



DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE

PLACE MATTERS



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ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Ann and Elaine are now both working in the building full-time; but to ensure social distancing in the small Church Office, only one of us is working in Reception at a time - Ann is in Reception on Tuesdays and Elaine will be in Reception Wednesday to Monday each week.

Cover photo: Ian practising: picture taken by Nigel Uden at 6.45 a.m

FROM THE MINISTER

The serendipities of the diary can be so valuable. I am struck that as we resume ‘in person’ worship in the renewed building on Downing Place, so we also ordain and induct Elders. The building is one sort of resource – a sanctuary in which we can worship and be fed, and a springboard from which we are launched into the community; the Elders are another resource – companions on the Christian Way, to lead, enable and encourage us all in the congregation’s life, and as they offer pastoral care, too. So it is of Elders that I want to write this month.



The Elders’ task is summed up by the United Reformed Church as to *“share with the minister in the pastoral oversight and leadership of the local church. To each [Elder] is normally entrusted a group of members. In the Elders’ Meeting they take counsel together for the whole congregation. They are responsible for making provision for Christian worship and education, for maintaining proper standards of membership, and for promoting witness and service to the community, mission at home and abroad, and the peace, unity and welfare of the Church. It is their duty to arrange for the proper maintenance of church buildings, and to ensure the oversight of church finances. Some Elders represent the local church in the wider councils of the Church, and by virtue of their membership of these councils represent the whole Church to the local church.”*

We welcome Mel Rose, Hazel Sanderson, Hannah Stephenson and David Tatem to this role for the first time, just as we welcome back for a further term those who have served previously: Liz Barrow, Jenny Jacobsberg, Pippa Jones, Carys Lee and Simone Maghenzani. They, of course, join those who are in the middle of a term: Jane Bower, Colin Christy, Helen Christy, Elza de Bruin, Sheila Porrer, Alan Rickard, Owen Saxton, Ian Strachan, Daphne Thomas, Margaret Thompson and Stephen Thornton. Reading the ‘job description’ above it perhaps alerts us to just what we ask of the Elders, and I very much want to enjoin upon us all the obligation we have to support those we elect, and not least to uphold them regularly in prayer.

At the same time, I would like to express our gratitude to those who are leaving the meeting, at least for the time being: Alison Binney, Tony Bottoms, Penny Milsom, Augur Pearce and Judy Rowland. With their colleagues who continue, they have offered the ministry of Eldership at a pivotal time, as the two founding congregations united, strove to discern principles of our life and witness to advocate to the Church Meeting, and maintained oversight of the building project. Each of those stepping back at this time has brought distinctive gifts,

which they have liberally deployed for the enrichment of the gradually evolving Downing Place Church. It has been a season of service that will bear fruit for long years to come as succeeding Elders' Meetings value the foundations that were laid. On behalf of the whole congregation, thank you to each and all who are going, remaining or arriving.

Essentially, all ministry is reciprocal – every one of us in the church gives it and receives it. So, if we are to pray with our elders, what might we say? Maybe, if other words fail us, the following may be helpful:

Eternal God, who creates, redeems and preserves us,
calls, equips and accompanies us, we praise you.

We pray with all who respond by being part of Downing Place Church
through both leading and following.

By your Spirit at work within us, we pray that you will
bring us in for feeding and send us out for serving,
delight us with good days and encourage through grey ones,
until you bring us home to you and your work to completion,
through Jesus Christ, Amen

Nigel Uden

THE CHALLENGE OF THE REDEVELOPMENT A REFLECTION BY DAVID THOMAS.

Having been in construction all my working life, I am used to being told what the client wants and taking it from there. Being the client of a project of this nature made me realize just how many decisions must be made. “What do we want from the building? What is wrong with it? How do we make it future proof?”

One priority was to have better access into the building, including for those needing wheelchairs. Other priorities were better access from the Church to the Hub, and the provision of modern accommodation with proper computer facilities and A/V facilities.

Alongside all this we needed to consider improved insulation and more sustainable heating and lighting.

The Building group was set up to look at what was needed in more detail, and to consult with Church Meetings and Elders as time went on. Employing a contractor at the start enabled the Architects and various consultants all to work together. This had huge benefits in resolving many difficult challenges as the building was exposed. The amount of steelwork that was needed to enable the building to be substantially remodelled was remarkable.

