

**URC in CHELTENHAM MORNING PRAYERS
11.30am – 12noon EVERY Tuesday at Warden Hill**

Date	Readings	Prayer Issues
2 June	Psalm 119 81-88 John 3 1-17	Hospital Area, Chaplaincy and St Luke's Church The Ministry team – future needs Prayers for the World
9 June	Psalm 119 89-96 Mark 4 26-34	Sandford Park Area, the Fire and Emergency Services Stand, youth work Prayers for the world
16 June	Psalm 119 97-104 Mark 4 35-41	Naunton Area, Cheltenham College, Emmanuel Church, The Society of Friends Church Flower Arrangers Prayers for the world
23 June	Psalm 119 105- 112 Mark 5 21-43	Cheltenham Centre, commercial life, businesses, charity shop, Echo, Magistrates' Courts, Mayor and Councillors Church Treasurers Prayers for the World
29 June	Psalm 119 113- 120 Mark 6 1-13	Cheltenham Centre, Volunteer Bureau, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Library, The Salvation Army URCiC Officers Prayers for the World

try to pin that reality down as best we can; to talk about our experience in terms of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, grasping at what our brains can handle as 'truth'. Fortunately, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that God's ways are not our ways, neither are his thoughts our thoughts. Thank goodness for that! The fact that many believers struggle with the relationship of the Three persons in One does not bar us from having a real relationship with our Creator-Saviour-Strengthenener.

An elderly gentleman once asked me who he should be praying to – God or Jesus? My reply was 'yes'! We know the nature of God's love for us through Jesus, and through his dynamic workings in the world – pouring his Spirit on us, that we may respond with dynamic workings of our own.

God is a mystery; but a mystery is something which is so full of meaning that no matter how hard we try, we will never get to the bottom if it. Therefore we need help. God revealed himself through Jesus – I would say that's a big help! And he continues to help us as his Spirit lives in us. If we allow the Spirit's flame to burn brightly within us, who knows what we might achieve?

Maz

Dear Friends,

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (Matt. 18-20)

Trinity Sunday comes one week after Pentecost. It is a day which perhaps captures the imagination less than any other in the Christian year, having perplexed theologians and ordinary believers alike across the centuries. Yet complex though the issues may be, we do well to reflect on them, for this should be a day which captures the imagination like no other, reminding us of the breathtaking reality which we describe as God. We

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN CHELTENHAM

In Memoriam - Remembering Joy Marsh (1918-2009)

“A lovely lady” “great kindness and great dignity” -“conscientious” - “loyal” - “open-minded” - “generous”- “never grumbled” - “interested in people” - “good company” - “adventurous” - “ a good sense of fun”- “always very smartly dressed”. These are some of the many ways in which I have heard people remember Joy. She endeared herself to all who knew her over a long and full life, earning their respect and friendship.

Joy was one of four children and grew up in the Congregational Church in Smethwick. She trained in Birmingham as a nurse, then as a midwife and health visitor, achieving senior positions. During the 2nd World War she served as a nurse in the Middle East. She then worked in London, Reading and Bristol. Following retirement she remained in Bristol for some years, and moved to Cheltenham in 1978 to be nearer to her relatives. At St Andrew’s Joy served as an Elder for many years, and also took on the role of Church Housekeeper, overseeing and sharing in church cleaning.

Until comparatively recently Joy had remained very active in spite of some health problems, rarely missing Sunday worship. She frequently attended concerts in Birmingham as well as Cheltenham, where she was a great supporter of the Music Festival. Last autumn after hospital treatment, she was well enough to visit her sister in Lichfield for Christmas, but in the New Year returned to hospital; gradually her health failed, and she had to accept that she needed long-term care. She had moved to Ellerslie Nursing Home about three weeks before she died peacefully there on 17 May, age 91.

When I came to St Andrew’s in 2002 we soon discovered many people, places and churches in common and we became good friends. In 1940 she had met my cousin, Margaret, as midwifery students in Bristol, and remained close friends with her and her family. Later in Bristol, she was a member at Redland Park URC, which I had attended in my youth, and where I became a member and was married. Here she served as an Elder, sang in the Choir, and made many friends. In 2007 we went together to the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the church, rebuilt after wartime bombing.

