



DOWNING PLACE  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
CAMBRIDGE

## PLACE MATTERS



MONTHLY MAGAZINE – ISSUE 15  
NOVEMBER 2019

## CONTACT DETAILS – DOWNING PLACE URC

Website: [www.downingplaceurc.org](http://www.downingplaceurc.org)

Church address: Until September 2020:  
Emmanuel Church, Trumpington Street,  
Cambridge CB2 1QY 01223 351174

Ministers: The Revd. Dr. John Bradbury  
[john.bradbury@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:john.bradbury@downingplaceurc.org)  
01223 351174 (office)

The Revd. Nigel Uden  
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**Children's Ministry Team Co-ordinator:**  
Rosemary Johnston  
[children@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:children@downingplaceurc.org)

Church Office: Elaine Barker  
(Elaine's rest day is now Monday)  
[elaine@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:elaine@downingplaceurc.org)

Ann Auger  
(Ann is available during weekday working hours)  
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Church Secretary: Margaret Thompson  
[secretary@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:secretary@downingplaceurc.org)

## **Clerk to the Elders' Meeting**

Owen Saxton

[clerk@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:clerk@downingplaceurc.org)

Treasurer:

Ian Strachan

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## MINISTERS' LETTER

Holy Communion stands at the heart of the life of the Church. We gather around the table with bread and wine in fulfilment of Christ's call to remember his death and resurrection, and communion is experienced. We believe that in the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit brings us into communion with Christ and brings us into communion with one another as members of the Church. It is a personal communion in our individual lives of discipleship and spirituality, and it is a moment of communion as a whole congregation. Being in communion with one another is, in part, what brings us into communion with Christ as individuals. One might even go beyond this, and speak of a cosmic dimension to communion – we are brought into communion with all the saints of all times and places. It is a moment of reverence as we call to mind the death of Christ. It is a moment of joy and celebration as we give thanks for new resurrection life we are invited to share.

When placed in the context of this 'big picture' of what is happening in communion, the details of *how* precisely we share communion perhaps gets placed in its proper context. God's Spirit works through the most flawed human liturgical expressions. Viewed cosmically, it is what God does that matters, not what we do. But that is not to say that *how* we celebrate communion is not significant. *How* we celebrate shapes us in our lives of discipleships, and bears witness to the content of our faith.

One of the elements of our life together as a congregation of Christ's Church that does not yet feel settled to some of us is the question of how we celebrate communion. We have settled into a pattern whereby twice in a quarter we are served in our seats by elders, the elements having been brought to the table. Once a month we come to the front, the elements already being on the table. Embedded in those approaches are important things. Being served at our seats perhaps emphasises the graced aspect of what is happening – Christ meets us where we. Coming forward emphasises the significance of our journey of faith as we make that sign of commitment moving to receive communion suggests. Being served at our seats perhaps allows for more personal time to reflect on the personal dimension of communion. Coming forward along with others and moving with them around the space of the Church emphasises the corporate nature of this being something we all engage in as the body of Christ. At Open Table, we serve one another seated in a circle around the communion table – this emphasises our corporate engagement in yet a different way.

Different members of the congregation value different aspects of our various practices, and some value elements of practices that we have left behind. The Worship, Discipleship and Spirituality Group took some time at a recent meeting to allow each individual simply to reflect on what was important to them in communion. This was experienced as something quite profound by those who were there. We heard many and various aspects of the celebration of Holy Communion reflected on, that together represented a rich and variegated tapestry expression of our faith. For many who engaged in that conversation it led to a far deeper understanding of ways in which others benefit from aspects of how we celebrate communion that perhaps have not been so important, or experienced positively, by themselves in the past.

Some of the different aspects of communion practice that we value pull against one another. Some delight in a diversity of practice which draws to our attention to differing elements of what is happening in communion. Others delight in what we do being a settled rhythm and pattern requiring no concentration on the how, allowing the time and space to be immersed in the spiritual experience of the moment.

In conversation, the Elders have come to the conviction that we will not with ease and speed find patterns of celebrating communion that instinctively everyone is comfortable with. We believe, though, it is utterly vital that we keep sharing our perspectives, reflecting and praying together, out of which the long term practice of Downing Place United Reformed Church will emerge. To that end, in the next Elders Meeting we will take an hour to repeat the exercise begun **in the Worship Group, and simply listen with care to one another's experiences** and reflections. Out of this, we hope we can find some ways to begin to reflect on this vital aspect of our life in the Church Meeting, such that we might review more constructively the pattern of our communion practice in the first part of next years.

So we would like to invite you to continue to listen, reflect and pray, as individuals, and with one another, such that we might all find our experience and understanding enriched and deepened of that remarkably multi-dimensional communion we know as Christ welcomes us to at his table.

Yours in Christ, Nigel and John.

# WORK IN PROGRESS AT THE ST. COLUMBA'S BUILDING

Our contractors are making very good progress on converting the St. Columba's building into our new Downing Place Church.

