



**DOWNING PLACE  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
CAMBRIDGE**

# **PLACE MATTERS**



**ISSUE 31  
MAY 2021**

## CONTACT DETAILS – DOWNING PLACE URC

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

To ensure social distancing in the Church Office is preserved, Ann will be in the office on Tuesdays and Elaine will be around Wednesday to Monday each week.

We will continue to spend periods of time elsewhere in the building - please bear with us if we are away from the office when you call; or if it takes us a day or two to respond to enquiries.

*Cover picture – Nigel receives the “key” to our new premises at the handover ceremony on Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Photograph by Robert Porrer.*

## FROM THE MINISTER

The fifty days between the resurrection and Pentecost inspired some famous and fascinating Gospel narratives. Although Mark remains rather silent, the other three evangelists offer a complementary and at times contrasting medley of stories.



Matthew records Jesus's disciples returning home to Galilee, where he gives them the Great Commission, to go and make disciples, baptising them in the threefold name of God.

Luke takes us on the walk to Emmaus, where the disciples' hearts burn within them and the risen Christ is made known in the breaking of bread, even as the Holy Spirit is awaited sometime later.

And John, perhaps at the greatest length, tells of the risen Christ making himself known to Thomas and a secretive huddle in Jerusalem on Easter evening, clearly implying that the Holy Spirit is given on that occasion, as if Easter and Pentecost fall together. The Fourth Gospel, though, also takes us to Galilee, where Jesus stands on the beach to meet with Peter and the group who were fishing in the Sea of Tiberias. The one who had earlier denied even knowing Jesus now professes his love for him and is commissioned to tend Jesus' sheep and feed his lambs.

A busy six weeks in which still today this rich variety of Biblical scenes occupies our attention, nourishing our understanding and faith.

In 2021 these post Easter days have been busy for Downing Place Church, too. Soon after Easter we were able gradually to start reinhabiting the church buildings and by the end of April, we believe everything will have been returned to us by Coulson Building Group (CBG). Several hold ups, often occasioned by Covid-19, have inevitably delayed our return, but we have been eager to assure both Coulsons and Arch:angel's design team that we would be patient in order to get the best possible job. And such it is. The church's Building Group, which has met over forty times, hopes that the congregation's members and friends will be as delighted as it is with the end result. The premises' openness to the future alongside their careful preservation of our shared heritage feel just right. As such they point us back to the God who once came in Jesus and forward to live in the power of the ever-present Holy Spirit.

Once CBG has left the site, there is significant other work to be completed, such as installing the audio-visual equipment and the organ, neither of which were possible whilst the contractors were so liberally redistributing dust. We very

much hope, however, to be able to return to ‘in person’ worship later in May. On **16<sup>th</sup> May** we plan a service with just a few present to enable us to have a dry run with the new facilities. We hope to be able to live stream that service for people to view at home in real time. If that proves unmanageable, plan B is that there will be a short, recorded service available on YouTube.

Then on **23<sup>rd</sup> May**, the Feast of Pentecost, we hope to ordain and induct the newly elected elders. Those who wish to attend these services will be asked to book – details of how will be announced nearer the time. In addition, the service will be live streamed and, as for the past year, posted to those who do not use the internet.

By way of a date for your diary, I also want to let you know that for various reasons we have delayed the rededication weekend. It was to have been in May, but it is now scheduled for **6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November**. Services on the both the Saturday and the Sunday will include The Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the General Assembly, and on 6<sup>th</sup> the preacher will be The Revd Dr John Bradbury, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, and until last year one of our ministers. After that service we very much hope that coronavirus guidelines will enable us to have a tea, which will also provide an opportunity for the farewell to John that he and we were denied a year ago when the first lockdown was at its most intense.

So, please do keep a note of these dates. I know you will understand that the unpredictability of the pandemic means we cannot be categorical about the more detailed arrangements. In particular, we cannot yet know how many people will be able to be present, given safe distancing. For that reason we anticipate the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November events will require advance booking, and that until each person who wishes to has been able to book either the Saturday or the Sunday, most of us will not be able to attend both. But as the weeks go by, we will be in a better position to know more precisely what can and cannot be done.