We offer our sympathy to her niece, Alison, her brother, David, her sister, Sheila, and all the family.

Susan Nuttall

Wedding

Congratulations to Valerie and David Garside who were married at St Andrew’s in May. We wish them every happiness and God’s blessing on their future life together.

Baptism and Dedication:

We welcomed into the family of the Church on 24 May at St Andrew’s Abigail Miriam Green and at Prestbury Emily Wager Cusack. We look forward to getting to know Abigail and Emily as they grow in faith over the years.

New Members

Helen Bell and Elizabeth Moss were welcomed into membership at St Andrew’s on 24 May by transfer certificate from their previous Churches. We are delighted that you now both feel at home in the URCiC to take this step and we ask for God’s blessing on your fellowship within the Church.

Our prayers: we hold in our prayers those for whom we are concerned:

Margaret Apperley, George Apps, Ann Ashworth, Jeane Combes, Mary Cummings, Beryl Davies, Carol and Lorna Dewhurst, Dennis and Joyce Goldring, Hylda Greening, Mary Howes, Paulette Hyde, Dorothy Lamb, Matthew, Sheila and Glyn Jenkins, Mair McIndoe, Peter Meason, Jon Morgan, Betty Price, Joy and Nick Smith, Sadie Smyth, Jean Smith, Maisey and Don Weekes, Luke Wilson and Chris Wroot.

Thank You

To all who provided cakes and helped in the Coffee Bar at St Andrew’s on **9 and 16 May**, when we had a full day of music from the Jazz Arts. We took a total of £384 and the refreshments offered were much appreciated by all who were in the centre.

Phil Lewis

BIRTHDAY TEAS AT HATHERLEY MANSE

April – June - Sat. 6th June

July – Sept. – Sat. 29th August

Oct. – Dec - Sat. 12th December

3-5pm



All are welcome don't forget to put the date in your diary

Pensioners' Forum – Wednesday 3 June – ‘Singing for Fun’

Joan McCormick runs a ‘Singing for Fun’ group for the U3A and she has kindly agreed to come along to the June meeting and give us a taster. We are told by the Health Profession that singing is good for us, it helps us to relax, gives us enjoyment and lots of fun. You don't have to be read music, just come along and join in.



The coffee Bar will open at 10am and the singing will begin at 10.30am to last about an hour. All are welcome, there is no charge.

Please see centre pages for information on the Health & Well Being Event for Older People at St Andrew's on 1 July. Any publicity you can give this event would be much appreciated. I can provide flyers and posters if required.

Ann Lewis

Qi Gong

Next session will be in the Garden Room at St Andrew's on **Wednesday 3 June** at 12.15pm. All are welcome; cost is £4 per session.

Contact the Elderly – Tea on 14 June

Joan Thompson is organising the tea in the Garden Room at St Andrew's on 14 June. If you can offer sandwiches or cakes for the tea or would like to come and have a chat with our visitors please contact Joan on 527750.

Tuesday Forum

The Forum has now closed for its summer break and will meet again in September.

Farewell Party for the Hiley Family

**Wednesday 24 June at
Warden Hill URC 7-9pm**

Bring and Share Supper
Including 'Entertainment'
All are invited



URCiC Walking Group

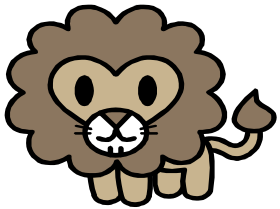
Friday 15 May proved a wet morning, so we decided to cancel the walk and not dirty our boots!!



The next five-mile walk will take place on **Friday 19 June** starting at 10am at the Hungry Horse Pub, Seven Springs to be led by Bob Alger. Please sign up on the sheet on the notice board in your church, where further details can be found.

