Cheltenham United Reformed Church







In Touch



June/July 2019



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

CHELTENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

www.urcic.org.uk

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Tuesday Forum Keith Norcott

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 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 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:

Pat Brett



We are invited to pray for:

The family of Pat Brett John, Sandy, Joan, Barbara, Jean, Anne, Alister Those doing exams this month.





United Pastorate Service

10.30am on 9th June at St Andrew's

A celebration of 'Open the Book' To be led by Julie Jefferies

The service will be followed by a Ploughman's Lunch with Puddings, which will incorporate the CURC AGM business.

Please support this Service, a Celebration and important event in the life of our three churches.

Please Note: There will be NO 10.30am Morning Worship at Prestbury

This month's Pastoral letter comes from Janet Kemp, Church Secretary, St Andrew's

Dear Friends

Meetings, meetings, meetings – the URC thrives on them. We meet for worship, for business, for study, socially, in small groups and large ones. Friends are made, networking



is done. Meetings are the oil that keeps the whole working. It has always been so, humans cannot exist in isolation. We read in Acts 2 of a massive public gathering that turned into a meeting, the day of Pentecost. Pentecost, a Jewish festival, drew the crowds to Jerusalem, an event that was utilised by God to send the Holy Spirit. Everyone understood what Peter was saying despite speaking different languages. The CHURCH was born.

We shall be celebrating the 'Birthday of the Church' on 9th June this year at St Andrew's. This will also be our **United Pastorate Service**, celebrating the birthday of the Cheltenham United Reformed Church when Prestbury, St Andrew's and The Church in Warden Hill come together to worship. The theme of this service is yet another birthday celebration – 20 years of '**Open the Book'**. Members of all three churches will be taking part.

We also hear about another important meeting from Luke at the start of Acts in chapter 1 verse 15. This was a business meeting within worship. We, also have this type of meeting. Every two years, the West Midlands Synod of the URC (there are 13 Synods across the country) invites delegates, worshippers, friends, to a conference style meeting lasting 24 hours. We are all invited. Business is only the concern of the regular Synod reps, the rest of the programme is worship, workshops, news, speakers, socialising. If you have never experienced this type of meeting this could be your challenge! Come for the whole 24 hours or just the Saturday. You will not be disappointed. Details can be found on Page 5.

Whatever the type, style, and purpose of the meeting we attend we are communicating with each other, and with God.

Janet

The Pulpit in June and July

At St Andrew's

2nd June Rev Michael Garland

9^{tn} June United Pastorate Service, 10.30am

16^{tn} June Rev Penny West

23^{ra} June Mrs Margaret Marshall

30^{tn} June **Rev Penny West** 7th July Mr Bob Alger

Mr David Black / Mrs Carol Drummond

14th July 21st July Rev Malachi Munzaneza 28th July Mrs Margaret Marshall



Jump 4 Joy at St Andrew's is on 16th June and 21st July, 9.30am, followed Children of all ages welcome. by breakfast.

At Prestbury

2nd June Rev Dr Dee Brierley Jones

9^{tn} June United Pastorate Service at St Andrew's

16th June **Rev Canon Richard Atkins** 23^{ra} June Mr Geoff Tizzard-King

30^{tn} June No service

7^{tn} July Rev Dr Dee Brierlev-Jones

14th July No service 21st July To Be Advised 28th July Rev John Beardsley

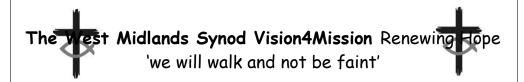
At The Church in Warden Hill

9th June United Pastorate Service at St Andrew's

14th July Rev Michael Garland

Messy Church at the URC Centre is on 9th June and 14th July, 3.30pm.

(For all other Services at The Church in Warden Hill, please refer to 'The Lantern', www.tciwh.org.uk)



An Invitation to ALL

Friday 11th October from 5.30pm to Saturday 12th October 4.30pm At the Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport.