In the meantime, the church’s liturgical journey from Easter to Pentecost is shaped by St Luke’s fifty days, rather than St John’s ‘all at once’. These six weeks provide a meaningful backdrop for us to learn how we best occupy the renewed buildings, and how to go out from them into the world. After all, *God’s calling to us* is to be Easter people, alive with the resurrected grace and truth of God as God is in Jesus, and *God’s present to us* is the Pentecostal Spirit, by whose gifts we are equipped for mission and ministry even as her fruit enable us to love as we have been loved.

In these significant and inspiring days, may God bless you with that peace, which is another of the season’s special gifts.

## REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE



*The organ pipes return*



*Reflections*

*Photographs by David Thomas*

## THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE URC VISITS DOWNING PLACE

On Easter Saturday John Bradbury and his parents were shown round our new Church by Nigel and members of the Building Group. John of course was a very active member of the Building Group when he was one of our Ministers until a year ago.



*John with Margaret Reynolds in the courtyard garden space*



*Touring the site*

*Photographs by Robert Porrer*

## MEL ROSE-A PROFILE

I was born in a Canadian Red Cross Hospital which sadly no longer exists. I grew up in Maidenhead, Berkshire with my parents and two older siblings plus dog and cats. I was christened as a baby and as a family we attended an Anglican Church in a nearby village, where I also attended Sunday School, and my sister was married there exactly 23 years ago today as I write this. I was confirmed in this Church in my early teens but didn't quite understand the seriousness of it until much later. My education growing up was in Christian all-girls schools. My secondary school in particular focused on a feminist outlook which provided me with a great foundation in life and I still believe that feminism and Christianity go hand in hand. During School I met my best friend Izumi whose family were from Japan. I was very fortunate to visit her in 2000 when I had left school after my A-Levels when her Dad's then job with Panasonic meant they had to move back. Strangely, in Japan I was reintroduced to Christianity as they attended a Free Church in Yokohama which was very different from the village Church I attended growing up.

I left to go to University in Cambridge at what was then known as Anglia Polytechnic University, now Anglia Ruskin University. Here I studied Music, enjoying socialising with like-minded people as well as learning different types of music from Jazz modules to playing in an Opera and singing traditional Church music in the Chamber Choir. Once I graduated I fell into another job in retail once a job in a music shop fell through, as I wanted to stay in Cambridge. Around this time, I came across Emmanuel after performing in some concerts



*With Izumi in December 2019, when she came to visit me in Cambridge.*



there as a student and was struck by the building's lovely mix of a traditional Church with a modern feel. When I was looking for Churches after I graduated, I immediately remembered Emmanuel and felt at home straight away. I became more involved in Church when I was introduced to the Young Adults Group. I loved our weekday evening meetings which mainly involved eating chocolate and drinking tea. We did of course have other activities like our annual punting trips, swimming at the Barrows' and going to the cinema. I made some wonderful friends through this group that I am still in touch with today.

I knew I always enjoyed working with children, especially after my nephews were born. So for a change of employment, I ended up working in an out of school club and would cover holidays, breakfast clubs and after-school clubs. Occasionally I would also cover lunchtimes at nurseries. After a few years I wanted a more regular income, so I made the transition to work in a school as a Teaching Assistant. I worked in one School in Arbury for over 8 years supporting children with additional needs. It could be challenging but also deeply rewarding as a lot of children were dependent on free school meals and came from difficult home backgrounds.

Up until this point my musical dream was one I kept up in my spare time. Emmanuel were very supportive with my musical skills. I would often perform in services on my violin and in the Church orchestra. In 2006 I was given an award from the John Hall Memorial Fund to aid my violin lessons which gave me a couple of opportunities to perform lunchtime recitals in Church. I sat for some time on the John Hall Fund Committee to give back my own time to their generosity to me.

I made the plunge to go freelance so I could finally use my musical skills full-time. I have a thriving private practice as well as being a visiting music teacher in local primary schools. I have performed in musicals and weddings plus local performances on my violin. Recently I took up a new instrument, the drums, for a Grade-one-athon. This is where music teachers were challenged to learn a brand new instrument and got sponsored to do a Grade 1 exam for charity. I loved it so much after gaining a distinction, that I bought the drum kit they lent me and continue to have lessons to this day. I joined in the last couple of years the local community Samba band Arco Iris so I could play socially with others.

