

# IN TOUCH

The  
Magazine  
of the URC in  
Cheltenham

February 2011

Dear All,

Happy New Year! Rather late, I know, but this is a good opportunity to pray that you have had a happy and healthy end to 2010 and that you are raring to see what 2011 holds in store for you!

I spent New Year's Eve by a swimming pool in Kenya – along with the rest of the Team. The fireworks were good, but I am not one for stopping up late. Having returned to learn about two deaths and a number of illnesses, I am brought back to reality with a bump. For many of us, the start of a new year is a struggle – the days are long and dark, months stretch ahead before it gets warm.... Everything seems more of an effort, somehow.

And yet, the Church year is well under way and we look forward to celebrations coming up, not least the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James' Bible. I attended a service in Gloucester Cathedral last week, where their 1<sup>st</sup> edition copy of the King James Bible was being used. The preacher reminded us that we really have got to read our Bibles more. We can appreciate them, we can have a copy on our bookshelves, but unless we read it, it is simply a waste of space. I hope, this year, we can all be encouraged to dip into our Bibles more and more.

This IS a year of celebration – 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Prestbury, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for St. Christopher's and a newly refurbished hall for St. Andrew's! Between us, we don't have time to feel depressed about the winter. The hint of new beginnings is already upon us!

God bless,

Maz

## THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN CHELTENHAM

**In Memoriam:** It is with sadness that we record the death on 3rd December of Ann Ashworth, wife of Brian. We offer our sincere condolences - please remember Brian and family in your prayers.

We also hear news of the death on 16th December of Connie Anderson a member of St Andrew's for many years until she moved with her family to Bedfordshire in 1991 following the death of her husband in 1990. Her daughter, Catriona Rendall writes....

*Mr Jenkins conducted my Father's funeral in 1990. My parents being of Scottish origins attended St Andrews regularly from the mid 1960s, and, in my Mother's case, to 1991. Even after my mum moved to Bedfordshire, Betty Howie regularly came up to visit.*

*Although my parents lived in Crowle near Worcester they both were very appreciative of the welcome they received at St Andrews, a church I was married in, in 1980. Of late, my mother had been in a care home for the past 11 years following a fall. Unfortunately over the last 3 years during her failing health she failed to recognize immediate family but still had her spirit and a good appetite! She passed peacefully away in her sleep on December 16th just 2 weeks short of her 100th birthday.*

Please remember Catriona in your prayers.

With regret we report the death on Saturday December 18 of Mary Howes, a member at St Andrew's. Please hold Malcolm and the family in prayer.

With sadness, we also report the death of Dorothy Lamb, a long-serving member of Warden Hill URC. She has battled with illness for many years and died on 8th January 2011. Our love and prayers go to Sue, David and families.

With shock, we record the death of Gloria Spence on 16th January. Gloria had been ill for some time, but her death was unforeseen. She leaves husband James and teenage son George, who we hold in prayer. Gloria will be sadly missed.

Gloria's funeral will be at St Andrew's on Wednesday 9th February at 1:15pm followed by burial at Cheltenham Cemetery.

**Our prayers:** we hold in our prayers those for whom we are concerned: Brian Ashworth, Jeane Combes, Margaret and Peter Coulthurst, Edith Mackenzie, Mair McIndoe, Sadie Smyth.

### **Thank you**

Mrs Mary Neil would like to thank all friends from St Andrew's who sent cards and get well messages during and after her spell in hospital.



## **WORSHIP**

### **Baptism**

Congratulations to the parents and friends of Harry Jack Wallace who was baptised on Sunday 16 January 2011 at St Andrew's.

### **Eldership**

During the communion service on 5th December at St Andrew's URC, three members of St Andrew's were ordained and inducted into Eldership by Revd Maz Allen. They are Alison and Peter Kerr (Peter renewing his former Eldership) and Carol Drummond. The congregation accepted their new elders and wished them well in their future commitment to the church.

### **February Communion Retiring Offering - St Andrew's**

The offering this month is for the National Star College at Ullenwood. Built around the old Ullenwood Manor House, the complex is designed to accommodate and train young people with a wide variety of disabilities. Its stated mission is "to enable disabled people to realise their potential and achieve success as equal and active citizens in control of their lives through education, independent living and specialist services." Accommodation is in individual rooms with special equipment to suit each student's needs, and there are specially adapted recreational and sports facilities. The college also has houses in Cheltenham and Gloucester with specially designed facilities. At weekends there are buses to take students into town and we often meet many of them in the town centre. The college has a wide range of vocational training courses, including for example, information technology, creative and performing arts and multimedia, and there are relationships with other further education providers that can provide courses in other subjects desired by the students. In addition, there is an extensive career advice programme and the college can arrange contacts for future employment when the student leaves. The college is also a conference venue with meeting rooms and a theatre seating 150.

*Keith and Elvina Norcott*

## Services at Prestbury URC

Just a reminder of the usual pattern of services at Prestbury **until further notice**:

For February - The Sunday morning service at 10.30am will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

Note: There will be no service on the 6<sup>th</sup> February.