These pictures show how things are coming along. You can find more pictures on the redevelopment blog on the Downing Place website.



The Sanctuary – with the retreat the workers have improvised for their breaks



Preparing the wall of the sanctuary for the new windows on to Downing St.



The St. Columba Hall, looking towards the lobby



The Gibson Hall, with the kitchen wall removed.



The kitchen



Ministers viewing progress

*Thanks to Robert Porrer for the photographs*





## DEMENTIA



How can we make our new Church dementia friendly?

We welcome those living with dementia and their carers to our services in Emmanuel Church. In October 2020, we will be moving to our permanent home in the church in Downing Place. We would like to ensure that the refurbished premises are as dementia friendly as possible, and would appreciate any suggestions you may have. We are also working on ideas to improve the dementia friendly content of our services.

There is a new leaflet available at the Church entrance, so please do pick one up and let Jenny Jacobsberg know if you have any ideas to help.

### DEFINITION OF DEMENTIA

We have found this brief definition helpful

Dementia is a loss of brain function that occurs with **certain diseases**. **Alzheimer's disease (AD)** is **one form** of dementia that gradually gets worse over time. It affects memory, thinking and behaviour. Memory impairment, as well as problems with language, decision-making ability, judgment, and personality are necessary features for the diagnosis.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

God of Creation - We are part of your realm. We are creative!

We make bread



We arrange flowers



We give to Soccer Aid –  
UNICEF - £41



We lead prayers of  
thanksgiving

## For friends and families





# A GIFT AT CHRISTMAS



Cambridge Women's Aid provides a safe refuge for women and children escaping domestic abuse. Usually they arrive with few or no belongings, so a suggestion was made to the Local Mission and Events group last year that some members of Downing Place might like to send gifts of toys for the children at Christmas.

On following up the idea we discovered that leaving it until very near Christmas was to leave it too late, so this year we are suggesting that anyone who would like to give a toy, or perhaps some small personal gift for a mum, could bring it along to the church early in November, to be passed on in good time. We are therefore going to make a box to put gifts in available in the church on the first two Sundays of November.

Please remember that for health reasons any toys should be new, not second-hand. Gifts for mums might be attractive cosmetics, toiletries, bubble baths etc. or chocolates or other such small items to treat themselves a little at a **difficult time**. Suggestions may also be found on the Women's Aid website: <http://cambridgewa.org.uk/howyoucanhelpus.php>.

*The Local Mission and Events Group*



# DOWNING PLACE URC TUESDAY CLUB

2019-20

Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month.

## Committee

Ailsa Buchanan :: Pamela Cressey :: Mabel Eggo  
Maggie Garland :: Joan Laidlaw :: Kathleen McBrearty  
Isabel McCubbin :: Helen Spring

Hon. Committee Member: Bethan Uden

Co-ordinator :: Christine Russell :: 01223 360 197 :: [chrussell@talktalk.net](mailto:chrussell@talktalk.net)

Treasurers:: Helen Spring :: Joan Laidlaw



12 November 7.30pm: The Work of the Salvation Army  
Speaker: Lt.-Col. Alan Bateman. At the home of Joan Laidlaw  
*Organiser: Helen Spring*

10 December 7.30pm Christmas Service  
Speaker: Maureen Kendall. At Fulbourn URC, Home End CB21 5BS  
*Organiser: Isabel McCubbin*

**14 January 2.30pm 'It All Started With a Kneeler'**

Speaker: Daphne Thomas. At the home of Pamela Cressey  
*Organiser: Maggie Garland*

**11 February 2.30pm Lord Fairhaven's Life at Anglesey Abbey**

Speaker: Helen Ackroyd. At the home of Pamela Cressey.  
*Organiser: Christine Russell*

10 March at 2.30pm Life in Faith and Music  
Speaker: Revd Dr John Bradbury. At the home of Ailsa Buchanan

21 April 2.30pm Wiltshire Farm Foods and Ready Meals  
Speaker: Vanessa Hale. At the home of Pamela Cressey  
*Organiser: Pamela Cressey*

12 May at 7.30pm AGM and Bring & Buy  
At the home of Joan Laidlaw  
Organiser: Christine Russell

**9 June Members' Get Together & Lunch**

Time and place tbc  
*Organiser: Maggie Garland*

*Leaflets are at the back of the church - please take one!*

# NOVEMBER DIARY

Friday 1st	7.30pm	Talking about God: Explorations in the Christian Faith Session 2: Who is Jesus Christ?	Emmanuel
Sunday 3rd	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Revd Nigel Uden  FOODBANK COLLECTION	Emmanuel
Monday 4th	12.30pm	Prayers for the life and witness of our church, followed by a simple lunch	At the home of Pamela Cressey
Tuesday 5th	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship Speaker: Margaret Jude	St Athanasios Church, Cherry Hinton Road
Wednesday 6th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert: Kapsetaki Twins (piano)	Emmanuel
Thursday 7th	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One	Emmanuel
Friday 8th	7.30pm	Talking about God: Explorations in the Christian Faith Session 3: The Spirit Blows where it wills	Emmanuel

