



DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE

PLACE MATTERS



MONTHLY MAGAZINE – ISSUE 17
FEBRUARY 2020

CONTACT DETAILS – DOWNING PLACE URC

Website: www.downingplaceurc.org

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

Ministers: The Revd. Dr. John Bradbury
john.bradbury@downingplaceurc.org
01223 351174 (office) 07305 830462

The Revd. Nigel Uden
nigel.uden@downingplaceurc.org
01223 314586 (manse)

Children's Ministry Team Co-ordinator:
Rosemary Johnston
children@downingplaceurc.org

Church Office: Elaine Barker
(Elaine's rest day is now Tuesday)
elaine@downingplaceurc.org
01223 351174

Ann Auger
(Ann is available during weekday working hours)
ann@downingplaceurc.org
01223 351174

Church Secretary: Margaret Thompson
secretary@downingplaceurc.org

Clerk to the Elders' Meeting

Owen Saxton

clerk@downingplaceurc.org

Treasurer:

Ian Strachan

treasurer@downingplaceurc.org

Hospital and Hospice Visitor:

The Revd. Deborah McVey

hospitalvisitor@downingplaceurc.org

Directors of Music:

Mark Dawes

mark@downingplaceurc.org

Ian de Massini

ian@downingplaceurc.org



FROM THE MINISTERS

To pray is to open ourselves to God – to God’s presence, wisdom and way. So it was that in 2017, as Emmanuel and St Columba’s were discerning what the future was asking of them, we adopted a prayer. We were contemplating something tremendously significant; the prayer was to assist us in being open to God’s guidance. It was used in various communal contexts, and we were encouraged to use it in our personal devotions, too.

Since then, much has happened. In 2018 we united to form Downing Place United Reformed Church, and as well as continuing a great deal that characterised the two churches, we started new things, most particularly a new worshipping community for the LGBT+ community, Open Table. In 2019, extensive work began to redevelop the St Columba’s building, and we started the search for a Pioneer Minister, to help our engagement with people who would be unlikely ever to cross our threshold. Downing Place’s venture remains tremendously significant and undergirding it with prayer is no less essential now than three years ago.

At the suggestion of the Officers’ Meeting, a new collect has been prepared, and we present it to you below. Again, we intend to use it in various public ways, but also offer it for members to add to their own prayers.

For another situation, Alfred, Lord Tennyson said something that nevertheless feels apposite: ‘More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of: wherefore, let thy voice, rise like a fountain.’

John and Nigel



A Collect for
Downing Place Church

Faithful God,
in Jesus Christ,
you renew creation,
 forever re-aligning it to you and to itself,
and you renew us,
 as we grow into being Downing Place Church,
 realigned in this generation
 to one another and to your mission.

We praise you.

In 2020,
as we move from buildings cherished over many yesterdays
 to one regenerated for many tomorrows,
and as we bid farewell to some companions on the Way
whilst warmly welcoming new ones,
we pray the work of your Holy Spirit
to inspire our worship
 and nurture our vision,
to kindle our talents
 and nourish our unity,
that seeing what you are doing
we might join in.

In seasons of fruitfulness,
 draw gratitude out of us
and in moments of challenge,
 put heart back into us.

With all your people in every age,
whose name we honour,
we trust that your fervent love
will do this,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom alone be the glory,
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Christmas Joy





We celebrate God's gift for all people.



The NEXT INVITATION BREAKFAST is planned for Sunday 9th February.
Please invite children of friends, family and neighbours.

Invitation Breakfast...

Let's look at salt and light



For 0-11 year olds and their families

SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 10.15 - 12noon

Meeting at Emmanuel, Trumpington Street
Breakfast, games, time together in church,
then crafts and stories.



Book online with Rosemary • children@downingplaceurc.org
Downing Place United Reformed Church • downingplaceurc.org

PASTORAL NEWS

Janey and Mark Reacher have become grandparents for the first time (Julia's son, Cillian James, was born in mid-December).

David Thompson has been awarded a Doctorate of Divinity, one of Cambridge University's higher degrees.

Naomi Young-Rodas has transferred her membership on her ordination and induction at Rayleigh, Christ Church and Bridgwater Drive LEP in Southend.