In general, from March onwards Sunday morning Services will be on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month, unless otherwise stated.

Note: The Church AGM will take place after the service on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

The short service for babies and toddlers, '*Jump 4 Joy*' takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m.

*Fiona Hall*

## Thank you

Thank you to all those volunteers who so cheerfully provide transport for people to get to church on Sundays and to various other functions throughout the year. It is a valuable service and is much appreciated by all.

**'JUMP4JOY'**  
**at St Andrew's**  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2011**  
**9.30am – 10am**



**Informal Short Service for all the family**

*also J4J at Prestbury URC*

*on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011*

*at 10am*

## URC in CHELTENHAM MORNING PRAYERS

First Tuesday of the month, 10.30am at St Christopher's

2nd to 4th Tuesdays, 11.30am – 12noon at Warden Hill URC

1 February (6 February)	Isaiah 58:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20	Winchcombe area, Churches and Schools Care of Historic Buildings Tuesday Forum Prayers for the World
8 February (13 February)	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Matthew 5:21-37	Bishops Cleeve area, Churches and Schools Prestbury Senior Club Prayers for the world
15 February (20 February)	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 Matthew 5:38-48	Woodmancote and Cleeve Hill Area Residential and Nursing Care for the Elderly Cheltenham Scottish Society Prayers for the World
22 February (27 February)	Isaiah 49:8-16a Matthew 6:24-34	Prestbury Village, Churches and Schools Community Life Prestbury Elders Prayers for the World
1 March (6 March)	Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28 Matthew 7:21-29	Prestbury Road area, Churches and Schools Special Needs care Literature and Mah Jong Groups Prayers for the World

### Reading Group – Wed 23 February - Prestbury URC at 7.30pm.

The next book being read by the Reading Group is 'Sacred Hearts' by Sarah Dunant. The story is set in 16th century Italy and follows a 16-year old girl forced into convent life and the challenges she faces.

As always I extend a welcome to anyone else who would like to join our group. Any questions please phone Mary Cummings



### Prestbury Pantry Cookbook

The sales of the cookbook in aid of church funds are going well. If you would like a copy of these tried and tested delicious recipes then please see Julie Jefferies or contact [prestbury@urcic.org.uk](mailto:prestbury@urcic.org.uk).

## Dursley Tabernacle School of Theology

Once a month over the next year or so I am willing to meet with people who want to explore Christian theology. I will take a chapter at a time of Alister McGrath's book: *Christian Theology: An introduction*, and each month do a presentation addressing some of the issues raised in the chapter, especially from a Reformed perspective. The book is an excellent and accessible introduction to the big themes and doctrines of the Christian faith and looks at church history, sources and themes in Christian Theology. The book's contents are as follows:

Part I: Landmarks: Periods, Themes, and Personalities of Christian Theology.

Part II: Sources and Methods. Including Knowledge of God: Natural and Revealed and Philosophy and Theology: Dialogue and Debate.

Part III: Christian Theology. Including: The Doctrine of God; The Doctrine of the Trinity; The Doctrine of the Person of Christ; Faith and History; The Christological Agenda of Modernity; The Doctrine of Salvation in Christ. The Doctrines of Human Nature, Sin, and Grace. The Doctrine of the Church. The Doctrine of the Sacraments. Christianity and the World Religions. The Last Things: The Christian Hope.

The book was written for undergraduates starting university courses so is not a light read but neither is it too complex. I see this school of theology as giving more grounding to those who are in leadership in the churches, those who lead worship, those with an appetite and desire to understand their faith at a deeper level, those concerned with the evangelistic and apologetic task of communicating the faith to our secular and sceptical society.

- If you wish to be part of this school you will need to get hold of a copy of Alister's McGrath's *Christian theology: an introduction*.
- There have been five revisions of the book. The present edition is published by **Publisher:** Wiley-Blackwell; 5th Edition edition (24 Sep 2010) **ISBN-10:** 1444335146 **ISBN-13:** 978-1444335149 Amazon are selling it at anything from £20-£5.

Please tell me if you want to be part of this school so that I can then try and arrange a first meeting as soon as possible. Contact Revd Simon Helme, The Parsonage, 3 Parsonage Street, Dursley, GL11 4BW, 01453 542344, [shelme@btinternet.com](mailto:shelme@btinternet.com)

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Cluster united service at St Mark's Methodist Church on 30th January at 6.30pm.

### **News from St Christopher's**

Ian Bussell will be leaving the South Cheltenham Team after Easter to become Diocesan Director of Ordinands. "Please pray for the parish of St Philip and St James and Warden Hill, and for Ian's family as they begin to think about finding a new home."

### **Evening Services on First Sunday of the Month at St Andrew's**

On the 1st Sunday of the month, there will be no evening service during February and March. They will resume again in April. The communion service will now be held during the morning service.

(There is a special Ladies College Service at 6.30pm on February 13th. All are invited)

### **Singing Practice at St Andrew's**

We are to have a monthly singing practice for new hymns on 3rd Sunday of month starting 20<sup>th</sup> February. This will be at 10.50am before the service.