Sunday 10th	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	All Age Morning Worship for Remembrance Sunday led by Revd Dr John Bradbury	Emmanuel
	7.00pm	Open Table Bring and Share Supper	Emmanuel
Monday 11th	4.00pm	<b>Officers' Meeting</b>	Emmanuel
	7.00pm	<b>Film Night: 'Chocolat'</b>	Contact Rosemary Johnston for more details
Tuesday 12th	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship Visit by the Bar Hill Singers	<b>St Athanasios' Church, Cherry Hinton Road</b>
	7.30pm	Tuesday Club: The Work of the Salvation Army. Speaker: Lt-Col. Alan Bateman	At the home of Joan Laidlaw
Wednesday 13th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert: Erina Ishiyama (piano)	Emmanuel
Thursday 14th	10.30am	Ferried Friends	At the home of David and Trish Whitehead
	11.00am	Midweek Worship led by Augur Pearce	Emmanuel
	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One	Emmanuel
	7.30pm	Singing Housegroup	At the home of David & Penny Flynn

Friday 15th	7.30pm	Talking about God: Explorations in the Christian Faith Session 4: Sharing Stories of the Faith	Emmanuel
	7.30pm	Group Therapy Centre 50th Anniversary Concert: The Cann Twins in Concert	Mumford Theatre, Anglia Ruskin University
Sunday 17th	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship led by Revd Dr John Bradbury  Followed by Church Meeting	Emmanuel
Monday 18th	7.30pm	Book Group: <b>‘The Trumpet Major’</b> by Thomas Hardy	At the home of Christine Russell
Tuesday 19th	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship Christmas Flower decoration	St <b>Athanasios’</b> Church, Cherry Hinton Road
	2.30pm	<b>‘The Word Together’</b> Bible Study Group	Fulbourn URC
Wednesday 20th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert Giorgios Vardakis (piano)	Emmanuel
	10.30am- 2.30pm	Knit Café Table Top Sale  <b>DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR DECEMBER/ JANUARY PLACE MATTERS</b>	Emmanuel



Thursday 21st	12.30pm	Gibson Lunch	Emmanuel
	10.30am-1.00pm	Knit Café Table Top Sale	Emmanuel
	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One	Emmanuel
Friday 22nd	7.30pm	Talking About God: Explorations in Faith Session 5: Being Human	Emmanuel
Sunday 24th	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship led by Revd Professor David Thompson	Emmanuel
	6.00pm	Evening Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Liz Caswell	Fulbourn URC
	7.30pm	Open Table Service for LGBT+ folk and their allies. Refreshments from 7pm	Emmanuel
Tuesday 26th	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship Speaker: Brian Mizon	St Athanasios' Church, Cherry Hinton Road
Wednesday 27th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert Hou Thai Fu (piano)	Emmanuel
Thursday 28th	11.00am	Midweek Worship with Communion led by Revd Nigel Uden	Emmanuel
	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One	Emmanuel

Thursday 28th  Continued....	7.30pm	Singing Housegroup	At the home of David & Penny Flynn
Friday 29th	7.30pm	Talking About God: Explorations in Faith: Session 6: Human Flourishing - Ethics in everyday life	Emmanuel
Saturday 30th	tbc	Carol Singing in aid of Christian Aid Christmas Appeal	Grand Arcade



## FILM NIGHT

Next date is planned for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The film chosen is 'Chocolat'

'A mysterious woman and her daughter open a chocolate shop in a small French village and shake up the rigid morality of the community'.

Doors open 6.45 for 7pm showing, followed by ice cream and conversation.

This is a good opportunity to include friends and neighbours in a church activity. Plenty of on street parking. Address of venue, further information and booking from Rosemary Johnston.

# BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER TOPICS

## NOVEMBER 2019

Below are the Bible readings we will be following in worship at Downing Place during November. 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 final page find the names of church members preaching elsewhere this month.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Daniel 7. 1-3, 15-18  
Psalm 149  
Ephesians 1. 11-23  
Luke 6. 20-31

November 10<sup>th</sup>: Remembrance Sunday.  
Job 19: 23-27a;  
Psalm 17. 1-9;  
2 Thessalonians 2. 1-5, 13-17;  
Luke 20. 27-38.

November 17<sup>th</sup>: Malachi 4. 1-2a;  
Psalm 98;  
2 Thessalonians 3. 6-13;  
Luke 21. 5-19.

November 24<sup>th</sup>: **'Christ the King' Sunday.**  
Jeremiah 23. 1-16;  
Psalm 46;  
Colossians 1. 11-20  
Luke 23. 33-43.



