

United Reformed  
Church  
In  
Cheltenham

In Touch

March 2012

Dear Friends,

Jock, the painter, often would thin his paint so it would go further. So when the Church decided to do some deferred maintenance, Jock was able to put in the low bid, and got the job. As always, he thinned his paint way down with turpentine.

One day while he was up on the scaffolding -- the job almost finished -- he heard a horrendous clap of thunder, and the sky opened.

The downpour washed the thinned paint off the church and knocked Jock off his scaffold and onto the lawn among the gravestones and puddles of thinned and worthless paint.

Jock knew this was a warning from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried: "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice: "REPAINT! REPAINT! AND THIN NO MORE!"

The old ones are the best, as they say! There is a loose link, however, with our current season of Lent. Mention Lent and many people will immediately think of having to 'give something up'. But while it may be very good for us, physically and spiritually, to abandon our usual indulgencies of chocolate or alcohol for forty days, that emphasises only the fasting element of Lent. Lent originated as a time of spiritual preparation for those who were to be baptised on Easter Day, as well as those who were to be re-admitted to the Church after a time of penitence and reflection following some blatant sin. The emphasis of Lent is therefore on looking forward to Good Friday and Easter Day. If there are aspects of our lives that are 'a bit dodgy', like Jock's paint, this is a good time to take a good look at what we can do to change our lives and 'thin no more'!

Yours *in Christ*,

*Maz*

## **THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN CHELTENHAM**

**In Memoriam:** It is with sadness that we report the death of Fred Champkins, the husband of Nancy who is a member at Prestbury URC. Please remember Nancy and her sons in your prayers.

It is also with sadness that we report the death on 11<sup>th</sup> February of Mrs Mary Moore, a member at St Andrew's - please remember her husband Jim, son Eric and family in your prayers.

**Our prayers:** we hold in our prayers those for whom we are concerned: Peter Coulthurst, Sadie Smyth, Gill Williams, Joy Coskery, Rosie Pearson, Geoff Harmsworth, Nancy Champkins and family, Mary Zakotti, Pat Barnett, Jane Theophilus, and Jim Moore and family.

### **Letters:**

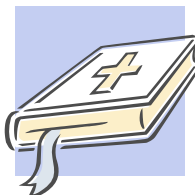
*from Peter Coulthurst*

I would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the kind thoughts and sympathy which many people have expressed on the death of Margaret. It has been touching to realise the esteem in which she was held. Sincerely

Peter, Fiona, Huw and family.

*from Jennie Bedford*

Hello everybody. I saw Jane Theophilus recently and she seemed settled in a nursing home just outside Stratford on Avon. Her address is: Alveston Leys, Kissing Tree Lane, Alveston, CV37 7QN. Sadly her speech has not returned 8 months after her stroke.



## URC in CHELTENHAM MORNING PRAYER

Every Tuesday, 10.30am at St Christopher's

4 Mar	Genesis 17:1-7,15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, <i>Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38</i>	Prestbury Road area, Churches and Schools Special Needs care Literature and Mah Jong Groups, Prayers for the World
11 Mar	Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22	Lynworth area, Churches and Schools Cemetery and Crematorium Ministry to the bereaved, Prayers for the World
18 Mar	Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3,17-22, <i>Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21</i>	Whaddon area, Churches and Schools Family Centre, Battledown Children's Centre St Andrew's Toddlers Club, Prayers for the World
25Ma r	Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 119:9-16, <i>Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33</i>	Quedgeley area, Churches and Schools University of Gloucestershire URCiC Office, Prayers for the World, Prayers for the World
1 Apr	Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, <i>Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 11:1-11</i>	Pittville area, Churches and Schools St Vincent's Support for the mentally ill, Prayers for the World

## URC in CHELTENHAM weekly prayer

### The Oasis at St Andrew's URC

The Church sanctuary is open offering the opportunity to stop and relax, with areas for prayer and reflection as well as space to eat your lunch quietly or have a cup of coffee.

Every Weekday: 11.30am - 2.00pm.

### The Church in Warden Hill (St Christopher's)

Every Weekday: Morning Prayer at 8.00am.

Tuesday: Holy Communion & Morning Prayer 10.30am.

