

The
United Reformed Church
in Cheltenham

In Touch

March 2011

For further information—please contact office@urcic.org.uk

Dear All,

March already! The speed with which the weeks go by is quite frightening. However, it is cheering to know that spring is waiting to burst upon us – indeed, the daffodils are already in bud. Although the clocks change this month and mornings will again be dark, the evenings will be lighter and that always cheers me up.

With new life in the air many of us start to plan and book our summer holidays. I am ahead of the game for once, as I am planning what Olympic events to go to in 2012! Never having been to an international sporting event (I tell a lie – women’s hockey in 1965). I ask myself why I am so keen to go to the Olympics. I believe it is as much to do with supporting British sport as it is to do with the actual experience, and the fact that I will probably never get an opportunity like this again.

Once-in-a-lifetime experiences are meat and drink to the Christian faith. Jesus the man, with divine authority, touched the lives and souls of many in his day; he died once and *for all* on our behalf so that we don’t have to repeat our same mistakes over again but can live as forgiven and *changed* people. Change is often uncomfortable and challenging. That’s not to say it is wrong. Our churches need our support in many ways, not least our understanding that to ‘enjoy’ the experience we need to be actively engaged with it. I cannot imagine sitting silently in the Olympic stadium and not getting excited and vocal! So why should church be any different? We are approaching the season of Lent and you may think that is a time to be quiet and passive. No way! This is a time to discuss faith, to join Lent groups, to engage with the Passion story so that, by the time we get to Easter, you will not be able to contain your cheers!

‘..Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..’ (Heb.12:1-2)

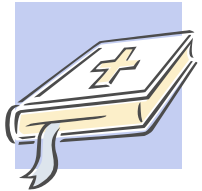
Yours in Christ,

Maz

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN CHELTENHAM

In Memoriam: we have heard that Mrs Margery Wheatley (a former member of St Andrew's resident in Cornwall) died on Saturday 12th January. Marjorie Wheatley passed away at Trewiston Lodge Nursing Home, St Minver, Wadebridge, Cornwall on Saturday 12th February 2011. She was married at St Andrew's Church in August 1953 and regularly attended the church, before moving to Cornwall in 2003. Please hold Mrs Wheatley's family and friends in prayer.

Our prayers: we hold in our prayers those for whom we are concerned: Mary Zakotti, Ian and Helen Brooks and family, Nancy and Fred Champkins, Mary Scott, Betty Littley, Betty Price, Peggy Horner, Margaret and Peter Coulthurst, Mair McIndoe, Sadie Smyth, Peter Kerr, James Spence, Marion Eaton & Kate Alger.



Thank you:

Re-Christmas Gifts

A letter received 24 January 2011

On behalf of the Salvation Army I would like to thank you and your congregation for the thoughtful Christmas Gifts donated to our Christmas Parcel appeal.

Without your help it is not possible to arrange to give so many families support with the Christmas gifts. This year the families in need increased and we made up 273 parcels and 378 children had their own gift.

We look forward to your support once again this year.

God Bless you

*Major Diane Henderson
Church Leader*

WORSHIP

March Communion Retiring Offering - St Andrew's

The March retiring offering is for the St Vincent's Centre, located in West Drive Pittville, which serves the whole of Gloucestershire. The Centre began life in 1954 as a specialist school for children suffering from cerebral palsy, and has developed into a centre providing therapeutic activities for over 90 severely disabled people ranging in age from 13 to 65. The staff includes specialist medical experts, physiotherapists, occupational and speech therapists, social workers and professional craft instructors, all supported by volunteer helpers. The facilities include a jacuzzi-style hot tub, specialist bathing facilities, a multi-sensory room for relaxation, a computer room and a craft room where members produce high quality craft items and paintings. There is a modern kitchen that provides lunches and special meals for special occasions. The Centre has its own ambulance service which not only collects members from home but also takes them to theatres, parks, concerts and on outings. The Centre is still evolving and is planning a new extension, the "Lakeside Project", to cater for people with complex disabilities, with a particular focus on young teenagers. Some funding comes from the Health Authority, Social Services and members' families, but the balance has to come from donations and fund raising. Visitors are welcome and tours of the facility can be arranged.