A number of members and friends have been under medical supervision in recent weeks.

JOHN BARROW has received further honours after being appointed an Academician of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences by Pope Francis, following election by the Academy members. The Pontifical Academy is the oldest (1603) and the only supra national Academy. It is open to elect scientists of any religious persuasion or none. Like the Order of Merit, there is a maximum membership (of 80 including a few ex-officio) and so an Academician must die for a vacancy to arise. John's insignia will be presented by the Pope in October at the next plenary session of the Academy.

John understands that Martin Rees is the only other Cambridge member at present. His own university department has had Stephen Hawking and Paul Dirac as members in the past.

Greetings from Sarah Bergemann (left), Time for God volunteer 2015-16. She writes: 'thank you so much for your lovely Christmas Card from Downing Place.

I hope that you have spent a wonderful Christmas and New Year.



Emmanuel United Reformed Church
Trumpington St. Cambridge



For the love of God

music by

Tallis
Fauré
Durufle
Gershwin
Gibbons
Bach
Palestrina
De Massini



pianists Revd John Bradbury, Revd Nigel Uden, and Mark Dawes.

choirs Cambridge Voices, and DPURC Church Choir.

cellist Philippa Jones

singer Ian de Massini

narrator Jane Bower

FREE ADMISSION: retiring collection in aid of 'PETALS',
a charity based at the Rosie Maternity Hospital, Addenbrooke's

Members and friends of Downing Place U.R.C.
present a charity fund-raising musical extravaganza entitled
For the Love of God

4.00pm - 5:15pm, Saturday February 15th

(the day after Valentine's Day)

in Emmanuel U.R.C., Trumpington St., Cambridge

followed by a finger-food and drinks reception.

FREE ADMISSION.

Ian de Massini, joint Director of Music of D.P.U.R.C., writes: Soon we'll be leaving these much-loved premises of Emmanuel United Reformed Church in Cambridge, a building with one of the finest acoustics, and warm, welcoming ambience, in the city. And even sooner, one of our two very musical ministers will be leaving us for new pastures. So I thought it would be good to make full use of this opportunity, whilst we are all still worshipping inside this beautiful church, and bring together the rich panoply of all those musicians within our membership, together with musical groups who regularly provide liturgical music for our acts of worship here, and put on a family-orientated Musical Extravaganza, with free admission, followed by a retiring collection in aid of local charities. It'll be on the day after Valentine's Day, and so it seems natural to theme the whole event around the subject of 'love', in both its sacred, and secular, manifestations; hence the title, *For the Love of God*

Our minister, John Bradbury, will play some dazzling Liszt on our fine piano, a work inspired by a Love Sonnet written in the 14th century by Petrarch.

John will then be joined by our other minister, Nigel Uden, and together they will play, as a piano duet, the instantly recognisable theme-tune to *Listen with Mother*, otherwise known as the *Berceuse* (Cradle Song) from Fauré's *Dolly Suite*.

Pippa Jones, an Elder of our church, and an outstanding cello-player, will be accompanied by my fellow Director of Music, Mark Dawes, when she performs the wistfully haunting theme-music to the millennial film starring Juliet Stephenson and Alan Rickman, *Truly, madly, deeply*; it is, in fact, the slow movement from one of Bach's majestic Sonatas for Viola da Gamba and keyboard.

Our own Church Choir, conducted by Mark Dawes, will perform two anthems, one by Thomas Tallis (*If ye love me*), and one by the former Director of Music at Worcester Cathedral, Peter Nardone (*A new commandment I give unto you*).

My choir, *Cambridge Voices*, will present a hugely varied sequence of settings of words taken from King Solomon's Song of Songs, with works by Orlando Gibbons, Palestrina, the Swiss contemporary composer Carl Rütli, and two works written by me, Ian de Massini. There'll also be fun music by George Gershwin, and a beguiling setting of George Herbert's poem, *Love bade me welcome*, composed by the current Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir, CBE.

Accompanied by Nigel Uden, I will sing some songs by Schumann and Brahms on the subject of Eternal love.