We would also like to invite members to suggest hymns we might try.

### **Carol Singing at Supermarkets for Christian Aid**

The total raised on the morning of December 18<sup>th</sup> for the whole of Cheltenham was £2360.30 of which The Church in Warden Hill raised £241.19 and the URCiC £102.

### **Induction of Reverend Christine Ritter at Gas Green Baptist Church**

We are invited to the Induction of the Reverend Christine Ritter as the new minister at Gas Green Baptist Church on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February. The service will be at 2.30pm followed by a Welcome Tea in the adjacent Youth Centre. If you would like to go please let Maz know - visitors may park at the nearby St Pauls Medical Centre in Swindon Road.

## Articles

### GET IN THE PICTURE – 2<sup>ND</sup> DEC. ST. ANDREW'S

This was a huge success, with many shoppers visiting us to have their photos taken.



Thanks to all the volunteers.

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### Street Pastors

Congratulations to Ann Gimingham and Maureen McBane on becoming Street Pastors.

### C4 Choir Christmas Show

Many thanks and congratulations to all concerned with the latest C4 Choir production, the delightful “Peace Child”. It is the story of a new-born baby given by one tribe to another to cement peace between them after a history of war. As such it was very appropriate for the Christmas season – a new-born baby as a bringer of peace. The music and singing were superb and we even had a dance, and the whole show was really entertaining. Much time and effort must have gone into the very colourful and effective costumes too. So well done to all for a thoroughly enjoyable show and we look forward to the next one.



*Keith and Elvina Norcott*

## Kenya Projects (UK)

The team had a successful two weeks in Embu, achieving what we set out to do and more. There were three working groups, painting in three separate children's homes: Jomo, where we painted the kitchen and dining room. St. Stephen's, where the outside of the office block was painted; and Utugi, where a dingy room was turned into a bright nursery classroom.

Our young people enjoyed interacting with the children and the whole team was often treated as honoured guests, particularly on New Year's Day, at the church services, where two of our number preached.

I was particularly thrilled to attend the dedication service for the Gatondo Health Clinic, that some of us had raised funds to build two years ago. It was wonderful to see it open, and staffed with a nurse, lab technician, office manager and cleaner. That may sound rather basic to us, but much fundraising by the Canadian Rotary Club has enabled the staffing thus far.

At Jomo, we had already paid to have tiles put down in the dormitories, dining room and kitchen areas, to help wheelchair access. The work was complete when we arrived and the place looked very smart and much cleaner than before. We had also paid up-front for corrective surgery to take place in Nairobi, through CURE International. I was delighted to be told that the first seven children will travel to Nairobi for treatment on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. We eagerly await the results!

Also at Jomo, we bought a fridge, gave the children a party and left money for transport to and from Nairobi.

At St. Stephen's, the largest children's home, 85 pairs of school shoes were purchased. For practically all of the children, this will be their first new pair since we did the same two years ago. We also bought a fridge for the kitchen.



Painting the kitchen



A classroom



Handing over medical supplies



Joan Winterbottom

At Utugi, the greatest excitement was presenting all of the older children with a complete football strip.



Football Team

There are now local children, as well as orphans, who can enjoy the cheerful nursery-classroom. Some of us visited for a morning, and found ourselves singing all of the nursery rhymes we could think of!

Some of us met up with our sponsor-children, others acquired new ones. There were tears when we said goodbye, but we know we have helped in a small way to brighten the lives of those very precious children.

*Maz Allen*

### **Footsloggers Before The Snow**

On December 13<sup>th</sup> 10 intrepid footsloggers set out from South Cerney on a five mile walk around the lakes.

Our walk took us along part of the disused canal, which proved very interesting as the workmen were dredging out the mud in preparation for a re-opening (sometime in the future).



As the Christmas season was approaching we all wore suitable festive headgear. At the halfway point we paused for 'festive' refreshments including a mince pie!!

On the whole our walks are most enjoyable and certainly not too strenuous. Our numbers are increasing and we continue to welcome new members, both young and not so!!!

Contact Tim Odell on Cheltenham if you would be interested in joining us once each month, and for further details. It is good fun.

*Tim Odell*

## Footsloggers - January

We met at the Kilkenny Viewpoint car park on the Cold Comfort Common in time for the 10am start.

The 4.5 miles walk took us over the high wolds with views before diving down into the remote wooded Hilcot Valley. The ground was mainly fields, tracks and quiet country roads with a few muddy spots;

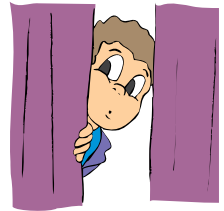
good boots was a must. There was a couple of interesting stiles and one short, steep descent....., but otherwise the walk was relatively easy going. The walk ended with a visit to the 5-Springs pub nearby for lunch.

The next walk is on Friday 18 February and will be led by Lizzie George. Details of the walk will be posted on Church notice boards nearer the time. All are most welcome.