Free Will Offering Envelopes at St Andrew's

A reminder to all members holding free will offering envelopes that the present scheme (that is coloured envelopes) ends on the last Sunday in March. PLEASE use the white envelopes in the link gallery using your same number. To use direct debit, cheque or bank transfer; use a form obtainable from Donna Sutherland, David Black, Marcus Dann or Roger Little.

Free Will Offering Secretary
Marcus Dann

Lent Course

Rich Inheritance: Jesus' legacy of love.

Five sessions: - an empty tomb
 a story
 a power
 a meal

Tuesdays 2:30pm - 4pm at The Church in Warden Hill (URC) building starting 15th March.

Fridays 10:30am - 10:00pm at 35 New Barn Lane, Prestbury starting 18th March.

Booklet £3.10. Contact Maz for further details.

Lent discussion group

This is the URC Vision4Life Year of Evangelism - sounds scary doesn't it!

If you would like to explore the basic beliefs of your faith during a series of Lent discussions, please contact me. We can then try to organize the 'best fit' time and place to share thoughts and to build confidence in speaking about our faith with others.

Bob Alger

'JUMP4JOY'
at St Andrew's
Sunday 20th March 2011
9.30am – 10am

Informal Short Service for all the family

also J4J at Prestbury URC
on Tuesday 22nd March 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 in Warden Hill URC**

1 March (6 March)	Exodus:24:12-18 Deut. 11:18-21, 26-28 Matthew 17:1-9 Matthew 7:21-29	Lynworth area, Churches and Schools Cemetery and Crematorium Ministry to the bereaved Prayers for the World
8 March (13 March)	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Matthew 4:1-11	Whaddon area, Churches and Schools Family Centre, Battledown Children's Centre St Andrew's Toddlers Club Prayers for the World
15 March (20 March)	Genesis 12:1-4a Matthew 17:1-9 John 3: 1-17	Pittville area, Churches and Schools University URCiC Office Prayers for the World
22 March (27March)	Exodus 17:1-7 John 4:5-42	Pittville area, Churches and Schools St Vincent's Support for the mentally ill Prayers for the World
29 March (3 April)	1 Samuel 16:1-13 John 9:1-41	All Saints/Centre area, Churches and Schools Bangladeshi Community, Peace and Reconciliation movements Prayers for the World

Are you interested in Worship?

If you want services every week, then we need your help.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find visiting preachers etc. We rely heavily on our own retired ministers, lay preachers and Worship Group.

Are you able to offer your talents to the Worship Group – doing a reading, helping to plan, drama, music, introducing a theme etc??? You DO NOT have to preach! The Worship Group would be delighted to hear from you.

Without help, there will be occasions when there is nobody available to lead worship.

Please contact Maz

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 March. They will resume again in April. The communion service will now be held during the morning service.

We are to have a monthly singing practice for new hymns on 3rd Sunday of month starting 20th March. This will be at 10:50am before the service.

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

News from St Christopher's

It has been confirmed that the Revd Jacqui Hyde will move to The Church in Warden Hill after Easter. Jacqui expresses her pleasure at this news and is very much looking forward to coming. On May 8th at 4pm there will be a Welcome Service at St Christopher's followed by tea at the URC.

.....more information on this in the News from Warden Hill article....

Articles:

Traidcraft News.

The spring catalogue is here, copies should be in all 4 church buildings soon. Please take a few minutes to have a look and if you would like to place an order, please let me know.

New for this season are Fairbreak digestive biscuits, small packs of salted peanuts and, from April, “Choc’nToffee” bars and “Crisp’n Chewy” bars. Look out for these items on your stalls, try them and let me know what you think.

Traidcraft will also be stocking “The Real Easter Egg”. Unbelievably, out of 80 million Easter Eggs sold each year, not one of them mentions Jesus on the box. “The Real Easter Egg” is the first to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box, as well as supporting charity and development projects, buying everything from medical equipment for new mums here at home to chickens and securing fresh water for farmers in Africa. And of course the chocolate is Fairtrade.

