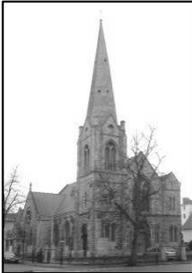


Cheltenham United Reformed Church



In Touch



October 2017



*'Through Faith,
Fellowship and Care
We Affirm that Jesus Is Lord'*

CHELTENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

www.urcic.org.uk

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Creative Cards Ann Standring ccs@urcic.org.uk
Discussion Group Janet Kemp magazine@urcic.org.uk
Footsloggers Jenny Evans
Little Shepherds
Prestbury Friday Circle Rose West pfc@urcic.org.uk
Prestbury URChins Fiona Hall prestbury.urchins@urcic.org.uk
Qi Gong Tony Jeans qi.gong@urcic.org.uk
Reading Group Mary Cummings
St Andrew's Toddlers Ann Lewis sta-toddlers@urcic.org.uk
Tuesday Forum Keith Norcott
Wednesday Women Donna Sutherland

Welcome to 'In Touch'

The magazine of **Cheltenham United Reformed Church**, a joint pastorate of the three United Reformed Churches in Cheltenham. The three churches work very closely together, sharing this magazine, the website and all activities.



St Andrew's United Reformed Church is in the Montpellier district of Cheltenham town centre. A former Presbyterian church founded in 1885, it became United Reformed on unification in 1972. St Andrew's offers impressive facilities, meeting the needs of 21st century Cheltenham.

Prestbury United Reformed Church is in the heart of Prestbury village on the northern edge of Cheltenham. A former Congregational chapel built in 1866, becoming United Reformed on unification in 1972.



The Church in Warden Hill is a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) between the Anglican (St Christopher's) and URC communities of Up Hatherley and Warden Hill in the south of Cheltenham. Ministry is shared between the URC and Rev Gary Grady of the Anglican South Cheltenham Team Ministry.



Both the Anglican and URC buildings are regularly used for worship.

For other information about the Church in Warden Hill please see 'The Lantern' or visit www.tciwh.org.uk



Jesus said:

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18 v20 NRSV)

News of the Church Family



We remember those who have departed:

Colin Hyde

We are invited to pray for:

Paulette Hyde and family, Isobel Hitchings, Beryl Ames, Joyce Whiting, Joyce Arnold, Hanne Lambley, Trevor Childs, Lyn Ricketts, Mary Cummings

Our Congratulations go to:

All those who have been successful in their recent exams.

Edna Willox on celebrating her 80th birthday

Pastoral Visiting - St Andrew's

If, during the vacancy, you are aware of any person who is unwell or anyone who requires a visit please can you contact Ann Lewis and Ann will arrange for one of the pastoral team to visit.

e-mail: philann14@talktalk.net

Bible Study Group

The weekly Bible Study Group that has for many years met at Cleeve Hill Nursing Home has relocated and is looking for new members. We are a very friendly ecumenical bunch who started out as a Lent group. You don't need to know ANYTHING to start with – just come and be prepared to talk! It does help if you bring a Bible with you!

We meet on Friday mornings from 10.30 – 12.00am at the home of Joan and Steve, 51 Bournside Road, Cheltenham.

Please contact Janet Kemp or Tony Jeans if you would like to join us.

We look forward to welcoming YOU.

**This month's Pastoral letter comes from
Fiona Hall, Church Secretary at Prestbury.**



Dear Friends

'To everything there is a season.....'

Autumn is not my favourite season – I much prefer late Spring/early Summer when the trees are that wonderful vivid green and the gardens are bright with colour. Autumn means the end of long, warm Summer days, gardens that need to be tidied up for Winter and the need to dig out long forgotten coats and woollies. Autumn also brings thoughts and fears of Winter with its short days, cold and damp. Will it be a long hard one? Will there be snow? How long will it be till Spring and the warmer days again?

Autumn is a time of promise though; the harvest is in and hopefully a good one. As well as being associated with endings, there are also the new beginnings that the season brings. New schools, universities or classes; activities starting up again after the Summer holidays. Who can forget the excitement of smart new exercise books, the smell of a new pencil-box and the feel of the new shoes and uniform?