**Pensioners' Forum – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Palliative Care - St Andrew's at 11.00am**

Time ran out at our talk last month, as Ruth Baker a Solicitor from Harrison Clark covered wills and powers of attorney. We learnt that if we don't make a will your estate does not automatically go to your nearest family but you are deemed to be intestate and can create many difficulties before it is resolved. She emphasised that more women are victims of intestacy than divorce. Even if you have made a will it is important to keep it up-to-date (i.e. not 40 years old as mentioned by one listener).

When setting up powers of attorney Ruth advised us to think carefully about our choice of executors or trustees, it may be better to choose a good friend or a professional person rather than our closest and dearest.

Her final words were don't leave it all to chance, its never too early to make a will or set up a power of attorney.

Our next speaker on 7<sup>th</sup> March is Dr C Blinman who will be speaking on 'Palliative Care' and what services are available for patients and families having to cope with symptoms, pains and stress of a serious illness.

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

*Ann Lewis*

### **Tuesday Forum:**

On **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March - St Andrew's** at 2.30pm - Tim Odell will be giving a talk on "*Behind the Green Baize Curtain*" and on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** - Brian and Jean Smith will be giving a talk on their world tour.

#### *The Green Baize Curtain and the Smiths*

So what have the Smiths got to do with the green baize curtain I hear you ask. Go on, admit it, you did ask didn't you? You're reading this and saying to yourself "what's all that about then?" Well, the regulars at the Forum will know the answer to that. What it's all about is Tim Odell letting us into the secrets behind the green baize curtain, and Brian and Jean Smith concluding the story of their world tour. Tim will reveal all on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March and the Smiths will finish unpacking on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. (Yes, that is a change in the programme - well spotted Fitzroy!) Curtain up is at 2.30pm in the Garden Room at St Andrew's. Look forward to seeing you: 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm.

*Keith Norcott*

### **The Lent House Group**


The Friday house group during Lent will be meeting at 51 Bourneside Road on Fridays from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 10.30am - 12 noon.. After Easter the group will meet back at the Cleeve Hill Nursing Home.

If anyone wants to follow Lent material at home, or form their own small group, Maz can provide the material (just 2 sides of A4 each week). Otherwise join us at 51 Bourneside Road.

**In Touch Subscriptions**

The time has come to renew your subscription for your 10 copies of In Touch. To recover the cost of printing we have had to increase the subscription to £6. Please use the envelope provided and mark the 'In Touch' box (if not already marked) to ensure that money gets channelled correctly via church collection. If there is no envelope please use any church donation envelope and mark it for the 'In Touch magazine'. Thank -you.

\*\*\*\*\*

<p><b>C4 CHILDREN'S CHOIR</b>          Calling all 5 – 11 year olds who enjoy singing and acting. We begin rehearsals for</p>	
<p><b>THE PIPER</b>          on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm at Prestbury URC</p>	

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Take Time!**

Take time to think – it is the source of power

Take time to play – it is the secret of perpetual power

Take time to read – it is the foundation of wisdom

Take time to pray – it is the greatest power on earth

Take time to love & be loved – it is a God given privilege

Take time to be friendly – it is the road to happiness

Take time to laugh – it is the music of the soul

Take time to give – it is too short a day to be selfish

You will never find time for anything – if you want time,  
YOU must make it !

*Kindly submitted by Pat Gregory.*





## Eco Church

Thank you to all those who supported the Church's Community Christmas Card which raised £20.50 for the Kenya project.

**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.

Wood-framed drop sided cot, approx. 125cm long, 69cm wide, with mattress. All in very good condition and needs to be assembled. Available from 8<sup>th</sup> March onwards. The item is free of charge . Phone Rosemary Salisbury

A garden armchair - folding hardwood - 'Can be kept outside'. Separate cushions. Phone Joyce Goldring on

A Yogurt Maker and Coffee Maker - Electrical (2 items). Phone Carol Drummond on

Gents Bicycle and Office Supplies (folders & guides). Phone Tony Jeans on

\*\*\*\*\*

*.....article taken from December 2011 Reform' .....*

## Speak Up!

*'To all United Reformed Church speakers or those who conduct services in church. Please do not speak too quickly or conversationally lower your voice. We oldies are sometimes hard of hearing and you risk losing at least one "Pearl" in every congregation. Your message must be heard in this broken yet wonderful world.'*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Footsloggers 2012



The number of “walkers” continues to grow (we have approximately 31 on our “list”) and during the year a wide variety of “walks” have been enjoyed by everyone.