So when you are buying your Easter Eggs, please make an effort to support this venture. Let’s spread the message of what Easter is really all about.

Fairtrade fortnight starts on 28th February, focussing on honey and the plight of beekeepers in Africa, who need to earn a fair price for their honey. We will once again be serving cakes made from Fairtrade ingredients with coffee after the Women’s World day of Prayer service on 4th March at St Christopher’s. We will also have the stall out at the International Women’s Day event at St Andrew’s on 5th March. Please support us if you can.

Remember, every time you buy something from the stalls, you are helping someone less fortunate than we are.

Carole Pennington

That Quiz!!! – Notes for your Diary

Following the success of the fun quiz last autumn, two more are being planned, first on Saturday 7th May and the second Saturday 8th October at St Andrew's.

Three promises:

1. There will certainly be as much fun as last time.
2. The questions will be easier.
3. An excellent supper will be provided.

Further details in due course.

Proceeds will again go to the redevelopment fund.

Lyn and Peter Ricketts

Qi Gong

During the building work at St Andrew's, the Qi Gong sessions are in Warden Hill URC. Qi Gong consists of gentle exercises based on Chinese traditional practice and descriptions which promote self healing and self regulation of the body. Our sessions are especially geared to the needs of older people and many of our members have found benefits in balance, muscles, joints and general well being. If you would like to sample a session please contact me.

Tony Jeans

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The Tyndale Translations of the Bible and the King James Version of 1611

The Four Hundredth Anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible (also known as the Authorised Version) is being marked in various ways and its undoubted influence on the culture of the English speaking world is well acknowledged.



From time to time, you will get a fleeting reference to **William Tyndale c1494-1536**.

Tyndale was born around 1494 near Slimbridge. He was a linguistic and literary genius but he is almost unknown, his work ignored, hidden or suppressed by those who hated and opposed him. He was educated at Oxford and possibly Cambridge before being ordained.

Translating the Bible into English had been forbidden since 1407. The Reformation, starting with Luther in Germany and the revival in learning from the Renaissance created a demand for the Bible in common speech rather than in Latin. The Latin Bible - the *Vulgate* was the official bible of the Medieval Church and went back to St Jerome who in the 4th & 5th Centuries had translated from the Hebrew and Greek.

Tyndale sort permission from the English Church to make a translation but was refused. He went into exile in Germany and the Low Countries. He was regarded as a dangerous heretic and one of his arch enemies was Thomas More.

A phrase of Tyndale in a dispute with learned man, and quoted in "Foxe's Book of Martyrs" gives you a feel for what he wanted to do
 "...a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the scriptures than thou dost".

He was the first person to translate the Bible into English from the original Hebrew and Greek. He published the New Testament in 1526 and in revised form in 1534. He also published the first five books of the Old Testament in 1530 and had completed but not published further Old Testament books when he was betrayed, strangled and burned at the stake near Antwerp in 1536.

His New Testaments were also high technology, printed by the Continental masters of his time. Small and portable, they could not be completely suppressed. Their wide circulation influenced greatly the development of the English language and gave a basis for Shakespeare, a generation later, to work his own magic.

At the Conference at Hampton Court in 1604, the new King James, proposed a new translation of the Bible. This was one of his strategies for managing divisions in the Church of England and especially to control radical Protestants and Puritans.

The brief given to the six translating committees (“Companies”) meant that their work was built on earlier translations from the previous century (such as the Great Bible and Bishops’ Bible) which had drawn on Tyndale’s text, although without acknowledgement.

Thus the New Testament and the first books of the Old Testament in the King James Version are largely based on Tyndale’s work. Familiar phrases such as "the salt of the earth" or "let there be light" are his. He wrote in a very direct style which made the Bible accessible to ordinary people.

The language of KJV is more formal and more influenced by Latin than is Tyndale’s. Tyndale was perhaps thinking of private study and devotion while KJV is about reading in church. For example, in 1 Corinthians 13, Tyndale uses “love” while KJV uses “charity”, suggesting the Latin “caritas”.