I was drawn to the Church's work with the community, especially the Fair Shares Café. I used to enjoy not only being a customer there but a helper too in the summer holidays. I know this place meant a lot to the Church and broader community when I became a host to the Time for God volunteer Barbara, who worked there regularly. Everyone was welcome from Street People to the adults with additional needs and it became a second home to us all.



*Baking in the Emmanuel kitchen with Barbara Schade (TfG)  
and Beth Howe, now Humphreys (former Elder).*

More recently I was drawn to volunteer with Nitelite thanks to a talk by Janet Bottoms. We got all walks of life through our doors, some wanting just a chat and others needing medical attention. Having been out in town as a student in Cambridge I could see the huge benefits of this organisation. And once bars and clubs are open this important venture will be vital for the community as people come to terms with different types of loss from bereavement, employment, health, relationships which will ultimately affect their mental health. I am keen to support the Street Pastors in their new home back in Downing Place, where a lot of God's work will be shaped not only in the building itself but out onto the streets too.

## LUNCHTIME CONCERTS RETURN TO DOWNING PLACE

We're delighted to announce that our weekly Lunchtime Concert series will resume at 1pm on Wednesday 19 May, with a piano concert by Zacharias Brandman.

To begin with, numbers will be limited and pre-booking will be essential. Booking for each concert will go live on the homepage of our website the Wednesday before each concert. A small number of places will be available for those not online and walk-ins.

Full details of each concert will be added to our website as we receive them.

<https://downingplaceurc.org/lunchtime-concerts/>

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## LOCKDOWN QUIZ by Rosemary

During the past year -

1) We welcomed two lockdown babies

G - - - - - born in April 2020 and L - - - - born in May 2020

2) N - - - - - seeds were planted in church family gardens

3) During worship in July we heard the Parable of the S - - - - from a field in Gorton.

4) The Advent festival service 2020 took inspiration from A - - - - -

5) One of our favourite pieces of music was G - - - -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfdoC0YhBmE&t=148s>

6) Easter Cross made by E- - - - -



7) Where is this?



8) What are you looking forward to most?

9) What is your prayer for Downing Place Church?

## ‘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.

## **PASTORAL NEWS**

We look forward with much excitement to resuming worship in our new building, which has now been handed over to us by the contractors. However we shall have to be patient and proceed with caution as we gradually settle in and covid restrictions still apply. Further announcements to come.

# MONTHLY CAUSE FOR MAY

## CAMBRIDGE CARBON FOOTPRINT



How big an imprint do you leave on the earth?

As a church we have committed ourselves to the focus of the church's outward-facing life in the areas of SUSTAINABILITY, INCLUSIVITY and WELLBEING.

Where can we obtain the resources to make progress with these aims?

An immediately accessible and authoritative source is **Cambridge Carbon Footprint**.

- *CCF has a **vision** of low carbon communities which are sustainable, resilient and rewarding.*
- *Our **mission** is to inspire people to engage with climate change and empower them, individually and within their communities, to move towards low carbon living.*
- *We offer a varied programme of events and activities which will inspire people to engage with climate change and empower them to join together to build a low-carbon future.*
- *We aim to engage at many levels, including with individuals, community groups and local organisations.*
- *Some central themes of our work are: effective communication about climate change, home energy, transport, food, other consumption and waste.*
- *Our activities include: Open Eco-Homes; Circular Cambridge (sharing, swapping, repair resources, food hub); Repair Cafes; SWISH clothes exchange; Net Zero Now (community action on climate change); Thermal Imaging (energy conservation); The Cambridge Climate Change Charter.*
- *In the last full year we ran or supported over 72 different events attracting over 4,489 attendees, including 3,050 who were new to CCF.*

CCF is a small but influential organisation supported almost entirely by personal donations with occasional sponsorship. Your financial support for CCF will make a practical difference to the world we live in - both now and for a sustainable future. Visit our website: [www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](http://www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org). Consider participating in the events and becoming a regular supporter.

