



DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE

PLACE MATTERS



MONTHLY MAGAZINE – ISSUE 18
MARCH 2020

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FROM REVD DR JOHN BRADBURY

This year at Downing Place, as things have turned out, we begin Lent not with the traditional readings about Christ being tempted in the desert, but by the final service in our series thinking about Holy Communion. We will focus our thinking particularly on what it means to speak of **Christ's presence in Holy Communion**. Where we might normally reflect upon Christ's resisting turning the stones of the desert into bread, we will be reflecting on the gift of Christ's coming to us through bread and wine.



This might not be the traditional liturgical way of beginning Lent, but it is perhaps not an inappropriate one. For every celebration of Holy Communion is in some senses a telling of the whole story of Christ and an enacting of the whole drama of salvation. At the start of Lent we traditionally dwell on the broken, frail and sinful nature of humanity, a frailty that we know so often through temptation. As Christ experiences temptation in the wilderness, he shares the full experience of our humanity. He rejects the temptation to make his own comfort and survival the number one priority, he rejects the miraculous sign that might lead to religious fame and fortune, and rejects the desire to worship something other than God and in so doing rejects the power structures of the world that seek wealth and power. Holy Communion, in its own way, draws us **into an experience of God's Kingdom that lives out precisely the opposite of those temptations.**

However elaborate celebrations of Holy Communion become in some traditions of the church, at its heart lies the simple elements of bread and wine. A piece of bread or wafer, and a sip of wine or grape juice is the very definition of a modest kind of an act. And as we come to the table, we do so recognising that we cannot feed ourselves, just as Christ does not turn stones into bread to feed himself. An intrinsic part of every act of worship, particularly at communion, is the confession of our brokenness and our sin. In some traditions, in some periods of time, without individual confession of sin the journey to Christ's table was not possible. For our Presbyterian forebears, the 'communion season' would include an entire penitential service in preparation for receiving communion. Every visit to Christ's table is an admission that we cannot in our own power earn our way

into the Kingdom. We are too frail, too tempted, too bound up in unjust structures in the world that mean that even the good that we would do has a shadow side to it. Our motives are always too mixed, even when we do good. We cannot earn our way to salvation, but rather Christ reaches out to us, and leads us to the Kingdom. At the table, Christ reaches out to us in bread and wine, food for the journey, restoring our brokenness, binding our wounds, and renewing us in the fashion of the Kingdom.

Every act of Communion is also an eschewing of the ways of the world that seek **power, wealth, might and glory**. **At Christ's table there is neither rank nor status**. Lord and servant sit side by side, equally in the need of grace. For a moment, at that table, the equality of the Kingdom gets lived out in the midst of the here and now of life in the world. Just for a moment, as Christ rejected power and might as he was tempted by the devil, we too are invited into a moment where power and might are laid aside.

Christ's temptation in the wilderness is the start of the Lenten journey, that will end at the cross before the joyous moment of Easter. And each and every communion service takes us on that Lenten journey. It may start with the acknowledgement of our brokenness, but it leads us through the cross to the celebration of the resurrection and ascension of Christ. The living Christ is still present with us today we believe, a reality we both experience and proclaim in the power of the Spirit every time we gather at the table.

So as we move from a period of consideration of Holy Communion, into the journey of Lent, let us allow ourselves to be taken on a journey in this penitential period. A journey that moves us from our brokenness, to the brokenness of Christ on the cross, to the resurrection of Christ and the empty tomb, and the **promise of our own transformation into members of Christ's body, sharing his resurrected new life, lived out for the sake of the blessing of the world**. That is a story of transformation we are invited to dwell with in a particular intensity in this Lenten period, just as we dwell with it in a different sort of intensity every time we respond to Christ's invitation to join him at table and share bread and wine.

Yours in Christ,

John.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - LENT 2020

Match the pancake to the country

Hot cakes	Italy
Pikelets	Sweden
<u>Nockerin</u>	China
Pancakes	France
Egg rolls	Austria
Crepes	USA
Pfannkuchen	England
<u>Palacsinta</u>	Israel
Cannelloni	Norway
Blintzes	Australia
Tortillas	Germany
<u>Lefser</u>	Wales
Blini	Mexico
<u>Plattar</u>	Russia
Crempog	Hungary

Dear Jesus, as we enjoy Shrove Tuesday with a pancake or two,
we thank you for the fun and fellowship we share.

Lord help us to think.

We can colour the picture - What do we WANT – what do we NEED?



Result of the *"For the love of God . . ."* concert on February 15th

IAN DE MASSINI (Joint Director of Music at DPURC) writes: On Saturday afternoon, February 15th, the membership of Downing Place United Reformed Church put on a fund-raising concert of music, poetry, and prose, in aid of the 'PETALS' charity. I am absolutely thrilled to inform you that the event, raised £1,018.43: This is truly outstanding!



Nigel accompanies Ian singing Schumann's 'Mondnacht'

The 75-minute concert featured both of the church's ministers, John Bradbury and Nigel Uden, playing the piano in various roles; as a soloist (John's emotionally charged, and superbly paced, piece of Liszt based on Petrarchan poetry), as an accompanist (Nigel's sensitive, and timeless, playing of the piano part to a love-song by Schumann), and as a duet (their peaceful performance of the theme music to *Listen with Mother*, complete with a 60-year old teddy-bear seated on the piano, listening to them!).



John playing dazzling Liszt

We had our own Church Choir perform two pieces of sacred choral music, concerning the love of God, separated by nearly 500 years - music by Thomas Tallis, Organist of Waltham Abbey until the abbey was dissolved, in 1541, during the Dissolution of the Monasteries; and music by Peter Nardone, current Organist of Worcester Cathedral).

My own choir, *Cambridge Voices*, sang a very varied sequence of settings of verses from the Old Testament book, The Song of Solomon, ranging from Orlando Gibbons' hymn-like settings of the early 17th century, through to the exquisitely restrained, contemporary setting of the famous text, *Many waters cannot quench love*, by Ivan Moody, plus my recent setting of the poem, *In Memoriam*, by Alfred Tennyson.

My fellow Director of Music, Mark Dawes, superbly accompanied the cellist, Philippa Jones, in their heart-wrenching performance of the theme-music to the 1990 film, *Truly, Madly, Deeply*, featuring music by Johann Sebastian Bach.

And, as the event came to a close, we then had a quietly-spoken speech, but nonetheless very powerful, and moving, speech from one of the '*PETALS*' charity counsellors, Karen Burgess, reminding us of the power of love and understanding.