## ARROW PRAYERS FOR NOVEMBER 2019

1. Pray for our country at this time of political uncertainty – may God guide **us and surround us with God's love in all circumstances.**
2. Pray for our Talking About God meetings every Friday this month; for those who will be coming along and those who are leading sessions.
3. Pray for all families and single people who have to use the Food Bank, as their resources run out at the end of every month.
4. Pray for the Prayer Lunch where members reflect on the ever-changing life of our church, and the community in which we are set.
5. Pray for those you know who are unwell – for the doctors and nurses who care for them, and for the Chaplains at our local hospitals.
6. Pray for your families – particularly those who are far away, and those who are experiencing a time of difficulty or distress.
7. Pray for our Minister, Nigel Uden, who will be in Germany for the next few days visiting the Church of the Pfalz, and then on Remembrance Sunday, Nigel will be at the Cenotaph in London.
8. Pray for Annemarie Pachel, from the Church of the Pfalz, who is in placement with us as she completes her training as a Minister.
9. Pray for Europe on this day which celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 – and for peace and reconciliation.
10. Remembrance Sunday. Pray for our families and friends and remember the sacrifices made during the two World Wars in Europe.
11. Pray for Afghanistan, where the Civil War has been raging for the past thirty years – and pray for those who seek a peaceful solution.
12. Pray for the Tuesday Club and the Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship, both meeting today.
13. Pray for Nigeria where the insurgents of Boko Haram continue to terrorise the local communities in the North.
14. Pray for the CCHP - Cambridge Churches Homeless Project – and for those churches who provide meals and overnight accommodation for guests throughout the winter months.
15. Pray for Mission Council, meeting this weekend in Swanwick, for our Ministers, John and Nigel, and for John Proctor, General Secretary, that discussion and worship may be Spirit-filled!
16. Pray for the many URC Committees that work to carry out the decisions taken for mission work both in this country and overseas.

17. Pray for the music in our worship to day. Thank God for Ian and Mark, the choir and the orchestra – and all who stimulate and enhance our worship as they share their musical talents.
18. Pray for our Moderator, Paul Whittle, who is visiting Zimbabwe and Zambia over the next two weeks. May God be with him!
19. Pray for Ann and Elaine in the Office, for their work for the ministers and congregation and the many groups who now use our building.
20. Pray for the Wednesday Concert, and for Knit One Give One who hold their Christmas Table Top Sale today and tomorrow.
21. Pray for the Group Therapy Centre and all who attend – and thank God that they are now settled in the Upper Rooms at Emmanuel.
22. Pray for the other churches in Cambridge City, their pastors and ministers – and for any friends you know who worship there.
23. Pray for NightLite and the Street Pastors who are out on the town tonight, and for those needing their care and support.
24. Christ the King Sunday. Pray for Open Table Service in Emmanuel this evening, and thank God for the friendship, support and fellowship they share together.
25. Pray for our Church Treasurer and the Finance Committee, as they manage the development costs of the new DPURC in Downing Place.
26. Pray for the Elders meeting – their discussions and deliberations - and thank God for the work they do and their concern for all members.
27. Pray for all those who have come along to our Talking About God sessions this month.
28. We pray for the people of Yemen and Saudi Arabia where the border conflict has made getting supplies to the people of Yemen impossible.
29. **Pray for the Citizens' Advice Bureau and Cambridge Social Services as they seek to support those in need in many and varied situations.**
30. Pray for your neighbours and friends, and name those you know who are finding life difficult at this moment for any reason.

A Prayer for Advent (from ROOTS)

Burn bright, O God, in our lives, we pray

May we go in your name

And walk in expectancy of your coming

**In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## CHURCH MEMBERS LEADING WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER 2019

- November 3rd: Chris Baker - Melbourn  
John Proctor – Wood Street URC, Barnet.  
Janet Tollington - Bassingbourn  
Paul Whittle – Hadleigh, Suffolk.
- November 10th: Liz Caswell – Whiting Street, Bury St Edmunds  
David Tatem – **Bishop's Stortford**  
Paul Whittle – Old Independent, Haverhill
- November 17th: Janet Bottoms - Ashwell  
Liz Caswell – Holy Trinity, Bottisham  
David Tatem – Bassingbourn  
Janet Tollington – Stetchworth & Cheveley
- November 24th: Janet Bottoms – Buntingford  
Chris Baker – Littleport Methodist  
Liz Caswell – Old Independent, Haverhill  
Penny Flynn – Castle Camps  
Maureen Kendall - Bassingbourn  
John Proctor – Stowmarket  
Janet Tollington – Trinity, Burwell  
Nigel Uden – **Besses o'th Barn, Manchester.**

Prayer for Remembrance Sunday  
Gracious God,

We hear you even in the sea of disorder  
And the darkness of the void,

Crying: 'Light and Life become'; And all creation was begun . . .  
Redeeming God,

We hear you even in the sin of destruction  
And the night-time of sadness,

Crying: 'Enough! Here is my Son: love and hope for the future . . .  
Inspiring God,

We hear you even in the silence of sorrow  
And the anguish of pain,

Crying, 'If God be for us, who can be against us?' Amen.