The URC nationally is a relatively small church in numbers, though we are vocal and are heard. This is an opportunity to meet friends and colleagues, to worship together, to hear nationally known speakers, to find out what is happening, to network, to socialise, all in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. See you there!

For further details please talk to your Church Secretary:

Janet, Fiona or Brian

Lifts can be arranged

Grants are available.

Decisions are needed by 26th July

Cheltenham Choral Society

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

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Do you know someone who is in Hospital?

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Spiritual support, prayer and a listening ear as well as Holy Communion for those who require it.

But they can't help at all if they don't know you're there!

Contact the Hospital Chaplains:

0300 422 4286 Cheltenham general Hospital 0300 422 6200 Gloucestershire Royal Hospital Ghn-tr.spiritualcare@nhs.net
Copied from a Gloucestershire Hospitals poster

Cheltenham Street Pastors

The Cheltenham Street Pastors 'Safe Space' vehicle, now known as 'The Stable' will be on show at the **Montpellier Street Fair on Sunday 30**th **June.**

It is normally parked in Ormond Place in the town centre on Friday and Saturday nights between 10pm and around 3am. This provides a stationary point of contact with those engaging in the night time economy of Cheltenham, in addition to the regular street patrols which are now into their 10th year. Street Pastors provide a caring, helping and listening presence giving out lollipops, flipflops, a listening ear and when appropriate, even prayer. Thank you to all involved.

Maureen McBane



Spring Cleaning

Done your spring cleaning yet? if not, hold on to those unwanted items as the Church is having another **Bric-a-Brac stall at the Montpellier Street Fair** on Sunday 30 June. Money raised from the stall will be for the Church spire appeal. If anybody else would like to organise a stall or help me with the Bric-a-Brac then please let me know.

Ann Lewis

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Wednesday Women

On the 5th June Wednesday Women will have a card making session. Meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's.

All welcome.

Elspet Carter

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. Thursdays at 12.15 pm. £5.00 per session.

13th and 27th June, 4th,18th and 25th July.

Contact Lida 01242 233949 lida@blueyonder.co.uk

New Projects

As many are aware, the **Spires** of both St Andrew's and Prestbury United Reformed Churches are in need of major repairs.

The funds will probably take several years to be collected – ideas for fund raising will be gratefully received.



St Andrew's



Prestbury

St Andrew's Charity for June 2019

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

The URC's Commitment for Life programme evolved from the programme of donations to Christian Aid and the World Development Movement, which were adopted at the formation of the URC in 1972. The two streams of giving were combined in 1992 as **Commitment for Life**, and the finally agreed programme was adopted as a General Assembly commitment in 1996. Since then, Commitment for Life has been part of the mainstream giving for the URC. It was resolved that the fund should focus on four major areas. These were originally India, Brazil, Palestine and Zimbabwe, but have changed over the years as circumstances have changed, and currently are Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Central America and Israel/Palestine. Individual churches have decided which area(s) to adopt.

Commitment for Life's core project strapline is "justice for all, to help and to pray for some of the world's poorest people." The bulk of its funding goes via Christian Aid and to a lesser extent Global Justice Now.

Christian Aid has partner organisations in all the countries it supports, and in general the involvement of Christian Aid and the work of the partners are accepted by the host governments.

It is worth noting that, whilst the serious situations in Bangladesh and Israel/Palestine receive a great deal of publicity, Christian Aid and its partners are working to relieve extreme poverty in less well known areas. In Guatemala for example, where Commitment for Life's current campaign is to improve the lives of the six million indigenous people, an isolated and ignored community who have no access to basic services like health and education.

More information on **Commitment for Life** is available on the URC website www.urc.org.uk

Creative Cards

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

Community Film

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



Saturday 22nd June 2019

•



Saturday 20th July 2019

Free entry – Family and Friends welcome Refreshments available

There will be no Community Film during August.

Tuesday Teas

Come and join us for a good chat over a cup of tea and excellent cake.