Our group had to prepare information on colours, floor coverings, ironmongery, security, lighting, kitchen layout, storage, chairs, tables, Church furniture, signage etc. Some items did not take long to resolve; however, some took months. Just when you think you are making progress, someone says, “how are we going to put the piano on the raised dais?”. That took some sorting by all involved.



The piano lift at floor level, at dais level and at maintenance level.

We have received many compliments about how nice everything looks; however, I am most proud of what has been achieved in the Sanctuary. It looks so good, fresh, light, and the furniture is beautiful. While it looks new, we have retained many of the special features of the existing building.



On a personal note, I would like to say how much I have appreciated working with my colleagues on the Building Group, whilst we do not always agree on everything, we do come together to resolve the various issues. We have also appreciated the many words of support we have received from many of you. Working with the Design team and Contractors has also been a real privilege.



Fixing a memorial plaque to the screen

JACK BOYNS, OF ARCHITECTS ARCHANGEL, GIVES HIS VIEW ON THE IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE NEW DOWNING PLACE.



At the handover of the main worship space a few weeks ago Nigel Uden expressed his thanks to the assembled members of the project team. What Nigel said was characteristically perceptive and touching, and focused on just four words; design, quality, dedication and community. It is the word community which sums up what I have enjoyed most about working on this project.

Nigel astutely observed that; “the project team were a community who embraced Downing Place URC as a



The Archangel team.

On the bench we have our two directors, Dirk Visagie (left) and Nigel Walter (right).

And of course Jaffa in the middle!

Standing behind the bench, left to right; Apostolos Petrakis, Jack Boyns, Daniel Casero, Alexandros Michalitsianos.

construction sequencing and detailing and I am pleased with the way these have been overcome while contributing to the vision for a more open and welcoming building.

We are delighted with the way these elements give your building a friendly face, allow people to see in to what is going on, provide them a place to receive a warm welcome and to subsequently be drawn into the heart of the building where they can receive the care that you have such a legacy of offering. The view from the new welcome area down Downing Street is something that I particularly

community and that in itself is a delivery of the vision of the whole project". I have taken much pleasure playing a part in forming such a positive relationship between Client, Architect and Contractor. Some of you may recall that at Archangel we strive to provide 'Architecture; With Spirit' and we are proud of how that has been achieved on this project. Though I am still early in my architectural career,

I can already see that this sense of community within the project team is something that does not form to this extent very often and is therefore something which should be savoured!

The elements of the scheme which I enjoy most now that the building is complete are those which enable the building to reflect who you are as a community; the new welcome area, the new windows on the Downing Street elevation, the opening up of the link to the hub and the curved feature batten wall. Each of these aspects offered their own challenges in terms of planning, conservation,

enjoy and I am excited to see how this will enable relationships to be formed between you and the wider community.

I pray for every blessing on you as a church as you embark on this exciting new chapter of your ministry.

Jack Boyns

The bits you don't see. The Church boiler room is at the rear of the Sanctuary, the boiler room serving the Hub and the Gibson Hall is down in the cellar, accessed from the courtyard