Adapted from 'Seasons and Celebrations' compiled by Donald Hilton

## SPECIAL CAUSE



This month we are invited to support the work of the Bible Society. The Society's work can be traced to the time when William Salesbury translated the Bible into Welsh, and a young girl, Mary Jones, made a difficult and mountainous journey to fulfil her dream of having her own Bible in her native language. Nowadays we talk about people's 'heart language', the language that comes naturally from our upbringing. There are still hundreds of such languages around the world awaiting translations of the Bible, and translation remains a core task of the Society.

The Society's vision is of "A world where everyone has access to the Bible and can recognise its value for them, their families and communities." They are concerned with distribution, education and advocacy as well as translation, and they work wherever there is need. They currently have a special focus on China, where there is only one ordained minister for every 6,700 church members, fragile states in Africa, the Middle East and...England and Wales. Here, where the Bible Society's work began, there is real need: research shows that in the UK nine out of ten people hardly engage with the Bible and the Society is committed to changing this. Through the production of special translations and materials for young people and children, study courses, audio and film materials and the 'Open the Book' scheme, which sees 15,000 volunteers story-telling the Bible in primary schools, they reach out with the Bible's core message. They also engage with politicians, working alongside groups like 'Christians in Politics.' They provide support materials too for the new Religious Studies GCSE course.

This charity deserves and needs the support of local churches as it enables and encourages our sharing of the Good News in today's language. Please make cheques payable to 'Bible Society'.

*Liz Caswell*

# TALKING ABOUT GOD

Our Autumn Bible study course will have started by the time you read this. Aimed at exploring some of the fundamental questions people ask about Christianity, sessions will be led by John Bradbury, Annemarie Pachel and others. Everyone is welcome - you don't have to commit to all the sessions; and if you've missed the first session it isn't too late to start!

Please support John and Annemarie with your prayers, and also pray for those who come along; and those who might be thinking about coming.



## TALKING ABOUT GOD: EXPLORATIONS IN FAITH

A 6-week exploration of the Christian faith, reflecting on some of the big themes of faith and life. Each week we will take a major theme in Christian life and thought, and explore it through some key pieces of scripture.

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October:	God the creator
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November:	Who is Jesus Christ?
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November:	The Spirit blows where it wills...
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November:	Sharing stories of the faith,
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November:	Being Human
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November:	Human flourishing - Christian ethics in everyday life

All sessions will take place at Emmanuel URC, Trumpington Street, from 7:30pm.



# HARVEST SUPPER

## Bangladesh and the World Church

The emphasis has been on Commitment for Life this October and particularly on our chosen partner country, Bangladesh. To mark World Church weekend Downing Place held a Bangladesh themed supper on Friday October 11<sup>th</sup>. A group of expert cooks produced generous portions of rice with vegetables and daal, followed by a yogurt and mango dessert, but after we had enjoyed this we were reminded that nearly half of the population of Bangladesh, more people than the population of the entire UK, survived on less than a pound a day.

Robin Greenwood from Christian Aid was our speaker, and set out very clearly the problems Bangladesh faces, all made worse by climate change. He explained the different projects Christian Aid and their partners were undertaking to tackle these problems. Where heavy monsoon rains and rising sea levels had put communities at risk, flood defences, new homes and new foundations were installed, and where lack of fresh water had threatened crops, irrigation schemes were put in place. Robin then showed us stories of families whose livelihoods had been transformed by investments in seeds, animals, or training, enabling them to give their children an education and prospects.



*Chris Wright introduces Robin Greenwood, our speaker  
Photo by Sheila Porrer*

We could also look at the exhibition about Bangladesh on the walls of the Church, which told us about the problems Bangladesh faces, but also about its rich culture. This exhibition is still in place, so do be sure to see it while you can.

Thanks are due to our speaker, to our Minister Nigel, and also to all of the World Church and Public Issues group who organised this evening, and who also produced the service of Harvest thanksgiving on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>, where gifts of food were donated to Jimmy's homeless shelter.



Photograph taken by Elaine Barker



Amnesty International UK  
Cambridge City Group



Paul  
Clark



## Monitoring Human Rights in Palestine: an eyewitness account

14<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 7.30pm  
Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane Cambridge

Hear what it is like to work as a human rights monitor on the West Bank. Questions like what is daily life like under occupation for the Palestinians and what is the Palestinian and Israeli peace movement trying to do about it? Paul recently returned after 3 months in Hebron with CPT and will tell us about the many challenges he faced. Previously Paul has spent two, three month periods with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Jerusalem (2016) and Bethlehem (2017).

**Free entrance, Zaytoun Palestinian produce for sale**

## PROFILE – LIZ RUSSELL

I was born in a Romford Nursing Home on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1940. My father owned a newsagents in Ardleigh Green, Essex and he and my mother were both musically talented, father in local amateur operatics, mainly Gilbert and Sullivan, and my mother a pianist. Both enjoyed ballroom dancing and I still have my mother's blue velvet evening cloak. Looking back, I do believe song and dance were much in my genes. My earliest memory of learning a dance was helping my father to learn the dance in *Ruddigore* for the number "I once was a very abandoned person"!