C4 CHILDREN'S CHOIR

DANIEL



A Hard Act to Swallow

Friday 19 June at 7pm at
St Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane
and
Saturday 20 June at 3.30pm at
Warden Hill URC

Admission Free - Retiring Collection
Please support our young people

* *Rehearsals on 5 and 12 June will take place at
St Nicolas' Church*

URCiC AGM REPORT

We met on the 26th April 2009 after the morning service at St Andrew's. Maz chaired the meeting as Jon was recovering from a knee operation.

After opening prayers, we had to deal with a legal matter for St Andrew's. This was a formal resolution with words given us by the Church to allow us to create a charity as required by new legislation. We came together as a St Andrew's Church meeting to agree the resolution and then re-convened as URCiC.

In memoriam, we gave thanks to God for the committed lives of the following Members who had died during the last twelve months: David Derrick, Tom Morrison, Edna Farrell, Alan Dickins, Dan Stalker, Victor James, Margaret Thomas, John Adams, Eva Pendlebury, Gilbert Aldridge, Catherine Johnson and Catherine Higgins.

We approved the minutes from the 2008 AGM and heard about the life of the church from Maz. This showed us the range of pastoral care, worship and outreach we are doing on behalf of the URCiC as a whole.

We noted that the accounts were not yet ready but the interim report to Church council in January was satisfactory. We noted that a balanced budget had been set for 2009. Full Accounts will be presented later in the year.

We noted that there would be a review of the Ministry and Mission of the Church starting in January 2010 in collaboration with Synod. We then agreed the same resolution on the Charity as we had done for St Andrew's. This means that we can bring the whole URCiC into the single Charity in due course.



'JUMP4JOY'

Sunday 21 June
9.30am – 10am
At St Andrew's

Informal Short Service for all the family

We received and accepted reports from the URcic organisation and projects viz;

- (a) World Church & Mission
- (b) Traidcraft
- (c) Bright Sparks and Volcanoes & WH After School Club (verbal)
- (d) C4 – Children's' Choir (verbal)
- (e) STAND (verbal)
- (f) Tuesday Prayers (verbal)
- (g) Tuesday Forum
- (h) Literary Appreciation Group (verbal)
- (i) Bible Study Groups (verbal)
- (j) TLS (verbal)
- (k) 'In Touch'
- (l) Creative Cards
- (m) Kenyan Report
- (n) Local Ecumenical Partnership
- (o) Urchins and Toddlers (verbal)
- (p) Web site

We appointed Officers and in particular

Secretary	Tony Jeans
Clerk to the Council	Carol Drummond
Pulpit Supply Secretary	Ann Lewis
Treasurer	Elizabeth George

We noted some key future dates and we approved Maz's appointment as Mayor's Chaplain for 2010-11. We concluded with the Grace after a meeting which encouraged us when we reflected on the witness and community of our united efforts in the service of Our Lord.

The formal minutes with some brief summary reports and items of Any Other Business will be displayed on Church Notice Boards. If anyone has any questions, please contact Tony Jeans (Secretary) or Carol Drummond (Clerk to the Council) for more information.

United Elders Training Day

Situational Leadership® II

Have you ever tried to learn a skill or an art that you are really keen to master, only to become disheartened because the task appears more difficult than you imagined? If so, you have passed through the first two of four performance development levels; the 'Enthusiastic Beginner' and the 'Disillusioned Learner'. What is needed is Situational Leadership, the kind that diagnoses the problem and applies the right management solution, so, more 'Direction' and 'Coaching' might be necessary to get you through.

That is what the united elders learnt at their training day at Charlton Kings Baptist Church, in a seminar on Situational Leadership® II, run by Geoff and Elizabeth Moss, designed to help elders manage situations in the church more effectively. With the right style of management applied to each situation, the disillusioned learner can progress beyond being a 'Cautious Performer', to become the 'Self-reliant Achiever', but the manager needs to recognise when to employ the 'Supporting' and 'Delegating' management styles. Underpinning all this is the need for clear, honest, and effective communication, a thing that voluntary organisations, like the church, don't always have in abundance.