Jane Bower and Jennifer Bastable as Rossini's yowling cats

The whole event was brilliantly held together through the skilful narration of Jane Bower. Her intelligent, inflected readings of some of the most well-known verses from the Bible, concerning love, illuminated those time-worn passages with an understanding that enabled the listener to take in those famous verses with a freshness and deeper comprehension. Jane also collaborated with another member of our church, Jennifer Bastable, in a hilariously vivid rendition of the famous *Cats' Duet*; the fur was positively flying!

Many people, backstage, so to speak, helped to put on this unforgettable, and HUGELY successful, event, and I apologise if I have missed anyone out. I would particularly like to thank our church manager, Ann Auger, for coming in on what is normally her day off, and quietly setting up the hall, with all the refreshments on display, ready for the post-concert reception: the wonderful spread of finger-food had been generously provided by all the performers, and worked a real treat! And last, but not least, I am in complete admiration of the brilliantly eye-catching design of the concert poster, created by church-member, Lynette Williamson.

A recording was made of the whole event. The plan is to upload this private recording onto the church website.

I leave you with details of the charity, 'PETALS'. 'Petals' (*Pregnancy Expectations Trauma and Loss Society*) provides a specialised counselling service at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, Queen Charlotte's and St Mary's

Hospitals in London, the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, Ipswich Hospital, Colchester Hospital, West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds, and Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow. 'Petals' was set up as a charity in 2011 by a group of healthcare professionals working in maternity care, alongside women who had experienced first-hand the loss of a baby, or trauma during birth. The purpose of Petals is to fund a specialist counselling service and psychological care for parents who suffer emotional distress in pregnancy and birth, and to raise awareness of these issues. <https://petalscharity.org>



Mark conducts the choirs in the final hymn, with rousing piano accompaniment

Photographs by Kelly O'Doherty and Robert Porrer

PROFILE – ALISON BINNEY



I was born and brought up in Norwich so I suppose I am an East Anglian. My grandfather was a Methodist Minister so my father, having moved around with him as a child, opted for putting down roots in one place, in Norwich. In fact my grandfather had been a Minister here in Cambridge, at Castle St. Church and Chesterton. I went to a large Norwich comprehensive school, where I was a bit of an all-rounder, but an especially keen reader and writer. So English was the obvious choice for a degree.

I read English here at Clare College, but first I had a year out working with adults with learning difficulties in a group home in Brighton. I enjoyed the work and also living by the sea, and it made a good break from studying.

I stayed in Cambridge to do a Masters in American literature. I realised that the parts of the course I really enjoyed were the seminars where we explored and discussed and learned from each other, and this made me wonder if I should

become a teacher, rather than a researcher or an academic. Now both my parents were teachers and I had always thought this was something I would never do, but I went along to the Careers Service and filled in an on-line questionnaire – truthfully – and of course teaching came out top of the list.

I went to Oxford to do my PGCE year, which might have been a mistake. If I **had gone to a different kind of University I wouldn't have been tempted to make comparisons with Cambridge, usually unfavourable ones.** But I completed the year and started applying for jobs. I knew I wanted to move elsewhere, towards the North, somewhere where my salary would go further, and somewhere with **fine countryside where I could walk, if possible with hills, one thing you don't get in East Anglia.**

I got the first job I applied for, in Richmond in Yorkshire. I discovered later that my Head of Department and very supportive mentor was the sister of Margaret Thompson here in Emmanuel! There were lots of things I loved about the job. The school had a varied intake – **farmers' children from Swaledale, army children** from the nearby base, as well as town children, so diverse if not multicultural. I lived in a converted barn – always a dream of mine - on a hillside and I was able to make the most of the hills.

But after four years I began to take stock. Richmond was the sort of place where people tended to stay around, so that meant less chance of promotion. It was quite a small society and no gay scene, so there was less potential to meet a partner. And then my mother in Norwich became ill, and I was a long way away. She died three years later, and I was so grateful to have been closer to her during those years.

So I started looking. Cambridge was an obvious choice, and a post came up at Netherhall school. I moved there in 2001 as second in the English department, later becoming Head of Department. I also took up a post teaching on the PGCE course one day a week on secondment. This continued until 2016, when a period of illness brought me two months off work and another chance to take stock. I had been working flat out, with little chance to develop my writing. I decided to take a salary cut, give up being Head of Department, and now I work two days a week in school, two days on the PGCE course, and take one day to devote to writing.

I write poetry, not novels, that is where my creativity is focused. I have entered – and won – **competitions, and had a few poems published in magazines, but I'm**

now looking for a publisher to produce a collection of twenty or so of my poems. **My writing day is precious and I try to make the most of it. If I don't feel like writing poetry when I sit at my desk I will read poetry, edit earlier work or contact publishers or prepare a collection for publication, until I am in a writing mode again.**

I really like the work/life balance I have established. I enjoy what I do, and I have more time for other things, including Church. Music has always been important to me – I play the piano and violin, and at Richmond I accompanied the school choirs. We took a school party to the west coast of the USA and performed in several concerts over there. Now I play the violin in Downing Place, and the piano at home. **I'm also very keen on the outdoor life** – my partner, Emily, and I enjoy long distance walking, and have recently done a 50 km. walk in the Peak District and want to do more. I row with Chesterton Rowing Club and used to row for my College as a student.



Alison with Emily, about to tackle a 50 km. walk

Emily is a Senior Peer Support Worker in mental health. We met after I returned to Cambridge, playing Sunday afternoon football with friends. I had realised I was gay as a teenager, had come out during my third year at Cambridge, after much support from within and outside the College, helping me to understand that I could be a Christian and gay. Emily and I got together in 2002 and were one of the first couples to become civil partners when that became possible in 2006. My rowing club made an arch of oars for us after the ceremony, and presented us

with a painted one, which is now on our wall at home.

I've always had a Church life. I was brought up in the Methodist Church in Norwich, then attended my College chapel in Cambridge. I did try the Methodist church, but didn't really feel I belonged there. In my final year I was involved with the Student Christian Movement, which actually met in Emmanuel, my first experience of the building. Through the SCM I volunteered one summer with the Iona community, working in the coffee shop. Iona is a very special place and the experience was enriching. In Richmond it was the Parish Church, though I didn't feel confident that they embraced LGBT people wholeheartedly. So when I came to Cambridge I made a big effort to find the right Church, attending eight or nine different Churches before I found Emmanuel, having glimpsed as I walked past the sort of things which were happening inside. I began to feel at home, especially after the Church was accredited as a Safe Space and a venue for same sex marriages.