As with the year, so with our Church.

Our 'Summer' with Maz is over and the memories are fading like the garden. We are now in 'Autumn' and starting our new beginning without a Minister; we are harvesting what she has sowed with us, and just like a child starting school we are a little apprehensive but at the same time excited for the future. 'Winter' will come; there may be some difficult times and it may be long, but working together we will weather it. We pray that our 'Spring' will soon follow and with it the promise of another new beginning for us all.

Fiona Hall

The Pulpit in October

At St Andrew's

- 1st October Rev. Dr. Janet Tollington
Recently retired Old Testament scholar at
Westminster College, Cambridge.
- 8th October Rev. Dr. Kevin Snyman
URC West Midlands, Synod Mission Enabler.
- 15th October Dr. Tony Jeans, Elder at St Andrew's
- 22nd October Rev. John Beardsley
- 29th October Rev. Dee Brierley-Jones



At Prestbury

- 1st October Rev. Dee Brierley-Jones
- 15th October Rev. John Beardsley
- 22nd October Rev. Dr. Alison Evans, County Ecumenical Officer.

At The Church in Warden Hill

- 8th October Rev. Ken Martin



Church Readers at St Andrew's

At St. Andrew's the NRSV of the Bible is the version we prefer to use for our readings during worship. I know that not all of you have this particular version at home, so a marked copy is now available from my pigeonhole for anyone who needs to borrow it. Please return to my pigeonhole after use. Thanks to Anne Strathie for the suggestion.

Carol Drummond

Anna Chaplaincy

A ministry to older people

You are warmly invited to a meeting at

Emmanuel Church,

at 7.45pm on Monday 2nd October

to discuss the creation of an interdenominational

Anna Chaplaincy

in the Cheltenham district.

The meeting will be led by **Debbie Thrower** from The Gift of Years.

Lifts can be arranged if required.



Everyone is invited to a

Social and Quiz

(organised by Footsloggers)

Saturday 11th November 2017

7.30pm at St Andrews

Refreshments



Tuesday Teas at St Andrew's

By popular support, Tuesday Teas are continuing

in the Garden Room at St Andrew's

on First Tuesday of the Month: 3rd October,

7th November, 5th December

from 2.30-4.30pm

EVERYONE WELCOME



*Any broken furniture?
That wobbly chair...
That drawer that's falling apart..
Do you need a handle to
match a drawer or door?*

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Reg Charity No 287756**

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We are pleased to negotiate for Commercial advertising in 'In Touch'
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Quarter Page £22 per annum

Half Page £44 per annum

One off Quarter page £5

Please contact Advertisements Secretary

Brian Smith for further information:

adverts@urcic.org.uk

St. Andrew's Charity for October OPEN DOOR



In 1992 a group of volunteers set up **Open Door at Christmas**, gradually expanding their work, developing into both a registered charity and a limited company, and establishing the permanent operation we know as **Cheltenham Open Door**. In 1998 a permanent base was found in Cheltenham's Grosvenor Street, and the charity has been working from there ever since, having developed close contacts with a number of other local charities.

The Grosvenor Street premises are open all year round, four days a week, offering hospitality, warmth and food to those who need them: vulnerable, disadvantaged and lonely people, men and women who have been deprived of the comforts and security most of us take for granted. All who are in need are welcome at Grosvenor Street, whatever their age or background: unable to work because of injury or illness, struggling with reading and writing, coping with mental health problems, recovering from alcohol or drug abuse, sleeping rough, coming to terms with broken homes or relationships.

There is no charge for any of the many services provided. These include hot drinks and toast on tap and a midday meal. There are showers (towels and soap provided) and a clothes store. On Sunday mornings there is a continuous hot grill breakfast and a packet of sandwiches to take away. Guests also have access to a telephone and can relax in the television room.

In December a Christmas Shelter is held at St. Luke's Hall, open 24 hours a day from lunch on Christmas Eve to after lunch a few days later. There are also a limited number of beds available overnight.

Open Door welcomes all donations and can be found at 39, Grosvenor Street, by phone on 577418 or by email at info@cheltenhamopendoor.org.uk.