After each walk there is a get together usually in a hostelry but in the summer months

picnics have been enjoyed in some lovely spots. The July walk was an afternoon one followed by a barbecue in the Odell’s garden.

In January (2012) we retired to the Church hall at St Andrew’s for a delicious lunch provided by members of the group.

We now have the dates for walks up to January 2013 (see below).

If anyone would like to join the group please let Tim Odell know with an E-mail address and/or telephone number and you will be added to the list for further information.

This year has started well with a “Snowdrop Walk” around Sherborne Park with 13 intrepid walkers plus our mascot (Poppy). The scenery was stunning and varied and the cold was soon forgotten!!! Afterwards we repaired to the Hungry Horse at Seven Springs for lunch.

The dates for the walks in 2012/2013 are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Bob & Kate Alger
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Ann Lewis
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Brenda Little
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Thomsons
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Cecil Sanderson (followed by lunch at St Andrew’s)
17 <sup>th</sup> August	John Standring
17 <sup>th</sup> September	Glenns
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Kay Boulton, Marcus and Florence Dann
12 <sup>th</sup> November	MacGregors
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Roger Little

## 2013

14 <sup>th</sup> January	Brian Ashworth (followed by lunch at St Andrew’s)
--------------------------	---

**Pensioners' Forum**  
**at**  
**St Andrew's United Reformed Church**  
**(near Queen's Hotel)**  
**Programme for 2012**  
**Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month**

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

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday 7 March</b> | <b>'Palliative Care'</b><br>Dr C Blinman                 |
| <b>Wednesday 4 April</b> | <b>'Safe at Home'</b><br>Joanne Hume                     |
| <b>Wednesday 2 May</b>   | <b>'Lifeline Alarm Systems'</b><br>Chris Morrall         |
| <b>Wednesday 6 June</b>  | <b>Otago Exercise Programme</b><br>Anne Hackett          |
| <b>Wednesday 4 July</b>  | <b>'Disabled Care &amp; Mobility'</b><br>Steve Warburton |

**FREE ENTRY – ALL ARE WELCOME**  
**Coffee Bar open from 10.00am – 12 noon**  
**Coffee/Tea 50p**

**CLASSIC FILM AT WARDEN HILL**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 2.30pm**



Further details cannot be included on the internet for legal reasons.

Please contact Tony Jeans at [classic.films@urcic.org.uk](mailto:classic.films@urcic.org.uk) for more information

**A Service of Reconciliation, Healing of Memories  
and Mutual Commitment for the Church of England  
and The United Reformed Church**

Four of us, Maz, Jacqui, Kay and myself attended the above service in Westminster Abbey held on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Walking into the Abbey was an impressive start to a very special service. This historic service was held to mark a significant step forward in the development of a closer working relationship between the Church of England and the United Reformed Church.

2012 marks the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Ejection and also the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inauguration of the United Reformed Church which took place in Westminster Abbey on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1972. The Great Ejection followed after the Act of Uniformity was approved in 1662. Those ministers who, on theological grounds, could not accept the requirements of the Act of Uniformity were forced to leave and many hundreds did so suffering hardship as a consequence.

The service started with words from ‘The Reformed Pastor’ by Richard Baxter, a moderate and reconciling scholar of the 1600. “We must also be very studious of union and communion among ourselves and of the unity and peace of the churches that we oversee. We must be sensible how needful this is to the prosperity of the whole, the strengthening of our common cause, the good of particular members of our flock, and the further enlargement of the kingdom of Christ. And, therefore, ministers must smart when the Church is wounded, and be so far from being the leaders in divisions, that they should take it as a principal part of their work to prevent and heal them. Day and night should they bend their studies to find out the means to heal such breaches. They must not only hearken to motions for unity, but propound and prosecute them; not only entertain an offered peace, but even follow it when it flieth from them. They must, therefore, keep close to the ancient simplicity of the Christian faith, and the foundation and centre of Catholic unity.”