Church Boiler Room



Gibson Hall Boiler Room



Gibson Hall Boiler Room

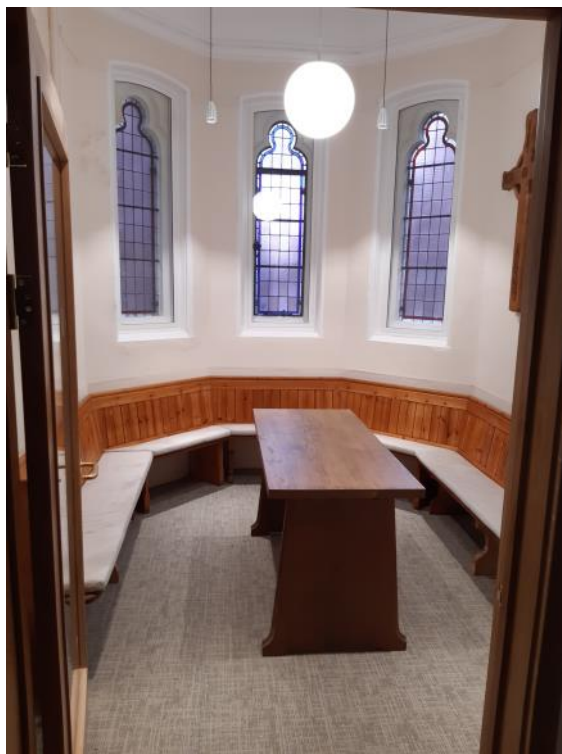


Hidden in a cupboard – the “rack” which controls all the Audio-Visual equipment



Work on the organ

Photos on pages 9, 10 & 11 by David Thomas



The St Columba's Chapel



The first service, 16th May 2021

Photos on this page were taken by Robert Porrer

PROFILE: TED AND MARGARET DENNISON



In 2007 Emmanuel URC published a booklet, *Wider Still and Wider*, the sequel to two earlier booklets of pieces by Emmanuel members who had served overseas. Many of you will remember it as an impressive collection of often entertaining and always inspiring essays which makes clear how deeply these experiences affected the lives which are recounted here. A pair of matching essays were contributed by Ted and Margaret Dennison, who reached Africa by different routes to serve in different ways. Their experience changed both their lives, and their memories of it are still cherished today.

Margaret grew up in Plumstead Common in Greenwich, south east London, a member of the Methodist Church. After school she went to horticultural college, one year's practical training at East Malling (now part of NIAB) followed by two years at the Essex Institute of Agriculture, now Writtle University College near Chelmsford. After qualifying she applied to VSO and was sent to Uganda, to the Tororo District Farm Institute, to teach vegetable growing and nutrition. She also worked with women out in the villages encouraging these “progressive farm ladies” to refine their farming methods.



Margaret with farmers in Bugisu, Eastern Uganda

After her year's placement she returned to the UK, where she worked in horticulture, in the parks department and then in a school for severely deaf children. Margaret was always keen to return to Africa, even though at that time setting out for Africa took some faith and courage, especially for a woman on her own, contacts with home being difficult and infrequent. Through Christian Aid she was offered a



Coffee growing in Bugisu

post in Zambia teaching vegetable cultivation at Kalulushi Farm College, near Kitwe in the Zambian copper mining belt. Here she had the challenging task of teaching classes of men who did not see agriculture as a suitable occupation for men even though agriculture in Africa was very hard work.

Meanwhile Ted had also reached Zambia. Like Margaret, Ted grew up in London, in Balham. Sent to the Baptist Sunday school as a child he found his faith there and was an enthusiastic member of youth organisations. After National Service in the RAF and work in London he went to work for the United Society for Christian Literature (USCL -now part of *Feed the Minds*) and there realised he wanted to continue to work with books and further the role of Christian literature in the developing world. In 1962 a request came to USCL for someone to go out to Northern Rhodesia as Administrator at the ground breaking Africa Literature Centre near Kitwe. Ted was interviewed for the post and accepted.

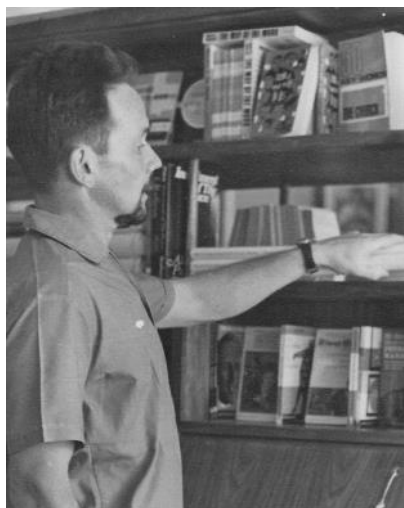
The centre offered short courses in journalism and creative writing to people from all over sub-Saharan Africa, training them to write for their own people. It was based at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, a radical and inspiring place to be for a young man, a beacon of Christian tolerance and inclusivity at a time when racial discrimination was still the norm in many parts of colonial African society. Ted met future leaders of independent African nations, such as Kenneth Kaunda, who came there for support and counselling. He was also present at the foundation of the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) and met religious leaders such as Colin Morris, then based in a local Church.