As soon as possible I was taken north away from the bombs to my aunt and uncle at Largs (but just in time for the Clydebank bombing raids in March!). I believe I was christened there by a dear friend of the family who was a Church of Scotland Minister. Soon my aunt and uncle moved East to Earlsferry and Elie in Fife, to a small hotel business, St. Albans, which became the joy of my childhood and teenage life as we spent all our main Easter and summer holidays there. This began my connection with the Elie Parish Church and with CSSM, the Children's Special Seaside Mission. Based on the beach, the CSSM held services with a pulpit built of sand and a harmonium which slowly sank into the sand hymn by hymn. But they ran many children's activities as well – treasure hunts, sausage sizzles, walks to Macduff's cave .... I also found it great fun helping with Mr. Haig's pony and donkey rides on the beach. I collected my first fee, 3d, from a grateful Dad. By 1945 I was doing evening rides with the owner's nephew and continued my riding interest on and off until my marriage.

I returned to Ardleigh Green when the war ended, whizzed through the Infants' school and then really enjoyed the primary school where we had young enthusiastic teachers newly released from the Forces. For the time, it seems we were well served by drama, dance, music and art, and still had good eleven plus results. We produced "theatre in the round" shows for our parents, and I remember my two big roles mainly because of the headgear: Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother in a wire wool grey wig and the White Rabbit in wired up

ears made by a milliner friend. I believe we sang in the choir some quite adult songs, and I still remember most of the words of Handel's Where e'er you walk.

In 1951 I became a member of the school's Scandinavian dance group, and even then, as female dancers often moan, the males were in short supply, so each boy had two girls to partner. We had costumes for displays, and the girls' were topped off by pink and white organza caps and aprons. Our Church was a train-ride away, so I went to Young Crusaders instead.



*The Scandinavian dance group at school in 1951. I am on the right in the front row”.*

I can't say that I enjoyed the dancing very much at either of my two secondary schools, first at Brentford and then back in Fife, where we moved after my father died. My mother sold the Essex business, and joined her sister in Fife to help in running the hotel. It only opened in the summer months, and in the winter we would go down to London and stay in someone else's hotel for a "holiday", then back to Fife to spring clean the hotel ready for the next season. In the East Neuk of Elie I got caught by Scottish country dancing in the local village halls, developed this more at Edinburgh University and at Strathclyde Library School, where the Union had a top floor sprung floor. I made the team twice for the Inter-Varsity Folk Dance Festival.

After my 1970 marriage to an East Anglian we moved south, first to Norwich and then to Cambridge. I continued to work as a librarian, in the University Library, and then for nineteen years in King's College Library. After enjoying Churches of Scotland and in Glasgow the occasional visit to the Cathedral, on our move south I joined the URC, first Trinity in Norwich and then Emmanuel in Cambridge, but soon moved to Cherry Hinton Road, where I became an Elder, now non-serving. I was able to help the choir there - and it was an easier bike ride!

In Cambridge I continued to develop my love of dancing. I discovered The Round, the University's country dancing group, and its English country dancing. The first edition of the collection *The English Dancing Master*, which Cecil Sharp and others revised in the early twentieth century, appeared in 1651, and its dances are still performed in costumes from the Stuart period, by many dancers, including me

However, something new, though historical, was beckoning and I discovered a period of dance, early Mediaeval, thirteenth to fourteenth century. which I just knew had a lot to offer to young and old and was particularly suited to church settings, inside or out. I soon joined the Capriol Society for Early Dance, a historical dance group based in Cambridge, and have played a leading role as dancer and organiser ever since. The Society has two performance groups, the Capriol Dancers and the Capriol Mediaeval Dancers, which dance at festivals and functions all over the country, but especially in our local area, presenting dances from the mediaeval period to the seventeenth century, always in authentic costumes. We shall be celebrating our fortieth Anniversary with a party this November. (You can find more information and pictures on our website [www.capriolsocietyforearlydance.wordpress.com](http://www.capriolsocietyforearlydance.wordpress.com).)

We have performed at many local Churches. Back in 1987 we danced at Emmanuel's Tercentenary Barn Dance under the New Hall dome. There Malcolm Macfarlane of Emmanuel, a keen photographer, saw us and became one of our official photographers and videotaker, including for the Early Dance Festival which we hosted in 1996 at Long Road Sixth Form College. We have also danced at St. Andrew's Chesterton, Holy Trinity Bottisham, Newnham Village Church, St. Edmund's Church Hauxton, among others, always to help to raise funds for the Church or charities. In 1998 we provided the dancers for the drama group Bawds' production of the Mystery Play, the Conversion of St. Paul, in Little St. Mary's.