## Winter Quiz - Theatre and Stage

Yes, we've done another one! This time the theme is words and phrases associated with the stage and the theatre – not individual plays, authors or actors but just stage entertainment generally. Each answer is or contains something to do with the stage and, to make it a bit easier than past puzzles, we have given you a single letter help in some of the answers. You may

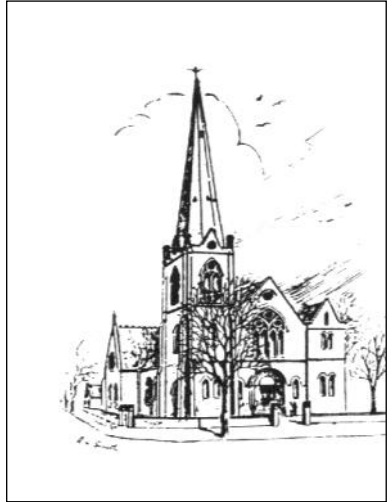


need to do a little bit of looking up here and there, in dictionaries or on the internet but there are no strange jargon terms that are known only to professional actors. Why not have a go over the cold dark winter months and if you'd like to enter for a small prize let us have your answers by the end of March. In the event of a tie Revd Maz Allen will make a draw for the prize. Entries are acceptable from individuals, groups or families. Proceeds will go the St. Andrew's appeal, so please make a generous donation for each copy; may we suggest minimum £1? Copies are available in each of our churches or from us. Happy puzzling!

*Keith and Elvina Norcott*

## St Andrew's URC - Redevelopment Update - January 2011

When I reported in November for the December issue the contractors had just arrived on site and were busy putting up scaffolding all along the Montpellier Street façade. Despite the weather problems in December that lost most of the month, they are making good progress on cleaning, and arrangements are now in hand to source stone for areas that need replacement. In addition work to replace gutters and ensure we have functioning soakaways should be underway by the time you read this.



The interior of the Hall has been transformed by lifting the old floor and laying a proper concrete base. In addition the section of the false ceiling nearest the kitchen has been removed and we were able to see the St Andrew's window before it was taken away for repair. The window is similar in size to the one behind the organ and it has been covered up ever since the false ceiling was installed in the Hall.

We have also agreed the new lighting and power layout that will be installed while the screed on top of the concrete cures over the period to end February, prior to laying the new sprung floor.

The Hall work is on time, despite the hiccup with concreting under the boiler just before Christmas. Costs to date are below projections because of the stone cleaning delays but £60,000 of the contract budget of circa £300,000 has now been certified. In addition there are expenses for professional fees.

The first group with a confirmed date to help with fundraising is the Gotherington Singers who will be performing at a concert on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Other users are discussing holding events.

*David Black*

## **From the Fund Raising Committee - St Andrew's**

Forthcoming events for your diaries:-

**BARN DANCE** – The Barn Dance that we had planned for 26<sup>th</sup> February has now been **postponed** since it coincided with another significant event in Cheltenham. Also clearing the Church for the dance and getting it back into “working order” for Sunday morning would be rather impractical!

So... **The new date will be 17<sup>th</sup>. September in the Hall!**

### **Quiz Evening on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May.**

They have promised that the questions will be a little easier this time. There will be an Irish round of questions included in the evening. Irish? Simple – “Here is the answer, what is the question?!”

In mid June (mid summer hopefully) Maz is organising a “**Puddings and Pims**” evening for us.

So lots going on but then lots of money to be raised and we look forward to your continuing support and help.

As previously mentioned David Black is organising a concert with the **Gotherington Singers on April 9<sup>th</sup>**. They are always very very popular so get you tickets early.

Lizzie George and Lyn& Peter Ricketts will be arranging another exciting **Redevelopment Report for In Touch – February 2011.**

We are having fun, we hope you are too!

*Joan Thomson*

## Apathy in Bethlehem - A Post-Christmas Reverie

‘Morning, Simon, old matey, ow are ye?’  
 You just going down to the Inn?  
 I’m going there meself, I’ll walk with ye,  
 I could do with a chat ‘n a yarn.

Did you ever heard tell o’ the census  
 What happened when we was but lads  
 And the babe as was born in the stable  
 Quite a five-minute wonder it was.

Apparently they came here from Nazareth  
 And there wasn’t no room in the inn  
 The Dad was a carpenter, Joseph,  
 And Mary, a lovely young maid.

Old Jacob the shepherd, ‘e told me  
 How they all come down from the hill  
 He said they’d been guided by angels!  
 No, ‘e wasn’t pulling my leg.

Well, when they comes into the stable  
 Just as they’d all been told,  
 There was the Babe, in the manger  
 And his mother sat there by his side.

To be honest, ‘e said, they was moithered.  
 They couldn’t quite take it all in.  
 But they knew it was something special  
 They all knelt, as though ’twas a King!

Then back they went to the hillside,  
 All quiet, as though they was dumb.  
 And the sheep was still folded, and waiting.  
 Another day’s work to be done.

Oh yes, there was also some strangers  
 Not there for the census, oh no...  
 Astrologers or some such queer people.  
 They said as they’d been led by a star.