At Open Table

Now we have Open Table, and I am so pleased at how this is going. In the autumn of 2017 I had been thinking about how we as a Church could become even more inclusive and welcoming, and came across Open Table, a movement founded in Liverpool. At the same time John, our Minister, had the same idea – he had worked with one of the founders in Liverpool in the past. I visited an Open Table service in London, and in July 2018 we held our first Open Table

service at Downing Place. We had a stall at the Pride Festival last June, and then at the Freshers' Fair. Our numbers have been growing, and we now have up to 25 people at our services, and over a hundred on our mailing list. The next stage was to introduce a monthly bring and share supper, simply for fellowship.

We know that some of our people have been marginalised in their own communities so we try to be as inclusive as possible – full disabled access, vegetarian food so everyone can share it, gluten free bread for the communion and non alcoholic wine. Our services are less formal - we sit in a circle to share the bread and wine. Open Table is ecumenical – we have people from all denominations, some also have their own Church, while some rarely enter a Church at all. Some might have had bad experiences in other churches because of their sexuality. We've also had people who would like to set up an Open Table service in their own Churches and have come to see what happens.

Finally, everyone is welcome, it's not just for LGBT+ people, and members of the Downing Place congregation who have come along have found it a different and rewarding way to worship.

Alison is an Elder of Downing Place URC, a member of the Evangelism and Service group, and editor of the Downing Place website. Alison's poem, Grace, is below.

Grace

That moment when the whole
knotty world curls
around a tired
bee fumbling
on the
ground,
then
curls
again
around
the dark
red proboscis
reaching out to
your teaspoon of honey
and staying while you watch.

BUILDING WORK UPDATE

Downing Place members enjoyed a visit to Downing Place in February to view progress so far on the Sanctuary; bare without furniture as we have not seen it before. Members commented on the sense of light and space, and it is hoped that this will help with the decisions on seating to be made at March's Church Meeting (see p44)



Photograph by Jack Boyns of Archangel Architects

MARCH DIARY

Sunday 1st	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Revd Dr John Bradbury COLLECTION FOR FOODBANK	Emmanuel
Monday 2nd	2.30pm	Lent Study Group	At the home of John & Elizabeth Whitehorn
	4.00pm	Officers' Meeting	Emmanuel
Tuesday 3rd	10.00am	Contractors' Meeting	Emmanuel
	2.30pm	Cherry Hinton Road Fellowship Speaker: Ted Dennison 'When you come, bring the books'.	St Athanasios Church, Cherry Hinton Road
	2.30pm	The Word Together Bible Study Group: Lent Course	Fulbourn URC
Wednesday 4th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert: Ivan Hovorun (piano)	Emmanuel
Thursday 5th	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One	Emmanuel
Friday 6th	10.30am 2.30pm 7.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Services: Little St Mary's Fulbourn URC Mill Road Baptist	

Sunday 8th	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship led by Revd Dr John Proctor <i>(NB Cambridge Half Marathon - Trumpington Street closed)</i>	Emmanuel
	7.00pm	Open Table Bring & Share Supper	Emmanuel
Monday 9th	2.30pm	Lent Study Group	At the home of John & Elizabeth Whitehorn
	7.00pm	Film Night: Mrs Lowry and Son	Contact Rosemary Johnston
Tuesday 10th	2.30pm	Cherry Hinton Road Fellowship Speaker: Wendy Roe on the Holiday Forum	St Athanasios' Church, Cherry Hinton Road
	2.30pm	Tuesday Club Speaker: Revd Dr John Bradbury 'Life in Faith and Music' .	At the home of Ailsa Buchanan
	2.30pm	The Word Together Bible Study Group: Lent Course	Fulbourn URC
	7.30pm	Lent Study Group	At the home of David and Penny Flynn
Wednesday 11th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert Miguel Mandelli (guitar) Stephen Armstrong (piano)	Emmanuel
	7.30pm	Buildings Group	Emmanuel

Thursday 12th	10.30am	Ferried Friends	At the home of Rosemary Johnston
	11.00am	Midweek Worship with Communion led by Revd Nigel Uden	Emmanuel
	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One	Emmanuel
	7.30pm	Singing Housegroup	At the home of David & Penny Flynn
Saturday 14th	10.00-12.00	Christian Aid Roadshow	Emmanuel
Sunday 15th	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship led by Revd Dr John Bradbury Followed by Church Meeting	Emmanuel
Monday 16th	2.30pm	Lent Study Group	Both at the home of John & Elizabeth Whitehorn
	7.30pm	Book Group Meeting 'A Man called Ove' by Frederik Backman	
Tuesday 17th	2.30pm	Cherry Hinton Road Fellowship Speaker: Revd Tony Spring 'What's in a name?'	St Athanasios Church, Cherry Hinton Road
	2.30pm	The Word Together Bible Study Group: Lent Course	Fulbourn URC
	7.30pm	Lent Study Group	At the home of David & Penny Flynn
Wednesday 18th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert: Graeme Mitchison Ensemble	Emmanuel

Thursday 19th	12.30pm	Gibson Lunch	Emmanuel
	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One	Emmanuel
	7.30pm	Centre for Cambridge Churches Forum meeting	Emmanuel
Saturday 21st	10.30am-4.00pm	Eastern Synod Council Meeting	Colchester Lion Walk URC
Sunday 22nd	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship led by Maureen Kendall	Emmanuel
	6.00pm	Evening Worship with Communion led by Revd Paul Whittle	Fulbourn URC
	7.30pm	Open Table Worship for LGBT+ folk and their allies. Refreshments from 7pm.	Emmanuel
Monday 23rd	2.30pm	Lent Study Group	At the home of John & Elizabeth Whitehorn
Tuesday 24th	2.30pm	Cherry Hinton Road Fellowship Speaker: Sarah Glover from <i>Born to be beautiful</i> on her work with victims of trafficking	St Athanasios Church, Cherry Hinton Road
	2.30pm	The Word Together Bible Study Lent Group	Fulbourn URC
	7.30pm	Lent Study Group	At the home of David & Penny Flynn

Wednesday 25th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert: Alicja Rokita (piano)	Emmanuel
	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	Emmanuel
Thursday 26th	11.00am	Midweek Worship led by Revd Dr John Bradbury	Emmanuel
	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One	Emmanuel
	7.30pm	Singing Housegroup	At the home of David and Penny Flynn
Sunday 29th	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Augur Pearce	Emmanuel
Monday 30th	2.30pm	Lent Study Group	At the home of John & Elizabeth Whitehorn
Tuesday 31st	2.30pm	Cherry Hinton Road Fellowship: Speaker Pam Richardson, Christian Aid	St Athanasios Church, Cherry Hinton Road
	2.30pm	The Word Together Bible Study Group: Lent Course	Fulbourn URC
	7.30pm	Lent Study Group	At the home of David & Penny Flynn

DOWNING PLACE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER TOPICS

MARCH 2020

Below are the Bible readings we will be following in worship at Downing Place during March. You are invited to read them before coming to church. The highlighted passage may be the focus for 'Sharing Together'.