Senior figures from both Churches and Churches Together in England took part in the service and included both Moderators of General Assembly, Mrs Val Morrison and Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

We covered the centuries with extracts from ‘A Farewell Sermon’ by John Oldfield (c 1626-82) Presbyterian ejected from his living in Carsington, Derbyshire to today with Testimonies by Revd Keith Hitchman, Pioneer Minister for River in the City of Liverpool, Revd Timothy Meadows Liverpool City Centre URC and Revd Ruth Whitehead Minister of an LEP at Wittlesford and Pampisford and Duxford URC.

The address was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury who used Ephesians 4 1-16 as his text emphasising the need for our Christianity to grow from infancy to maturity. ‘We must no longer be children tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.’

We prayed for ‘guidance and grace as we engage together in discussion and dialogue. Help us to be both and vulnerable, always ready for the testing work of true reconciliation. ‘

The hymns again spanned many years with ‘Ye holy angels bright’ *Richard Baxter*, ‘Give me the wings of faith to rise’ *Isaac Watts* and ‘For the healing of the nations’ *Fred Kaan*. The service closed with the blessing used at the Service of Thanksgiving of the URC in 1972.

We left to the joyful sound of the bells, feeling humbled by the history but inspired for the future togetherness of the Church and knowing we had been part of a very unique service. We each have a copy of the full service for anyone to borrow.

*Ann Lewis*

## **URC Youth Assembly 27-29 Jan 2012**

I was privileged to be asked to be an Observer for one day at this first Youth Assembly. Previously known as FURY Assembly (Fellowship of United Reformed Youth), it used to run parallel to General Assembly and therefore got lost in the melee. Holding a dedicated meeting of young delegates from the length and breadth of England, Scotland and Wales gave them the opportunity to be taken seriously.

Any 11 – 25 year old associated with the URC through worship or church-based activity or uniformed group, is automatically a member of FURY. It was good to be reminded of that fact. We tend to concentrate on Sunday attendance and miss opportunities at other times of the week to help young people *‘..discover God, to help each other grow in the Christian faith and, through our lives, reflect God’s love to all’* (FURY Mission statement).

There were almost 100 delegates and they discussed the charity *Young Minds*, debating whether or not to provide churches with information on mental health issues and how this should be done. They also debated whether or not the youth Assembly needed to appoint a Welfare Rep for next year. I was not as interested in the pros and cons of the debate as much as in awe of the quality of the argument. The speakers were articulate, stuck to the topic and showed passion and understanding of the issues. I cast my mind back to the last General Assembly I attended and felt embarrassed by the comparison! The FURY Moderator and Moderator elect were brilliant chairpersons.

After lunch, I was assigned a workshop to observe and it happened to be music. I didn’t know what to expect, but the young minister running the workshop used images on the screen combined with either music or the spoken word and I just thought ‘wow’! The songs they sang were nothing out of the ordinary – just modern – but the imagery kept the attention of that small group of youngsters.

Then came the elections. I had already been introduced to Consensus voting in the West Midlands Synod and, indeed, it has been tried out at a few of our church meetings. However, I saw it truly working at this Assembly. Brilliant! And what were our young people eager to stand for? Here are just a few of the posts: Moderator elect, FURY treasurer, FURY National Synod Rep, Online Publications Coordinator, British Youth Council delegate. At the end of the testimonies, the questions and the voting, I felt proud to belong to a denomination which contains these passionate Christians. As a colleague said to me as we were leaving, 'I now feel there will still be a URC when I retire.' Amen to that!

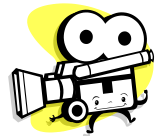
*Maz Allen*

## **Community Film Show**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

**Warden Hill URC**

at 2.30pm (doors open at 2.15pm)



We cannot give any details of the film for legal reasons. For more information please contact Brian Miles  
[community.films@urcic.org.uk](mailto:community.films@urcic.org.uk)



**Wednesday Women Group - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March** - St Andrew's at 7.30pm. 'Book Group' with Kate Alger.

Doors open 7.15pm for refreshments. The Wednesday Women program for the year is held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Andrew's with the exception of August. There is a £2.00 charge per event.

**Knit and Chat Group - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March** - St Andrew's Garden Room 1.00pm to 2.00pm. Coffee and tea provided. If you like to join, please call in. More information from Lizzie George

### **Birthday Teas at the Manse**

I invite all with birthdays in the relevant months to share in tea and cakes at 19 The Oaks, Up Hatherley. 3pm – 5pm.