*In the chapel of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, in 1998 during the BAWDS production of the Mystery Play The Conversion of St. Paul. I am the third from the left"*

We have worked with Cherry Hinton Road URC – a concert, “Something Different” in 1995, and in 2003 a contribution to their Centenary “Hay Day”. We performed for the Tuesday Fellowship back in 2011, and again this summer. Despite the very hot weather this year people were able to move around and participate – this is the great thing about mediaeval dance, everyone can join in. The two earliest forms, the Farandole (a following the leader line dance) and the Branle (circle dance) are inclusive, very welcoming and easy for beginners. The Carole (circle dance and song) gave us dances to familiar carols, such as In Dulce Jubilo. Another development, however, the Estampie, had a real structure and was meant for display by couples or trios.

We perform at the annual Stourbridge Fair at the Leper Chapel, where again everyone, including young children, is welcome to join in the more straightforward dances. We first did this in 2005, and have just given our fifteenth performance.



*Performing in Rock Road. I am on the left*

We have also performed several times in Emmanuel, we gave a talk and demonstration for the “After Eight” groups from Emmanuel and St. Columba’s in 2012, and in 2014 contributed to Emmanuel’s Advent Miscellany Evening.

I see a strong connection between dance, especially mediaeval dance, and Church life. The carole, a dance accompanied by familiar tunes, often hymns or carols, creates a sense of community. Mediaeval dance is very social, never exclusive, all may join in the Farandole and the circle dances, and can often draw in from the young to the old who didn’t ever entertain the thought that dancing was for them. Mediaeval dance is a form of dancing which can be seen as a human extension of singing for the Lord.



THE CLOSING CHURCH SERVICE  
ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2019  
AT ST ATHANASIOS HALL, CHERRY HINTON ROAD.



*The Cherry Hinton Road congregation on the occasion of their last communion service*

Although it was with sadness that we said good bye to the Cherry Hinton Road congregation Sunday services with the final service, it was also with a sense of thanksgiving for all the wonderful times that the Cherry Hinton Road United Reform Church had experienced over the last hundred and fifteen years. We were so pleased that Lance Stone came all the way over from Amsterdam to share the service with John Bradbury. The newly refurbished hall was an appropriate place to have the final service as this was the very building where the Cherry Hinton Road Free Church as it was then called, worshipped in 1904 before the main church was built. The service, too, was held on the same day, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1940 when the Sunday School who were having a service, heard the air raid warning and then went to a shelter under the Swiss Laundry, only returning after the all clear was sounded when the service was resumed.

It was a lovely closing service which included Holy Communion with three of the hymns chosen by the Cherry Hinton Congregation. We felt so well supported by everyone who came as there were more than fifty people attending with representatives from the Quakers, St John's, Hills Road, and the Greek Orthodox Church. There were people attending who were former members of Cherry Hinton Road URC and those who had attended Sunday School. There were members of Downing Place attending both from the former Emmanuel URC and the former St Columba's URC as well as many of the preachers who had ministered to us over the last five years.

After the service, tea was served and some people stayed for a singalong. We all thought that the service was a fitting tribute and that although it was a sad occasion it was also a happy one because not only did we have the knowledge that the Tuesday Fellowship would continue at Cherry Hinton Road, but also because the President of the Greek Orthodox Church offered us the hall free of charge if we ever we should wish to hold an occasional church service in the future. Because of this, we felt so grateful and so blessed by this final Sunday service.

*Penny Milsom*

## **THE TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP AT CHERRY HINTON ROAD**

The Tuesday Fellowship has continued to meet weekly. We were sorry to hear about the death of Ray Stone in May 2019 and also the death of Betty Butler, a long time member of Cherry Hinton Road URC who was a regular attender of the Tuesday Fellowship in the past. The death of Ruth McKenzie was a considerable loss as Ruth regularly attended meetings until she went into hospital after sustaining a fall. She contributed so much to our fellowship. Her quiet gentle presence will be greatly missed.

We have been concerned about one of our members, Anne Disney, but pleased to see how well she has recovered from her recent illness. We also congratulate Margaret Vidall on the birth of her second great grandchild..

The activities have continued as part of our weekly service. We have had a Bible Quiz led by Robin Simpkins and two Bible studies led by Wendy Roe. The Bible studies have been stimulating and thought provoking as we examined different versions of text in different translations of the Bible. We were treated to talks by Liz Caswell and Janet Tollington, and a reflection by myself on the survival of my Hungarian cousins during the Second World War. Then we had a thoroughly enjoyable Wimbledon afternoon when we played a dice game using tennis terms for scoring in keeping with the Wimbledon atmosphere. This was followed by strawberries and cream which we had with our tea.

We have had a session on medieval dancing led by Liz Russell, a talk on **Girl Guiding and particularly the Rainbows** by Wendy Roe, a members' own on summer themes, as well as a talk by Charles Mather on music. We have had a wonderful talk on our annual charity, the Sally May Preschool, which was

followed by another trip to Scotsdale's. but this time in Great Shelford. We have also had a planning meeting and a tea party. Our Harvest Festival was taken by Anne Marie, our German visiting Minister. The food and collections from two weeks were donated to the Food Bank. Pamela Cressey gave an inspiring talk on the work of Corrymeala, a reconciliation centre in Northern Ireland. Since then we have had a Beetle Drive and a Shoe Box planning meeting, We collected items such as candles, toiletries, small games, colouring books, pencils and mugs to send to older people and families in Eastern Europe for Christmas.