Overleaf are prayer topics for each day, suggesting church and related matters, and a reminder of regular weekly events that need our prayer support.

On the back page find the names of church members preaching elsewhere this month.

March 1st Genesis 2. 15-17; 3. 1-7; Romans 5. 12-19;
Matthew 4. 1-11

March 8th Genesis 12. 1-4a; Romans 4. 1-5, 13-17;
John 3. 1-17

March 15th Exodus 17. 1-7; Romans 5. 1-11;
John 4. 5-42

March 22nd Mothering Sunday: 1.Samuel 16. 1-13;
Ephesians 5. 8-14; John 9. 1-41



ARROW PRAYERS FOR MARCH 2020

1. **St David's Day.** Pray for the Church in Wales, a united church, and for those congregations who worship in the Welsh language.
2. Pray for the Church House Groups which start today and tomorrow, and continue throughout March. Pray for new insights and friendships as friends listen, talk and pray together.
3. Pray for Ann and Elaine in the Church Office, and for the different groups that use our buildings, and for the caretakers and cleaners.
4. Pray for the Group Therapy Centre, and for those whom they support in many different ways, and thank God for their ministry.
5. Pray for Knit One, Give One, and for the many groups they support both at home and overseas by knitting garments and blankets.
6. **Women's World Day of Prayer.** Pray for the Church in Zimbabwe – and for a reduction in tension among the different tribal groups.
7. Pray for the Joint Public Issues Team conference today, and thank God for our work and prayer together on social action and community issues.
8. Pray for Downing Place lay preachers and retired ministers who are leading worship today in different churches across the District.
9. Pray for the Film Night in Histon and for the discussion and reflection **that members share together at the Johnstons' home.**
10. Pray for the Tuesday Fellowship at Cherry Hinton Road, and for the Greek Orthodox Congregation who allow CHR to use their buildings.
11. Pray for the Wednesday Concerts at Emmanuel, for the performers who share their talent and for Ann, Moyra and Tony who welcome them.
12. Pray for the Ferried Friends and their drivers, and thank God for the fellowship shared; and for the Singing House Group in the evening.
13. Pray for young people out in Cambridge tonight and for the Cambridge Street Pastors who support those in distress.
14. Pray for the Christian Aid Road Show this morning and for the work of Christian Aid in supporting groups affected by climate change.
15. Pray for the Church Meeting - for the discussion and decisions that are made; for the Church Secretaries: Margaret and Owen, and the Elders.
16. Pray for those who are struggling to make ends meet, and pray for Social Workers and Food Banks and all seeking to support them.
17. **St Patrick's Day.** Pray for the Churches in Ireland – and for the social work they share in bringing the two communities together.
18. Pray for the doctors and nurses and all involved with caring for the sick –

- particularly visitors and chaplains, and those in Arthur Rank House.
19. Pray for health support workers – for those in training, and for people who receive the support they need to manage their daily lives.
 20. Today is the first day of spring! Thank God for any signs of spring you can see around you - fresh leaves, flowers, vegetables and thank God!!
 21. Pray for the Eastern Synod meeting in Colchester, for Paul Whittle, the Moderator, and the Synod Officers and members.
 22. Mothering Sunday. Thank God for your mothers and all who have mothered you over the years – and pray for mothers and families **struggling to make ends meet. Pray for our children’s ministry team.**
 23. Pray for Eddies, funded by Edmund Trust, who support people with learning difficulties into work, and provide stimulating training.
 24. Pray for those who need care with support to remain in their own homes – and pray for the carers who provide friendship and fellowship.
 25. Pray for the Elders Meeting this evening – thank God for their commitment and support of the congregation in this time of change.
 26. Pray for the Midweek morning worship, and thank God for our ministers and lay preachers who prepare these services twice a month.
 27. Pray for the street life people who live on our streets, and for those who help and support them to turn their lives around.
 28. This is the last night for the 2020 Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project – thank God for all who helped, and pray for those who received food and friendship on Saturday nights for the past four months.
 29. Pray for our Ministers, John and Nigel, as they support the needs of DPURC, as well as many other commitments for the URC.
 30. Pray for your own family and neighbours, naming any who are having a hard time at the moment – and lift them up to God
 31. **Pray for the redevelopment team as the transformation of St Columba’s building is slowly turning into Downing Place URC, Cambridge!!**



Church Members Leading Worship in March 2020

March 1st: Liz Caswell – Melbourn
Penny Flynn - Bassingbourn
Janet Tollington – **St Andrew's, Peterborough**
Nigel Uden – Isle of Man
Paul Whittle – Cambourne

March 8th: Chris Baker – Stetchworth and Cheveley
Janet Bottoms – Haverhill
Liz Caswell – Bassingbourn
Janet Tollington - Buntingford
Nigel Uden – Fulbourn
Paul Whittle – Sawston

March 15th: Janet Bottoms – Ashwell
Janet Tollington – Stetchworth and Cheveley
Nigel Uden – Lancaster
Paul Whittle – Wickhambrook

March 22nd: Liz Caswell – Fowlmere
Penny Flynn - Fulbourn (am)
Maureen Kendall – DPURC
David Tatem – Whittlesford
Nigel Uden – Meersbrook Park, Sheffield
Paul Whittle - Fulbourn (pm)

March 29th: Chris Baker - Burwell
Janet Bottoms – Buntingford
Liz Caswell – Haverhill
Augur Pearce – DPURC
Janet Tollington – Chappell URC (evening)
Nigel Uden – Darwen, Lancashire
Paul Whittle - Bassingbourn

MARCH SPECIAL CAUSE: OLIVE TREE PROJECT (EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST)

Embrace the Middle East website tells us:

The olive tree is a universal symbol of peace and a powerful symbol of Palestinian rootedness in their land. But in the political turmoil of the Middle East today, trees that have survived hundreds of years have become casualties in the struggle for the control of the land. Olive trees are also a major source of income for Palestinians for centuries, with trees covering over 50% of agricultural land.