The King James Version is a remarkable treasure. It reflects the skill of the 17th Century translators but also the extraordinary genius of William Tyndale, a lone scholar, on the run who provided the foundation and whose words and constructions still come though into modern translations like New Revised Standard Version which are in linear descent.

Current editions of Tyndale’s translations are published by Yale University Press, prepared by David Daniell, using consistent and modern spelling. (Daniell has also written a biography of Tyndale). Also available are facsimiles and reprints of the original texts.

There are lots of books about the Bible in English, focussed on KJV. A very clear account is Alister McGrath's "In the Beginning" Hodder & Stoughton 2001.

I have copies of all these available for inspection.

Tony Jeans Feb 2011

From the Fund Raising Committee - St Andrew's

Forthcoming events for your diaries:-

The Quiz Evening on Saturday 7th May - St Andrew's at 7:30pm - do come

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 9th**. 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** – during February 2011.

We are having fun, we hope you are too!

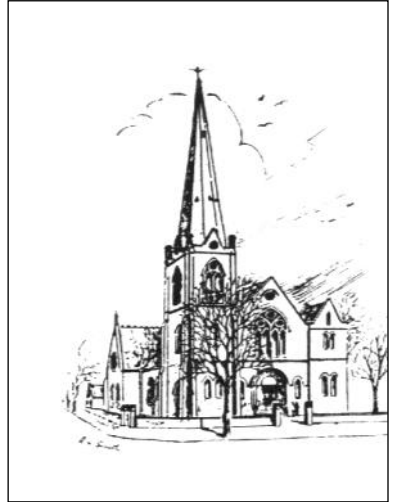
Joan Thomson

St Andrew's URC - Redevelopment Update - January 2011

Redevelopment Report

We met the contractors in the monthly meeting at the start of February to be advised that the Hall work is on schedule as long as some dormer window work is not delayed due to that contractor having most of his staff off ill. I have not been advised of any delays that will affect completion by end March.

The store rooms all have new floors & ceilings and have been redecorated. In addition the Scottish Society cupboards have been reinstated. The wiring work has made good progress as you might have seen from the cables that appeared in the Gallery recently. Virtually all of the window work will be completed by the time you read this including re-installation of the saltire window.



The Montpellier Street stone cleaning has finished and they are now on to pointing and replacing stones. That is why a scaffolding pole has appeared outside the entrance. It is envisaged that the scaffolding on the Hall and around the entrance will be removed by the end of March so we will be able to see how much of a change is taking place to our outside appearance. However it will be late April before the repairs to the church stone and drainage is completed and the contractors move off site.

The Hall will have modern strip lighting and permanent facilities for projection from laptops and DVD players as well as the ability to blackout the dormer and saltire windows as well as a sprung floor suitable for dancing.

There is the need to raise another £75,000 or so as part of the appeal to cover the currently planned expenditure and this will be discussed in detail at the church AGM on 20th March.

David Black

News from Warden Hill

We haven't had a White Christmas for some years so Christmas was the exception! We also had to endure some extremely low temperatures which made life for most of us rather uncomfortable, especially for travelling to services and meetings.

However our church life has produced some excitements and challenges which will affect us well into 2011.

Firstly, Congratulations to Maz and her team following another successful visit to Kenya! On 30th January we held morning service when we were shown slides of some of the activities involving the teams (both young and more senior members) carrying out their various tasks and enjoying their visit socially with the children and people they had set to help,

At the end of 2010 we learnt that the Revd Canon Owen Barraclough of St. Christopher's would stand down and that the Revd Jackie Hyde would move to the Church in Warden Hill in May 2011.

There came an announcement in the New Year that the Revd Ian Bussell will be leaving the South Cheltenham Churches Group and Priest in charge at St Philips and St James Leckhampton after Easter. Ian will become Diocesan Director of Ordinands. Please pray for the Parish of St Philips and St James and Warden Hill and for Ian's family as they seek to find a new home.

The Bishop has confirmed that Revd Jackie Hyde will join the Church in Warden Hill on May 8th when there will be a special service at 4:00pm followed by Tea.

Owens Services

There will be a South Cheltenham Churches Farewell Evensong to be held at St Christopher's Church on **Sunday 10th April** at 6:00pm.