In 1969 Ted began a new initiative – seconded from USCL to the Christian Council of Zambia he started driving around rural parts of the country in a Mercedes van equipped with a spare diesel tank and converted into a travelling

bookshop. His house in Mindolo became a bookstore, from which he and his Zambian colleague would stock the van and set off for trips of ten days or more to different parts of the country covering hundreds of miles, visiting schools, missions and centres of administration. They carried stocks of educational books, Christian literature and the Scriptures in at least seven languages and pamphlets from African publishers. Ted himself wrote a basic guide to accounting and book-keeping. One such visit took him to the Kalulushi Farm College where Margaret was working, and two years later they were married at the UCZ Church in Kitwe.



The book bus, Ted with his colleague Patson Mwape



Ted in the book store at Mindolo

Ted and Margaret returned to this country in 1973, actually commissioned by the local UCZ as Missionaries back to the UK! This was the time when the Council for World Mission had been set up, which led to a fruitful exchange of missionaries around the world, not just from the traditional developed nations to developing ones, but also in the other direction. But a Missionary's pay didn't go far in London, so Ted looked for something else. He came to Cambridge to work in Mowbray's bookshop in King's Parade, then after a year's course in Peterborough to update his office skills moved to the college office at Magdalene, where he stayed happily for twenty years until retirement.

Meanwhile Margaret used her horticultural skills working back at NIAB for three years until she began full time care for their adopted family at home. Their daughter Ruth still lives in Cambridge, and is about to begin a career in teaching while bringing up her own family.

Ted and Margaret have both found their faith a huge support throughout their lives, from making courageous decisions to leave this country for Africa, to

coping with troubles and bereavement. They have been members of Emmanuel URC since they came to Cambridge in 1975, having found a friendly welcome and like minds there. Ted's involvement with books and Christian literature continued at Emmanuel, where he ran the bookstall for many years. He also served as Elder for three separate terms. Ted has been Treasurer for the Cambridge Christian Aid Committee for the last 18 years, where his accountancy and bookkeeping experience has been much valued. Margaret worked in the Fair Shares café at Emmanuel for 18 years, and her own cakes have been generously provided and eagerly enjoyed at numerous church events.

As with many others in that 2007 booklet, Ted and Margaret's time in Africa, at a moment of decolonisation, of fruitful interchange between Churches and denominations, of development and cooperation, and the setting of ideals for the new emerging nations, has inspired and enriched their lives in Cambridge, at Emmanuel and now at Downing Place.

‘LEGACIES OF SLAVERY’



Not the cheeriest of headlines, but an issue that can't be ignored if we wish to be true to our concern for inclusivity – one of the goals we have embraced as a church community. 'Legacies of Slavery' will be the theme of a series of four weekly Zoom groups on Thursdays in June, starting on June 3rd. We shall spend time discussing historical and contemporary issues to do with race relations, guiding our conversations with passages from scripture.

Each session will last about 90 minutes. I hope to arrange Zoom contributions

from a few informed ‘outsiders’. To make discussion easier, some of the time will be spent in smaller breakout rooms. But you’re welcome to come and listen, without feeling any pressure to have an opinion on everything!

The sessions will draw on the Bible Study material put out by the URC for Black History Month <https://urc.org.uk/our-work/legacies-of-slavery> and will address four main issues:

Putting Slavery back into History: What we like to remember about our nation’s story, and what we prefer to forget – not least the contribution of the slave trade to our national wealth. Paul’s letter to Philemon offers us a biblical perspective.

Privilege and Disrupted Communion: We consider the legacies of white privilege against Paul’s classic account of the Lord’s Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:17-28 and his injunction: ‘Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.’

Apology and Reparations: Is slavery just a dead issue from the past? Or does it require action in the present? Reflecting on the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10, we ask whether our country, and indeed the URC, should say sorry – and act accordingly?

Anti-racist Living in a Multicultural Society: Is a change of attitudes enough? Or do we need to change our ways, as individuals and as a church? We discuss this using Gospel stories about how Jesus dealt with the marginalised, the privileged and the powerful.

These are tough topics. I agreed to lead the sessions on the understanding that I was concerned about the questions but had few firm answers. In other words, I was ready for a journey of discovery, without knowing where it will lead. If you, too, are ready for that, please join in!

David Reynolds

Practical details

Afternoon group: 2.30 – 4.00pm; sign up with Tim Rowland

Evening group: 7.30 – 9.00pm; sign up with Kelly O’Doherty

Both groups will meet on Thursdays 3, 10, 17 and 24 June.



