hospital and doctor’s appointments take priority over other destinations. Evening and weekend bookings cannot be accepted, as more drivers are desperately needed. This scheme has been running for about 22 years. I was very surprised so many people had not heard of helpful service, Tim gave out several helpful leaflets and answered many questions.

We welcomed back The Rondo Singers on Wednesday 23rd May, they sang songs from Gilbert and Sullivan, Andrew Lloyd Webber, from the musical comedy Arcadian, to name a few. We also heard a lovely solo sung by Jean and Gwen recited an hilarious poem about recycling. The compare interspersed the songs with jokes and poems and we all thoroughly enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

Please join us any Wednesday afternoon at 2-15 pm, for entertainment, refreshments and friendship. *Sheila Parry* (an article from the Lantern).

The Home Produce Sale

The Home Produce Sale held in June at WH raised the princely sum of £382.11 net after expenses of £30. Well done to everybody involved in this venture.

The URcic Secretary's Report

This past year has been full of celebrations and most seemed to involve a strong reliance on the consumption of food and drink!

A fortnight ago we celebrated the 21st Birthday of the URcic and the 40th Anniversary of the URC. It was lovely to welcome the Moderator to our Joint Pastorate service and to have so many Elders re-inducted.

The year kicked off at Prestbury with a visit from the Mayor, Joan Winterbottom and Glyn Jenkins to help Prestbury celebrate 145 years as a Centre for non-conformist worship in the village.

During the year The Church in Warden Hill celebrated the Golden Jubilee of St Christopher's and the arrival of Revd Jacqui Hyde, Revd Nick Davies and Dr Rachel Tarling.

In fact the only events which did not require the official consumption of beverages was the arrival of the development worker, Kay Boulton to St Andrew's and the completion of the redevelopment work there. Though, with the nature of all building works, a stiff drink was probably needed somewhere along the way!

The URcic is about people – and I wish to thank several of them today as we would not be the organisation we are without them.

Firstly, Maz Allen – we are fortunate to have a Minister as devoted to pastoral care as she and I would like to thank her for her leadership and guidance to us all over the last 5 years.

Then there are The Elders and the ECM and ECC members who keep the churches running, and especially my fellow church secretaries; Ann Lewis and Reg Hitchings, to Brian Miles who serves on Maz's support group, and all the treasurers; Daryl Burns, Diana Miles, Donna Sutherland, Wendy Geldhill and Brian Hall and to Lizzie George the outgoing URcic treasurer and now to Donna Sutherland who has taken on the role.

To all those who are in the worship groups or who lead worship on their own.

To all those who run our groups and help out in so many ways, whether making tea, baking cakes, visiting the housebound, doing flowers, dealing with In Touch, painting and mending, organising and helping at events and services and in so many other ways – your time is well spent and treasured by us all. I can't mention you all by name as you are, as they say, too numerous to mention and I won't even try because I will leave out someone and that would be fatal.

But there are three I must mention - Margaret Thomas in the Office, John Standring who edits the Magazine and Mary Cummings who masterminds the Preaching Plan. We would certainly know it of those three weren't there!

Please join me in thanking and celebrating all those who make this Pastorate what it is – named and the many more unnamed.

Some of you may think there is not much to celebrate today as we propose to stop using the name the 'United Reformed Church in Cheltenham' and all that was implied in our resolutions on unity over the last 21 years.

But I ask you not to look at it like that at all.

In using the new name of Cheltenham United Reformed Church, which is still the joint pastorate of our 3 churches, we are giving ourselves a fresh start – a 're-boot' in the modern parlance.

Apart from slimming down some of the administration there is actually little change in our relationship as it really is - apart from the name – and you must agree that the name – Cheltenham United Reformed Church – speaks still of unity. The new name reflects the fact that the United Accounts will be part of the Cheltenham URC Charity and it also gives where we live more prominence. The minister, the elders, the manse, the office, the magazine, the website, the URCIC Bank accounts, the preaching plan are all still shared resources and Church Council, with membership from all the churches, will continue to meet to manage these joint resources.

In the spirit of continued unity the Eldership will, en masse, visit each church once a year. Already we have been to St Andrews at the joint service and soon we will go to The Church in Warden Hill in July followed by Prestbury in September.