The olive and olive oil industry support the livelihoods of around 100,000 Palestinian families. Since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank began in 1967, Palestinian farmers have lost hundreds of thousands of olive trees.

Trees planted and cared for by generations of the same family have been destroyed or uprooted as Israeli settlers seek to claim Palestinian land as their own.

Richard Lewney spoke movingly to the December meeting of the Area Partnership about the URC visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories last September. ‘Every person we met had the same request: “Tell our stories,”’ writes Diana Paulding, another participant, in the December/January issue of Reform. She goes on, ‘Jack Giacaman, a Palestinian man who owns an olive wood shop in Bethlehem, told us how the wall infringes on both everyday life and culture. His family have owned olive groves for generations..... Olive farming is integral to Palestinian culture – children get time off school when the olives are ripe, to help pick them.... The separation barrier was built between Jack’s home in town and the olive groves outside it. If Jack wants to visit his fields now, he has to get a permit to go through the checkpoint and has to have the gates to his own fields unlocked for him by Israeli soldiers.’

Diana, who worshipped at Emmanuel when she was a student in Cambridge, will be joining us on March 15th to commend The Olive Tree Project to us as our Special Cause for March. The cost of providing each tree is £15.

Cheques should be made payable to ‘Embrace the Middle East’. Please write ‘*The Olive Tree Project*’ on the reverse. Please use the Embrace the ME envelopes to Gift Aid your donation if you are a taxpayer.

Chris Wright



roadshow

Christian Aid are holding their latest Roadshow in Emmanuel on Saturday 14th March.

Malcolm Guite, well known Cambridge poet and priest, will launch the event and Pam Richardson, our local Christian Aid representative, will talk about her recent visit to Ethiopia with Christian Aid.

Please come along and find out about:

- plans for this year's Christian Aid Week
- Christian Aid action on climate change
- other Christian Aid campaigns
- changes in Christian Aid and how they will affect Downing Place

And take the opportunity to ask Pam anything else you would like to know about Christian Aid.

Date: Saturday 14th March

Time: 10 till 12, refreshments provided

Place: Emmanuel building, Downing Place URC.

All welcome! Please see also poster on p42.

PS, if you can't make the 14th March in Cambridge the Roadshow will also be visiting the Ely Cathedral Centre on 24th March 2020 at 7pm. with speaker Canon Nigel Cooper.

[More news about Christian Aid.](#)

Christian Aid Week this year runs from Sunday May 10th until Saturday May 16th.

We plan to start early with our first supermarket collection at Waitrose Trumpington on Thursday May 7th. Those people who volunteered to hold a bucket last year found it a congenial way to raise money – seated under cover with a partner – and no knocking on doors! So do think whether you could put Thursday May 7th in your diary and do a stint with a collecting bucket. We hope to have more dates soon

On Sunday May 10th the Christian Aid service will be at St. John the Evangelist Church in Hills Road at 6 pm. The speaker will be Sue Claydon, whose talk at last summer's thank you party was so well received.

We are also hoping to hold a Christian Aid lunch here in Emmanuel on Sunday May 10th, after the morning service. More news in the next issue.

The street collection in the centre of Cambridge is happening as usual - on Wednesday May 13th, Friday May 15th, and Saturday May 16th. Volunteers are badly needed to hold a collecting tin, so this is another way we can help to raise funds. There is also a need for people to sit in St. Giles' church to coordinate the collection and count the money.

We have decided, with regret, not to hold a house to house collection this year. St. Columba's collected for many years in Prestonfield East, but it has become more difficult year on year. We have had a small but dedicated band of collectors, to whom we are very grateful, but year by year we have had to struggle harder to find enough people willing to knock on doors. We are not the only ones across the country who are finding the traditional house to house collection impossible to sustain. While collections based on a local Church and/or in a village community are still viable, we in Downing Place have inherited a difficult area (a mobile population, many renters, students) in which we are not known and do not have a local base. You are of course encouraged to collect in other areas, as some of you already do.

This means of course that we need to raise as much as we can by other means – Church collections, supermarket collections, church events, and so on. If you have any ideas for fund-raising we should be delighted to hear them – the Downing Place rep. is Sheila Porrer, and several members of the Cambridge Committee are in our congregation – Pamela Cressey, Ted Dennison, Maureen Kendall, and Kathleen McBrearty would all be happy to hear from you.

May may seem a long way off, but it is only a matter of weeks, so do put these dates in the diary, and think how you can help Christian Aid to help those communities suffering from climate change on top of all their other problems.

Sheila Porrer

VISIT TO THE NEW CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL MOSQUE

It was a beautiful mild evening when a group of Downing Place people gathered outside the Central Mosque in Mill Road for our guided visit. We had all heard and read about this new landmark building and were eager to see more and find out more about it.

Our guide met us outside, in the gardens in front of the Mosque. She explained the progression from the outer garden, facing Mill Road, through the inner garden with its fountain, into the internal spaces. A series of different spaces open the way into the vast prayer hall, the spiritual centre of the Mosque.



In the atrium, with our guide

Right from the start of the design process the aim had been to marry local Cambridge features with Islamic tradition. So the distinctive elegant tree like structures which are found throughout the Mosque echo not just the palm trees found in Islamic countries, but also the fan-vaulting of King's College Chapel. The brickwork combines Cambridge's yellow Gault bricks with red bricks spelling out Koranic quotations. The whole structure is designed to fit in with its Mill Road location, being no higher than surrounding buildings, with its discreet dome set to one side.



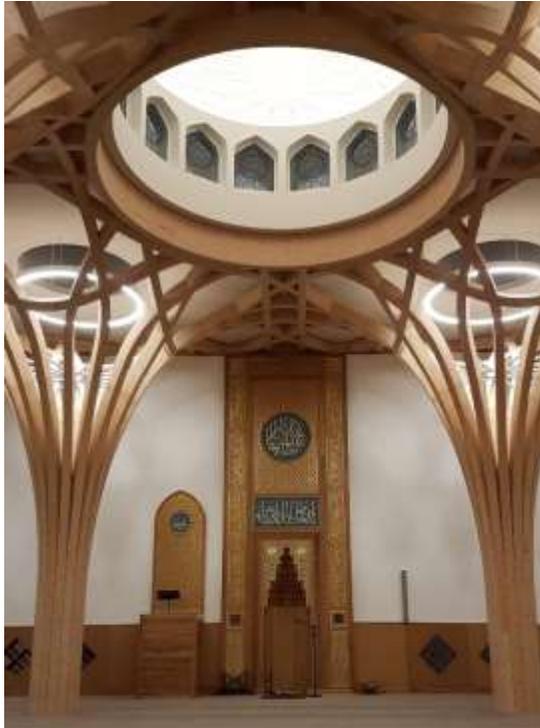
The Prayer Hall

Our guide took us through the portico and the atrium into the prayer hall, and showed us the men's and women's ablutions, the spaces set aside for women and for families and the mezzanine.