By all accounts they was wealthy,  
 To judge by the presents they brought.  
 I 'll tell 'e one thing, me ole matey,  
 I didn't get none at my birth.

'Course I was only a lad when it happened  
 But I heard Mum and Dad tell the tale.  
 Did they stay in the village? Not likely!  
 Like I said, 'twas the census that's all.  
 Years later some cock and bull story  
 Came here from down Galilee way.  
 But they was a rum lot, I tell 'ee  
 You can't trust them fishermen's tales.

There was rumours galore 'bout the baby  
 Who grew to a fine young man  
 There's some even called him Messiah  
 You can't go no higher than that.

Well the Romans soon got the wind up  
 They was scared he might start a revolt,  
 The scribes and the priests, they was jealous  
 And called him "the carpenter's son".

The power of the priests and the Romans  
 Was bound to win, in the end.  
 And he died a most terrible death  
 On a cross, by a sword in his side.

But there's some even now, in this village  
 What heard the most wonderful tales.  
 Of miracles and healing of sick folks  
 And call him a Saviour....God's Son.

I don't know, and don't want no trouble  
 I have to keep my nose clean.  
 But it do make you wonder.....  
 Don't it ?

*Don Weekes*  
*January 2011*

*An Epilogue: "Opposition gives opportunity. Apathy is a brick wall"*

*Don*

## Street Pastors

When I was asked at the initial interview, why I thought God was calling me to be a Street Pastor (or, as my mum was overheard telling my brother a “Street Walker”) I had to confess in all honesty, that I wasn’t entirely sure that He was. However I felt moved to give it a go, as a practical expression of faith, while still reasonably fit enough to do so.

After attending the initial training sessions (training is ongoing and regularly updated) and being commissioned in November, I and the rest of the latest batch of recruits went out with established teams to get the feel of a typical shift, but only until midnight. A full shift usually continues until 4 am.

Well, I’ve done two more duties since then and have been asked to share my thoughts. Firstly, what a revelation! I’d no idea how many people were out on a Friday and Saturday night in Cheltenham. Mostly just enjoying themselves but inevitably, some a little the worse for wear and/or somewhat vulnerable. Our role is to greet, chat if appropriate and support if required. We have dustpan and brush for broken glass, bottled water for the dehydrated, flip-flops for the shoeless, foil blankets for the chilled and hopefully, Christian love and a listening ear for all.

I didn’t really have any preconceived ideas of what to expect but it has been a very positive experience so far. There are sensible safeguards built into the training but I have been surprised at how confident and unthreatened I have felt. The uniform has coped splendidly with temperatures of -9 but the warmest feeling has been the wonderful prayer support. There is now a dedicated prayer support team but I have greatly valued the messages of support and encouragement from so many of you. “I’ll be thinking of/praying for you” is such a morale booster when you are wondering whether you’ve done or said the right thing. I am also very conscious of “standing on the shoulders” of the pioneers of the Street Pastors concept and those who first went onto the streets of Cheltenham a year ago.

How else would I have had, at my age, the opportunity to meet Santa’s elves (shivering in their tights) at 2 am let alone confirm with the REAL Father Christmas (he assured me!) that my presents would be waiting for me when I got home? May God continue to bless the work done in His name by Street Pastors and also those with whom they come into contact.

*Maureen McBane*

## **Tours to the Middle East**

Rev'd Geoff Crago of Highnam is leading two groups to the Middle East next year and bookings are now being taken:

- Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - 12 to 20 March 2012 and
- A Journey to Syria - 20 to 29 September 2012

For brochures please contact Geoff on 01452 750575 or email:

[geoff@crago.co.uk](mailto:geoff@crago.co.uk)

You can also download full details from the website: [www.crago.co.uk](http://www.crago.co.uk) where you can also view a 15 minute video of the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

## **Life before the computer:**

Memory was something that you lost with age.

An application was for employment.

A program was a TV show.

A cursor used profanity.

A keyboard was a piano.

A web was a spider's home.

A virus was the flu.

A CD was a bank account.

A hard drive was a long trip on the road.

A mouse pad was where a mouse lived.

If you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy...you just hoped nobody found out.

A backup happened to the toilet.

If you unzipped anything in public you were arrested.

Cookies were just chocolate chip, peanut butter, or oatmeal.

A browser was someone taking too long to shop!

"Crash" was something you tried to avoid while driving.

Reboot, was when you kicked someone in the Butt a second time.

A hacker was someone who coughed a lot from smoking too much.

## **Brownies**

My name is Molly Morrissey and I am a Brownie with the 31<sup>st</sup> Cheltenham (St.Christopher's) pack.

This year we have been celebrating 100 years of guiding. The centenary was marked in many ways and the main event took place at Cheltenham Race Course with all of the Gloucestershire Brownies, Guides and Rainbows (almost 5000 people) on 20 October 2010.

We all renewed our promise at 20:10 hours so it will always be remembered as taking place on the 20/10 at 20:10 in 2010. The night finished off with an amazing firework display. It was a fantastic night and everyone really enjoyed it. Roll on the next 100 years!