April 17th Palm Sunday. There will be a Buffet Lunch for Owen following Morning Worship (at St Christopher's).

April 24th Easter Sunday. Morning Service at URC at 10:30am will be conducted by Owen which will be his last service (officially) at the URC building.

Womens World Day of Prayer

This year will be celebrated on March 4th at 7:30pm at St Christopher's Church. The service is open to all, men women and children.

It is a wonderful opportunity to join a service written by the women of Chile that continues all round the world with the Sun - giving 24hrs of worship. Please attend if you can!.

Open the Book

It is good to here that the team are becoming more ambitious and encouraging more children to take part in the presentations! There has been an appeal in the February Lantern for donations of old plain curtains, white sheets and pillowcases for making Tunics and some Costumes for the children. Also a plea for any volunteers who are willing to help sew the various items.

It may be that the team have received sufficient materials and/or help by the time you read In Touch but if you are able to help in any way please contact Val Codling at St Christopher's or via Warden Hill URC.

50th Anniversaries

In 2010 we at Warden Hill URC celebrated our 50th Anniversary and as a note for your Diary it will be the turn of St Christopher's Church to celebrate their 50th on July 9th/10th this year. Details of events will be announced nearer the time but - watch this space.

The Church in Warden Hill Website.

Don't forget to look at the new and expanded Website on www.tciwh.org.uk and let us know your comments!

URCiC Tuesday Forum

Secretary's Report 2010/11

We have a very successful year with good attendances on the whole. We have maintained the quality of our speakers and we thank them for their valuable contribution, especially those who have been kind enough to speak without a fee.

This year we have decided to make a donation of £500 to the Church Restoration Fund, in addition to various other sundry small amounts to charity.

The Programme for 2010 / 2011:

- September 14** We opened with a very interesting talk by Revd Maz Allen on her visit to Oberammergau.
- September 28** Rex Wilton gave us a very amusing talk on his travels in China
- October 12** Travels in Africa was a very illuminating lecture by Nicholas Clark.
- October 26** Joan Thomson told us of the appalling conditions under which people in India are obliged to live.
- November 9** Shirley Noble gave a history of underwear through the ages, with many items to illustrate her talk.
- November 23** Brian Partridge told us of his experiences as a Wimbledon linesman.
- December 14** The Christmas Party was the most charming entertainment we have ever had, followed by a Bring and Share tea. A choir of 5 and 6 year olds from Christchurch School sang carols very sweetly and from memory. Joan distributed candy canes to the performers. Those people who were unable to attend missed a rare treat.
- January 11** The AGM followed by entertainment.
- January 25** Ian Thomson talked on 'Robbie Burns - his Life and Loves'.
- February 8** Bill Cowie on 'Growing up on a Scottish farm'.
- February 22** Alwin Sampson on 'Cheltenham - Our Town'.
- March 8** John Beardsley on 'Laughter and Tears'.
- March 22** Brian Chapman on 'Making Scale Models', with impressive examples.
- April 12** Dennis Halliday on 'Images and Oddities'.
- April 26** Ann Grant, a very popular speaker, on 'British Lighthouses'.
- May 10** The Melodians, a barbers' quartet who have entertained us before.
- May 24** Forum Outing, venue to be decided.

Barbara Russell-Smith
Hon. Sec

(Meeting held on Wednesday 2 February - Pensioners' Forum - St Andrew's)

Last month Fire Officer Chris Baynham, gave us an excellent talk on fire safety in the home, reminding us that we should all have an escape plan in place for getting out of our homes in case we do have a fire and once outside **never** go back into the house. If you are trapped upstairs, gather the family into one room, stuff the gaps around the door to prevent the smoke getting into the room and wait for the fire brigade. Chris said the majority of people die of smoke inhalation rather than burns from a fire.

The Fire Service also provide free safety checks in your home, testing smoke alarms and fitting new ones if required. If you want to use this service there is information in the link gallery.

Please see the Events section for details of the March meeting.....

The April meeting is on **Wednesday 6 April** and Wiltshire Foods will be providing information on their home food delivery service; no doubt samples will be available.