And the whole show will be compered by our own, inimitable, Jane Bower, who will interleave these musical items with thought-provoking words from the Bible, from John Donne, and from Oscar Wilde's play, *Salomé*. And rumour has it that she might even entertain us with a song about two very noisy cats!

I do hope you'll reserve this date in your diary. I've chosen the music specially so that children of all ages would feel very welcome to attend. And, together, the two choirs will provide finger-food and drinks for a relaxing post-concert reception, to which all the audience and artists are invited, after the concert, in the church hall. And there'll be the opportunity, as you leave the concert, to give money to go to 'Petals', a charity based at the Rosie Maternity Hospital, Addenbrooke's.

This will be a great festive occasion, suitable for the whole family.

FEBRUARY FILM NIGHT



The next Film Night will be on Monday February 10th. The film will be *Mrs. Lowry and Son*.

Details from Rosemary Johnston.

CAMBRIDGE BIBLE SOCIETY ACTION GROUP

invite you to the

Spring Supper

on Friday 14th February 2020 6.45pm

at Queen Edith Chapel, Wulfstan Way,
Cambridge CB1 8QN

Speaker: Basil Scott

“Reconciliation: Turning Enemies into Friends”

Tickets £7 from Penny & David Flynn or Liz Caswell.



FEBRUARY DIARY

Saturday 1st	10.00am	A Musical Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Toilet Twinning appeal	Fulbourn URC
Sunday 2nd	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship with Communion for LGBT History month led by Revd Dr John Bradbury COLLECTION FOR FOODBANK	Emmanuel
Monday 3rd	12.30pm	Prayers for the Life and Witness of our church, followed by a simple lunch	At the home of Ted and Margaret Dennison
	4.00pm	Officers' Meeting	Emmanuel
Tuesday 4th	2.30pm	Cherry Hinton Road Fellowship Speaker: Marian Koroma	St Athanasios Church, Cherry Hinton Road
Wednesday 5th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert: Cambridge Chamber Ensemble	Emmanuel
Thursday 6th	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One	Emmanuel
	7.30pm	Children's Ministry Team Meeting	At the home of Rosemary Johnston
Sunday 9th	10.00am	Invitation Breakfast for 0-11 year olds and their families	Emmanuel
	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship led by Revd Dr John Bradbury	Emmanuel

Sunday 9th <i>contd....</i>	7.00pm	Open Table Bring and Share Supper	Emmanuel
Monday 10th	7.00pm	Film Night: Mrs Lowry and Son	Contact Rosemary Johnston
Tuesday 11th	2.30pm	Cherry Hinton Road Fellowship Geoffrey Heathcoat will speak about the RNLI	St Athanasios' Church, Cherry Hinton Road
	2.30pm	Tuesday Club: Lord Fairhaven's life at Anglesey Abbey Speaker: Helen Ackroyd	At the home of Pamela Cressey
Wednesday 12th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert: Zacharias Brandman (piano)	Emmanuel
Thursday 13th	10.30am	Ferried Friends	At the home of Lorraine Thornton
	11.00am	Midweek Worship with Communion led by Revd Nigel Uden	Emmanuel
	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One 15th Birthday Celebration	Emmanuel
Friday 14th	6.45pm	Cambridge Bible Society Spring Supper (see p.13)	Queen Edith Chapel, Wulfstan Way
Saturday 15th	4.00pm	For the Love of God: A Musical Extravaganza (see pp.10-12)	Emmanuel

Sunday 16th	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship led by Revd Nigel Uden	Emmanuel
Monday 17th	7.30pm	Book Group Meeting ‘The Silence of the Girls’ by Pat Barker‘	At the home of Joan Laidlaw
Tuesday 18th	2.30pm	Cherry Hinton Road Fellowship Speaker: John Bradbury	St Athanasios Church, Cherry Hinton Road
Wednesday 19th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert: Giorgios Vardakis (piano) Alex Talaifar (cello)	Emmanuel
Thursday 20th	12.30pm	Gibson Lunch	Emmanuel
	1.30pm	Knit One, Give One	Emmanuel
Sunday 23rd	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship led by Revd Chris Baker	Emmanuel
	6.00pm	Evening Worship led by Mark Hayes	Fulbourn URC
	7.30pm	Open Table Worship for LGBT+ folk and their allies. Refreshments from 7pm.	Emmanuel
Tuesday 25th	2.30pm	Cherry Hinton Road Fellowship Speaker: Maureen Kendall	St Athanasios Church, Cherry Hinton Road
	2.30pm	The Word Together Bible Study Lent Group	Fulbourn URC