The ablutions

The prayer hall was impressive – a vast peaceful space with beautiful but restrained decoration, either geometrical or quotations from the Koran, rendered in exquisite calligraphy.



The prayer hall, the preacher's "pulpit"

The quality of the design and the materials was exemplary. What is more, the Mosque is an Eco-Mosque and is as sustainable as it can be.

We saw the exhibition room with a display showing medieval Arabic scientific achievements, and glimpsed the office and the kitchen. The Mosque is anxious to contribute to its local community and host suitable events, such as a recent Macmillan Coffee morning. The garden and the café welcome passers-by.



A precious gift from Mecca, part of the covering of the Kaaba which is distributed to pilgrims each year. The gift of such a large piece is exceptional.

It was difficult for us not to think of our own redevelopment plans which shared many of the objectives of the new Mosque – serving our community, being sustainable, and using high quality materials and design. And perhaps most importantly providing a prayerful space to drive all of these. We can't be quite as ambitious as our Muslim neighbours, but it is good to remember how much we share and how much we can learn from each other.

You can learn more about the Mosque and how to arrange a visit from its website <https://cambridgecentralmosque.org/>.

Thanks to Kelly O'Doherty, Robert Porrer and Tony Spring for the photographs.

NEW DANCE BASED COURSE (FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE RECENTLY DIAGNOSED WITH MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT OR DEMENTIA)

As we age we all need to look after ourselves; we need to nourish our body, brain, and mind. With so much emphasis on exercise, diet and self-help regimes, sometimes the simple pleasures in life can be overlooked, such as dance. Dancing with others in a safe and friendly environment brings us a sense of connection, physical ability, strength, and wellbeing. Dance strengthens our memory recall, our thinking, and our social skills. Dancing is fun, joyous, relaxing and quite simply feels really good.

The folks at *Satyam Yoga Wellbeing Centre* offer a safe and friendly community space where movement based and wellbeing practices empower people to live their lives more fully, enhancing health and self-awareness.

Filipa Pereira-Stubbs is a leading dance practitioner working for 30 years in the field of Arts & Health, with extensive experience in creating projects for people living with a dementia, their family, friends and carers. Her work is simple, effective, and accessible.

Together, Satyam Yoga and Filipa are bringing a new venture to Cambridge & Cambridgeshire in the new year. We are beginning a pilot class for people who are *newly* diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or dementia, and who are interested in taking positive steps, particularly in those first months of adapting to life's **unexpected and challenging turns**. **The classes are for couples** - spouses, family, friends. We will begin in chairs, doing gentle and important warm up exercises, move into more improvised dancing (no taught steps), and finish with quiet and restorative relaxation.

Dance improves cognitive function.

Dance maintains physical ability, strength and coordination.

Dance reduces stress, anxiety and depression.

Dance enhances mood and relaxation and sense of wellbeing.

Dance brings us a sense of purpose, joy and community.

Do you know someone who has been diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or dementia in the last six to eight months, and wants to do something positive

to ensure a good quality of life? Please get in touch directly with Filipa by e-mailing pereirastubbs@yahoo.co.uk for further conversation and explanation. The 8 week pilot will begin early March 2020. The sessions will run on Tuesday afternoons, time to be confirmed, but probably 4-5.30.

Filipa Pereira-Stubbs currently runs a dance course in Emmanuel church, which is well regarded.

Dance & Health & Wellbeing

a new venture for people newly diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or dementia

As we get older, we all need to look after ourselves; we need to nourish our body, brain, and mind.



Simple, Effective and Accessible Dance for All

Fun, Joyous, Relaxing

Come with a partner

- a spouse, family member, or friend.

Pilot begins early March, 2020

4.00-5.30 TUESDAY's

Satyam Yoga Wellbeing Centre

Chesterton, CB4 1AX

for further information, please contact:

Filipa on pereirastubbs@yahoo.co.uk

or

Jo on Jo@satyamyogacentre.co.uk



SATYAM YOGA
WELLBEING CENTRE



An Afternoon

to raise funds for



Memorial Unitarian Church
Emmanuel Road, Cambridge

*by kind permission of
the Minister and Members*

Saturday 4th April 2020 3.00pm

*The concert will include music for keyboards, harp and voice,
together with some delightful surprises.*



HOW ABOUT A CUPPA?

We hope you are enjoying Traidcraft's own brand, 'Great Taste' award-winning tea range. We have had some of you asking if Traidcraft could offer a Fairtrade range of herbal teas too. Well, the good news is that they have recently sourced a range of herbal teas, from The London Tea Company. We have started selling chamomile and peppermint on the Church stall.

The London Tea Company's mission is simple: to share quality, creativity and their passion for England's capital city with the like-minded people who drink their tea. More importantly, they are also a 'Certified B Corporation', that is, a business which balances purpose and profit. They are legally required to consider the impact of their decisions on their workers, customers, suppliers, community, and the environment. They're also a social enterprise, reinvesting up to 50% of their profits into farmer communities, supporting workers from some of the most marginalized parts of the world.



Of course, The London Tea Company are fully Fairtrade, too, supporting growers and surrounding communities by paying a guaranteed minimum price for their crop, as well as a Fairtrade Premium which is invested back into the **growers' businesses and local communities**. Many of the farmers and workers who supply The London Tea Company live in some of the most marginalised parts of the world and are facing the challenges of increasing fuel and food prices, climate change and rapidly changing market pricing. The guaranteed minimum prices which these growers receive, enable them and their

communities to develop their businesses and infrastructure and to help them improve their conditions and dignity.

So why not come and buy some and help make this new Traidcraft venture a success?



Sunday 23rd February was Poverty Sunday, and Church Action on Poverty has sent this message to all Churches, asking Church leaders to sign it. Our two Ministers have both signed. The response is up to all of us.