Bank: Co-op Bank. Sort code: 08-92-99 Account no: 6521664800

Office: The Bike Depot, 140 Cowley Rd, Cambridge CB4 0DL

William McVey

A Trustee of the registered charity no.1127376

**Ecumenical Accompaniers from the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (WCC-EAPPI) have joined residents, international non-governmental organizations, media, politicians and Israeli peace activists in protesting demolition actions by Israeli forces in the Khan al Ahmar Bedouin community.**

Khan al Ahmar is a Bedouin community located in East Jerusalem, in the E1 area. It is home to 32 families, 173 people, including 92 children and youths. The community has a mosque and a (very famous) school, which was built in 2009 and serves more than 150 children.

On 24 May last year, the Israel High Court approved the Israeli Defense Minister's order to demolish Khan Al-Ahmar village. The High Court has since issued a temporary restraining order freezing the demolition and ordered the state to respond to the Palestinians' claims.

A spokesperson from Khan Al Ahmar community, Abu Khamis, expressed his hope for solidarity from the international community. "A large majority of... Palestinian refugees have very few sources of income left. They live without basic infrastructure. Demolishing their homes and school would deprive them of all they have left."

Commitment for Life and the URC Mission Team continue to support the work of EAPPI, which was created in 2002 by the WCC based on a letter and an appeal from local church leaders to create an international presence in the country.

Thank you for your ongoing support of some of the most vulnerable communities in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.

*(Pictured right: this is Eid, a community leader in Khan al Ahmar village. Photo by Kevin*





## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021, SUNDAY MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> TO SATURDAY MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>.

Christian Aid Week is nearly here and your donations are needed more than ever in this pandemic year.

The 2021 appeal is focused on water – “Every Last Drop”, inviting our support for communities in Kenya suffering drought. Where we live, we are fortunate that even here in the driest part of the UK we are able to rely on a supply of clean water. Many people in Africa do not have that luxury. Christian Aid is doing all it can to get water to where it is needed, saving local people very long journeys transporting water, and enabling them to grow richer crops and make enough money to send their children to school and enjoy a better quality of life.



How can we in Downing Place help with the fundraising?

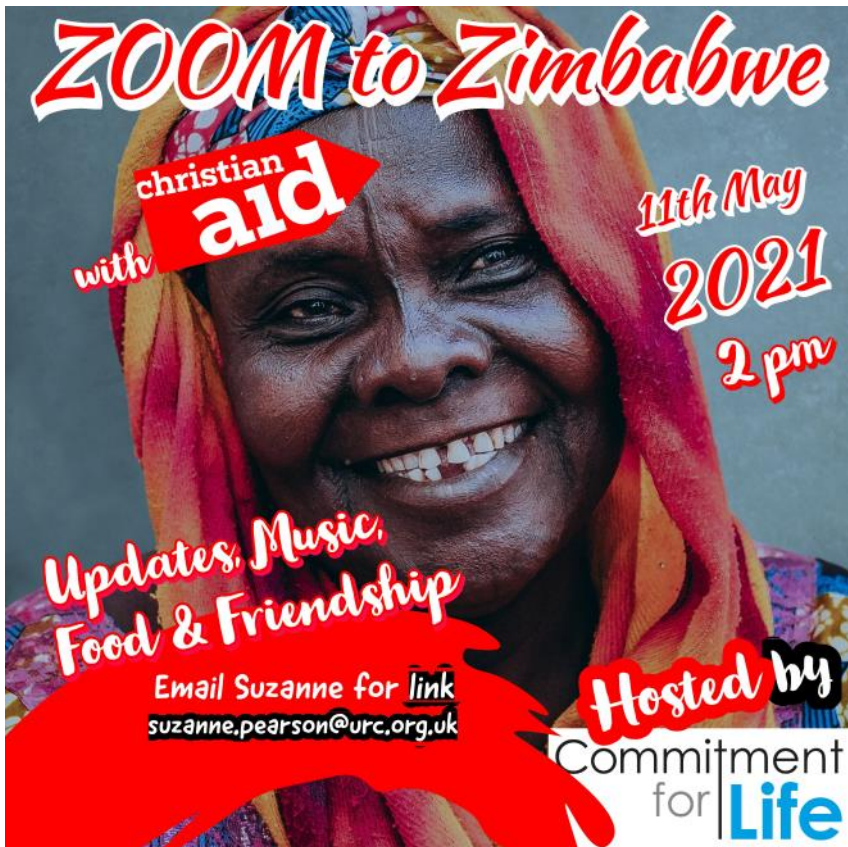
- First and foremost, **give generously**. We can't put envelopes in the Church for everyone this year, but watch out for news of the **e-envelopes** we hope to send out to those who are on-line – a simple way to give. If you prefer more traditional giving, you can **donate by phone** – call 020 7523 2269 to be taken through the steps. Or **send a cheque** made out to Christian Aid to Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London, SE1 7RT with a covering letter mentioning Downing Place URC.
- We are delighted that **Jane Bower** has offered to give one of her celebrated presentations – *Sandstone in My Blood* – about the very interesting house where she lived as a child - to raise funds for Christian Aid. This will be on Zoom on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30**. You can