MONTHLY CAUSE FOR JUNE: CAMCRAG, THE CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

Downing Place Church has supported CamCRAG for several years. This small independent charity was founded in Cambridge in 2015 to organise convoys bringing help to refugees in Calais. These convoys are still planned, though the pandemic and Brexit are currently making them more difficult.

But CamCRAG also runs other projects. Some involve raising funds – there is currently an appeal to buy pallets of tins of sardines to be distributed in the camps as an economical and easy way to access a source of protein. Its fundraising has enabled it to send donations to camps in France and Greece and elsewhere in Europe to provide laundry and washing facilities, battery packs for phones, boots, handwarmers and other items vital for camp dwellers.

It also provides supplies more directly, organising sessions to recondition blankets, sleeping bags and tents to be sent out to the refugee camps. Its convoy volunteers are hands-on once they reach the camps, working in community kitchens to prepare meals, sorting clothes and other donations and getting stuck in to many other tasks. CamCRAG is entirely run by volunteers, and has no paid staff. All the money donated goes to help refugees directly.

For more information, have a look at the website <https://camcrag.org.uk>

We are all touched by the plight of refugees, and giving to CamCRAG is a simple way to give practical support, using an effective charity set up here in Cambridge.

If you can, donate via the CamCRAG website directly, which means that CamCRAG can claim the Gift Aid, but if you prefer you can also send a cheque to the Church office, payable to Downing Place URC, and Ann will make the payment to CamCRAG.

Thank you for your support.

OUR NEW ORGAN

At last our new organ is up and running. Being a digital organ, created especially for our church by the world-renowned company, *Hauptwerk*, it has the facility to reproduce the sound from more than one organ. *Hauptwerk* are unique in that they record each pipe of an organ three times over, in order to capture every nuance of that hand-made pipe: there are no sampled sounds at all.

As the variety of repertoire that's under the combined fingers of Mark Dawes, Owen Saxton, and me is immensely wide, we felt it wise to install a considerable variety of organs from around Europe, in order to bring to life a panoply of music, using organs for which the composers deliberately wrote their music. Our unique organ console, which we've had specially built for our church, contains a number of features not found on any other instrument, greatly facilitating the playing of such a wide variety of music.

Because this is the first *Hauptwerk* digital organ to be permanently installed in Cambridge, and because of the centrality of the church in the city, and the live-streaming and recording facilities of our new church, *Hauptwerk* have very generously installed no less than three, free additional organs for us to use. So now we have eleven organs, the earliest dating from 1745, and the most recent dating from 2008. We have organs from England, France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands.

We also thought it important to honour the previous organs that our two former churches owned. Accordingly, in honour of the organ that Henry Willis built for Emmanuel, we've installed the stunning 'Willis' organ in Hereford Cathedral, and in honour of the English, two-manual pipe organ that was built at the beginning of the 20th century for St Columba's, we've installed a beautiful two-manual English church organ dating from 1907.

In order to get to know all eleven of these instruments, we will be playing, initially very sparingly, on just one organ every week, changing organ each Sunday morning, so spanning eleven successive Sunday morning services, beginning on June 6th.

Sunday June 6th

Mark plays the 1973 'Marcussen' organ in the Laurenskerk, Rotterdam.



Sunday June 13th

Ian plays the 1892 'Willis' organ in Hereford Cathedral.



Sunday June 20th

Owen plays the 1869 'Schultze' organ in St Lawrence' Church, Armley.



Sunday June 27th

Ian plays the 1885 'Cavaillé-Coll' organ in St Etienne Church, Caen.



URC PEOPLE

From the URC News Update

New Eastern Synod Moderator

The Revd Lythan Nevard, a United Reformed Church minister currently serving at the Cornerstone ecumenical project in Cranbrook, Exeter, and previously a minister in Hartlepool, Romford, Brixham and Babbacombe, has been nominated to be the next Moderator of Eastern Synod.



The nomination follows the move by the Revd Paul Whittle to serve as Moderator of the URC National Synod of Scotland.

Lythan Nevard was a member of the URC's Ginger Group in the 1980s, a group of young people that visited churches around the country, leading a variety of church related projects, based at Yardley Hastings.

Lythan Nevard grew up in the United Reformed Church – her father is the Revd Ivor Rees, a URC minister who served at Clapham, Ewell, Swansea and Bamford.