Creative Cards

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Warden Hill URC Centre and St Christopher's

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Tuesday Forum at St Andrew's 'Let's go travelling - with a 'mobile' home

Do the words "are we there yet?" mean anything to you? Did any of his crew say that to Columbus do you suppose? When they landed in Britannia would any centurion have dared to ask Julius Caesar "what on earth did you bring me here for?" Caesar would have had something chopped off for that you know, an arm, a leg, a head – take your pick. I don't suppose Luigi the cook had enough courage to ask Marco Polo "how much further is it?" He would have been adding body to the mulligatawny pretty pronto, or even pronto-er.



Travelling is all about pleasures, hazards and discoveries: and that's where we're going at the **Forum on 10th October with Janet Kemp's "My Travels."** Nice to travel when you know and love where you're going, exciting to travel when, like Columbus, you don't know where you're going, frustrating to travel when you're in Melbourne but your luggage is in Moscow. Let's find out what pleasures, excitements and frustrations Janet's travels have given her. It's not only people who travel: animals and birds, plants, bugs, insects, scandal, gossip, houses.

Houses!? You'll know they travel if you've ever been stuck on the motorway behind one of those half prefabs on a long lorry, even worse if the other half's on the lorry in front of it. See, I told you, travelling can be frustrating; it's not all fun. Must be fun though watching a whole house move, and we're not talking about subsidence or earthquakes here. Normally when we talk about moving house we mean moving ourselves and all our stuff to another house.

On 24th October with the story of "The House that Moved" Tony Jeans will be telling us about his present house and how it started life several miles away – sounds even better in kilometres if you insist. It's not a case of "what did you bring me here for?" but rather "why did you put me there in the first place?"

So let's all get on the move, down to the Garden Room at St Andrew's URC at 2.30 pm and listen to some moving stories.

Keith Norcott

Events at Prestbury

Book and Toy Sale

Prestbury URC will be holding a **Book and Toy Sale** on Saturday 30th September from 10.30 till Noon and from 2-4 pm. Donations of good quality books and toys will be welcome. Please contact Sylvia Turfrey to arrange drop-off. Do please come along and pick up a bargain.

Coffee Morning with 'Poetry and Sausage Rolls'

The monthly coffee morning takes place on **Saturday 7th October** from 10.30 to noon. As well as teas, coffees and teacakes, there will be books, cakes and a raffle. In addition Anne Grant will be reading some of the poetry of John Betjeman and sausage rolls will be provided!



Wednesday Social Group at Warden Hill

This **NEW** group started on 13th September 2017 and will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons fortnightly from 2.00- to 4.00pm at the **URC Centre, Warden Hill.**

Please join us for friendship, support, laughter and entertainment.

All ages are welcome. Bring a neighbour, a loved one or someone who could become a good friend in the future. Don't be on your own; four walls can always seem a sad and worrying place. Together, our group will show that we are a place of hope and joyful companionship. And there will, of course, be lots of tea, coffee and cake!

Gary Grady



Community Film

Saturday 28th October 2017
at Warden Hill URC Centre
2.30pm (doors open at 2.15pm)



Free entry – Family and Friends welcome
Refreshments available

Future Dates: 18th November, 2nd December

Wednesday Women at St Andrew's

The meeting on Wednesday 4th October will be a demonstration by Kayleigh Sutherland, make-up artist. This will be an informal evening with hints, tips and discussion on the latest make up trends.

Meetings start with refreshments at 7.15. All welcome.

Elspet Carter

Qi Gong

Gentle exercises especially geared to the needs of older people based on Chinese traditional practice, promoting self-healing and self-regulation of the body.

At St Andrew's

On Thursday 5th October

Starting at 12.15 pm.

Cost £5.00 per session.

New members welcome.

contact Lida 01242 233949 lida@blueyonder.co.uk

Samaritan's Purse Appeal:

Time to start preparing your Shoe Boxes

Flat pack shoe boxes available.

Final collection **Sunday 29th October.**

Information leaflets in the churches

Queries to Dorothy Odell

or Kate Alger

What do I put in my Shoebox?