Ann Lewis

In Touch Contribution

The time has come around again for the yearly donation to offset the printing cost that your annual 10 copies incur. A suggested minimum donation of £5 would be greatly appreciated and an envelope for this is provided with your March copy. Should you not find an envelope please use any envelope and put this in your Sunday offering plate. Please mark your envelope for In Touch.

The magazine can also be seen on the church website www.urchic.org.uk.

Should you require a larger copy or need to cancel or indeed like a copy sent to someone who is housebound or infirm, please telephone church office on 01242 575086 during office hours or send message via E-Mail to: office@urchic.org.uk.

John Standring

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

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

Future Book Fair - St Andrew's

As part of our St Andrew's Appeal campaign and to mark the re-opening of the Hall, we are planning a Book Fair for 15th, 16th & 17th April 2011.

We need volunteers and rota sheets will in the Link Gallery for people to sign up. There will be collection days on 12th & 13th April and a setting up day on 14th April. We need volunteers to help with sorting, labelling and putting out as well as selling. We would also like to offer refreshments.

Without support, the Fair will not run. We will confirm the position at the AGM on 20th March.

Tony Jeans

Prestbury Cook Book

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. There are a few remaining copies left – £4 - buy now to avoid disappointment!

Church For Hire! - Prestbury URC

If you would like to hire the main church and/or the hall and kitchen for a children's party, meeting, exercise class or group then Prestbury URC is available for hire at a reasonable rate. Contact Prestbury@urcic.org.uk

EVENTS

March:

Wednesday 2 March - Pensioners' Forum - St Andrew's
at 10.30-11.30am

This month on **Wednesday 2nd March** we have a Continence Specialist Nurse, Katrina Street, who will be giving advice on urinary problems, something which we all suffer from as we get older. We are so lucky that we have many excellent speakers who come along and share their expertise with us for free, so come along and ask those trivial questions without having to visit the Doctor. Tell friends and neighbours about these talks and invite them to join us.

The coffee bar will be open at 10:00am and we are also running 'Soup and Chat' from 12 noon closing at **1:00pm**.

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

Wednesday 2nd March- **Wednesday Women** – Art Work. Sue Brown. St Andrew's URC 7:30pm.

Wednesday 2nd March - **Qi Gong** - Warden Hill URC at 12:15pm.

Friday 4th March - St Christopher's at 7:30pm. Service for Women's World Day



**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT**

Invite you to a talk entitled



‘WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE’

on

SATURDAY 5 MARCH 2011

to mark

**100th 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 01242 233006 www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk

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

Programme for 2011

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the Month

You are invited to the following talks 10:30am – 11:30am

Wednesday 6 April	'Food to your Door' Wiltshire Farm Foods
Wednesday 4 May	'How to Fund Your Care' Nursing Home Fees Agency
Wednesday 1 June	'What Can AgeUK Do For You?' AgeUK Gloucestershire
Wednesday 6 July	'Bowel Cancer Screening Programme' Specialist Screening Nurse

FREE ENTRY – ALL ARE WELCOME

Coffee Bar open from 10:00am – 12 noon

Coffee/Tea 50p

www.urcic.org.uk

Saturday 5th March - Coffee Morning / Bric-a-Brac Sale - Prestbury
 URC at 10:30am

If you are spring cleaning please think of Prestbury URC and donate your good quality bric-a-brac in time for our spring sale. On the day we will have not only china and glass for sale, but other household stalls, books, cakes and a raffle as well as the usual teas and coffees.

If you have anything you would like to donate either bring it along to Church or contact Fiona Hall prestbury@urcic.org.uk

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

None in March; they will resume in April .

Tuesday 8th March – **Tuesday Forum** – St Andrew's Garden Room at 2:30pm.

There will be a talk by John Beardsley on 'Laughter and Tears'. 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

Saturday 12th March – **Voices2Go** (Chamber Opera) - St Andrew's at 7:30pm.

Presenting a Double Bill:

Nine Lives (Helen Wright)

Helen Wright (Soprano) & Louise Cawte (Mezzo-Soprano)

The Telephone (Gian Carlo Menotti)

Karen Jones (Soprano) & Justin Bindley (Baritone)

Accompanied by *Susan Honeywill*

The Telephone directed by *Barry Page*

Tickets £10.available

E-mail: voices2go@hotmail.co.uk or at the door.