Her husband, the Revd Phil Nevard, is a URC Minister currently serving Kingsteignton and the South Western Synod who has accepted a call to serve three churches in the Eastern Synod - Castle Camps, Whittlesford and Sawston. Lythan and Phil met while serving together on the URC's Ginger Group.

Lythan said: "The Holy Spirit has led me on many adventures, and I am both delighted and awed that the next one is as Moderator of Eastern Synod. I'm really looking forward to working with the churches and Ministers of the Synod and finding out how we can grow in discipleship and serve God's kingdom together."

Eastern Synod Clerk, Keir Hounscome, said: "We are delighted that Lythan has accepted the call to be our next Moderator. She impressed us all on the interview panel with her spirituality, integrity, vision and leadership qualities and we are looking forward with excitement to her joining us"

Keith Riglin, formerly Minister of St. Columba's, was recently installed in Oban as Bishop of Argyll and the Isles in the Scottish Episcopal Church. The service was led by the Primus of the Church, the Most Rev. Mark Strange, and attended, via the Internet, by a worldwide congregation.



Thanks to the Oban Times for the image, and to Shouna Falconer for sending it.

And an interesting note:

The recently installed Moderator of the Church of Scotland is the Rt. Hon. Baron Wallace of Tankerness, QC, better known in Scotland as Jim Wallace, the former Deputy First Minister of the Scottish Parliament and Leader of the Liberal Democrats in Scotland. A recent profile in *Life and Work*, the magazine of the Church of Scotland, noted that while a Cambridge undergraduate he opted to be confirmed “within the local United Reformed Church” by the Minister, the Rev. Ronald Spiers. He moved back to Edinburgh of course soon after that.

In his sermon at the General Assembly's communion service, Lord Wallace mentioned both St Columba's and Emmanuel. He dwelt upon what Mr Speirs had taught him during church membership classes, particularly about Communion. He then mentioned that the first time he took communion was at Emmanuel Church the week after he had been received into membership of St Columba's.

From: The United Reformed Church Finance Committee

To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships

It would be fair to describe the year-and-a-bit since March 2020 as having been “different”, wouldn’t it? Lots of us have experienced loss of loved ones, loss of income and perhaps jobs. All have experienced periods of lockdown; periods without ‘non-essential’ shops; and continuous and extensive disruption to our ‘normal’ social interactions and relationships. The world we thought we understood and could take for granted has been utterly transformed. How many of us imagined at the start of 2020 that we could go months without a haircut or without people not in our ‘bubble’ entering our homes?

As members of United Reformed Church congregations ourselves, we understand much of what your church community has experienced since March 2020. The absence of what is now regularly labelled “in-person worship” for much (or all) of this time has compelled us to turn to other ways of being church. Buildings in which we used to praise God regularly have been shut, both to regular worshipers and others who might have sought solace within their walls during these desperate and troubling times. It has been hard to maintain close fellowship with people we only meet over Zoom (or the like) – if we are digitally enabled.

Financially, things have been extremely tough too. Plate offerings have collapsed; some regular givers have had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God’s work; and those churches which hire out their premises have seen income from that source disappear.

At denominational level, we feared that these financial troubles would spell disaster for the URC’s Ministry and Mission (‘M&M’) fund through which the URC has always supported and developed our stipendiary ministers and Church Related Community Workers. It would have been all too easy for congregations to forget that for almost 49 years this fund (under various names) has provided stipends, pension contributions and training for all ministers throughout the three nations in which the URC operates: so that ministry reaches where synods judge it to be most needed and is paid for according to each congregation’s ability to contribute (though the ways of determining that vary from synod to synod). It was all very well to remind ourselves that the M&M fund is meant to be the first call on every congregation’s resources if the undertaking to financially support our ministers is to be honoured. We feared that drastically reduced income would make that impossible and that, because the need was less visible than the other calls on your diminished resources, payments to the M&M fund would have

stopped first.

We are sorry if we ever doubted you.

It quickly became apparent that, although some congregations had to reduce their pledged giving to the M&M fund, many more of you were continuing to meet the 2020 commitments you had made during better times, despite the struggles that required. At the start of that year we had been expecting churches and synods to contribute around £18.5 million to the fund. By the year end, all but half-a-million pounds of that had been received. Since Church House staff and committees managed to reduce their budgeted expenditure by almost £1 million, your money enabled us to meet the full costs of our Ministries, Education & Learning, Children's and Youth Work and Mission departments in 2020 as well as covering amounts spent on safeguarding, denominational governance and communications.

