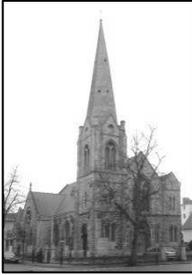


Cheltenham United Reformed Church



In Touch



June 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. St Andrew's offers impressive facilities, 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:

Bob Neil

We are invited to pray for:

Stuart Orr, Jean Danes, Tim Odell, Bill Farrell, Pat Barnett, Isobel Hitchings.

Beryl Ames, June Temple, Tony Gledhill, Colin and Paulette Hyde, Jean Bennett.

The families of Bob Reid, Joan Scammell and Bob Neil.

Wendy Gledhill and family, Brenda Manser and family.

Our Congratulations go to:

Alex and Anna Lesenechal on their marriage.

Alison and Peter Kerr on the birth of their first grandchild, Benjamin Donald Thomas Kerr.

Pentecost - 4th June

Wear bright colours to your church services to celebrate the birthday of the Church!!

Maz

United Pastorate Service

11th June at The Church in Warden Hill (St. Christopher's) **10.30am**

followed by lunch

Elders will be re-inducted and members received.

Please note the start-time and support our Annual Joint-Pastorate Service,

To be led by Maz.

This is a service of celebration, followed by a hot lunch

Ensure you sign up for the meal.

PLEASE NOTE: there will **NOT** be Services at Prestbury or St Andrews

Our Minister Writes:



Dear Friends,

Last month, friends took me to the races. You may think it shocking that your minister should do this, but in fact it was an afternoon of fun and laughter. Sat around dining tables, it was personal choice whether or not to go out and see the races from the rails. The betting was done in £2-£5 only and the fun part was listening to folk choose their runner: ‘what name do you fancy’, ‘I like the colours of that jersey’ etc. In other words, we were complete novices and took everything in good humour as a result.

This all came about because I made a throw-away comment last year about living in a town with a racecourse for ten years without knowing what all the fuss was about. It is something about an alternative identity: what visitors to the town perceive as the ‘real’ Cheltenham. Christians may have one perception, the night-time clubbers may have another and the race-goers yet another. To experience a different reality than your own doesn’t make you a traitor to your beliefs. As a street-pastor, I saw many drunks who needed help getting to taxis but who would be hard at work the next day.

What view might non-church goers have of us in the church? Just as we make snap judgements about drunks and gamblers, might they say of us ‘boring’ or ‘hypocrite’? Jesus rubbed shoulders with prostitutes and beggars and always saw the person rather than the label. We need to work hard to show our community that we are in touch with the world outside of church, that we understand the pressures and the temptations but that we have something valuable to offer as an alternative. Christ has won the race for us all.

Maz

(see page 22 for some pictures of Maz’ day out. Ed)

Easter Morning in Imperial Gardens.



Photo: Bob Alger

And at Prestbury



Photo: Fiona Hall

Maz's Services, before Retiring + Lunches

At: The Church in Warden Hill on 9th July.
Prestbury on 23rd July.
St. Andrew's on 30th July.

The reason I have arranged for three meals instead of one, is so that I can speak with more people to thank you for your love and support over the past ten years. Please do try to stay for lunch. There will be a sign-up sheet in each church nearer the time.

Maz

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

Montpellier Summer Fair

Sunday 25 June, from 11am-5pm

St Andrews is having **Jewellery** and **cake** stalls,

and will be serving **Afternoon Teas**

Please could you bake a cake for the stall?

All funds for Church

Thank you

Thank you to those people who have given me wool, buttons and cosmetics. Some of you I have been unable to thank in person, others I do not know. So this is a big thank you to you all. Warmest wishes,

Lyn Ricketts

*Any broken furniture?
That wobbly chair...
That drawer that's falling apart..
Do you need a handle to
match a drawer or door?*

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Conductor Ian Higginson

Next Concert
**"Summer Potpourri"
Shakespeare to the
Shows**

**St Andrew's Church
Cheltenham**

Saturday 1st July 2017

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

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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

St. Andrew's Charity for June 2017

THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS TRUST

Cystic Fibrosis, first described in the 1930's, is a genetic disorder that affects over 11,000 people in the UK. It affects the lungs and other organs and is life-limiting. Much progress has been made in the development of new treatments of the condition, and research is continuing to improve the life expectations and quality of life of sufferers and their families.

