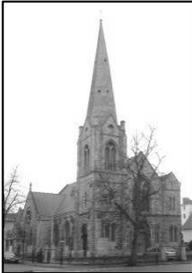


Cheltenham United Reformed Church



In Touch

October 2018



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

CHELTENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

www.urcic.org.uk

Minister Vacancy

Lay Preachers

Vicar, St Christopher's Rev. Gary Grady 01242 511522 gary@tciwh.org.uk

IN TOUCH

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Creative Cards Ann Standring ccs@urcic.org.uk

Discussion Group Janet Kemp magazine@urcic.org.uk

Footsloggers Tim Odell

Little Shepherds

Prestbury Friday Circle Rose West pfc@urcic.org.uk

Prestbury URChins Fiona Hall prestbury.urchins@urcic.org.uk

Qi Gong Tony Jeans qi.gong@urcic.org.uk

Reading Group Mary Cummings

St Andrew's Toddlers Ann Lewis sta-toddlers@urcic.org.uk

Tuesday Forum Keith Norcott

Wednesday Women Donna Sutherland

Welcome to 'In Touch'

The magazine of **Cheltenham United Reformed Church**, a joint pastorate of the three United Reformed Churches in Cheltenham. The three churches work very closely together, sharing this magazine, the website and all activities.



St Andrew's United Reformed Church is in the Montpellier district of Cheltenham town centre. A former Presbyterian church founded in 1885, it became United Reformed on unification in 1972. St Andrew's offers impressive facilities, meeting the needs of 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 are invited to pray for:

Kate, Hanna, John, Margaret, Robin,
Jack, Andrea, Doreen, John, Harriet,
Joyce and Phil, Ann, Joyce
Fiona, Alister, Val.



Congratulations to all members of our church families on their GCSE, A level and degree results and good luck to all those who are starting school, changing school and going away to college or university.

Jump 4 Joy at St Andrew's

These informal, short services for ALL the family will be held on 21st October and 18th November, starting at 9.30am, followed by Breakfast at 10.00am.

On 16th December, Jump4Joy will be taking part in the Nativity and Carol Service, Starting at 10.30am.

Libby Floyer-Moss

Remembrance Sunday 2018

Tony and Janet are planning the service at St Andrew's on 11th November. This will be the Anniversary of the Armistice, so a very special day. We would like to incorporate stories/names of family members, and also have a small display of artefacts. If anyone could help with this we would be most grateful.



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



Dear Friends

Autumn is upon us!

The harvest has been gathered and all of God's creation is preparing for the coming winter months. Birds are flying south to their winter homes. Squirrels are gathering in their nuts and winter stores. The leaves are changing colour, and our tortoise is getting sleepier and very shortly won't awaken until spring. It's a stunning time of year!

Living amidst the beautiful rural Gloucestershire countryside, we have a constant reminder of our dependence on God our Creator and Sustainer, and have an opportunity to renew our commitment to him as good stewards of the earth. Will you?

Christ came so that we might have life and have it in abundance (John 10.10) but there are many who are helpless, marginalised, destitute and unloved; some of them live in Cheltenham! As the body of Christ, we are called into Christian community so that all can share in the harvest. It's therefore a time of year to renew our commitment as good neighbours, to seek the face of Christ in others and to share the hope of the Gospel.

Over the coming weeks try to find time to pray to God and to give Him thanks for the rich bounty of creation that he has provided us with. Then, if you feel able, commit yourself afresh as stewards of this planet, reflect on the harvest in your lives, and ponder what you might be able to do for others. Then watch, remember and wait, as we look forward to celebrating that moment of incarnation, where heaven and earth touched, and everything changed.

*With every blessing.
Revd Gary.*

Jewellery Stall

I will not be doing the Jewellery Stall after the end of this year. If anyone would like to take it over in 2019 please speak to me soon.

I would like to thank all the people who have contributed and bought items over many years. I must single out Lyn who has regularly brought items and has certainly made a big difference to the amount raised for the Church.