In November we had a visit from the local Police woman who talked to us about stranger danger and also how they talk to each other with codes on their radios. She also let us have a good look around the Police van and showed us how to use the emergency flashing lights.

This month we had a talent show where everyone brought in £1 to give to the Help the Heroes fund and then played instruments, danced or performed magic tricks. It was very entertaining.

*Molly Morrissey*

## **Cubs**

In November Warden Hill Cubs and leaders were invited to attend Woodhouse Park Scout camp with the 45th Cheltenham (Bethesda) Cubs, for their end of year winter (indoor) camp.

The camp was a great opportunity for the WH fledgling pack to enjoy an exciting scouting weekend with their friends at 45th Bethesda.

The weekend included a trip to Bristol zoo, abseiling and time on the assault course. We learnt a wealth of new activities, camp-fire songs and the benefits scouting offers to young Cubs.

The WH Cubs and leaders thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with the 45th Bethesda Cubs and wish to thank them all for their friendship and hospitality.

*Rob Aldridge (Akela)*

## **EVENTS**

### **January:**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January** - Epiphany Carol Service at St Christopher's at 6:00pm

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January** - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Cluster united service at St Mark's Methodist Church on 30<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm

### **February:**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** - Chilean Minor Event - St Matthews church at 7.45pm (by ticket only).

José Hennriquez, rescued from the mining disaster, comes to tell his story along with Reverend Alfredo Cooper, Chaplain to the President of Chile.

*You will all remember the scenes of jubilation on your televisions as the Chilean Miners were first located and then eventually rescued earlier this year. We have been offered this golden opportunity in Cheltenham to host a visit by Revd Alfredo Cooper, Chaplain to the Chilean President together with Jose Henriquez, one of the rescued miners, who while trapped underground, became the main spiritual leader of the group, encouraging them to pray together. Alfredo Cooper is a CMS mission partner.*

Admission is free but a ticket is required - this obtainable from either [info@stmstm.org.uk](mailto:info@stmstm.org.uk) or telephone 01242 519520.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Pensioner's Forum - 10.30am**

The Pensioners' Forum resumes on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** at 10.30am when Chris Baynham from the Fire Service will be speaking on fire safety in the home. They will come to your home **free** and inspect your property for fire risk, drawing attention to any potential problems. They will also test your smoke alarms and where necessary install and replace any faulty ones – again all for free. Chris will also update us on the latest information, so come along and speak to him to book your home visit.

The March meeting is on **Wednesday 2nd March**, when we have a Continence Nurse Specialist coming to answer all those embarrassing questions about urinary problems.

The coffee bar will be open at 10am and we are also running 'Soup and Chat' from 12 noon closing at 1.30pm.

*Ann Lewis*



**SOUP AND CHAT**  
on  
**The first Monday of the Month**  
at  
**St Andrew's URC**  
**12 noon – 1.30pm**  
**Cost £2.50**

**Lunch includes soup, bread and coffee/tea**

**Pensioners' Forum**  
at  
**St Andrew's United Reformed Church**  
(near Queen's Hotel)

**Programme for 2011**

**Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month**

**You are invited to the following talks 10.30am – 11.30am**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Wednesday 2 February</b> | <b>'Fire Safety at Home'</b><br>Fire and Rescue Service                 |
| <b>Wednesday 2 March</b>    | <b>'Help with Urinary Problems'</b><br>Continence Nurse Specialist      |
| <b>Wednesday 6 April</b>    | <b>'Food to your Door'</b><br>Wiltshire Farm Foods                      |
| <b>Wednesday 4 May</b>      | <b>'How to Fund Your Care'</b><br>Nursing Home Fees Agency              |
| <b>Wednesday 1 June</b>     | <b>'What Can AgeUK Do For You?'</b><br>AgeUK Gloucestershire            |
| <b>Wednesday 6 July</b>     | <b>'Bowel Cancer Screening Programme'</b><br>Specialist Screening Nurse |

**FREE ENTRY – ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Coffee Bar open from 10.00am – 12 noon**

**Coffee/Tea 50p**

**[www.urch.org.uk](http://www.urch.org.uk)**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Wednesday Women** – Researching your family Tree. Fiona Hall. Prestbury URC 7:30pm.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February - Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra** - St Andrew's at 7.30pm.

*The C4 choir are having a temporary break. A new start date will be announced soon. Maz*

**Please note:** *Evening Services on the first Sunday of the month at St Andrew's.* There will be **none** in February or March; they will, however, resume again in April.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February - Prestbury URC** - Coffee Morning

Please join us for our regular monthly coffee morning on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am. Books, Cakes and Raffle.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Tuesday Forum** – St Andrew's Garden Room at 2.30pm.

There will be a talk by Bill Cowie on 'Growing up on a Scottish Farm'.

Please come along and support this meeting which begins at 2.30pm in the St Andrew's Garden Room, followed by tea and biscuits.