So, the next time you need direction on a particular task or role in the church, become disheartened whilst carrying it out, or need encouragement to implement your new skill, one of the newly trained elders should be able to provide you with the necessary guidance and support.

Geoff and Elizabeth's company, Learning Management Ltd, provides management training to various organisations, and we are very grateful to them for giving their time to help our churches – more details at www.learningmanagementltd.co.uk

Roger Little



Happy Birthday Traidcraft 30 this year

Traidcraft was set up in 1979 as a Christian enterprise to try to improve the working conditions and income of small traders in developing countries. It now supports ventures in South America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The range of items on sale is extensive. It's not just coffee and tea any more – you can eat Traidcraft for breakfast, lunch and dinner and tea time too. Fair trade is no longer restricted to church stalls but mainstream shops and supermarkets stock an increasing number of goods. The Co-op supermarkets are about to launch a range of barbecue supplies including charcoal from Namibia. This new venture gives the producers three times the minimum wage and free equipment. Traidcraft encourages the development of community projects funded by the sales of the charcoal.

Traidcraft has a charity arm called Traidcraft Exchange which helps to set up new ventures in different areas. We are being asked to raise some money at 30th Birthday parties this year. Our party is being arranged on **June 27th at Warden Hill URC, 2.30 to 4.00 p.m.** with a minimum contribution of £2 requested from everyone attending. Please come along and share in some fellowship and food. The full stall will be available for you to buy from.

On a personal note, I would like to say Thank You for your support and, as we head off into pastures new, I hope you will all continue to support Traidcraft and Fair Trade in general. If anyone out there is willing to take on the ordering I'm sure your offer will be gratefully received. We think the delivery side of things is sorted and Carole will continue to 'do the money'. Many thanks to Carole and Celia, Margaret and Norman, Maria and Alison for their hard work over the years to keep the profile of Traidcraft high within the church communities.

Sue Hiley

FreeCycle or Keeping stuff out of landfill!

If you have something that you just don't want or it's cluttering up the attic or garage then Freecycle might be the place for you.

The Freecycle Network is a series of internet message boards hosted by YAHOO! Groups. It's like an online jumble sale except no money changes hands and it's good for stuff that Charity Shops might not want or be able to take. As long as it is legal you can Freecycle it – which means you **can't** put the husband, kids and the dog on!

All you have to do is sign up for a Yahoo userid (free) and then apply to join your local Group – there is one in Cheltenham and one for Gloucester though you can be in both..

The way it works is this – when I wanted to get rid of a battered old cabin trunk. I posted a message to the board with the subject line 'OFFERED Cabin Trunk Prestbury' and then in the message gave a description. That is ALL – no contact details to the public board. I then sat back and waited for personal emails to come in – responses are not posted to the board. Then I had to decide which of the replies I was going to respond to. I asked the successful candidate to ring me, giving my phone number.. When they called I gave them my address and directions because it was their responsibility to collect the item not mine to deliver it. I then posted a TAKEN message to the message board. From posting to collection was four hours.

If personal security is a problem then you can just negotiate via email, agree to meet in a public place for the handover or just leave the items at the front door for collection.



Two years ago we needed a wheelchair ramp for Church. Instead of buying one I tried a 'WANTED' message and much to my surprise we ended up with two from a lady who had bought them when she was in a wheelchair and who had been cured of her illness. She was pleased they were going to a Church and her proviso on giving them to me was that they would go back on Freecycle when we no longer needed them.

As a flavour of the interesting mix of items which are being saved from the tip, the Cheltenham Board today had magazines, a pushchair, a garden sprinkler, a curtain pole, the contents of a garden shed, children's clothes and toys, paving slabs, a roll of chicken wire, computer desk, TV cable, 2 seater sofa. Garden furniture, garden canes and a game of Twister!

Fiona Hall

Batteries – I am still collecting I took another 5kg down last week.

Yellow Pages – I have taken ten copies to Swindon Road Recycling depot

Ann Lewis

STAND yg



**WILL RESUME ON 31st MAY
AND ON THE 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH**

**AT THE CHURCH IN WARDEN HILL
STARTING AT 6.30pm**

All are welcome between the ages of 13-17.