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust is the largest charity in the UK dedicated to the condition, and its long term aim is to "ensure everyone with CF can lead a life unlimited by the condition."

The daily routine of those with the condition involves extensive medication and physiotherapy, but the work of the Trust has brought many improvements. Over half the Cystic Fibrosis population in the UK is now in work and many have their own families. The Trust is continuing to fund research, and this year is investing £3.5 million in its Strategic Research Centres, with up to £750,000 going to each Centre over the next 3-4 years. While the Trust does not fund clinical trials of new treatments and procedures, it provides support for pilot studies and later-stage trials. The Trust aims to bring in researchers as necessary from different disciplines to tackle the complex problems associated with Cystic Fibrosis. It also manages the UK's Cystic Fibrosis Register, which holds data on consenting people with the condition in the whole of the UK. The data can be used to improve the daily life of sufferers, improve the quality of care in care centres and monitor the safety of new drugs.

More information on the work of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust can be obtained by phoning 020 3795 1555, or email enquiries@cysticfibrosis.org.uk

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A Salutory Tale

One Sunday morning in May, three youths in their late teens walked into Prestbury United Reformed Church. They were of middle-eastern appearance and spoke poor English. Although they seemed to be out-of-place in Prestbury, I am pleased to say that we welcomed them in and Church members made an effort to speak to them. It struck me that perhaps they were students; someone else thought that they might have been from refugee families known to have been resettled in the area. Before the start of the service they made some excuse and left. This did not strike me as particularly odd at the time, I thought that they had probably decided that our Church with its ageing congregation was not their scene.

It was not until the end of our service that it became apparent that they had abused our welcome. A purse belonging to one of our elderly church members had gone missing.

We contacted the police and, despite the fact that this incident must be minor in their terms, they showed concern and compassion. They visited the lady concerned at her home in the afternoon. Later, they told us that at least one other Church in Cheltenham had been targeted in a similar way and there had been a theft there too. Likely it was a team of petty thieves from outside the area. Distressing though this was to the lady concerned, it is some consolation that there was only a small amount of money in the purse, not enough to cover their petrol costs!

Word got around quickly via the Churches grapevine, and I know that there was a *friendly* police presence on the door of at least one of the Sunday evening services in Cheltenham. Also, it came to light that another local Church had been visited by the three youths just minutes after leaving us. Fortunately, in this case they left empty-handed and, better still they and their vehicle were captured on the Church's closed-circuit TV camera. The pictures are available to the police so who knows where this may lead.

We said at the time that it could have been worse. I'm really glad that, we never thought other than to take them at face value and welcome them into our Church as genuine visitors. Thankfully, this is likely to be a one-off incident in our little backwater of Prestbury although clearly we shall need to be more vigilant in future. But it did bring home to me the threats and difficult decisions that our fellow Church officials have to face each week in places round the world, and indeed in the UK, where violent crime or terrorist-related incidents are more prevalent. *Brian Hall*



Classic Film

Saturday 3rd June 2017
in Warden Hill URC Centre
at 2.15pm (doors open at 2.00pm)

classic.films1@urcic.org.uk

Free entry – Family and Friends welcome
Refreshments available

Future Dates: 1st July

Holiday Club

All aboard the Warden Hill Holiday Club! (There will be a train theme). This will take place on Tuesday 8th August, Wednesday 9th August and Thursday 10th August at the URC Centre.

Offers of help gratefully received.

Debbie Cypher

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, 15th and 29th June

Starting at 12.15 pm.

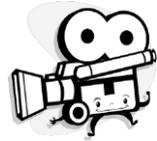
Cost £5.00 per session.

New members welcome.

contact Lida 01242 233949 lida@blueyonder.co.uk

Community Film

Saturday 10th June 2017
in Warden Hill URC Centre
at 2.30pm (doors open at 2.15pm)



community.films@urcic.org.uk

Free entry – Family and Friends welcome
Refreshments available

Future Dates: 8th July, 9th September

CURC Discussion Group

for general discussion of the topic led by the speaker.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Put the next date in your diaries.....

Tuesday 27th June The Church in India Rev Gary Grady

Meetings are at **St Andrew's**, starting at 7.30.

Prestbury Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd June 10.30am-12.00noon

As ever, the legendary toasted teacakes will be on offer!