Morag Notman.

Pastoral Visiting - St Andrew's

If you are aware of any person who is unwell or anyone who requires a visit please contact Ann Lewis who will arrange for one of the pastoral team to visit.

Thank you

To everyone who helped knit for Greenbelt. The organisers have sent some photos with their thanks. The photos are on display at St Andrew's.

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.

All for ONLY £3.00

Discussion Group

Thursday 4th October The subject will be **PRAYER** –
what is it, how do we do it etc.
Bring some examples for discussion.

Thursday 8th November The inaugural meeting of the **BIBLE BOOK CLUB**
This will function the same way as a regular book club – only with books from the
Bible. First book for discussion will be **JONAH**. This group will be led by Julie
Jefferies. Everyone is welcome to take part, read the book, come to the
discussion if you are able.

Future dates for both Discussion Group and Bible Book Club will be decided on 8th
November. Please note change from information published in September 'In
Touch'.

EVERY ONE IS WELCOME.

We meet at Prestbury URC at 7.30pm.
Contact is Janet Kemp

Wednesday Women

The group will meet at St Andrew's on Wednesday 3rd October.
Meetings start with refreshments at 7.15pm.
All welcome.

Elspet Carter

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.

Advertisements

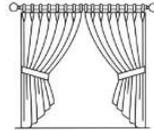
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The Chaplains offer:

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*****

St Andrew's Charity for October OPEN DOOR



In 1992 a group of volunteers set up **Open Door at Christmas**. They gradually expanded their work, developing it into both a registered charity and a limited company, and establishing the permanent operation we know as Cheltenham Open Door.

In 1998 a permanent base was found in Cheltenham's Grosvenor Street, and the charity has been working from there ever since, having developed close contacts with a number of other local charities.

The Grosvenor Street premises are open all year round, four days a week, offering hospitality, warmth and food to those who need them: vulnerable, disadvantaged and lonely people, men and women who have been deprived of the comforts and security most of us take for granted.

All who are in need are welcome at Grosvenor Street, whatever their age or background: unable to work because of injury or illness, struggling with reading and writing, coping with mental health problems, recovering from alcohol or drug abuse, sleeping rough, coming to terms with broken homes or relationships.

There is no charge for any of the many services provided which include hot drinks and toast on tap and a midday meal. There are showers (towels and soap provided) and a clothes store. On Sunday mornings there is a continuous hot grill breakfast and a packet of sandwiches to take away. Guests also have access to a telephone and can relax in the television room.

In December a Christmas Shelter is held at St. Luke's Hall, open 24 hours a day from lunch on Christmas Eve to after lunch a few days later. There are also a limited number of beds available overnight.

Open Door welcomes all donations and can be found at 39, Grosvenor Street, Cheltenham, by phone on 577418 or by email at info@cheltenhamopendoor.org.uk.



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Qi Gong at St Andrew's

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

On Thursdays: 4th and 18th October

1st, 15th and 29th November

13th December and 3rd January

Starting at 12.15 pm. Cost £5.00 per session.

New members welcome.

Contact Lida 01242 233949 lida@blueyonder.co.uk

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra



Saturday 6th October, 7.30pm
St Andrew's Church, Montpelier



Conductor: Graham Sutherland

Flute: Catherine Billington

Leader: George Ewart

The British Grenadiers arr. Clive Richardson

Serenade William Mathias

Flute Concerto Matthew Curtis

Ballet Music: excerpts from Le Corsaire, Swan Lake, Don Quixote

Arr. Graham Sutherland

Tickets £15, children free

Available from The Playhouse Theatre, Bath Rd

www.cheltplayhouse.org.uk

Afternoon Tea with Dramatic Consequences.