Apr, May, June birthdays – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012

## News from Prestbury URC


**Spring Bargain Sale – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** from 10.30am – 12.00noon

A sale of good-quality bric-a-brac, books and toys will be held at the Church on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from 10.30am to 12.30pm. There will also be a cake stall, raffle and teas and coffees.

Please have a good spring clean and donate some of your unwanted items to us!

\*\*\*\*\*

**‘JUMP4JOY’  
at Prestbury URC  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
at 10.00am**



**and at St Andrew’s URC  
on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
from 9.30am - 10.00am**

**An Informal Short Service for all the family**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **News from St Andrew's:**

### **St Andrew's Communion Offering, March 2012**

Our communion charity this month is very much a local one, the Everyman Club in Cheltenham. The history of the club goes back quite a long way. It developed from earlier centres for people with learning difficulties, like the Eldon and Merrydown Centres and their later descendants.

Some 20 years ago the centres had evolved into an evening social club and, with the help of Councillor Jim Pennington, had set up and met regularly at the Parklands Community Centre in Whaddon. 20 years ago circumstances conspired to involve Jan and Noel Stafford, known to many of us, to take over the running of the club, and it is now a thriving centre. It was renamed the Everyman Club and it now meets every Tuesday evening, still at Parklands Community Centre. It is run entirely by volunteers, including Kevin and Nicki Jones who help to run it. The club has over 100 members of all ages from across Cheltenham. It provides all sorts of help with problems and such things as letters, and there are facilities for board games, jigsaws, table tennis, snooker, discos and dancing. There is also a quiet room with television. The club arranges discos, barbecues, theatre trips and celebrations for Christmas.

Membership is by referral from a health visitor, social worker, community nurse or someone in a similar position. Members can attend individually, but or accompanied by their carers if necessary. The centre has a bar for drinks and snacks and there is a tuck shop. The club receives no funding from outside sources and so is dependent on donations and the income derived from its own very modest fees. In so many ways the Everyman Club provides a valuable and appreciated service in Cheltenham and we can be sure donations will be well used. More information can be obtained from Jan and Noel Stafford

## News from The Church in Warden Hill:



**HOLIDAY CLUB**  
**10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2pm – 4pm**  
The Church in Warden Hill (URC)

Calling all Yr 1 – Yr 6 pupils! Join our holiday club with an Olympic flavour.

Crafts, games, Bible stories, songs.

Get 'On Your Marks' and fill in the form at the rear of church.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Please put your name on the list in church.

**TANZANIA** The Revd Jacqueline Rodwell will give a presentation on her recent trip to Tanzania on Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 3.00pm in the large hall at St. Christopher's, Warden Hill. Admission free with a retiring collection in aid of St. Christopher's 50th anniversary appeal, half of which will go towards an education project in Tanzania. Refreshments available.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Flowers Band Concert – St. Andrew’s Church**

(an article borrowed from ‘The Lantern’ at St Christopher’s)

The afternoon of Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> January, brought us a wonderful Brass Band concert, at St. Andrew’s URC Church, compered superbly by Radio Gloucestershire’s Pete Wilson, in aid of the St. Christopher’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and our diocesan partnership charity in Tanzania.

The Concert by the Flowers Band and star guest Brett Baker (Principal Trombonist for the Black Dyke Mills Band), was without doubt the highlight of my year thus far... and apart from two other great events, pretty well includes anything I went to last year as well. It was simply fabulous! The 28 strong Band were on wonderful form.

Musical director Paul Holland held them in a firm but sensitive grip, encouraging, enthusing and just occasionally cajoling, for that little bit extra from the all-star Band.

Their musical expertise and sheer enjoyment in playing, passed easily and wonderfully into a packed Church, where the acoustics also played their part in contributing to a wonderfully rounded resonance.

It’s difficult to pick out particular stars from the Band, apart from Brett Baker himself, but from the 8 person cornet section, the principal cornetist Andy Smith shone out, as did the guest percussionist (from the Cory Band), James Andrews, hands flying in all directions in masterful dexterity (yet another star from Cardiff University).

All of the various sections, including Euphoniums, Baritones, Basses, Trombones and Cornets were superb, with each being given solos during the performance.

The concert was brought to a close with a wonderful piece entitled, ‘A Manchester Tale’, a stark and dramatic re-telling of Manchester’s experiences during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, complete with air-raid sirens, spitfires, bombs dropping and smoke swirling around the Band, until peace reigned once more.