There will also be a raffle, cakes and books for sale.

Plenty of conversation guaranteed!



A big 'thank you' to all who helped and attended the May Fayre.

With your help we raised £424 for church funds.

It's none of my business, but.....

It's that word "but" isn't it? Only three letters, yet it has enormous power.

It's none of my business, but what will you do every other Tuesday afternoon now the Forum is on summer break? That sort of question really means, "there's nothing I can do about it, and I don't really care one way or the other, but you surely can't be so thick-skinned/shy/criminal/devious/embarrassed (delete as required) that you won't tell me!?" If you think that's a slightly insulting formulation of the "but" phrase, what about "I know you won't mind me saying so , but....."? That "but" gives you carte blanche, much the same as "I don't want to be rude, but".....See what I mean? You can be as obnoxious as you like after that. But - (see, you can start a sentence with it) - that same word can precede something pleasant.

For example, in May we had the last meeting of the Forum, but we'll be back in the autumn with another series of talks and friendly chats. And - (you can do it with "and" as well) - we'll even open a fresh tin of biscuits. I know you won't mind me asking, but how will you fill in the time while you're waiting for us to restart? So many options when the sun shines (sometimes)! It's not my business, but may I interpose a word to Doris here. Don't do what you did last year - it's not healthy you know.... and at your age! Enough said eh!?

But - (there it is again) - what is in store when we restart **Tuesday Forum**? The programme is being finalized even as you read this enlightening piece: it's being finalized even if you're not reading this enlightening piece. I've seen some of what's coming up and we've got a jolly interesting package of talks to look forward to. So, go on, make a diary note for the **second and fourth Tuesday each month from September**.

Keith Norcott

PS. Doris, if you really must do it again this summer, just don't get caught.

How about trying our NEW 'Tuesday Teas', happening on the first Tuesday of the month over the summer - and if you all like the idea, they could continue. The Elders

***Keep in Touch over the Summer
by coming to “Tuesday Teas”***



***to be held in the Garden Room at
St Andrew’s on the***

First Tuesday of the month from 2.30-4.30pm

*Tuesday 6 June
Tuesday 4 July
Tuesday 1 August
Tuesday 5 September*

***EVERYONE WELCOME
COME AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE***

Footsloggers

Walking dates for 2017 are:

22nd June 17th July 17th August 18th September
19th October 20th November 8th December

All are welcome to join us both young and not so young. Just get in touch with Tim Odell on Cheltenham 243398 or by e-mail at t_odell@blueyonder.co.uk or Jenny Evans at jenny21evans@hotmail.co.uk

Footsloggers Walk 15th May 2017

The Footsloggers gathered in the car park of The Speech House Hotel in the Forest of Dean. We had a damp but very pleasant walk around the Sculpture Trail, only being misdirected once. There were plenty of artistic/historical photo opportunities.



On our return to The Speech House we ate a tasty lunch in the Carolean Room, after which we were given a very interesting talk about the history of the building and the Verderers (guardians of the forest) who meet there every 40 days! It seems they can still order the death penalty for making off with one of the forests Royal deer! (Though the 3000 wild boar are not so well protected!)

Jenny Evans

'Heavy Lifting!'



A group of willing volunteers helped load the old gas Kitchen Cooker onto the trailer for a journey to the auction house at Leckhampton.

Marcus Dann

Wednesday Women

The meeting in May was an illustrated talk by Eric Moore on his climb of Kilimanjaro. The slides were amazing and Eric's enthusiasm for his fund raising challenges was evident in his talk. Although inspirational, none of the ladies felt able to compete in these trips ! (Eric has recently climbed to Everest base camp). Donations for his current charity, 'Winston's Wish' can be made through www.justgiving.com/Eric-Moore4.

Wednesday Women meet again on 7th June. Lisa Bellamy ,a local podiatrist will be the speaker. Her subject is `Feet are amazing-let`s look after them`. Lisa is a highly qualified practitioner and will give advice on getting feet ready for summer.

Meetings start with refreshments at 7.15. All welcome.

Elspet Carter

Eco Church

The **Regeneration & Repair café** celebrated its first birthday on Saturday 6th May. Thanks to everyone who has supported this initiative.