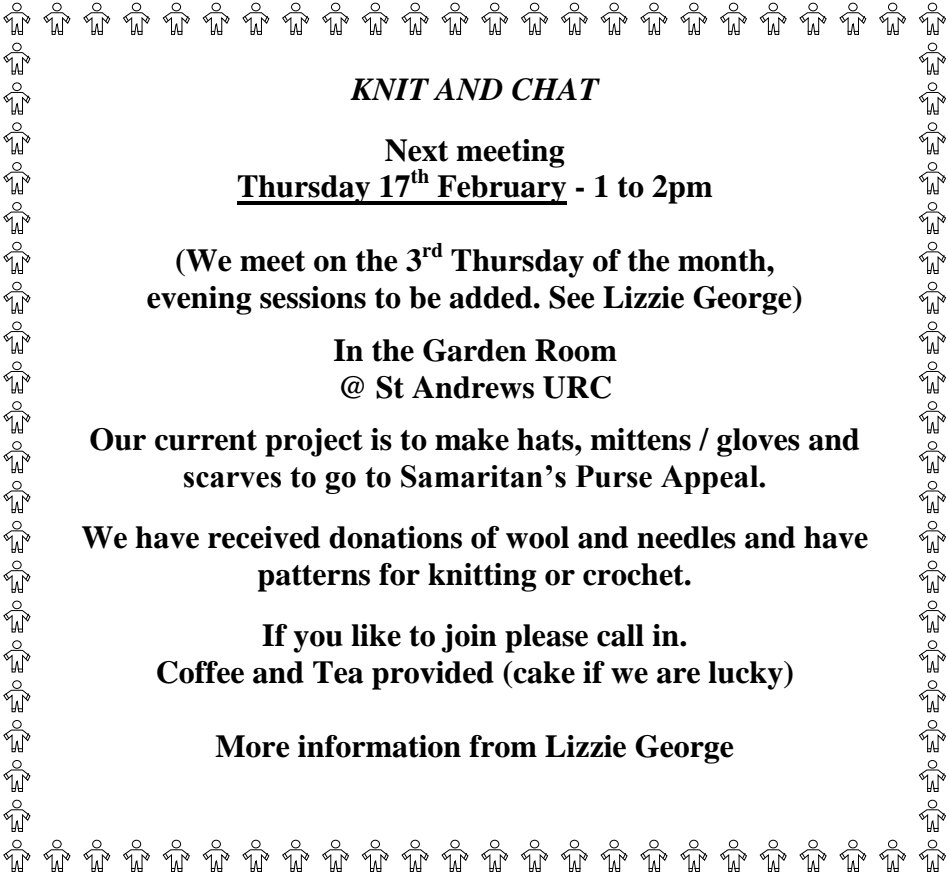
*Barbara Russell-Smith*

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February - Qi Gong** – Warden Hill URC at 12:15pm

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February** - (There is a special Ladies College Service at St Andrew's at 6.30pm). All are invited.

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Valentines** (14th February)

February 14<sup>th</sup> is St Valentine's Day, on the Sunday Evening before, i.e. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 pm, there is a service in St Christopher's Warden Hill, celebrating close and family relations, which Our Lord gives us to share.. There will be a chance to renew your Marriage Vows, and to talk about our relations with one another. Do come!



## ***KNIT AND CHAT***

**Next meeting**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February - 1 to 2pm**

**(We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month,  
 evening sessions to be added. See Lizzie George)**

**In the Garden Room  
 @ St Andrews URC**

**Our current project is to make hats, mittens / gloves and  
 scarves to go to Samaritan's Purse Appeal.**

**We have received donations of wool and needles and have  
 patterns for knitting or crochet.**

**If you like to join please call in.  
 Coffee and Tea provided (cake if we are lucky)**

**More information from Lizzie George**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Footsloggers walking group.** Details of the walk to be led by Lizzie George are to be found on Church Notice Boards nearer the time. All are invited.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Cheltenham Operatic Society Concert – St Andrew's at 7:30pm**

*There will be no Community Film Show at Warden Hill URC (usually held on the 3rd Saturday of the month) until further notice.*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Jump 4 Joy - 9:30am.**

## **Singing Practice**

We are to have a monthly singing practice for new hymns on 3rd Sunday of the month starting **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February**. This will be at **10.50am** before the service.

We would also like to invite members to suggest hymns we might try.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** – **Tuesday Forum** – St Andrew's Garden Room at 2.30pm.

There will be a talk by Alwin Sampson on 'Cheltenham - Our Town'. Please come along and support this meeting which begins at 2.30pm in the St Andrew's Garden Room, followed by tea and biscuits.

*Barbara Russell-Smith*

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** - **Qi Gong** – Warden Hill URC at 12:15pm

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** - **Reading Group** – Prestbury URC at 7.30pm.

The next book being read by the Reading Group is 'Sacred Hearts' by Sarah Dunant. The story is set in 16th century Italy and follows a 16-year old girl forced into convent life and the challenges she faces.

As always I extend a welcome to anyone else who would like to join our group. Any questions please phone Mary Cummings

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February** – **The Ash Horn Trio** – St Andrew's at 7:30pm.  
Proceeds for the St Andrew's Appeal Fund.