“And she did the same thing with his saxophone” That’s what this lady said to her friend just behind me in the queue for the self-service check-out at Morrisons. Got me wondering that. I mean, what else could you do with a saxophone except play it? Hearing a remark like that can conjure up all kinds of stories and pictures, even while you’re an innocent bystander in the check-out queue. Was it a weapon in a violent “domestic”? Used as doorstop, or a flower pot? Smashed it? Pawned it? Drove over it? See what I mean? Enough material there for a book on “Twenty things to do with your saxophone” or “The psychology of saxophone abuse”.

That’s what overhearings do don’t they? Start you imagining things, encourage shorter range earwiggling. I heard the man at the next table in a local teashop tell his friend “she’s been on asteroids for years you know”. Well, neither of them looked like they knew any astronauts, but I had this vision of some mad woman out of a Bronte novel whizzing through the night sky on a hot boulder.

Actually afternoon tea can be a “gold mine” for interesting eavesdroppings. I’m not sure that it’s quite the same at the St Andrew’s afternoon teas, but please come and find out on

Tuesday 9th October at 2.30pm

when the Forum meeting joins the Afternoon Tea for a

Macmillan Tea Party

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Cont.....

Forum Cont.....

One place where we're meant to hear everything everybody says is the theatre. Even there though you'll occasionally hear things you shouldn't; like a stage manager's loudly whispered "you're playing The Queen at half speed"; or a member of the front of house staff confiding to her mate "the police are waiting outside". But then the theatre is full of stories of mishaps, successes, bloated egos, critics, and so much more. And let us not forget the part audiences play. When displeased they have been known to howl, and throw rejects from the local greengrocer, and we all know what happened to Abraham Lincoln, don't we? So here's a chance to hear a bit more about all this, with Geoff Tizzard-King on:

Tuesday 23rd October with "Anecdotes of the Theatre".

We meet at 2.30 pm in the Garden Room at St. Andrew's, both for the afternoon tea and the Forum meetings.

Keith Norcott.

(milk no sugar, digestives preferred)



Community Film

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



Saturday 27th October 2018

(Cert 12)

Free entry – Family and Friends welcome

Refreshments available

Future Dates: 27th October, 17th November

Worship in Fiji - an uplifting experience

My family and I were very lucky to have the recent opportunity to visit great friends in Australia and New Zealand. As part of this adventure, we enjoyed a fantastic week in the Yassawa Islands in Fiji.

We travelled almost 5 hours by boat from the main island to Yangetta, a tiny island with about 500 inhabitants, one village, four churches and one tourist resort.

The first thing that struck all of us was that the natural beauty of the island was matched by the incredibly warm and genuinely welcoming nature of the Fijian people.

The resort was keen that visitors experience some of the normal day-to-day life of the island and so we enjoyed a traditional Kava (a drink made from the root of a local plant) sharing ceremony, a visit to the village and a singing performance by the children.





The highlight was that we were welcomed to join the islanders for Sunday worship at their Methodist Church, one of the churches of various denominations in the village.

The building had a simplistic beauty and we could not have been made to feel more welcome with the Ministers conducting some of the service in English for our benefit and we were asked to introduce ourselves individually including explaining what we did for our livelihoods back at home.

The service had a lot in common with services at home but one marked difference was the fantastic quality and passion of the singing by all age groups!

After the service we enjoyed some relaxed time meeting other worshippers - whose language skills put us to shame.

I feel very fortunate that we were able to enjoy this wonderful experience and to see first hand that the love of God is the same the world over

Ian Brooks



'Uprooted'

An Exhibition from Christian Aid
To be at St Andrew's Church
From 3rd – 10th November 2018

Watch for more details

Reading Group

The next meeting of the Reading Group will take place on Wednesday 21st November at 7.30pm at 'Karinya' Swindon Lane. Cheltenham GL50 4PF.

The book we are currently reading is 'The Bedlam Stacks' by Natasha Pulley. In 1859, India is ravaged by disease. In desperation, the Indian Office dispatches the injured expeditionary Merrick Tremayne to South America under order to return with cinchona cuttings. The holy town of Bedlam, in Peru, stands at the edge of a mysterious forest. Deep within are cinchona trees, whose bark yields the only known treatment for malaria.