On 3 June, Vision 21 will launch **Warmer Cheltenham** with a training event at St Andrew's while the Regeneration and Repair cafe is going on. This will include an understanding of energy efficient renovation of older housing, a demonstration of the website, and ideas for how to tell people about it. You may have read about this in Vision 21's recent article in the Echo. The website was developed with the help of a grant from the Lottery Fund. It has lots of information for anyone who wants to renovate older properties and also make them more energy efficient. If you have internet access you can explore the Warmer Cheltenham website on <http://www.warmer.org.uk/>. The website is still being developed with further links and case studies planned to be added.

Carol Drummond

Warden Hill Family Fun Day



Freecycle

If you have 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.



Is this YOUR Garden/Allotment?

First, plant a row of peas:

Presence
Promptness
Preparation
Perseverance.

Next plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash criticism.

Then, plant five rows of lettuce:

Let us obey rules and regulations,
Let us be true to our obligations,
Let us be faithful to duty,
Let us be loyal and unselfish,
Let us love one another.

And, no garden is complete without turnips:

Turn up at meetings,
Turn up with a smile,
Turn up with new ideas,
Turn up with determination to make everything count
for something good and worthwhile.

Anonymous



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Pamoja Gospel Choir and Christian Folk Band Stanhope

will present an evening of uplifting music with a variety of traditional and modern songs at St Luke's Church, on Saturday 3rd June at 8pm

There will be drinks available in the interval and a retiring collection for the local branch of Samaritans. No tickets needed, just come along, bring your friends, enjoy the music and support a great cause. Please contact Marion Burke if you need any more details.



News from The Church in Warden Hill

WINGS PANEL

As part of the Christian Arts Festival, churches were invited to each make a quilted panel with a **Wings** theme.

Four members of The Church in Warden Hill designed and made the panel illustrated. This is one of twenty which are now sewn together to form a banner which was displayed in various venues during the Christian Arts Festival.



Photo published in April 2017 'Lantern'

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**Would you like to learn more about how to
reduce your carbon footprint?
Would you like to get together with other people to do it?**

Join us on the Cheltenham
Community Carbon Reduction Programme

This free programme is based on the popular Leicestershire
“Footpaths” programme.

Seven interactive meetings with information and ideas
for reducing your carbon footprint.

There are two groups meeting in Cheltenham:
Charlton Kings on Tuesday evenings,
Leckhampton on Wednesday evenings.

Meetings are approximately fortnightly, by agreement.

For more information and to book, contact:
Alison Crane 01242 577671 alisoncrane57@gmail.com
Lorraine de Feu lorraine.dufeu@googlemail.com



Maz's Day at Cheltenham Races with friends from Cheltenham URC and their guests - 19th April 2017



Photos: Sandra and Tony Jeans

From the Editor

It is said that moving house is one of the worst stress inducing activities known. But it can also be considered an adventure, even an enjoyable one that excitement is generated for. For those who move often, it is a similar proposition to camping, when one moves on regularly in order to have a base to see new places and for new work opportunities, everything has to go with you. This, again is similar to the ancient Israelite way of living, to re-pitch the tent at regular intervals to take advantage of new pasture. Order is needed, the same things in the same place, so packing and tidying can be done efficiently. Clutter is not required!



When we move house we are effectively re-pitching our tents, preparing for life in a different place, but with our familiar belongings.

Maz will be moving house this summer – we wish her well.

Janet Kemp

Please ensure that all items for the next edition of 'In Touch' are with the Editor by midnight on
SUNDAY 11th JUNE 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)

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 June 2017

Thu	1	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Sat	3	10.00am	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	3	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Prestbury
Sat	3	2.30pm	Classic Film Show	Warden Hill URCC
SUN	4	WHITSUN/PENTECOST		
Tue	6	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea	St Andrew'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 URCC
SUN	11	10.30am	United Pastorate Service	St Christopher's
Thu	15	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Sat	17	2.00pm	Warden Hill Family Fun Day	St Christopher's
SUN	18	3.15pm	Deaf Community Church	St Christopher's
Wed	21	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Thu	22		Footsloggers	
Thu	22	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Sat	25	11.00am	Montpellier Fair	
Tue	27	7.30pm	Discussion Group	St Andrew's
Thu	29	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's

Diary for July 2017

Sat	1	10.00am	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	1	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Prestbury
Sat	1	2.15pm	Classic Film Show	Warden Hill URCC

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	Cleeve Hill Home**
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 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>
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>