*The Barn dance originally planned for Saturday 26th February is now cancelled and will now take place on 17th September.*

**MARCH Events**

Prestbury will be holding another grand bric-a-brac sale as part of our March Coffee Morning on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March** at 10.30. If you have anything you would like to donate either bring it along to Church or contact Fiona Hall via [prestbury@urcic.org.uk](mailto:prestbury@urcic.org.uk).



**Future Events:**

**BIG SING**  
13 March  
Sunday 2-4pm  
St. Andrew's

Come along and sing old favourites and  
new songs.  
Book the date now!

St Christopher's are also planning to do an Easter Oratorio on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 7:30pm. Please join us.



**SEROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
OF CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT**

**Invite you to a talk entitled**



**'WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE'**

**on**

**SATURDAY 5 MARCH 2011**

**to mark**

**100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED NATIONS  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**at**

**ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH  
MONTPELLIER STREET, CHELTENHAM GL50 1SP  
at 2.30PM**

**Speakers: *Mayor, Councillor Anne Regan  
and  
Past-Mayor, Councillor Pat  
Thornton***

**Free Entry**

**A collection will be taken for the Mayor's Charities  
The Brizen Young People's Centre, Dowty House, Sue Ryder Care**

**There will be stalls providing information on  
Local Women's Organisations**

**Refreshments will be available following the talks  
Further information on [www.seroptimist-gbi.co.uk](http://www.seroptimist-gbi.co.uk)**

## **Administration**

All contributions for the February issue of In Touch to be in by Tuesday 15th February please.

The In Touch Coordinators for respective churches are as follows:

### **Prestbury**

Please see Ian Brooks directly or forward contributions via e-mail (ianbrooks444@btinternet.com). Ian can also be contacted on . Contributions most welcome.

### **The Church in Warden Hill**

Please see Brian Miles or Isabel Hitchings directly or forward contributions via e-mail: magazine@urcic.org.uk or to church office, office@urcic.org.uk. Likewise contributions very welcome.

### **St Andrew's**

Please see John Standring directly or forward contributions via e-mail: magazine@urcic.org.uk or to church office, office@urcic.org.uk.. John can be contacted on

### **Stop Press:**

### **Music in other churches/cathedrals**

*Music in Gloucester Cathedral:*

*5th Feb 11:00 am - Coffee Concert - 'Dreams, Journeys and the Sea' performed by mezzo soprano Lucy Williams & pianist Sebastian Grand.*

*£6 to include tea and biscuits. Proceeds in aid of the work of the cathedral choir.*

*6th Feb 12.00 noon - Informal Concert - Vasteras Cathedral Youth Choir Sweden.*

*24th Feb 12:30 pm - Lunchtime Organ Recital - Kate McPherson - Portsmouth Cathedral. A retiring collection will be made.*

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No Job too small please give me a call

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**Tel: 01452 552192**

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

<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
1	Tues	5.00pm	SA	Premises Committee
	Tues	7.45pm	StM	Chilean Miner Event at St Matthew's
2	Wed	10.30am	SA	Pensioners' Forum
		12.noon	SA	Soup and Chat
		7.30pm	P	Wednesday Women
5	Sat	10:30am	P	Coffee Morning
		7.30pm	SA	Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra
6	Sun	10.30am	P	Mrs Julie Jefferies
		10.30am	SC	Val Hobbs <i>Family Worship</i>
		11.00am	SA	Revd Dr John Sutcliffe
		6.00pm	SA	No Service
		6.00pm	SC	Valentine's Day Service
8	Tues	2.30pm	SA	Tuesday Forum
		7.30pm	SA	Elders meet
9	Wed	1.15pm	SA	Funeral Service for Gloria Spence
		12.15pm	URC	Qi Gong
13	Sun		P	No Service
		10.30am	URC	Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i>
		11.00am	SA	Revd Maz Allen
		6.30pm	SA	Ladies College Service
17	Thur	7.30pm	SC	ECM meet
19	Sat	2.30pm	GG	Induction service at Gas Green
20	Sun	9.30am	SA	Jump4Joy
		10.30am	P	Worship Group
		10.30am	SC	Revd Owen Barraclough <i>Communion</i>
		11.00am	SA	Revd Maz Allen
22	Tue	10.00am	P	Jump4Joy
		2.30pm	SA	Tuesday Forum
23	Wed	7.30pm	P	Reading Group
		12.15pm	URC	Qi Gong

<b>FEBRUARY</b> continued				31
26	Sat	7.30pm	SA	<i>Barn Dance (Cancelled) now on 17 September</i>
<b>27</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i></b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>URC</b>	<b>Bob Alger</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Revd Ernest Marvin</b>
<b>MARCH</b>				
2	Wed	10.30am	SA	Pensioners' Forum
		12noon	SA	Soup and Chat
5	Sat	10.30am	P	Coffee Morning and grand bric-a-brac sale
		2.30pm	SA	International Women's Day
<b>6</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Dr Tony Jeans</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Revd Maz Allen <i>Communion</i></b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Revd Dr John Sutcliffe <i>Communion</i></b>