Please feel free to come and join us on Tuesdays at 2.30pm in the chapel at Cherry Hinton Road. You will be most welcome. Tea and biscuits are always served after the meeting, and the topics are listed in the Diary section of Place Matters and on the Downing Place 'What's On' section every month.



### Don't Forget the Food Bank!

We all know how important Food Banks are these days in helping to relieve the pressure on struggling families. We can make contributions in our supermarkets,

but don't forget we always have a collection point in Downing Place.

The donations are collected on the first Sunday of the month, but you can bring them in on any Sunday, so why not get into the habit of bringing something whenever you come to Church?

The latest list of items most needed is below. Further information on the Cambridge Food Bank website, [cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk](http://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk)

Tinned Meat

Tinned tomatoes

Tinned meals - (chicken in sauce, beef casserole etc)

Cooking Oil - 500 ml preferred (1 litre max)

Tinned potatoes / Instant mash

Salt & Pepper - small

Instant Coffee and Tea - small jars and packets.

Tinned Rice Pudding / Long-life puddings

Jam or other spreads

JOAN ARROL DENISON  
1925-2019



*A tribute given by Alan Rickard at Joan's funeral  
on September 20th at Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham*

Joan died in Ludlow aged 94 on 22 August and was a member of St Columba's (for many years)

Joan was proud of her Scottish roots and was also for many years a member of the Scots' kirk in Cambridge, St Columba's. It was my privilege to be her Elder and I bring this tribute on behalf of Downing Place Church, formed recently by the amalgamation of the former St Columba's and Emmanuel congregations in the centre of Cambridge.

Joan worshipped both here in Holy Trinity Church and at St Columba's. She would attend St Columba's for the main festivals of the Christian year, quietly slipping into a pew at the back of the church shortly before the beginning of the service and often accompanied by family members, especially at Christmas. It was a joy to see her and her family and to exchange seasonal greetings. Joan received regular home visits from our ministers over the years, from Ernest Marvin, Keith Riglin and, most recently, from Nigel Uden, all of whom cherished her profound faith and their shared fellowship.

A member of the congregation here today, also from Downing Place and resident in Cambridge for many years, was at school and indeed in the same house as Joan at St Leonard's School in St Andrews. Another member of St Columba's, also originally from Scotland, taught both Simon and Andrew at Bottisham Primary School. Such connections were woven into the rich tapestry that was her long and eventful life.

Joan hosted social and fund-raising events for St Columba's and generously offered her home and garden for what became legendary country lunches and afternoon teas, the latter held after local rambles around Bottisham. We remember her fondly on these occasions for her kindness, the warmth of her hospitality and her tremendous energy and enthusiasm. Tables and chairs were regrouped inside and out. Brought offerings of food were carefully plated up and laid out in the dining room alongside her own delicious homemade fare. At the close of proceedings everything was systematically restored to normal. Joan's organisational skills, unflappability and sense of humour came to the fore at times like these, and the end results gave so much pleasure to all those whom she welcomed to Appletreewick.

I will remember her too for her loyal support of Cambridge Voices and Ian de Massini, whom she invited on several occasions to perform at the now defunct Bottisham Music Society, both in the Village College and here in Holy Trinity Church, as well as attending services and concerts given in nearby churches.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Amen



# *When Words Fail, Music Speaks*

The Group Therapy Centre Cambridge

**50th Anniversary Celebrations and Fundraising Appeal**

Friday 15th November 7.30pm

Mumford Theatre ARU Cambridge

Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge

Tickets £15 (students and concessions £10) Box Office 01223-352932

*"...played with fascinating perfection"*

Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung

Music from Swan Lake, Dolly Suite

&

Polovtsian Dances

on piano duet

Silent Auction  
Raffle  
Drinks Reception



# The Cann Twins

In Concert

**Dr Linde Wotton— *The Improvisation of Belonging***

**A short talk on the musicality of belonging in human groups**

Dr Linde Wotton is a Psychiatrist and Group Analyst, Chair of the International Course Committee at the Institute of Group Analysis (IGA) and Chair of the Scientific Committee of The Group Analytic Society International (GASI).

The Group Therapy Centre is a not for profit organisation (registered charity number 1136632)



## **Christian Aid – Carol Singing**

Christian Aid invites you to join them for a session of Carol Singing to raise funds for the Christmas Appeal, this year to help empower women in countries such as Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India, enabling them to lift themselves out of poverty and give their children a better future.

**When?** afternoon of Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, time tbc, watch the Weekly Diary!

**Where?** Grand Arcade

**Why?** To help hard pressed women across the world - and have a good sing!



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Please send all items to be included in the December/January edition to both Sheila and Ann by the cut off date of Wednesday 20 November 2019.

Any items received after the deadline will not be included.

The December/January edition will be available in church from Sunday 1 December