“Wow” Item

Include a toy that a child will immediately love as soon as they open the box.

Do Not Include

Used or damaged items, war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives; chocolate or other food items; liquids or lotions of any type including bubbles; medicines; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers, mirrors or fragile items; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; clothing other than as listed above.

Toys



Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles etc.

School Supplies



Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

Hygiene Items



Toothbrush and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

Other Items



Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March of the following year).

*(Information from:
[www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/operation-christmas-child)
[/operation-christmas-child](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/operation-christmas-child))*



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Footsloggers

Monday 17th July and Thursday 17th August 2017

Over the course of these two walks we explored the Stroudwater Canal. In July, Roger and Bob planned to walk from Stonehouse to Ebley and back, but owing to Tim's unfortunate mishap, only half his walk was accomplished. (Tim is now recovered, thankfully). Janet and Ann had planned the route from King's Stanley, to the canal, thence to Ebley and back without knowing of the previous walk! As it happened, the walks complemented each other and we discovered things we had not known about – like the 'Snow' mill at Ebley, and the significant restoration of the canal. Excellent hostelries on both occasions.

Janet Kemp



Photos by Bob Alger and Laura

Future Dates

18th September 19th October 20th November
8th December

Contact: Jenny Evans at jenny21evans@hotmail.co.uk



St Andrew's Lunch Club

St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street

Does a lovely bowl of thick, homemade soup with a fresh bread roll, followed by a homemade pudding interest you??

Then join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 1.00pm and bring a friend.

All for ONLY £3.00

Reading Group

The next meeting of the Reading Group will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd November at Wendy Outram's home.

The book we have decided to discuss will be 'Conclave' by Robert Harris.

The Pope is dead and behind locked doors of the Sistine Chapel 118 cardinals are meeting in conclave to cast their votes in the world's most secretive election. They are Holy men but they are ambitious and they have rivals. Over the next 72 hours, one of them will become the most powerful spiritual figure on earth. Which one of them will it be?

Robert Harris will be coming to the Cheltenham Literary Festival on 8th October.

Any questions about the group please ring Mary Cummings

Regeneration/Repair Café at St Andrew's

We welcomed a new volunteer to September's Repair Café to see how it works. He will be joining us in October and will be helping to repair laptops where possible.

Carole Drummond



The Smaller Beatitudes

Blessed are you that can laugh at yourselves:
you will have no end of fun.

Blessed are you who can tell a mountain from a molehill:
you will save a lot of bother.

Blessed are you who know how to relax without looking for excuses:
you are on your way to becoming wise.

Blessed are you who know when to be quiet and listen:
you will learn much.

Blessed are you who are sane enough not to take yourselves too seriously:
you will be valued by those around you.

Blessed are you if you can take small things seriously and face serious
things calmly:
you will go far in life.

Blessed are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown:
you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

Blessed are you who think before acting and pray before thinking:
you will move many blunders.

Above all:

Blessed are you who recognise the Lord in all whom you meet:
the light of truth shines in your life for you have found true wisdom.

From "Food for the Soul" by Brian D'Arcy



Heritage Day at St Andrew's

The Exhibition on Martin Luther and the Reformation prepared by Janet Kemp, Wendy Outram, Jean Smith, Hanne Lambley and Tony Jeans was well received. It will be staying in the Church at St Andrew's till October 31st, the actual 500th anniversary of Martin Luther publishing his 95 Theses. Thanks to Andrea Board for organ accompaniment, and Alison Stagg for refreshments. Tony has prepared A4 photo sheets of the full exhibition.

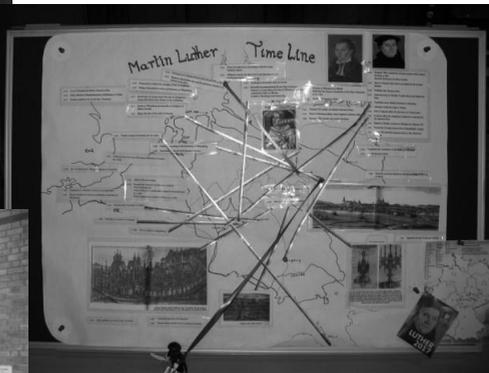
Due to a national event in Cheltenham, vis the Round Britain Cycling race, attendance at Heritage Day was poor, we can only hope for better things next year.

