



## Cheltenham United Reformed Church

[www.urcic.org.uk](http://www.urcic.org.uk)

**Bulletin** 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### The Pulpit at Prestbury

All Sunday Services begin at 10.30am

19 <sup>th</sup> June	Dr Tony Jeans	
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Rev Dee Brierley-Jones	

### The Pulpit at St Andrew's

All Sunday Services are 11.00am, also broadcast on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0qso0uzwPJq-Onhf6fN2TA>

19 <sup>th</sup> June	Rev Iain McLaren	
<b>Hymns: Rejoice and Sing 38,492,495,345</b>		
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Rev Steve Faber, Synod Moderator	
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Rev Iain McLaren	Baptism/Communion

### The Pulpit at The Church in Warden Hill

Details of all Services can be found in '*Lantern*', and '*Grapevine*' both available at

<http://www.tciwh.org.uk>

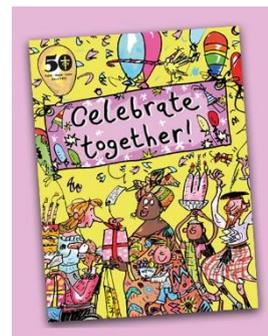
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Rev Iain McLaren	Communion
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### Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 65 v1-9	Psalm 22 v19-28
Luke 8 v26-39	Galatians 3 v23-29

The URC has published this booklet to be distributed to all worshippers in our churches.

If you haven't already got yours, then please collect it when you next come to church.



**Rev Iain McLaren, our Minister writes:**

*'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.'*  
(Philippians 4: 6)



How often do you pray? The instinctive answer most Christians give to this question is 'not enough'. The Bible portrays Jesus as a man of prayer and there are biblical texts encouraging us to pray ceaselessly. We, however, find difficulty making time for prayer in our busy lives. Perhaps too we lack confidence in how to pray.

Prayer is communication between us and God. It can take many forms. At its most basic, we simply need to recite the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6: 7-13, Luke 11: 1-4). However, the Lord's Prayer is not the only prayer. Sometimes we can pray using other words. Sometimes we can pray in silence. Sometimes we can pray using music and song. Sometimes we can pray using actions and symbols. God hears our prayers regardless of the manner in which we feel most comfortable expressing our prayers.

Much of our daily prayer life will comprise private prayer between us and God. We might want to start the day with a thanksgiving prayer committing the day ahead into God's hands. We might want to offer further prayers of thanks and praise for the good things of the day. We might want to say sorry to God when we know we have done wrong. We might want to ask for God's help either for ourselves or for other people. As this is a private conversation between us and God, the manner in which we pray and the language we use will be a matter of personal preference.

Public prayer is prayer offered on behalf of a congregation during an act of worship. As with private prayer, public prayer includes prayers of praise and thanksgiving, prayers of confession and prayers of intercession. Public prayer can include silent prayer and prayer using symbolic actions. If words are to be used, however, they need to be intelligible by all in the congregation so all can say 'amen'. Some people are confident about offering extempore free prayer, as the Spirit leads. Other people prefer the reassurance of reading a pre-prepared prayer from a reliable source, such as the URC worship book or indeed any of the great multiplicity of prayer books found in any Christian bookshop. Others prefer writing their own prayers and then reading them out, allowing them to combine originality with form and structure. These forms of prayer are not mutually exclusive and it is perfectly possible to blend two or more.

In my previous pastorate it was routine for members of the congregation to lead prayers on Sundays, in particular the prayers of intercession. This is something I would like to see more of across Cheltenham URC. When worship leaders change from week to week, it will often be the case that there will be people in the congregation better placed to know who and what to pray for than the person leading the service. I appreciate that many people have only limited experience of leading public prayer and so I propose to offer zoom workshops to share prayer ideas. The first of these will be on 28<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. Please look out for the link in next week's 'Bulletin'.

Yours in Christ, *Iain*

**Rev Iain McLaren can be contacted at:  
01242-231602, or 07483118427 [revdiain@urcic.org.uk](mailto:revdiain@urcic.org.uk)  
Day off on FRIDAYS.**

## Prayer Requests this week:



Mary, Fred and Charlotte Cummings, Geoff and Margaret Harmsworth, Mhairi Turner, Joyce Whiting, The people of Ukraine

With Sadness we have heard of the death, on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 of Helen Scarll, who many of you at St Andrew's may remember.

## TOMBOLA at Midsummer Fiesta in Montpellier Gardens Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> July

St Andrew's are manning a Stall at this event -

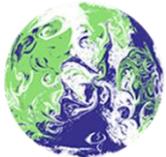
Could you offer **SMALL** gifts as Tombola prizes???

*(Such as plug plants, jewellery, very small toys, small containers of toiletries, items of haberdashery, knick-knacks, etc etc.)*

MIDSUMMER  
FIESTA

A Major event for ALL the family on ECO Themes.

## ECO News



Jenny Evans submitted the results of the flower count we did on the church lawn to **Plantlife's Every Flower Counts**. Based on our results, St Andrew's has a nectar score of 2,7667 mg of nectar sugar which would enable a bumblebee to fly for 69 hours.