Wednesday 26th	1.00pm	Free Lunchtime Concert: Nigel Blomiley (cello)	Emmanuel
	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion With music by Cambridge Voices	Emmanuel
Thursday 27th	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 1 March	10.00am	Choir Practice	Emmanuel
	11.00am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Revd Dr John Bradbury COLLECTION FOR CAMBRIDGE FOODBANK	Emmanuel

SAVE THE DATE!

Following on from the successful Carol Service last December, we are planning 2 further services in 2020, which will be particularly suitable for those living with dementia and their carers, although enjoyed by everyone.

Songs of Praise - Monday June 29th at 11am – followed by scones and coffee

Carol Service - Tuesday December 8th at 11am - followed by mince pies and coffee

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

Sunday 2 February is our annual LGBT History Month service. We are joined as always by Sing Out, an LGBT choir from the city. It is our largest service of the year, with many folk with us not normally in church. We will reflect on this text from Micah:

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8



BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER TOPICS FEBRUARY 2020

Below are the Bible readings we will be following in worship at Downing Place during February. 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, and a prayer for Fair Trade Fortnight, starting 24th February.

February 2nd: Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

February 9th: Exodus 12: 14-28; Matthew 26: 14-30

February 16th: Genesis 12: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

February 23rd: Exodus 24: 12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

March 1: John 6: 41-59; Mark 14: 10-25



ARROW PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

1. Pray for our Ministers, John and Nigel, who both have changes within their ministry this year – we thank God for their ministry – and pray they may find the right balance in their busy lives . . .
2. Pray for LGBT+ history month which starts today, for the launch event at **Great St Mary's, for our ministry with Open Table - and for 'Sing Out Cambridge'** – the LGBT+ Choir – who will share our morning worship today.
3. Pray for the Officers who meet this evening – may they know your presence with them as they share the leadership of this congregation.
4. Pray for those you know who are unwell – for doctors and nurses under great stress – and for the chaplains at our local hospitals.
5. Pray for the staff at Arthur Rank House – and for those who are able to spend their last days in a supportive and comforting place.
6. **Pray for children's ministry in Downing Place, for Rosemary Johnston,** and all who lead groups regularly on Sunday mornings.
7. Pray for our caretaker and cleaners and all who help to keep our premises fresh and clean. Pray too for their families.
8. **Pray for Nicola Grieves, Synod Youth and Children's Work** Development Officer, who will work with our Elders in DPURC today.
9. Pray for the Invitation Breakfast for young people and their families before Morning Worship today – and for the Open Table Supper this evening. Thank God for families and fellowship.
10. In 1945, a bomb fell on Church House on 10th February - 12 people were killed – pray for those attending a Memorial Service today.
11. Pray for the Elders meeting this evening. Thank God for their care and concern for the people, the buildings, and the future of DPURC!
12. Pray for Ann and Elaine in the Office as they keep track of lettings and coordinate with the needs of church members.
13. Pray for Ferried Friends and their hosts, and for people who have limited opportunities to meet others – and those who care for them.
14. Pray for the Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project – for the churches who host and the guests who need their support.
15. Pray for NightLite as they seek a new venue for 2020, and for those young people who find comfort and friendship in their ministry.
16. Pray for Mark and Ian and the music they bring together to our life and worship – and all who take part in the choir and the orchestra.