A standing ovation brought us the wonderful Bach's Toccata in D Minor, with two encores of the same, starring all three percussionists, but especially the above-mentioned James Andrews.

Many, many thanks to Sheila Parry and her team and to Revd Maz Allen, to Isabel Hitchings and family and to everyone else who went to such trouble to organise this great event.

*Tony Poulter*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Christian Aid:**



**Carol Singing - grand total for Cheltenham and dates for Christmas 2012.**

Last month we reported some of the initial totals for the Christian Aid Carol Singing at Supermarkets before Christmas - St Andrews raised £300 at Morrisons and Waitrose, the Church at Warden Hill sang at Morrisons and there were church groups across Cheltenham involved. Joan Sampson (Cheltenham Christian Aid Chair) reports:

"I was delighted with our carol singing this year. The total is exceptionally good. We raised £3575.83 an increase of £1200.96 over last year.. But in addition to that, we seem to have built increasingly good relationships with the supermarkets, particularly at Tesco's where there has been a change of personnel. I think most of the supermarkets have already booked us in for next year. Tesco's is happy for us to do our main carol singing on the 15<sup>th</sup> December this year and then a couple of hours on the Saturday before Christmas, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, when I hope we shall be able to gather a couple of ecumenical groups. Our success this year was partly because we managed to fill more slots - a sure way of raising extra money. So please...

1. try to think of any other groups you might know who would do a slot for us,
2. put December 15<sup>th</sup> in your diaries – and the 22<sup>nd</sup> as well if you can make it!
3. give a big thank-you from me to all those who sang last December."

## Zimbabwe Project



Many people will recall that Cheltenham Area Christian Aid has been fund raising for a project in Zimbabwe that attracted grants from the EU to multiply any funds raised up to £5,000 - in fact the EU will donate £45,000 to magnify the funding to £50,000. The money raised at the Autumn Fair at St Andrew's contributed to the fund raising for this project and Joan Sampson now reports that:

*"We have reached our £5,000 total – indeed we have already exceeded it as to date we have raised £5,445.28. We are awaiting details from Max Khanna on future projects and possibilities and the best way to channel the surplus we have now."*

### Future Christian Aid Dates:

Collection on **Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>** at Sainsbury's.

We are hoping to collect from 10.00am until about 6.00pm as we did last year, I have asked people to do 30 minute or 60 minute slots. I could do with some more offers so we can spread the load. If anyone can help let Andrew Veal or Joan Sampson know.

Christian Aid AGM – **Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup>** at St Mark's Methodist Church, Gloucester Road, at 7pm.

**Christian Aid Week – May 13<sup>th</sup> –19<sup>th</sup>**

*Andrew Veal*

## **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](http://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 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](mailto:magazine@urchic.org.uk) or to church office, [office@urchic.org.uk](mailto:office@urchic.org.uk). Likewise contributions very welcome.

### **St Andrew's**

Please see John Standring directly or forward contributions via e-mail: [magazine@urchic.org.uk](mailto:magazine@urchic.org.uk) or to church office, [office@urchic.org.uk](mailto:office@urchic.org.uk).



## PROPERTY AND POOLCARE

Extensions  
Loft/ Garage Conversions  
**Kitchen/ Bathroom Specialist**  
(Insurance work completed)

Excellent work and price

References & completed projects to view, Fully Insured  
Contact: Ade Stepney on 07971 600 756 or 01242 514307  
3 Briar Walk, Prestbury, Cheltenham



**JASON BOND**  
**CARPET FITTING**

Carpets & Domestic Vinyl  
Supplied & Fitted

"Shop at Home Service"

Full Range of Carpets & Vinyl Available  
Contract Work

Tel or Fax

**01242 708305**

**Mobile 07850 317703**

[www.jasonbond.co.uk](http://www.jasonbond.co.uk)

Email: [jason@jasonbond.co.uk](mailto:jason@jasonbond.co.uk)  
5 Abbots Close, Cheltenham