The Group always welcomes new members. If interested please contact Mary Cummings

Footsloggers

The **Walking Group** for all ages, abilities and dogs.

The rest of the walks for 2018 are:

15th October 16th November 10th December

All are welcome to join us both young and not so young. Just

get in touch with Tim Odell or by e-mail at t_odell@blueyonder.co.uk, or Jenny Evans at jenny21evans@hotmail.co.uk



Our Heritage

Cheltenham Chapel /The Old Chapel 1809

Cheltenham Chapel, in St George's Square, was built 1808-1809 in response to a lack of space in Cheltenham's existing churches and chapels. Founded by Rev Rowland Hill, a leading preacher of the day, it was originally non-denominational. As congregations grew, the Anglicans, Baptists, and Methodists built their own places of worship and the non-denominational nature of the Cheltenham Chapel's congregation was lost.

From 1851 - 1857 it was a Congregational Chapel, passing to the Presbyterians from 1858 till 1886 when they moved to the new church on Montpellier Street.

The chapel was sold to the Salvation Army in 1895 and converted to commercial premises in 1987.

The Graveyard was bought by Cheltenham Borough Council in February 1988 and is now known as Jenner Gardens.



Prestbury Events

Autumn Bric-a-Brac / Coffee Morning

We will be having an Autumn sale on

Saturday October 6th from 10.30 until Noon.

As well as good quality bric-a-brac, there will be books, toys and cakes for sale as well as a raffle and, of course, refreshments.

Do come along to the sale and pick up a bargain!

If you have anything you would like to donate please email prestbury@urcic.org.uk or the Church will be open on Wednesday 3rd October from 6.30 to 7.30 pm to receive any items for the sale.



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

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.

ECO

Congratulations to John Standring who won a prize of £100 for a secondary school for his photograph entered as part of the West Midlands' Synod 'Church Eco Photographic' competition.



Come into St Andrew's and see the colour copy of John's photo.

At September's **Repair Café** 25 items were brought in for repair of which 17 were mended. These included a 30 year old Walkman, a 14 year old rucksack, a 25 year old carpet sweeper and a 40 year old kettle.

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.

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Wednesday Social Group at Warden Hill URCC

Which of our visiting speakers gets a round of applause just by entering the room and before he has said a word? Why Chris Evans of course - owner of the Butterfly Garden, raconteur and genuine all round good chap!

At our meeting he told us of he and his wife's birthday visit to France where the high spot in the Alps was his discovery of a blue tomato - yes, blue - tomato in a municipal garden! I shall be first in the queue at his nursery to buy a couple next Spring.

We also heard a wonderful story about developing an alternative Ryder Cup on his home lawn. What an imagination to have thought that up and what nerve to have the temerity to carry it through!

Chris then judged our fuchsia growing competition. The winner, one of our regulars,

entered a floriferous and beautifully formed plant and was happy to win a bottle of wine for her efforts. Runner up was a popular winner of the wooden spoon - Gary Grady for his combined pot of fuchsias and weeds. Look out for notices of next year's competition if you are a fan of petunias!

Next stop - the Clevedon outing and a bracing walk along the pier and fine views of Severn mud and the distant coast of "Land of our Fathers". What a pot pourri of delights we serve up!



Come and join the Group, for fun and friendship in 2018 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

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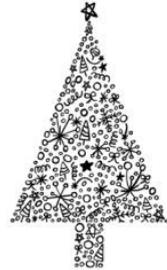
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The **20th** Emmanuel Festival of Decorated Christmas Trees **7th-9th** December

Will you enter a tree?

Over the years we have had a wonderful variety of trees – the artistic, the ingenious, the thought-provoking and, of course, the beautiful.

I wonder what will inspire you this year.



The church will be open to visitors throughout the weekend:
Saturday 11am-5pm; Sunday 2pm-6pm

Plus ...