Community Film Show

Saturday 12th March

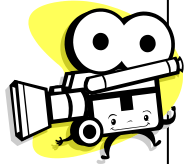
Warden Hill URC Building

at 2:00 pm (doors open at 1.45pm)

Film - 25th Anniversary of Les Miserables
- cert. PG

We need to start at 2:00pm as the running time is about 2
hours 45 minutes

Free entry - Family and Friends Welcome



BIG SING

13th March

Sunday 2-4pm
at St. Andrew's

Come along and sing old favourites and new
songs.

Book the date now!

Tuesday 15th March - Lent Groups - *Rich Inheritance: Jesus' legacy of love* - The Church in Warden Hill (URC building) 2:30 -4:00pm.

Thursday 17th March - Cheltenham Contemporary Concerts – St Andrew's at 8:00pm.



KNIT AND CHAT

Next meeting
Thursday 17th March- 1 to 2pm

**(We meet on the 3rd 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 18th March - Lent Groups- 35 New Barn Lane, Prestbury at
 10:30 - 12.00 noon**

Sunday 20th March - AGM - St Andrew's after morning service.

**'JUMP4JOY'
 at St Andrew's
 Sunday 20th March 2011
 9:30am – 10:00am**

Informal Short Service for all the family

also J4J at Prestbury URC

on Tuesday 22nd March at 10:00am



**Monday 21st March-
Footsloggers Walking
Group.** Details of the walk
to be led by Brenda Little
are to be found on Church
Notice Boards nearer the
time. All are invited.



Tuesday 22nd March - **Lent Groups** - *Rich Inheritance: Jesus' legacy of love* - The Church in Warden Hill (URC building) 2:30 -4pm.

Tuesday 22nd March – **Cheltenham Operatic Society Concert** – St Andrew's at 7:30pm

Tuesday 22nd March – **Tuesday Forum** – St Andrew's Garden Room at 2:30pm.

There will be a talk by Brian Chapman on 'Making Scale Models'. 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

Tuesday 22nd March – **Jump for Joy** – **Prestbury URC** at 10:00am.

Wednesday 23rd March - **Qi Gong** – Warden Hill URC at 12:15pm

Friday 25th March - **Lent Groups** - 35 New Barn Lane, Prestbury at 10:30am - 12:00 noon

Saturday 26th March - **Christian Aid Soup Lunch** – St Mary's Prestbury on Saturday 26 March from 12:00 – 2:00pm

All are welcome at this Christian Aid fund-raiser. In addition to the food there will be Mothering Sunday activities for children and a chance to take part in the CA National Raffle.

Saturday 26th March - **Blue Moon & Cotswold Male Voice** – St Andrew's at 7:30pm.

The Blue Moon Harmony and Cotswold Male Voice Choir are holding a concert in aid of the St Andrew's redevelopment fund.

Tickets: £8 each .

Programme: A selection of light, popular songs and music

Sunday 27th March - **Prestbury AGM** after morning service.

Tuesday 29th March - **Lent Groups** - *Rich Inheritance: Jesus' legacy of love* - The Church in Warden Hill (URC building) 2:30-4pm.

April Events:

Friday 1st April - **Lent Groups** - 35 New Barn Lane, Prestbury at 10:30am - 12:00 noon

Friday 1st April - **The Big Society** - Public meeting with our MP at Christchurch at 7:30pm

Saturday 2nd April - Coffee Morning - Prestbury URC at 10:30am

Saturday 2nd April - **Poetry Festival** – St Andrew's - all day

Tuesday 5th April - **Lent Groups** - *Rich Inheritance: Jesus' legacy of love* - The Church in Warden Hill (URC building) 2:30 -4pm.