register on the Church website – on the homepage or in the events section. There is an opportunity to donate to Christian Aid via the website as well as to register for the event..

- You are also warmly invited to the **Christian Aid service**, which this year is being held at St. John the Evangelist Church, Hills Road, on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 6 pm** and we are grateful to the Priest in Charge, James Shakespeare, for agreeing to host this. The service will be live, socially distanced and masked and there is a maximum number, so you will need to **book in advance**. Just contact me, Sheila Porrer, as soon as you can and I'll put your name down.

So when you wash the vegetables, run a bath, take a shower, flush the loo, water the garden, or get a drink from the tap think of all the people for whom these are just a dream and remember it's Christian Aid Week.



**ZOOM to Zimbabwe**

christian  
**aid**  
with

11th May  
**2021**  
2 pm

Updates, Music,  
Food & Friendship

Email Suzanne for link  
[suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk](mailto:suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk)

Hosted by  
Commitment  
for **Life**



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK SERVICE TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021

When? Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm

Where? St. John the Evangelist Church, Hills Road, Cambridge. CB2 8RN

How do I get there? St. John's Church is on the corner of Hills Road and Blinco Grove, on the 1, 7, and 13 bus routes towards Addenbrooke's. The bus stops right outside. There is a small car park behind the Church, and on-road parking nearby in Cavendish Avenue and Hills Avenue.

Is this a live service? Yes, and a chance to be with other Christian Aid supporters. The service will be socially distanced and masked.

Is there a speaker? Yes, Sue Claydon from Christian Aid will give a talk and a presentation. The service will be hosted by the Priest in Charge, James Shakespeare.

Do I need to book? Yes, definitely, as places will be limited to ensure safe social distancing and we need to know numbers in good time.

How do I book? Contact Sheila Porrer, the DPURC organiser, to give your name and reserve a place. Or you could ask Ann or Elaine to pass your name on to me.

See you there.



## **Christian Aid Week 2021**

### **SANDSTONE IN MY BLOOD**

*An illustrated talk via Zoom by JANE BOWER  
to raise funds for Christian Aid*

**Monday May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

Teacher, actress and author Jane Bower spent her first nine years at Ashwood, the fascinating historic home of the Victorian Poet Laureate, Alfred Austin, in Headingley, Leeds. The talk offers humorous and poignant portraits of both Austin and Ashwood, is illustrated throughout with photographs and lasts one hour.

**Book and make a donation now via our website:**

**<https://downingplaceurc.org/#sandstone>**



# DIARY

Services are conducted by the Minister, except where shown

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sun	02-May-21	A live service of Sunday Worship with Communion  Booking essential by Thursday 29 April - please contact Margaret Thompson	11:00am	Westminster College
Sun	02-May-21	Sunday Worship with Communion  A recorded service will be available from Saturday evening		Youtube
Sun	02-May-21	Open Table Discussion  Please contact Alison Binney	7:00pm	Zoom
Tue	04-May-21	Lectio Divina  Please contact Deborah McVey	8:30am	Zoom
Thu	06-May-21	World Church and Public Issues Group Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Sun	09-May-21	Sunday Worship led by the Revd David Cornick  A recorded service will be available from Saturday evening		Youtube
Mon	10-May-21	Sandstone in my Blood  A Fundraising Event for Christian Aid (see page 17)	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	11-May-21	Elders' Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	11-May-21	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Thu	13-May-21	Ascension Day	All day	
Sun	16-May-21	Sunday Worship - a live service Please see Owen's comments at the end of the Calendar.  Limited space available - please book with Margaret Thompson	10:30am	Downing Place