Energy4Life - A Change of Focus



The United Reformed Church Energy4Life initiative, planned for 11-12 July, has been re-formatted, with the focus becoming a single Sunday morning celebration.

A slow take-up of places, meant there was a financial risk in proceeding with the planned 'celebratory and energising weekend' at Loughborough University. **After careful thought, the planning committee decided to move the event to Loughborough United Reformed Church and hold it on Sunday 12 July from 10.30 am to 1.00pm.**

The Revd Terry Oakley, Moderator of the East Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church said: "It will be an exciting and uplifting experience, in which we will show how good we can be at being the Church at worship - and the Church engaged in the world. We offer an invitation to anyone who wishes to come, to share in this occasion, which is for the whole United Reformed Church."

Among those taking part will be the Revd John Marsh, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, the Revd Roberta Rominger, General Secretary, and Daleep Mukarji, Director of Christian Aid.

Further details can be obtained from Energy4life at the East Midlands Synod Office Tel. 0115 9609241 or e-mail Energy4life@urc5.org.uk

Prestbury News

Temporary Closure of Prestbury URC

The last service at Prestbury before the repairs to the Schoolroom begin will be the United Pentecost service on May 31st. After that the Church will be closed throughout June with our first service back at Prestbury on Sunday 5th July. If there should be any delay in getting back in the Church then the Congregation will be informed via the weekly notices and at the service at St Nicolas' on 28th June.

During the period of temporary closure, members of the congregation will be warmly welcomed at St Andrew's, The Church in Warden Hill or at St Mary's or St Nicolas'. Urchins will meet at the Scout Hut on the Burgage.

There will be no Coffee Morning in June and we are unsure about one in July – we will publish more news via the weekly notices and by posters nearer the time.

For the Baptism of Jasmine Skinner on Sunday 28th June we will be holding our Family Service at St Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane at **11am** (the service will start later than normal because St Nicolas' own service runs from 9.30 – 10.30) and the Elders will organize a car pool to enable everyone who wants to go to attend. We are very grateful to the Parish of Prestbury for allowing us to use their Church.

The Summer Church Meeting (that was scheduled for June) will now take place on Saturday July 18th at 10.30 in the newly refurbished schoolroom to give everyone a chance to have a good look round. This day has also been designated as our annual Gift Day.

May Fair

The May Fair raised a grand total of £432 – thank you to all who helped and attended this enjoyable event and to Catherine and Annette who organised it all.

Church Chairs

We have a surplus of traditional wooden church chairs and would consider parting with a small number in return for an appropriate donation to Church Funds. Please contact Fiona Hall if interested.

Soul Café

Cancelled for June.

C4 Summer Musical

C4 Children's Choir invite you to their production of *Daniel - a hard act to swallow* :

Friday 19th June, 7pm St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane.

Saturday 20th June 3.30pm Warden Hill URC, Salisbury Avenue

Admission Free. Retiring collection. All are very welcome.

Please support our young people.

Congratulations

To Julie Jefferies on passing her assessed Preaching at Dursley and being well on course to her qualification as a Nationally Accredited Lay Preacher.

A Thought on Children

You may give them your love, but not your thoughts – for they have their own.

You may house their bodies, not their souls – for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you – for life goes forwards, not backwards, nor carries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

A Thought on Giving – by Gibran

You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

Both kindly submitted by Pat Gregory.

St Andrew's News

June Communion Offering

Retired Ministers' Housing

The retirement of a minister after long service often requires vacating the manse but some ministers may have inadequate resources to provide themselves with modern housing. In such cases, the United Reformed Church is responsible for providing housing for retired ministers and ministers' widows and this it exercises through the United Reformed Church Retired Ministers Housing Society Limited, an independent Company operating within the Finance Department.

The Church regards it as a matter of integrity that retired ministers and ministers' widows should be adequately housed and supports the Housing Society in its appeal for funds and its objects.