Janet Kemp



Representation of Wittenburg Church Door with the 95 Theses.

Visual representation of Luther's



life

The

Reformation Timeline displayed round the Church.



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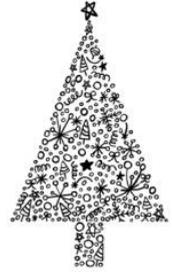
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Emmanuel Festival of Decorated Christmas Trees 8th-10th December

Will you enter a tree?

Last year we had a wonderful variety of trees – the artistic, the ingenious, the thought-provoking and, of course, the beautiful.

I wonder what will inspire you this year.



The church will be open to visitors throughout the weekend.
Plus ...

Friday, 6-9pm: Carol singing amongst the trees,
with mince pies and mulled wine

Saturday, 7pm: Carol Concert by the Cotswold Male Voice Choir and
Naunton Park School Choir

Contact Jackie Dunlop

emmanuel.church@btconnect.com

Emmanuel Church, Fairfield Parade, Cheltenham, GL53 7PJ

Freecycle



If you have any useful items you no longer need that might be of use to someone else please let Ann Lewis know with full details of the item and please leave your telephone number so we can get back to you.

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Concert "Evening Hymn"

St Peter's Church, Leckhampton

Saturday 7th October at 7.00 pm

Hannah Davey (soprano) and James Gilchrist (tenor)
Violinists Anthony McNaught and Helen Divett
Organist Simon Gibson.

The programme will have music for voices with violin and organ in various combinations and include pieces by Purcell, J S Bach, Karg-Elert and Vierne.

The second half of the programme will be dedicated to English composers, some with a local Gloucestershire connection: Parry, Holst, Vaughan Williams, William Lloyd Webber and Stanford.

Tickets: Adults £15, OAP/Concessions £10 and Under 16 £5.

All profits in aid of Mindsong.

Tickets available from St Peter's Parish Office 01242-513647

Or on the door.



Festival of Church Music Theme of "Peace"



Worcester Cathedral

Saturday 14th October at 7.00pm

Choirs and Singers from around the country

Organist – Rufus Frowde

Pianist – Lynne Bradburn

Conductor – Peter Williams

Free Admission





One World Week: 22 – 29 October 2017

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

My World Depends on Us

Being a “good neighbour” means much more than just being quiet and unobtrusive... It includes (according to various faith traditions) actively looking out for our neighbours to ensure their needs are met. It applies at personal, local, national and international levels.

The **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** have identified the needs of our global neighbours. Governments around the world, including that of the UK, have pledged to address them.

The strapline, “**My World Depends On Us**” reminds us that our personal world is directly affected by what we do, purchase, read, say, consume, vote, ... and that these do not happen in isolation. Our life depends on how we impact on and influence others in our common experience at home and in the world.

Active citizenship, media literacy and critical thinking are vital tools in acknowledging our interdependence with others, locally as well as farther afield, while countering populism, extremism and hate.

One World Week invites you to create or become a part of local OWW events to explore what we need to do to be a good neighbour locally and globally in our 21st century world.

(Information from www.oneworldweek.org)

There will be a Worship Service for 'One World Week' on Sunday 12th November 2017 at Christchurch, Malvern Road 6.30pm. All welcome

From The Editor

Dear Friends

I expect everyone is settled back into their normal routines after the summer. All three Churches have afternoon social groups where all are welcomed:

- ✓ At Prestbury - The Friday Circle
- ✓ At St Andrew's - Tuesday Forum, Tuesday Teas, Wednesday Lunch Club
- ✓ At Warden Hill - The Social Group on Wednesday's.

We wish the new group at Warden Hill a long and happy association.

A new feature starting in this month's magazine is "The Pulpit in.....", where you will find out who will be preaching at Prestbury, St Andrew's and on URC Sundays at The Church in Warden Hill. We shall be welcoming a wide range of visiting speakers.