Sun	16-May-21	Church Meeting with Annual Report and Accounts	12:30pm	Zoom
Sun	16-May-21	Open Table Communion Service	7:00pm	Zoom
Tue	18-May-21	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Wed	19-May-21	Lunchtime Concert - Zacharias Brandman (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place
Sun	23-May-21	Sunday Worship for Pentecost With Ordination and Induction of Elders	11:00am	Downing Place
Tue	25-May-21	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Wed	26-May-21	Lunchtime Concert - Ivan Hovorun (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place
Sun	30-May-21	Sunday Worship for Trinity Sunday	11:00am	Downing Place
Wed	02-Jun-21	Lunchtime Concert - Seth Schultheis (piano) with Carlos Martinez (violin)	1:00pm	Downing Place
Thu	03-Jun-21	June Housegroup: Legacies of Slavery (see page 12)	2:30pm & 7.30pm	Zoom
Sun	06-Jun-21	Sunday Worship with Communion	11:00am	Downing Place
Sun	06-Jun-21	Open Table Discussion	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Zoom

### **Service and Annual Church Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May:**

It is hoped that the first service in the newly redeveloped Downing Place buildings will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> May, followed by the Annual Church Meeting. Only a limited number of people (still to be determined) will be able to attend in person – and you will be invited to register in due course - but it is hoped the service will be live-streamed to others online. The Church Meeting will be held in virtual form by Zoom.

Subject to the agreement of the Elders on 11<sup>th</sup> May, the service will begin at 10.30am and the Church Meeting at 12.30pm, allowing time for those attending the service to return home before the meeting. There will not be any Zoom Coffee that day.

*Owen Saxton*

# MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

## **Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Chris Baker - Melbourn  
Deborah McVey - Sawston (via Zoom)  
David Thompson - Buntingford (via Zoom)  
Janet Tollington - Chappel (via Zoom)

## **Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>**

Penny Flynn - Melbourn URC  
Janet Tollington - Buntingford (via Zoom)  
Nigel Uden - Fulbourn URC

## **Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>**

Penny Flynn - Fulbourn URC

## **Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

David Cornick - Buntingford  
Janet Tollington - Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford

## **Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Janet Tollington - Stetchworth and Cheveley

## **Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>**

David Cornick - Bury St Edmunds  
Janet Tollington - Melbourn

Many of these services are being held by Zoom; although there is some degree of uncertainty about some of them at present! If you would like to take part, please contact the relevant Church using the contact details below:

Buntingford: [buntingford.urc@talktalk.net](mailto:buntingford.urc@talktalk.net)

Chappel: [michael@chappelurc.co.uk](mailto:michael@chappelurc.co.uk)

Sawston: [secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk)

Please send any June preaching commitments to Ann by Wednesday 19 May.

# LECTIONARY

## MAY

**Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Easter V**

Acts 8.26-40

Psalm 22.25-31

I John 4.7-21

John 15.1-8

**Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter VI**

Acts 10.44-48

Psalm 98

I John 5.1-6

John 15.9-17

**Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Ascension Day**

Acts 1.1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1.15-23

Luke 24.44-53

**Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday after Ascension**

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

I John 5.9-13

John 17.6-19

**Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Pentecost**

*The Ordination and Induction of Elders*

Acts 2.1-21 or Ezekiel 37.1-14

Psalm 104.24-34, 35b

Romans 8.22-27 or Acts 2.1-21

John 15.26-27 and 16.4b-15

**Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Trinity Sunday**

Isaiah 6.1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8.12-17

John 3.1-17

## JUNE

**Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Trinity I**

I Samuel 8.4-20 and 11.14-15

Psalm 138

II Corinthians 4.13-5.1

Mark 3.20-35

## A PANDEMIC PRAYER FROM THE URC

Lord of life,

as we begin to step out along the pathway of easing lockdown,  
be with us.

Help us to take it slowly and carefully,  
heeding the encouragement to take care.

We have shown love to our neighbour through the restrictions we have  
followed,

may we not stop now.

In our desire for 'normality' give us patience;  
let us not forget all that has been.

May we act wisely, show mercy and live love.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.



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Please send all items to be included in the June edition to both Sheila and Ann by  
the cut off date of **Wednesday 19 May 2021**

The June edition will be available during week ending **Friday 28 May**.