In the Garden Room at St Andrew's 2.30pm on 9th July, 13th August *Ann Lewis*



Letter from Louis Ndekha in Malawi following Cyclone Idai

Dear Friends,

This is a summary report of the relief assistance St Andrews rendered to the people of my village in Malawi following the flooding caused by cyclone Idai.

I want to emphasise that the people of my village were particularly grateful for the timely donation. The assistance came at a time when they needed it most. Most of the recipients, who had lost all their harvest could not believe they were able to receive help, as at that time most of the government and other agencies' assistance was directed to the people in relief camps.

My village head woman was particularly very grateful for the donation. She has written a letter to St Andrews in Chichewa (our language). She thanks the members of St Andrews for the assistance and asks God to bless you so that you can continue to help others in need.



Main delivery



Distribution 23rd April 2019

Meanwhile some people (those who have the land) are now trying to go back to their gardens along rivers to plant in what is called winter-cropping (May-July) when some soft rains come and can feed some special crops. For the rest they must wait for the next cropping season which starts in November and ends in March.

On behalf of my village, I would like to thank the members of St Andrews for their generosity. Most people in my village live basic subsistent lives. When catastrophes like cyclone Idai strikes life becomes even more desperate for them. The assistance rendered to the families will go a long way as they try to find alternative options for survival.

Louis Ndekha

Sent by email, 10th May 2019

Louis is now back in Cheltenham and is willing to speak about the situation he found in Malawi to any Groups that request it.

Prestbury Coffee Mornings

Our next monthly coffee mornings will be on:

Saturday 1st June Saturday 6 July

From 10.30am until 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!



Prestbury May Fair & Coffee Morning - Thank You!

Our May Fair was very successful and we raised over £400 for church funds. Thank you to all those who helped out or who came along and supported the sale. The plant and cake stalls were very successful and there were so many people at coffee at one point that we nearly ran out of mugs!

Prestbury Friday Circle

This Social Group has been running at the URC for a couple of years now from 10 am till Noon every Friday morning. Conversation and refreshments guaranteed every week, but sometimes there will be games, quizzes, bingo and live music. All Welcome – just drop by and see what's happening! Fiona Hall

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.



ECO

Happy Birthday to the Repair Cafe

In May we celebrated the third anniversary of the Repair Café at St Andrew's. Thanks to Florence for providing the cake which was much appreciated by the café organisers and volunteers. 38 of the 41 items brought in were repaired (sadly my steam mop wasn't one of them!) Items successfully repaired included a 1970's turntable, a 1930's clock and an alarm clock.



Environmental days in June:

5th June is **World Environment Day** which will be hosted by China. The theme for this year is Air Pollution

8th June is **World Ocean Day** – helping to protect the ocean for future generations

St Andrew's Lunch Club

St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street

OPEN to ALL

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 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 1.00pm and bring a friend.

But if from life you take the best,
And if in life you keep the jest,
If love you hold;
No matter how the years go by,
No matter how the birthdays fly
You are not old.

H.S Fritsch

Footsloggers

The Footsloggers is a **Walking Group** for all ages, abilities and dogs organised by members of the URC in Cheltenham. We meet once a month and do a circular walk of about 3 miles and then have lunch together. As different people organise the walks we visit a variety of areas centred on Cheltenham.

The dates that we are meeting during 2019 are as follows:

Monday June 17th

Friday July 19th

Monday August 19th Monday October 14th Friday September 13th Friday November 15

Monday December 9th

Friday January 10th 2020

Our Saturday Evening Social will be held on 2nd November 2019



If anyone would like details of future outings so you can join us for either a walk, a lunch or both please contact me. You can email me at footsloggers@urcic.org.uk.

All are welcome to join us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jenny Evans

Friday 17th May Shurdington

Eighteen Footsloggers left Morrisons Hatherley car park for a four mile walk across fields of Winter wheat and sheep pastures with views of Chosen Hill and in the distance in front of us, the Church of St Paul Shurdington. With one very wet entrance to a field we all got through but the visiting dog loved to paddle in it'

On arrival at the church we were greeted by the flower arrangers and a surprise welcome - the whole church was lit up. St Paul's Shurdington is Anglican dating from early 14th century. It has an unpanelled wagon roof. The spire is considered to be unusually slender and to be the finest in the county. Crossing five stiles we then made our way back through the original cricket ground and on to have lunch at the Cheese Rollers inn where two more friends joined us.