And whilst all groups which used to come under the URChC Umbrella will now be ‘owned’ by their home churches, these groups are still as open and welcoming to all CURC members and non-CURC, as they have always been.

And what a life this Church of ours has!

There is something on offer every day, both social and spiritual – and that is surely something we should celebrate.

On the spiritual side - Every day, there is at least one or more act of worship. There are also Prayer and Bible Study Groups. We can join a church choir or learn to ring bells both large and small. Members of our churches are members of the Mother’s Union. Many of our members are involved in *Open the Book* in several schools all over Cheltenham

For children we can offer 3 Toddler Groups, a choir, an after school club, Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows and Brownies and soon there may be a Scout Troop. Last summer there was a Holiday Club.

For the more mature member we can offer August get-togethers and a Senior Club at Warden Hill and the Forum at St Andrew’s.

There are free film shows twice a month showing classic and contemporary films. There is Qui Gong to keep us fit . For Ladies we can offer 2 groups with talks and outings as well as a mixed group with similar aims. There are groups for readers, gardeners, knitters and walkers and for those who play Mah Jong.

There are coffee mornings, concerts, fairs, sales, quizzes, lunches and afternoon teas.

There is just so much going on in Cheltenham URC – this church is amazing. Celebrate it!

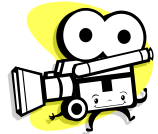
Fiona Hall

Music and other events in our Churches:

At St Andrew's:

- Saturday 12th July - Duo Karadis Concert - 2.30pm
- Saturday 12th July Cheltenham Music Festival Society AGM 4pm

Community Film Show



Saturday 14th July

At Warden Hill URC Centre

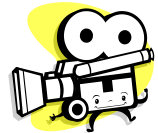
'The Artist' (Cert PG)

at 2.30pm (doors open at 2.15pm)

Free entry - Family and Friends welcome

Refreshments available

Community Film Show



Saturday 15th September

At Warden Hill URC Centre

'Passport to Pimlico' (U)

Ealing Comedy1949

at 2.30pm (doors open at 2.15pm)

Free entry - Family and Friends welcome

Refreshments available

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, 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 currently for respective churches are as follows:

Prestbury URC

Please see Ian Brooks directly or forward contributions via e-mail (ibrooks4@me.com). . Contributions most welcome.

The Church in Warden Hill

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

St Andrew's

Please see John Standing directly or forward contributions via e-mail: magazine@urchic.org.uk or to church office, office@urchic.org.uk.



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Cheltenham URC - Prayer

8 July	2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10 Psalm 48, <i>2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13</i>	Cheltenham Centre, Churches and Schools Cluster Churches and businesses The unemployed Street Pastors Prayers for the World
15 July	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19, Psalm 24, <i>Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29</i>	Montpellier area, Churches and Schools The Bible Society Creative Cards and Traidcraft Prayers for the World
22 July	2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Psalm 89:20-37, <i>Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56</i>	Christchurch area, Churches and Schools Lilian Faithful Homes Residential Care Cheltenham URC Officers Prayers for the World
29 July	2 Samuel 11:1-15, Psalm 14, <i>Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21</i>	Tivoli area, Churches and Schools YMCA Printing and communication Prayers for the World
5 Aug	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a, Psalm 51:1-12, <i>Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35</i>	The Park area, Churches, Schools and University Higher Education URC Churches in Gloucestershire Prayers for the World
12 Aug	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 31-33, Psalm 130, <i>Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35,41-51</i>	Lansdown area, Churches and Schools Police services, Law keeping forces West Midlands Synod Moderator Prayers for the World
19 Aug	1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14, Psalm 111, <i>Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58</i>	Hatherley area, Churches and Schools Lay Preachers and TLS training Prayers for the World
26 Aug	1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43, Psalm 84, <i>Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69</i>	Lower Leckhampton area, Churches and Schools Greenbelt Prayers for the World
2 Sept	Song of Songs 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2,6-9, <i>James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23</i>	Upper Leckhampton area, Churches and Schools Delancey Hospital, Cheshire Home Geriatric Care Housebound members Prayers for the World

St Andrew's Prayer Time

Every Monday and Thursday, for just half an hour, starting at 12 noon there will be an opportunity to pray for the work of St Andrew's Church and all the activities that go on here each week.