17. Pray for the Book Group meeting this evening – and for books and for community libraries to be available in all communities.
18. **Pray for Jimmy's, Winter Comfort, and CCHP and all who seek to help the homeless and rootless people with appropriate support.**
19. And pray for all the people who live on our streets – may they find friendship and ways of building a structure to their lives again.
20. Pray for the Cambridge Knit One, Give One – and for all the organisations they help, at home and overseas, by the items and garments they knit!
21. Pray for Eddies and the Edmund Trust, who support people with learning difficulties into work, and provide stimulating training.
22. Pray for your own family and friends, and lift up to God those who are facing a challenging time, and trust in the loving mercy of God.
23. Pray for the Open Table Service this evening – and thank God for the friends who welcome all to worship together.
24. Pray for Fair Trade Fortnight which starts today (see prayer on p.22) – and for more people to use fairly traded foods when they are available.
25. Pray for families who are struggling to feed and clothe their children, and for the organisations such as Social Services and the Cambridge Food Bank who support them.
26. Pray for Wednesday concerts in Emmanuel – for the musicians who share their talent and for those who come to hear the music.
27. Pray for the Singing House Group – for Penny and David who lead, and for the fellowship and the sharing together in music and song.
28. Pray for the young people out on the town tonight and for Cambridge Street Pastors who seek to help and support those in distress.
29. Pray for all social workers, and particularly those who work with families – that the right solution may be found to support them.



Church Members Leading Worship in February 2020

- February 2nd : Chris Baker – Melbourn
Janet Bottoms – Stetchworth and Cheveley
Elizabeth Caswell - Holy Trinity, Bottisham
Penny Flynn - Buntingford
Nigel Uden – St Johns URC, Marsh Green
- February 9th : Professor David Thompson at Ely Cathedral
Janet Tollington - Stetchworth and Cheveley
Nigel Uden – Abbey Hill URC, Kenilworth
- February 16th: Penny Flynn - Melbourn
Janet Tollington – St Catherines College
Nigel Uden – 9.30 – Fulbourn; DPURC – 11.00
- February 23rd: Chris Baker – DPURC
Janet Bottoms – Castle Camps
Nigel Uden – Fleet URC

=====

Prayer for Fair Trade Fortnight
24 February – 8th March 2020

O Lord, You revealed your Kingdom in parables
That spoke of simple things –
Yeast in a loaf of bread,
A woman sweeping her home.
Grant that the simple choices we make –
What tea to drink, what fruit to eat –
May honour your Name
And reveal your Kingdom present among us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

HOUSE GROUPS FOR LENT

Mondays 2.30pm-4.15pm at the home of John and Elizabeth Whitehorn

Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.15pm at the home of David and Penny Flynn

5 weeks beginning Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd March

The material upon which the meetings will be based is from

www.faihandworship.com

‘Living in the Light’, a sample of which can be seen on the Faith and Worship website

Printed copies of the whole will be made available, and given to those who ask towards the end of February (watch the weekly notices).

Further information from Elizabeth or Penny



‘Christ in the Wilderness’ - oil on canvas by Ivan Kromskoi

CAMBRIDGE CENTRE FOR CHRISTIANITY WORLDWIDE

The Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide at Westminster College is offering bursaries of up to £1000 towards short term missions or overseas placements taking place from Summer 2020 onwards. The bursaries are aimed at people aged 18-40, or mature students, with a Cambridge connection. Anyone interested is welcome to visit the library to research their placement and the meaning of intercultural encounter in general. The closing date is Thursday 23rd April. Prospective applicants are welcome to get in touch on encounter@cccw.cam.ac.uk, or contact the co-ordinator, Marietta van der Tol on www.cccw.cam.ac.uk, or 01223 330640, on a Wednesday morning.

STREET PASTORS AND NIGHTLITE

Street Pastors and NightLite – could you volunteer?

Cambridge Street Pastors are on the look-out for new volunteers, and would welcome enquiries from anyone who might be interested in joining their street ministry on Friday and Saturday nights.



Please have a look at their website on www.cambridgestreetpastors.org to find out more about the Street Pastors and NightLite, now working out of Hobbs Pavilion on Parker's Piece until they can return to their base in our new home at Downing Place.

They also ask for your support in prayer, giving thanks for new volunteers and help received from other organisations, and remembering their teams on the streets and those they help.

A video about the work of the Street Pastors can be viewed via the link below:

https://www.cambridgestreetpastors.org.uk/Groups/253067/Hope_Cambridge/Partners/Cambridge_Street_Pastors/What_we_do/Video/Video.aspx

CAMCRAG AND CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECT – THE BIG SLEEPOUT 2020

Saturday 15th to Sunday 16th February

Downing Place has supported both the Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group (CamCrag) and the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project (CCHP), and both of these charities are set to benefit from the third Big Cambridge-Calais Sleepout 2020.