Marcus and Florence Dann



Photo: Jenny Evans

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St Andrew's Charity for July 2019

SEVERN FREEWHEELERS.

Founded in 2007, Severn Freewheelers is a charity that provides a vital service to hospitals in Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire and North Wiltshire. They are a group of volunteer motorcyclists who hold advanced driving qualifications and receive extra training in emergency response riding.

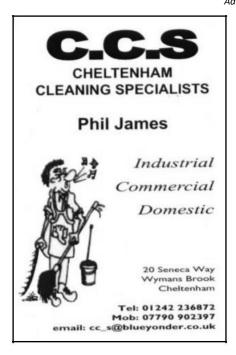
During weekends, on Bank Holidays and during the night hours they provide a free courier service to all hospitals in the area. They are equipped to carry almost any medical essentials between hospitals, x-rays, samples, scans, blood, and much more. Each team or shift consists of four people, a dispatcher and three riders who are deployed in each of the main areas. The dispatcher receives calls from the hospitals and determines the most efficient way to achieve timely delivery, with emergencies taking preference. In emergencies speedy delivery is clearly essential and motorcycles can often travel where other vehicles cannot, using blue lights if necessary.

Severn Freewheelers now has a fleet of 8 motorcycles, and they cover some 150,000 miles and make over 4,500 deliveries every year, and all free of charge to the users. Funding is all from voluntary donations.

One of the group's major fundraising events is the Prescott Bike Festival, which might be of particular interest to the motorcyclists among us. This year the preview day is Saturday 15th June and the main show is on Sunday 16th.

More information about Severn Freewheelers is on their website severnfreewheelers.org.uk







Regeneration/Repair Café Is it broken? We can help you fix it.

Regeneration Café volunteers have a go at repairing electrical and electronic items, textiles, small household items and do knife sharpening

First Saturday of every Month St Andrew's 10.00am—2.00pm

No charge but donations welcomed.

Wednesday Social Group at Warden Hill URCC

Our Wednesday afternoons continue to be a treat!

24th April

We went "Around the World in 80 photographs" with Peter Barry. We enjoyed an hour of carefully chosen and well composed, technically excellent photographs. But that was not all, the pleasure was enhanced by an insightful commentary delivered with enthusiasm and drive. No chance for nodding off in the back row. Familiar places were given a new meaning as Peter put them into a new context. We saw, like John Keats, that "beauty is truth, truth is beauty". This is something we must protect for the future generations. Thank you Peter.

8th May

A late start to our talk this week which gave us the chance to chat (never a problem with our members) and to give out the geraniums kindly supplied by Chris Evans for our "grow a beauty" Competition.

Fiona got her talk on 'Land Girls' off to a cracking start. Members were cast as volunteers at a recruitment meeting with names assigned to the 'keenies' in the front row. Much fun ensued as they were interviewed about their suitability. We laughed at the thought of some of our less sprightly members being the Lumber Jills to the chaps Lumberjacks!!! Fiona's drive, acting and humour kept the afternoon moving at a great pace. I was only one of two members who had had a land-girl billeted with us and she became my much loved Aunty Joan — a friend for life. Ex Land Girls I met in Pilton in later years who had married local men were so proud of the essential work they had done for the Nation. No wonder! We owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their service to King and Country.

Come and join the Group, for fun and friendship in 2019 and beyond. Don't be shy, a warm welcome awaits you.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons in the month at 2.00pm, at the URC Centre.

Please spread the word.