Thursday 7 April 2011 - Recital by singers from English Touring Opera - St Andrew's Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham - 12.00 to 1:15pm

Sponsored by CHELTENHAM OPERA SOCIETY

Shuna Sendall Soprano

Helen Johnson Mezzo

Timothy Carey Piano

Shuna and Helen will sing a programme of operatic arias and duets
Bellini, Mascagni, Monteverdi, Mozart, Puccini, Verdi

They will also talk about their careers and answer questions

Shuna won the inaugural BBC Radio 2 Kiri Te Kanawa prize in 2010

Tickets £5 available from Robert Padgett,

Robertpadgett@btinternet.com or at the door

Tea and coffee will be served from 11:30am

Soup and Ploughman's lunches will be available after the concert

ETO are at the Everyman during the week with

La Clemenza di Tito (Mozart) and *Il Tabarro/Gianni Schicci* (Puccini).

Dr A F Jeans

Saturday 9th April – **Gotherington Singers** – St Andrew's at 7:30pm.

Proceeds in aid of the St Andrew's Appeal Fund.

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

May Events:

Saturday 7th May - **Quiz Evening** - St Andrew's at 7:30pm. All proceeds
in aid of the St Andrew's Redevelopment Fund.

Administration

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

The In Touch Coordinators for respective churches are as follows:

Prestbury

Please see Ian Brooks directly or forward contributions via e-mail 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.

Music in other churches / cathedral

Music at the Cathedral:

A Celebration of Rachmaninov : his life and music

Saturday 19th March at 7:30pm. Gloucester Choral Society are singing Rachmaninov Vespers. Tickets £5 - £25.

Saturday 19th March -Chamber Concert at 11:00 am. Tickets £10

Trio Elegiaque No.1 in G minor - Rachmaninov

Trio in A minor op. 50 - Tchaikovsky

Piano, violin and cello.

Tickets (Vespers and Chamber Concert) from [www,gloucesterchoral.com](http://www.gloucesterchoral.com)

Friday 11th March - Gloucester Guildhall at 7:30pm. **The Harvest of Sorrow** -A film about Sergei Rachmaninov, introduced by the film's director Tony Palmer. Tickets £5.50 available exclusively from Guildhall Box Office.

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MARCH

1	³⁰ Tues	7.30pm	URC ECCM meeting
2	Wed	10.30am	SA Pensioners' Forum
		12noon	SA Soup and Chat
		12.15pm	URC Qi Gong
		7.30pm	SA Wednesday Women
4	Fri	7.30pm	SC Service for Women's World Day of Prayer
5	Sat	10.30am	P Coffee Morning/Bric-a-Brac Sale
		2.30pm	SA International Women's Day
6	Sun	10.30am	P Worship Group
		10.30am	SC Revd Maz Allen <i>Family Worship</i>
		11.00am	SA Revd Dr John Sampson Communion
8	Tues	2.30pm	SA Tuesday Forum
		7.30pm	SA Elders meet
12	Sat	7.30pm	SA Voices 2 Go – chamber opera
13	Sun	10.30am	P No service
		10.30am	URC Revd Ernest Marvin <i>Communion</i>
		11.00am	SA Revd Maz Allen with Ladies College
		2.00pm	SA Big Sing
17	Thur	1.00pm	SA Knit and Chat
20	Sun	9.30am	SA Jump4Joy
		10.30am	P Mrs Julie Jefferies
		10.30am	SC Revd Jacqui Hyde <i>Communion</i>
		11.00am	SA Revd Maz Allen Singing Practice at 10.50am
			Church Meeting (AGM) after service
22	Tues	10.00am	P Jump4Joy
		2.30pm	SA Tuesday Forum
23	Wed	12.15pm	URC Qi Gong
27	Sun	10.30am	P Revd Maz Allen Communion and AGM
		10.30am	URC Revd John Beardsley
		11.00am	SA Bob Alger
30	Wed	7.30pm	URC ECC meet

APRIL

2	Sat	10.30am	P Coffee Morning
3	Sun	10.30am	P Mrs Julie Jefferies
		10.30am	STC Carole Pennington and Celia Hodges
		11.00am	SA Revd Maz Allen
		6.00pm	6.00pm SA Revd Maz Allen Communion
6	Wed	10.30am	SA Pensioners' Forum
		12noon	SA Soup and Chat