In the coming decade, it will be vital that the UK's churches take action against poverty - and for the people who are trapped by it. Church Action on Poverty is calling on all churches, locally and nationally, to make a fresh commitment: to speak truth to power about poverty; and to ensure that the church is always on the side of people who have been swept to the margins.

Our message to the UK's churches

There is a pressing need to bring the deepening crisis of poverty, afflicting many of our families and communities, to the centre of our life together as a nation.

Brexit debates and the recent General Election have revealed and exacerbated painful divisions in society. Far too many feel left behind, ignored and marginalised. As local churches, we bear witness to these

realities in communities the length and breadth of the UK, and to the powerful currents that continue to sweep so many into debt and destitution.

The Church cannot remain silent for as long as this situation continues to exist. For us, this is a matter of faith: It is about responding to the gospel priority to put the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable first.

As churches, we must redouble our efforts not just to alleviate the symptoms of poverty, but to call out the root causes, systems and structures which ensnare so many in poverty today.

At local level, we commit to becoming genuinely part of a 'church at the margins' where those on the margins of society feel welcomed, where their God-given dignity is recognised, and where their talents, hopes and visions for the future are celebrated and affirmed.

At national level, we call on our church institutions to commit to the task of becoming a true church at the margins and to properly resource this, as a genuine expression of the gospel priority for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Above all, as Churches we are compelled to speak truth to power, with and alongside those whose voices are consistently ignored by those in power in corporate, media and public life. Poverty and gross inequality are not acts of God but structural defects that can be corrected. Speaking truth to power is a task for the whole Church, and one given greater urgency now, amid political debates that continue to expose the divisions within society.

As the Lord heard the cry of his people in exile in the Old Testament and intervened, let churches hear the cry of the poor in our neighbourhoods, and work with them to realise a vision of a society in which all can enjoy life in all its fullness.

What is Church Action on Poverty? Janet Bottoms explains:

CAP - CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY . . .

. . . is one of the charities supported by Downing Place, but sometimes confused with another CAP - Christians Against Poverty a church-based debt counselling service which we also support. Church Action on Poverty works on a local level while at the same time aiming to build a movement that can

loosen the grip of poverty in the UK by

- amplifying the voices of people who have been marginalised,
- tackling unjust Government policies
- challenging harmful business practices
- holding the church to account.

“We put gospel values of justice and compassion into practice.”

Church Action on Poverty is an ecumenical charity that was born nearly twenty years ago in Manchester and grew at first in the northern towns and cities where the need was most obvious. Since then it has spread to become one of the most influential charities in Britain concerned with poverty and hunger - and the wide gap between rich and poor in one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

“We know that the real experts on poverty are the people who live with it. Our work is driven by their insights and experiences. We help them to make their voices heard.”

When CAP began, it focused at first on finding out at grass roots level the facts about what was putting people into poverty or hindering them from getting out of it - such practical facts as lack of transport, or excessive hire purchase rates for domestic essentials charged by certain firms or loan companies. These facts were then circulated to people who were willing to write to or take action against the appropriate councils or firms. Since then CAP has continued to work with researchers in the various fields and devise materials and resources to equip and help people to *“speak truth to power”*.

“Our projects are hugely diverse and cover a wide area but have one thing in common: they all tackle the root causes of poverty”

Locally based work continues to be an important part of CAP’s plans. They have built a flourishing movement of Self-Reliant Groups that allow people on low incomes to support one another, share skills, and save money or build small business ventures. Members of these groups include people from many different backgrounds such as migrant workers, refugees, residents in supported housing and homeless people. They may engage in crafts of all kinds, cooking and catering, or DIY, but also do their own community work - advocating on mental health issues and providing “pay as you go” lunches for isolated older people or

others who can't access good food.

“Working with Church Action on Poverty really has made me feel like I'm equal and I matter. And everybody does.”

“We speak truth to power, campaigning nationally and locally for policies that will loosen the grip of poverty on people's lives.”

On a national level CAP publishes reports and encourages campaigns to give voice to the people who are the “experts” on poverty - that is the people who suffer it. Young people have been helped to take their own evidence, based on their experience, to various Inquiries and Committees. The CAP Poverty Media Unit works with people in poverty to challenge stigma, improve public understanding and identify solutions that will unlock poverty. As they say: *“What if people living in poverty were really listened to? What if we worked with them to change the story?”*

“Give, Act and Pray with us”.

At the heart of all CAP's work and campaigning is the belief that justice for the poor is a key element of Christianity. As well as providing materials for worship services CAP has developed training resources to help people explore the connections between their faith and these issues. Their *Poverty, Faith and Justice* workshop uses a combination of video, case studies, biblical reflection and ways of identifying local and national justice issues; *Dangerous Stories* is a collection of Bible studies that help people to see the radical messages about poverty and injustice in Jesus' parables; while *Transforming Poverty* is a course that uses the film *I, Daniel Blake* to help churches reflect on their commitment to loosen the grip of poverty locally.

In November 2019 CAP launched *Why End Hunger?* - a report that brought together leading thinkers to make renewed arguments, under seven headings, for why it is so important to address the root causes of hunger in the UK - and how much is to be done if the government is to make good on its existing commitment within the Sustainable Development Goal to end hunger by 2030.

“But we can only end hunger if we build a powerful movement for change in communities all across the country.”

For more information on Church Action on Poverty, go to their website:

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/what-we-do/>

Christian Aid Roadshow

Saturday 14 March 2020

We are delighted to invite you to our Roadshow event which will be launched by poet-priest Malcolm Guite, Chaplain and Supernumerary Fellow of Girton College, Cambridge, and teacher at the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. Come and learn the latest about this year's Christian Aid Week Appeal and our campaign on the climate crisis.

Location: **Downing Place URC at Emmanuel (opp. Pembroke College)**
3 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QY

Time: **10am - 12 noon**

Talk to: Pam Richardson
prichardson@christian-aid.org
07738104495



www.christianaid.org.uk

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THE CHERRY HINTON ROAD FELLOWSHIP

The CHR Tuesday Fellowship has continued to meet throughout January.

At our AGM on January 21st, 2020, Barbara Boud presented an account of the activities of the past year. The financial statement for 2019 was presented by Penny Milsom and thanks were given to departing members of the committee, particularly Barbara Boud and Julia Stone who have given years of service to the Fellowship. The new committee, (Margaret King, Penny Milsom, Anne Disney, Sheila Ostler and Robin and Sheila Simpkins) will meet on February 18th, 2020 at 1pm.