Retirements mean that the annual requirements for housing often involves a net outlay of up to £1.5 million and thus the importance of a continued high level of receipts from donations and legacies cannot be over-emphasised.

Extraordinary General Meeting of St Andrew's

The URcIC AGM, held on 26 April, was preceded by an EGM for St Andrew's members, to consider a resolution for charitable status under the new Charities Act, and this was passed unanimously. A similar resolution was then put to the URcIC AGM, which was also passed unanimously.

This means that St Andrew's will be registered initially as the Cheltenham United Reformed Church Charity, and Prestbury and Warden Hill brought into the charity when the time is right.

Contributions of articles, or points of view, for inclusion in the magazine are always welcome. Please contact Roger Little (01452) 730848.

Correspondence

- West Midlands Synod: **Vision2020** - planning for growth in the URC, a consultation booklet and survey form, seeking views on URC mission priorities for 2010 – 2020.

This will be considered by local churches, Synod and General Assembly within the following timetable:

1 May – Vision2020 consultation begins
30 June – Closing date for local church responses
Sep-Nov – Discussion at Synod
30 Nov – Closing date for Synod feedback
21-22 Jan 2010 – Discussion at Mission Committee
9-11 Mar – Discussion at Mission Council
2-5 July – Decision at General Assembly
Autumn 2010 – Vision2020 starts

URcIC Walking Group

Next walk **Friday 19 June**, full details under URcIC section.



Music at St Andrew's in June

Cheltenham Choral Society

Conductor – Ian Higginson

'Bach to Broadway'

A selection of works by famous composers such as J S Bach, Faure, Franck, Haydn, Mozart, Vivaldi

Saturday 27 June at 7.30pm

Tickets £10 (free for children under 13)

Warden Hill News

The Churches in Warden Hill (St Christopher's and Warden Hill URC) held a very successful Home Produce Sale on Saturday 9 May; het another example of how the two churches are holding more and more joint events and working every more closely together. The sum of £640.49 was raised of which Traidcraft sales accounted for £77.40.

The remaining monies are being shared equally between the two Churches. Warden Hill URC is putting its half of the profit towards the cost of its recent purchase of a film projector, screen and sound equipment. This has been an expensive buy at a cost of £1,050.

The next film event will be on **13 June**; please see advert for full details. On **23 July** there will be a evening film screening of 'Brassed Off' Certificate 15. Doors will open at 7.15pm and the film starts at 7.30pm.

Carole Pennington has now taken over as Warden Hill URC Church Secretary as Marin Hiley and his family prepare for their move back to Wales. They will be missed but we hope they will be happy in their new life and we welcome Carole and will support her in this new responsibility.

C4 Children's Choir invite you to their production of '*Daniel-a hard act to swallow*' on **Saturday 20 June** at 3.30pm at Warden Hill URC. Admission is Free but there will be a retiring collection. All are welcome please come and support our young people.

Wednesday 24 June, Farewell Party for the Hiley Family, 7-9pm at Warden Hill URC. This will be a Bring and Share Supper with 'Entertainment'. All are invited.

During the next month our Sunday morning services are as follows-

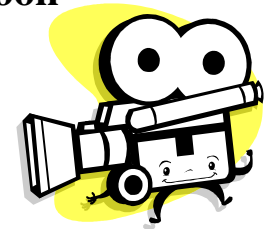
- 7 June Trinity Sunday at St Christopher's – Family Worship
14 June Bob Alger will lead this service at Warden Hill URC. Revered Canon Barraclough will preside at Holy Communion.
21 June at St Christopher's, Holy Communion conducted by Reverend Canon Barraclough.
28 June at URC, morning worship conducted by Reverend Dr Jon Morgan.

Christine & Eric Wroot

Community Film Afternoon

Saturday 13 June

At 2.30pm (doors open at 2.15pm)



'Ratatouille'
Certificate U

Free Entry - Family and Friends Welcome
Refreshments available

Public Meeting

Israel/Palestine. What chance a lasting peace?

The Revd Dr Jon Morgan recently chaired this meeting in Cheltenham.
Further information about the meeting can be obtained from him.