John Howe



Diary for June 2019

Sat	1	10.00am	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	1	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Prestbury
Wed	5	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Wed	5	7.30pm	Wednesday Women	St Andrew's
Thu	6	2.00pm	Prayer group	St Christopher's
Sat	8		Warden Hill Family Fun Day	
SUN	9		WHITSUN / PENTECOST	
SUN	9	10.30am	United Pastorate Service	St Andrews
Tue	11		Tuesday Forum Annual Outing	5
Wed	12	2.00pm	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Thu	13	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
SUN	16	3.15pm	Deaf Community Church	St Christopher's
Mon	17		Footsloggers	
Wed	19	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Thu	20	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Sat	22	2.00pm	Community Film Show	Warden Hill URCC
Sat	22	6.00pm	X-site	St Christopher's
Wed	26	2.00pm	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Thu	27	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Thu	27	2.00pm	URC Area Meeting	Ashcroft, Cirenceste
SUN	30	11.00am	Montpellier Street Fair	

Saturday Mornings at St Andrew's

Do you have contacts with any Charities that might like to hire St Andrew's Garden Room and Kitchen at a flat fee of £35 on Saturday mornings for their own Charity Coffee Mornings?

If you know of any charity that would be interested please pass the message on.

Diary for July 2019

Wed Wed Thu Thu Sat Sat	3 4 4 6 6	1.00pm 7.30pm 12.15pm 2.00pm 10.00am 10.30am	Lunch Club Wednesday Women Qi Gong Prayer Group Regeneration/Repair Café Coffee Morning	St Andrew's St Andrew's St Andrew's St Christopher's St Andrew's Prestbury
Tue	9	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea	St Andrew's
Wed	10	2.00pm	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Thu	11	7.30pm	Discussion Group	Prestbury
Wed Thu Thu Fri	17 18 18 19	1.00pm 12.15pm 2.00pm	Lunch Club Qi Gong Prayer Group Footsloggers	St Andrew's St Andrew's St Christopher's
SUN	21	3.15pm	Deaf Community Church	St Christopher's
Wed	24	2.00pm	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Thu	25	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's

Diary for August 2019

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

From The Editor

Dear Friends

I shall be away on holiday in mid June, so this edition of 'In Touch' is June/July and the usual July/August edition, which will not be out till the middle of July will be for August.

It is always sad to note the loss of long standing contributions for 'In Touch'. Many of you know that Tuesday Forum, which has been meeting at St Andrew's for many years is closing this month. Numbers have dropped off significantly and it is no longer deemed a viable organisation. However, opportunity for meeting on Tuesday afternoons will continue for those who would like to. Tuesday Teas happen monthly at the moment and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Our thanks go to Keith Norcott for the joy he has given through his monthly 'writings' about and around the Forum. We shall miss these items.

I am always happy to accept 'copy' from correspondents —and look forward to others taking up the pen.

Have a good summer

Janet

Please ensure that all items for the next edition of 'In Touch' are with the Editor by midnight on

SUNDAY 14th JULY 2019

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

Regular	Weekly	Events	2019
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** Term Time Only

Mond	ay
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ivioliday		
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

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

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

Church Services

St Andrew's URC

Every Sunday 11.00am Morning Worship

1 Sunday Communion Service **2 Sunday** 10.15am Prayer Time

3rd Sunday 9.30am *Jump4Joy* (for all the family)

Prestbury URC

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

The Church in Warden Hill

Sunday morning services are all held at St Christopher's

1st Sunday 10.30am Family Worship

2^{na} Sunday 10.30am Communion in the URC tradition

3¹⁴ Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship

4th Sunday 10.30am *Communion in the Anglican tradition*

5th Sunday 10.30am *Morning Worship*

2nd Sunday 3.30pm *Messy Church at URC Centre*

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

Sunday 6.00pm *Communion in the Anglican tradition*

2 Sunday 6.00pm Evensong 3 Sunday 6.00pm Evensong

4^{tn} Sunday 6.00pm Evening Worship at URC Centre

5th Sunday 6.00pm *Choral Evensong*

Weekdays

Monday-Friday 8.00 am Morning Prayer at St Christopher's

Tuesday 10.30am Communion at URC Centre