Let's encourage one another as we meet together to bring our prayers to God.

The Church in Warden Hill (St Christopher's)

Every Weekday: Morning Prayer at 8.00am.

Tuesday: Holy Communion & Morning Prayer 10.30am.

JULY DIARY				
1	Sun	10.30am	P	Mrs Julie Jefferies <i>Family worship</i>
		10.30am	URCC	Family Service
		11.00am	SA	Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i>
		6.00pm	SA	Revd Maz Allen
		6.00pm	SC	Holy Communion
4	Wed	11.00am	SA	Pensioners' Forum
		7.30pm	SA	Wednesday Women
5	Thur	11.30am	SA	Qi Gong
6	Fri			Start of General Assembly
7	Sat	10.30am	P	Coffee Morning in garden of 2 High Street
				Montpellier Midsummer Fete
8	Sun	10.30am	P	No service
		10.30am	SC	Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i>
		11.00am	SA	Revd John Beardsley
		6.00pm	SC	Choral Evensong
10	Tues	7.30pm	SA	Elders meet
12	Thur	7.30pm	SC	ECC meet
14	Sat	2.30pm	URCC	Classic Film "The Artist"
15	Sun	9.30am	SA	Jump4Joy
		10.30am	P	Roy McBane
		10.30am	URCC	Revd Nick Davies <i>Communion</i>
		11.00am	SA	Revd Maz Allen
		6.00pm	SC	Choral Evensong
17	Tues	7.30pm	URCC	Worship Group Meeting
19	Thur	1.00pm	SA	Knit and Chat
22	Sun	10.30am	P	Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion/Church meeting</i>
		10.30am	SC	Revd Jacqui Hyde
		11.00am	SA	Mr Bob Alger
		6.00pm	SC	Choral Evensong
23	Mon			Footsloggers Walk
29	Sun	10.30am	P	No service
		10.30am	URCC	Revd Maz Allen
		11.00am	SA	Revd Dr John Sutcliffe
		6.00pm	SC	Choral Evensong
AUGUST DIARY				
4	Sat	10.30am	P	Coffee Morning
5	Sun	10.30am	P	Led by Elders – <i>Family Worship</i>
		10.30am	SC	Revd Nick Davies
		11.00am	SA	Songs of Praise
		6.00pm	SC	Holy Communion
		6.00pm	SA	Revd Ernest Marvin - <i>Communion</i>

AUGUST DIARY contd				
12	Sun	10.30am	P	No service
		10.30am	URCC	Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i>
		11.00am	SA	Revd Dr John Sampson
		6.00pm	SC	Choral Evensong
14	Tues	12noon	SC	Ministry 60+
17	Fri			Footsloggers
19	Sun	9.30am	SA	Jump4Joy
		10.30am	P	Worship Group
		10.30am	URCC	Revd Nick Davies <i>Communion</i>
		11.00am	SA	Bob Alger
		6.00pm	SC	Choral Evensong
25	Sat		SA	Flower Festival Weekend
26	Sun	10.30am	P	Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i>
		10.30am	URCC	Worship Group
		11.00am	SA	Worship Group
		6.00pm	SC	Choral Evensong

WEEKLY EVENTS			
Mon	9.30am	SA	Mah Jong
	10.00am	P	Prestbury Urchins (<i>not summer holidays</i>)
	4.30pm	WH SC	Rainbows (<i>term time only</i>)
Tue	10.00am	SA	Parents and Toddlers
	7.30pm	WH SC	House Group
Wed	9.15am	WH SC	Little Shepherds (<i>term time only</i>)
	2.15pm	WH SC	Senior Club
	3.15pm	WH URC	Toast (<i>term time only</i>)
	7.00pm	WH SC	Bellringing
Thu	10.00am	SA	Coffee Bar
	5.30pm	WH SC	Beavers (<i>term time only</i>)
	6.00pm	WH SC	Brownies (<i>term time only</i>)
	6.45am	WH SC	Cubs (<i>term time only</i>)
Fri	10.30am		Bible Study (<i>term time only</i>)
Sat	10.00am	SA	Coffee Bar