We all try and do our bit for recycling. However if the recycling is contaminated, it may get rejected at the recycling plant. Gloucestershire Recycling advises that the easiest and best way to ensure that your waste is recycled is to prepare it well at home; wash, squash and sort! Contamination is where incorrect or dirty items are included in the recycling and this results in the end of materials not being good enough grade to be remade into another product. Find out [how to reduce contamination in your bin](#). and find answers to some common questions about plastic recycling or [visit the 'know your plastics' pages](#).

There's also some information on how to reduce your plastic use -

<https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/reduce/plastics/top-tips-for-reducing-your-plastics-at-home-and-on-the-go/>



Small blue butterfly and bird feeders in St Andrew's garden.

Photos: Sandra Jeans



## What's on across CURC

Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> June 10.00 – 11.30	Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers	Prestbury URC
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 12.15	<b>Midweek Worship</b>	St Andrew's
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 10.00 – 16.00	Synod Officers at Rodborough Tabernacle (Details in Bulletin 5 <sup>th</sup> June)	
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 14.00 – 16.00	Wednesday Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
	<b>Talk: Fab 50's, Virginia and David Adsett</b>	
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 12.45- 13.35	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> June 10.00 – 12.00	Coffee, Chat++	Prestbury

### Fri 24<sup>th</sup> June Summer Lunch and Concert by the Ukeladies at Prestbury

The concert and lunch will be after the usual Coffee, Chat++. Cost will be £12. Booking essential, contact Fiona at [Prestbury@urcic.org.uk](mailto:Prestbury@urcic.org.uk)

Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> June 10.00 – 11.30	Prestbury URChins Baby & Toddlers	Prestbury URC
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> June 12.15	<b>Midweek Worship</b>	St Andrew's
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> July 10.00 – 12.00	Coffee and Chat ++	Prestbury
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 10.00 – 13.00	Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Montpellier Fiesta in Montpellier Park	



**Prestbury URC has a stall at this event. Offers of help on the day (even for a short while) would be welcome as are donations for bottles (of any kind – jam, showergel, drinks etc) for the tombola – see Sylvia and Irene or contact [Prestbury@urcic.org.uk](mailto:Prestbury@urcic.org.uk)**

## Open Gardens for Ukraine in Bishop's Cleeve and Woodmancote

Revd Dee reports that last week's Open Gardens raised over £700.

### A Prayer for Ukraine by Sally Foster-Fulton of Christian Aid

Borders, barricades, bewilderment...When the bargaining begins,  
God please protect peace.

Sanctions, security measured in minutes and it's scary...When safety scatters,  
God please protect peace.

War dresses up in peace-keeper's clothes, Troops amass, the ground trembles and so do  
people...When the future feels fragile,  
God please protect peace.

The littlest, the least likely to have a say, Those whose lives are sanctioned and bargained  
over –Violence always finds them first.

And the 'oh-so-important' political manoeuvres mean nothing to them.

They just want to live.

When the winners want to wipe them out of the way,  
God please protect peace.

We will not turn away. We will stand together –  
God give us the strength to protect peace. Amen



## **Anna Chaplaincy**

The Anna Chaplaincy on-line training course begins on 20 June via Zoom  
FULL DETAILS sent out with last week's Bulletin

*Ann Lewis*

## **The St Andrew's Charity Appeal for June: -**

The St Andrew's Charity this month is MIND.

Please will you donate to MIND, if you are able, through the collecting plate at either door, using a church envelope, and ticking **Retiring Offering**. Complete the **Gift Aid** form on the back if applicable. Thank you.



**We have received the following Press Release from Rev Rowena Francis, who many of you will remember being at Rodborough Tabernacle.**

### **'Local church leader makes a temporary swap'**

Revd Rowena Francis, a local church leader, is exchanging care of folk in Somerset with spending twelve weeks in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. She will accompany local people in their daily lives and hear their stories of living in an occupation, marked by escalating conflict.

Rowena will witness and report breaches of International Humanitarian Law and human rights. She will help monitor these by various means. For example: accompanying children on the school run past Israel Defence Forces, being alongside farmers in their fields under threat from Israeli settler incursions and attending peaceful demonstrations with both Israelis and Palestinians who are seeking justice.

Being part of the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel is something that Rowena has wanted to do for many years. The programme started in 2002 when local churches in Palestine asked the wider church for support. She says, 'I am excited to finally be going to live alongside folk struggling with the occupation. I hope as part of the programme to play a small part in sharing their stories and so increase awareness of the need for a just peace with freedom and security based on international law in Israel/Palestine.'

On her return Rowena is available to come and speak to any groups to tell of her experience. Previous visits to Israel have already impressed on her the desire of people living daily in the situation for a wider audience to hear their stories. There is a profound need for the international community including organisations, like churches and the government to get behind acting for peace in Israel/Palestine. She will be writing blogs about her experience while abroad and is happy to ensure you can access these too.

Contact Revd Rowena Francis

[rwnfrncs@gmail.com](mailto:rwnfrncs@gmail.com)

**We shall be inviting Rowena to speak via Zoom about her experiences when she returns. Meanwhile contact Tony Jeans if more information is required.**

## **From the Editors**

Thank you for all the copy that you send. We can be reached on: [magazine@urcic.org.uk](mailto:magazine@urcic.org.uk)

*Janet Kemp (Design) and Fiona Hall (Technology)*