We have also had a stimulating quiz on carols led by Robin Simpkins which certainly left many of us recognising the limitations of our knowledge. We have enjoyed two exceptional talks. Marion Koroma came to talk to us again about the Sally May PreSchool in Sierra Leone. It was so inspiring to hear her **talk about how she started the Preschool and about her work at Addenbrooke's** Hospital as a support worker, sending all the money she can spare to support the school. She wanted the school to transmit to the children the values, such as respecting their elders, which she herself had learnt as a child in the community. She talked about the practical difficulties which beset the school and the need for constant maintenance. At the end of the meeting we were pleased to present Marion with a cheque for £250 from the money we had collected for our annual charity for 2019.

Our second talk was given by Geoffrey Heathcoat on the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. He was inspired to volunteer for the charity after he discovered that his grandfather had been recognised with a medal for his wartime service in the Navy. RNLI was founded in 1824 and has saved 139,000 lives since then. A recent example of their work was when during Storm Ciara, a surfer was rescued at sea, putting at risk the lives of the lifeboat crew. We were pleased to present Geoffrey with a cheque for £85 with the money we had collected for our spring charity.

We are very happy to welcome people to join us on Tuesdays at 2.30pm in the chapel at Cherry Hinton Road. Tea and biscuits are always provided and topics are listed in the Diary section of Place Matters and on the Downing Place website 'What's on' section every month.

Penny Milsom

VOTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DECIDING SEATING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE REDEVELOPED SANCTUARY.

You'll probably know that the March Church Meeting will be invited to make a decision on the future seating arrangements at Downing Place following the decision last March that *“some pews should be removed, the exact configuration to be settled later”*. The constitution requires such a decision to be supported by two thirds of those present and voting, at Church meeting attended by at least a quarter of the members – so the Elders hope you will be able to attend! Three options put forward by the Buildings Group were discussed at length at the January Church Meeting:

Option (1): Replacing all pews by chairs

Option (2): Retaining pews at each side of the nave only

Option (3): Retaining pews across the whole of the nave

The meeting also agreed that we should use a single transferable vote (STV) to decide *which* option should finally be put to the meeting. You may accordingly welcome an explanation of what this means.

You'll be invited to indicate the options you are prepared to support, and their order of your preference among them, by marking 1 against your first preference, and if you wish 2 against your second, and if you wish 3 against your third. The first preference votes being counted for each option, the option with the fewest votes will be eliminated, and its voting papers will be added to the totals for any 2nd preference expressed – or simply discarded if none is expressed. The option with the most votes at this point will be that subsequently put to the meeting. However, to inform the meeting of the total level of support available for it, even if not as first preference, the elimination and redistribution process will be repeated for the option with fewer votes so that only one option remains.

The option with the most support will then be put to the meeting in a resolution in the following form, to be decided on a show of hands:

The Church Meeting agrees to Option (n) of those made to the January meeting, replacing ... [or retaining...] in the redeveloped sanctuary, and asks the Buildings Group to prepare detailed proposals in the light of the comments made at the January meeting.

Should the resolution fail to achieve sufficient support, fresh proposals would have to be formulated urgently!

**United Reformed Church, Home End,
Fulbourn, CB21 5BS.**

**Invites you to supper
on Friday 3rd April
6 for 6.15 p.m.**

On the Menu:

Fish and chips £12.00

(smaller portion £9.00)

Chicken and chips £10.00

Children's meal £5

(cod strips, chicken nuggets, sausage)

Including Fruit Crumble with Custard

Tea or coffee

**Tickets available in March from Iris Levitt 01223
880979, Marilyn Harmer 01223 880934, Church
Secretary 01223 562104. Please book by 27th March.**

In aid of church funds

Come & Sing!

(or just listen)



Stainer's **Crucifixion**

Saturday 28th March – 2p.m.

Abbey Lane Chapel

followed by light refreshments

Abbey Lane & Newport United Reformed Church
incorporating Saffron Walden Methodist Church
Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, CB10 1AG

Proclaiming the Gospel, Growing in Faith, Reaching out in Service

www.saffronwaldenurc.org.uk

PASTORAL NEWS

Advance notice for Palm Sunday, 5 April. For many years Emmanuel members shared in the Little St Mary's procession from Laundress Green to the church yard on Trumpington Street, as an act of witness. Palm crosses are blessed and the scriptures shared. This year will be the last occasion when this will be practical, and it would therefore be good if more than a token representation from Downing Place might be present. Please let me know if you think you can come, and I shall then brief you about details.

Margaret Thompson



SPECIAL CAUSE FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

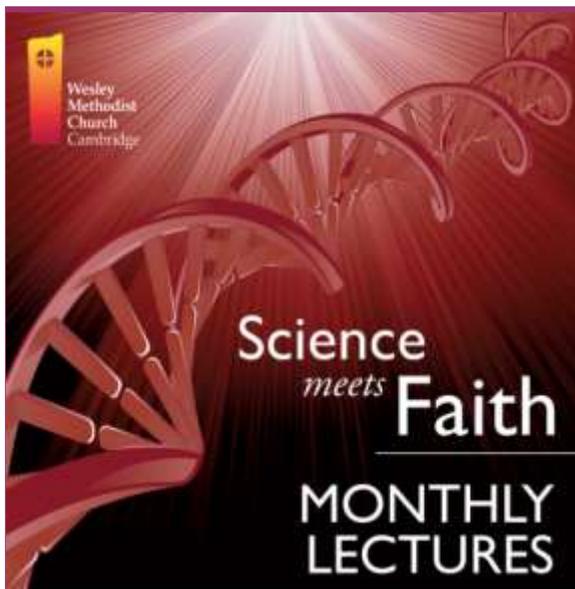
We're delighted to say that the Special Cause collection for the Cambridge Churches Homeless project during December and January raised £778.85.



MARCH FILM NIGHT

The next Film Night will be on Monday 9 March. The film will be *Mrs. Lowry and Son*.

Details from Rosemary Johnston.



WESLEY CHURCH,
CHRIST'S PIECES

SCIENCE MEETS FAITH
MONTHLY LECTURES

MONDAY 9 MARCH 7.45PM

Professor Joanna Haigh
CBE FRS

Former Head of Physics,
Imperial College, London

**'Climate Change: What it means
and what we can do about it'**

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ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

Please send items to both Sheila Porrer and Ann Auger
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Please send all items to be included in the April edition to both Sheila and Ann
by the cut off date of Wednesday 18 March 2020.

Any items received after the deadline will not be included.

The April edition will be available in church from Sunday 29 March