Rev. James Taylor of Cirencester (URC/Methodist LEP) has been appointed as our Interim Moderator for the period of vacancy. He will be supporting us in the search for a new Minister.

Janet Kemp

Please ensure that all items for the next edition of 'In Touch' are with the Editor by midnight on
SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER 2017
at
magazine@urcic.org.uk

Distribution is on the 4th Sunday of the month. Any alterations to the distribution, e.g. change of address, method of delivery, or cancellation should be sent to Fiona Hall. The current edition of 'In Touch' and some back numbers, amended for legal and privacy reasons, are available on the Church website.

(See inside front cover of 'In Touch' for relevant email addresses)

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Elders, the Minister, or of any authoritative body of the United Reformed Church

Diary for October 2017

SUN	1	10.30am	Harvest Festival	St Christopher's
Tue	3	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea	St Andrew's
Wed	4	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Wed	4	7.15pm	Wednesday Women	St Andrew's
Thu	5	12.15pm	Qi Gong	St Andrew's
Sat	7	10.00am	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	7	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Prestbury
SUN	8	10.15am	Prayers	St Andrew's
Tue	10	2.30pm	Tuesday Forum	St Andrew's
Wed	11	2.30pm	Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Thu	12	2.00pm	Prayer Group	St Christopher's
Wed	18	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Thu	19		Footsloggers	
Tue	24	2.30pm	Tuesday Forum	St Andrew's
Wed	25	2.30pm	Social Group	Warden Hill URCC
Sat	28	2.30pm	Community Film Show	Warden Hill URCC

Diary for November 2017

Wed	1	1.00pm	Lunch Club	St Andrew's
Sat	4	10.00am	Regeneration/Repair Café	St Andrew's
Sat	4	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Prestbury



Regular Weekly Events 2017

Monday

10.00am	Prestbury Urchins	Prestbury URC**
5.15pm	Rainbows	Warden Hill URC Centre**

Tuesday

10.00am	St Andrew's Parents & Toddlers	St Andrew's
5.15pm	Brownies	Warden Hill URC Centre**
7.30pm	Bible Study House Group	St Christopher's**

Wednesday

9.15am	Little Shepherds	St Christopher's**
7.00pm	Bellringing	St Christopher's

Thursday

5.30pm	Beavers	St Christopher's**
6.00pm	Brownies	St Christopher's**
6.45pm	Cubs	St Christopher's**
7.45pm	Scouts	St Christopher's**

Friday

10.00am	Friday Circle	Prestbury URC
10.30am	Bible Study House Group	51 Bournside Road**
6.15pm	TCiWH Choir Practice	St Christopher's

** Term Time Only

(Please see 'The Lantern', Magazine for the Church in Warden Hill for other activities. Ed.)



Church Services

St Andrew's URC

Every Sunday	11.00am	<i>Morning Worship</i> <i>(Communion Service on 1st Sunday)</i>
3 rd Sunday	9.30am	<i>Jump4Joy</i> <i>(an informal short service for all the family)</i>

Prestbury URC

1 st Sunday	10.30am	<i>All-age Worship</i>
3 rd Sunday	10.30am	<i>Morning Worship</i>
4 th Sunday	10.30am	<i>Communion</i>
2 nd & 5 th Sunday		<i>No service</i>

The Church in Warden Hill

Sunday morning services are **all** held at **St Christopher's**

1 st Sunday	10.30am	<i>Family Worship</i>
2 nd Sunday	10.30am	<i>Communion in the URC tradition</i>
3 rd Sunday	10.30am	<i>Morning Worship</i>
4 th Sunday	10.30am	<i>Communion in the Anglican tradition</i>
5 th Sunday	10.30am	<i>Morning Worship</i>
2 nd Sunday	3.30pm	<i>Messy Church at URC Centre</i>

Evening services are at St Christopher's **except** 4th Sunday at URCC

1 st & 3 rd Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Evensong</i>
2 nd Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Healing and Wholeness</i>
4 th Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Evening Worship at URC Centre</i>
5 th Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Choral Evensong</i>

Weekdays

Monday-Friday	8.00 am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Christopher's</i>
Tuesday	10.30am	<i>Communion at URC Centre</i>