What is perhaps even more amazing is that, collectively, you have pledged to give £17.3 million during 2021 despite the financial problems caused by the pandemic being fully apparent well before your offers for this year were made.

We are always grateful for the financial support given each year to the M&M fund by all of you; but this past year has been phenomenal.

Thank you to those of you who have been able to maintain or increase financial support for your church congregation through this difficult time. That has enabled those responsible for your congregation's finances to keep more money flowing to the M&M fund than we expected.

Thank you for all your previous financial support to those of you who, after prayerful consideration, have had to reduce or stop giving in response to your changed financial circumstances.

Thank you for the pledges your congregation has made about contributing to the M&M fund during 2021 even though you were by then aware of the impact the pandemic was having on your local congregation's finances.

Thank you in anticipation for what you agree to offer to the M&M fund during 2022 to enable the denomination to deliver ministry, education and learning, children's work and mission activity on God's (and your) behalf.

We are aware that synods have played a significant part in encouraging and supporting many congregations with their contributions to the M&M fund. We have separately written to Synod Treasurers to express our thanks to them and their colleagues too.

Of course, our giving for God's work is in response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nonetheless, it is important for us to thank every one of you for what you do for God, your congregation and its and our denominational finances.

Thank you!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Treasurer) and John Piper (Deputy Treasurer)

On behalf of the whole United Reformed Church Finance Committee



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021 – THANK YOU

Christian Aid Week this year was challenging, like many other things in this year of pandemic. Once again, physical events and collections were not possible, and for us in Downing Place there was of course an extra problem – we had no Church to hold services even for limited numbers.

Nevertheless we did not let Christian Aid Week pass us by. Our main fundraising event was a presentation which Jane Bower generously offered via Zoom, inviting donations to Christian Aid. Jane kept us enthralled with an account of her childhood home and the people who had lived there, including a former poet laureate. Discussion after the talk revealed that many who lived in and around that house had joined the virtual audience, and could bring the story up to date.

I know we must have raised a substantial amount with around 70 attendees, but I'm afraid I can't tell you how much. We tried very hard to work out how we could make on-line donations with gift aid and also keep track of what we raised, but it just didn't seem possible, even the Christian Aid Office couldn't solve that problem for us. There must be a way, and we hope to sort it out before we do anything similar again. So it seemed more important this time for CA to get the

gift aid, and we opted for that.

The envelopes which we were able to put out at the Westminster service on May 2nd, and the e-envelope, which Ann sent out with the weekly diary, brought in some generous donations. Nigel, with help from Jess, made Christian Aid the focus of his recorded service for Sunday 16th May.

The ecumenical Christian Aid Service took place this year at St. John the Evangelist Church in Hills Road on Sunday 9th May. Sue Claydon, a Christian Aid speaker, showed slides from her visit to Kenya which illustrated how water supplies had dried up in the last few years. We are grateful to St. John's for their hospitality and for supporting us so well.



The queue to fill water containers at a village tap

So a heartfelt **thank you** to all those who helped us to raise funds for Christian Aid's fight against climate change in this strange year.

Sheila Porrer



An ingenious water carrier

Photos by Sue Claydon
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DIARY

Services are conducted by the Minister, except where shown

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Wed	02-Jun-21	Lunchtime Concert - CANCELLED	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	03-Jun-21	June Housegroup: Legacies of Slavery Contact Tim Rowland	2:30pm	Zoom
Thu	03-Jun-21	June Housegroup: Legacies of Slavery Contact Kelly O'Doherty	7:30pm	Zoom
Sun	06-Jun-21	Sunday Worship with Communion	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	06-Jun-21	Open Table Discussion Contact Alison Binney	7:00pm	Zoom
Mon	07-Jun-21	Officers' Meeting	4:00pm	Zoom
Wed	09-Jun-21	Lunchtime Concert - Yoon Seok Shin (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	09-Jun-21	World Church and Public Affairs Group	7:30pm	Zoom
Thu	10-Jun-21	June Housegroup: Legacies of Slavery Contact Tim Rowland	2:30pm	Zoom
Thu	10-Jun-21	June Housegroup: Legacies of Slavery Contact Kelly O'Doherty	7:30pm	Zoom
Sun	13-Jun-21	Sunday Worship led by Revd Dr Janet Tollington	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Wed	16-Jun-21	Lunchtime Concert - Giorgio Vardakis Trio	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	16-Jun-21	Elders' Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Thu	17-Jun-21	June Housegroup: Legacies of Slavery Contact Tim Rowland	2:30pm	Zoom
Thu	17-Jun-21	June Housegroup: Legacies of Slavery Contact Kelly O'Doherty	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Zoom