Friday, 6-9pm: Carol singing amongst the trees,
with mince pies and mulled wine

Saturday, 7pm: Carol Concert by the Cotswold Male Voice Choir and
Naunton Park School Choir

Contact Jackie Dunlop, 01242 580731, emmanuel.church@btconnect.com
Emmanuel Church, Fairfield Parade, Cheltenham, GL53 7PJ

A famous quote from Charles Wesley:

“Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.”

The Pulpit in October/ November

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



At St Andrew's

7 th October	Rev Dr Alison Evans (Communion)
14 th October	Mr Bob Alger
21 st October	Worship Group led by Mrs Jenny Evans
28 th October	Rev Ken Martin
4 th November	Mr Bob Alger

At Prestbury

7 th October	Rev Dr Dee Brierley-Jones
14 th October	No Service
21 st October	Rev Dr Alison Evans
28 th October	Mr Geoff Tizzard-King (Communion)
4 th November	Rev Dr Dee Brierley-Jones

At The Church in Warden Hill

28 th October	Rev Simon Helme
	NOTE change of usual date

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

From The Editor

Dear friends

It has been very interesting doing some research about the History of St Andrew's for Heritage Day. You will all have seen the 'green book' history, written by Winifred Hart and George Webster, published for the Centenary of the building of St Andrew's in 1986. This is only part of the story!

Anne Strathie and I have been continuing the search for information about some of our key individuals— specifically those who have memorials in the Church. Anne has done some research into George and Matilda Lamb, and I have looked up Rev John Brown, Charles Wilson and Mrs Mary Ann Marriott Bennett.

Information found so far has been exhibited for Heritage Day and will be remaining in church for all who are interested.

This research is ongoing, if anyone would like to help – please speak to Ann or myself.

Janet Kemp

Please ensure that all items for the next edition of 'In Touch' are with
the Editor by midnight on
SUNDAY 14th OCTOBER 2018
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 October 2018

Mon	1	7.30pm	TCiWH ECC (Open Meeting)	Warden Hill URCC
Wed	3	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Wed	3	7.15pm	Wednesday Women	St Andrew's
Thu	4	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Thu	4	7.30pm	Discussion Group	Prestbury
Sat	6	10.00am	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	6	10.30am	Autumn Sale	Prestbury
SUN	7	10.30am	Harvest Festival and Lunch	St Christopher's
Tue	9	2.30pm	Macmillan Tea Party	St Andrew's
Wed	10	2.00pm	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Thu	11	2.00pm	Prayer group	St Christopher's
Mon	15		Footsloggers	
Wed	17	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Thu	18	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
SUN	21	3.15pm	Deaf Community Church	St Christopher's
Tue	23	2.30pm	Tuesday Forum	St Andrew's
Wed	24	2.00pm	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Thu	25	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Sat	27	2.30pm	Community Film Show	Warden Hill URCC

Diary for November 2018

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	7.30pm	Footsloggers Social	St Andrew's

Regular Weekly Events 2018

** Term Time Only

Monday

10.00am	Prestbury Urchins	Prestbury URC**
5.15pm	Rainbows	Warden Hill URC Centre**

Tuesday

10.00am	St Andrew's Parents & Toddlers	St Andrew's
5.15pm	Brownies	Warden Hill URC Centre**
7.30pm	Bible Study House Group	St Christopher's**

Wednesday

9.15am	Little Shepherds	St Christopher's**
7.00pm	Bellringing	St Christopher's

Thursday

5.30pm	Beavers	St Christopher's**
6.00pm	Brownies	St Christopher's**
6.45pm	Cubs	St Christopher's**
7.45pm	Scouts	St Christopher's**

Friday

10.00am	Friday Circle	Prestbury URC
10.30am	Bible Study House Group	51 Bournside Road**
6.15pm	TCiWH Choir Practice	St Christopher's

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

Creative Cards

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

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

Weekdays

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