*Over 20 Years Experience*  
*Competitive Rates*



## **N.T. Boothroyd** **Plumbing & Heating Engineer**

**Over 20 Years Experience**  
**& City & Guilds Qualified**

### All Plumbing Works Undertaken

**Tap Washers & Replacement Taps**  
**Leaks, Burst Pipes & Blockages**  
**Ball Valves / Overflows**  
**Toilets, Baths, Basins & Sinks**  
**Shower Installations**  
**Radiators & Thermostatic Valves**  
**Cylinders, Pumps, Tanks & Stop Taps**  
**System Cleaning By Power Flushing**  
**Loft Insulation & Pipe Lagging**

No Job too small please give me a call

**Mobile: 07816 103709**

**Tel: 01452 552192**

Email: [ntboothroyd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ntboothroyd@hotmail.co.uk)

MARCH DIARY				
1	Thur	11.30am	SA	Qi Gong
2	Fri	10.30am	Hath	Bible Study House Group
		7.30pm	URC	Women's World Day of Prayer Service at WH
3	Sat	10.30am	P	Coffee Morning and Bric-a-Brac Sale
		9.45am	URC	Training Workshop – Working with Children
4	Sun	10.30am	P	Mrs Julie Jefferies
		10.30am	SC	Dr Rachel Tarling Family Worship
		11.00am	SA	Revd Maz Allen Communion (Ladies College)
		6.00pm	SC	Evening Service Communion
6	Tues	2.00pm	SC	Mothers Union
7	Wed	11.00am	SA	Pensioners' Forum
7	Wed	7.30pm	SA	Wednesday Women
8	Thur	11.30am	SA	Qi Gong
		7.30pm	SC	ECM meet
10	Sat	2.30pm	URC	Classic Film
11	Sun	10.30am	P	No Service
		10.30am	URC	Revd Jacqui Hyde Communion
		11.00am	SA	Revd Dr John Sutcliffe
		3.00pm	SC	Tanzania Talk – Revd Jacqui Hyde
		6.00pm	SC	Choral Evensong
13	Tues	2.30pm	SA	Tuesday Forum
		7.30pm	SA	Elders meet
16	Fri	6.00pm	P	C4 Choir rehearsals start
18	Sun	9.30am	SA	Jump4Joy and Breakfast
		10.30am	P	Mr Bob Alger
		10.30am	SC	Revd Jacqui Hyde and Pam Dainton Communion
		11.00am	SA	Revd Maz Allen
		6.00pm	SC	Choral Evensong
22	Thur	11.30am	SA	Qi Gong
		1.00pm	SA	Knit and Chat
		7.30pm	SC	Gardening Club
23	Fri	6.00pm	P	C4 Choir rehearsal
24	Sat	2.30pm	URC	Community Film ‘

MARCH continued				
25	Sun	10.30am	P	Revd Maz Allen Communion and Elders meeting
		10.30am	SC	Revd Jacqui Hyde Communion
		11.00am	SA	Revd Dr John Beardsley
		6.00pm	SC	Choral Evensong
27	Tues	10.00am	P	Jump4Joy
		2.30pm	SA	Tuesday Forum
30	Fri	6.00pm	P	C4 Choir rehearsal
APRIL DIARY				
1	Sun	10.30am	P	Mrs Julie Jefferies
		10.30am	SC	Family Worship
		11.00am	SA	Revd Maz Allen Communion
		6.00pm	SC	Evening Service Communion
3	Tues	2.00pm	SC	Mothers Union
4	Wed	11.00am	SA	Pensioners Forum
		7.30pm	SA	Wednesday Women
5	Thur	11.30am	SA	Qi Gong
7	Sat	10.30am	P	Coffee Morning

<b>WEEKLY EVENTS</b>			
Mon	9.30am	SA	Mah Jong
	10.00am	P	Prestbury Urchins (not summer holidays)
	4.30pm	WH SC	Rainbows (term time only)
Tue	10.00am	SA	Parents and Toddlers
	7.30pm	WH SC	House Group
Wed	9.15am	WH SC	Little Shepherds (term time only)
	2.15pm	WH SC	Senior Club
	3.15pm	WH URC	Toast (term time only)
	7.00pm	WH SC	Bellringing
Thu	10.00am	SA	Coffee Bar
	5.30pm	WH SC	Beavers (term time only)
	6.00pm	WH SC	Brownies (term time only)
	7.30pm	WH SC	Gardening Club
	8.45am	WH SC	Cubs (term time only)
Fri	10.30am		Bible Study (term time only)
Sat	10.00am	SA	Coffee Bar