Sun	20-Jun-21	Sunday Worship	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	20-Jun-21	Open Table Communion Service Contact Alison Binney	7:00pm	Zoom
Wed	23-Jun-21	Lunchtime Concert - Alan Loader (baritone)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	24-Jun-21	June Housegroup: Legacies of Slavery Contact Tim Rowland	2:30pm	Zoom
Thu	24-Jun-21	June Housegroup: Legacies of Slavery Contact Kelly O'Doherty	7:30pm	Zoom
Sun	27-Jun-21	Sunday Worship led by Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Mon	28-Jun-21	Worship, Discipleship and Spirituality Group Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Sun	04-Jul-21	Sunday Worship with Communion	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	04-Jul-21	Open Table Discussion Contact Alison Binney	7:00pm	Zoom

LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

Sunday Worship is now being livestreamed to our Youtube channel.

From Saturday evening, there will be a link on the homepage of our website with a countdown to the livestream beginning on Sunday morning.

Depending on the copyright status of the prelude music; the livestream will commence at 10.45 or 11:00; the countdown will tell you when the livestream is due to start.

Once the service has ended, through the miracle of technology the same link will take you to a recording of the livestream

We are enormously grateful to David Flynn for all his hard work on the livestream technology; enabling us to continue to reach those who have found us during our online worship over the last year.

MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

Sunday June 6th

David Cornick - Bury St Edmunds

Deborah McVey - Sawston

Janet Tollington - Melbourn

Sunday June 13th

Liz Caswell - Buntingford

Nigel Uden - Fulbourn

Sunday June 20th

Chris Baker - Burwell

Janet Tollington - Stetchworth and Cheveley

Saturday June 26th

Janet Tollington - Salisbury (study day)

Sunday June 27th

Janet Bottoms - Melbourn

Liz Caswell - Burwell

Janet Tollington - Salisbury

Nigel Uden - Fulbourn

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Like every church, Downing Place URC is a living organism. It is no more standing still today than its constituent congregations ever did. That's apparent by the adventures of mission we are exploring, and by the redeveloped premises we are now occupying. Another sign of our vitality is as people come and go. We are always sorry to see friends move on, just as we rejoice when new faces appear. In our tradition, we emphasise our commitment to Jesus Christ and to his Church by becoming members. It's not about being better than those who aren't members, but rather an opportunity to affirm our desire to stand together in common witness, shared responsibility and mutual care. At so stimulating a time for Downing Place Church, when there is much on the horizon that is new, maybe this would be a good moment to make such a decision. If anyone would like to explore doing this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, and I will be delighted to have a conversation.

NPU

LECTIONARY

June 6th

Trinity I

Genesis 3.8-15

Psalms 130

II Corinthians 4.13-5.1

Mark 3.20-35

June 13th

Trinity II

Ezekiel 17.22-24

Psalms 92.1-4, 12-15

II Corinthians 5.6-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 4.26-34

June 20th

Trinity III

Job 38.1-11

Psalms 107.1-3, 23-32

II Corinthians 6.1-13

Mark 4.35-41

June 27th

Trinity IV

Lamentations 3.22-33

Psalms 30

II Corinthians 8.7-15

Mark 5.21-43

July 4th

Trinity V

Ezekiel 2.1-5

Psalms 123

II Corinthians 12.2-10

Mark 6.1-13





Singing together at last. We went outside to sing the final hymn of the last service at Westminster on May 2nd. Photo taken by Jess Uden”

MAGAZINE EDITOR:

Sheila Porrer

ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

Please send items to both Sheila Porrer and Ann Auger
(ann@downingplaceurc.org)

WEB EDITOR:

Ann Auger

Please send all items to be included in the July edition to both Sheila and Ann by the cut off date of **Wednesday 16 June 2021**

The July edition will be available during week ending **Friday 25 June**.