Nobody should sleep outside in winter but many people have no choice.

For the rough sleepers on the streets of Cambridge and the refugees in northern France, who sleep on waste land around Calais and Dunkirk, homelessness is not their fault. They may be in this situation because they have lost their job, have family or health problems, have fled persecution, or because their home in Syria or Kurdistan was destroyed by bombs. They all face the same struggles, conditions and stigmatisation.

Help us support these people by joining our sponsored sleepout in the beautiful setting of St Giles' Church on the corner of Castle Hill, from Saturday evening to Sunday morning, 15th -16th February. There will be a winter fair on Saturday afternoon, an evening meal and breakfast will be provided, and you can choose how you want to sleep: inside the church, outside in a tent, or outside under a tarpaulin! We will use the proceeds from the event to support CamCrag's convoys to Northern France, and the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project. Rowan Williams will be speaking on the Saturday afternoon.

Please see the Eventbrite page at: <https://qr.go.page.link/AhQob> for details and a sign-up form.

You can donate directly to the sleepout here: <https://charity.kindlink.com/project/view/2634>.

Here is a video of the 2018 Sleepout: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKi-QYb9ek8&t=6s>

See the CamCrag website: <https://camcrag.org.uk/sleepout2020/> for more details

PROFILE - GEORGE DEVINE

Scotland

I grew up in Oxgangs, a suburb of Edinburgh on the slopes of the Pentland Hills. I attended the local Church of Scotland. That Church was demolished last year and replaced by an Aldi – one religion by another! I did manage to salvage the Church bell, which is now at Bonaly Scout camp near Edinburgh. I enjoyed the



Youth Fellowship, which was ecumenical – young people from Church of Scotland, Episcopalian and also Roman Catholic Churches – at a time when anti-Catholic feeling could still be found in Scotland, even within the Churches.

After my father died when I was fifteen I became much more involved with the Church - I was a Sunday school teacher and Bible Club leader. I had a lot of support from the Minister and his wife, I was a good friend of their son David, through our involvement in Scouting. I was also friendly with their daughter Kathy Galloway, who is well known as the first female Leader of the Iona Community and Head of Christian Aid in Scotland.

Starting work

At eighteen, I joined Halfords as a trainee Manager, and they posted me to Dundee, then down to London. I was pretty lonely and on the verge of giving up when I made a trip back to Edinburgh. I had been involved with the Scouts since I joined the Cubs in 1959, and had become a Cub Instructor when I was sixteen. Now one of my Cub leaders suggested I find the local Scout troop in London and go along to help. It turned out that my landlord was a Scout and on the campsite work team, so I just joined in. The local Scoutleader and his wife **more or less adopted me, and suddenly I had lots of friends, and I'm still friendly with their son Gary and his wife.**

After that whenever I moved around with work I would go along to the local Scout troop and get involved in a leadership role. In November 2019 I celebrated 60 years with the Scouts. I've had several awards, but I really do it because I enjoy it – when I don't, I shall give up.

Working with Ford

I ended my Halfords career as Assistant Manager in Nottingham, but then moved back to Edinburgh for a while to help out with the family. I applied to Ford who were advertising for a Co-ordinator job, and I got it, and I stayed with Ford for the rest of my career, moving around the country spending time as Plant Co-ordinator at the Southampton Plant,. What really interested me was the trucks, especially public service vehicles. I enjoyed getting together with the police, ambulance crews, even the MOD, to sort out what they needed, introduce new safety features, and then liaise with our engineers to make it happen.

The Ford Transit van was a particular interest – I am an honorary lifetime member of the Transit Van Owners Club! In 2005 the Transit was 40 years old and I organized a parade of 150 vans - featuring the very first Transit built in 1965. I persuaded the authorities to let us close the Dartford Crossing for the parade, and early on a Sunday morning I found myself in the event control vehicle in the middle of an empty Elizabeth Bridge with only the helicopter filming the event to break the silence. Quite a unique experience! Our Southampton plant had made Hurricanes and Spitfires during the war, and I arranged for a pilot from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight to fly his Hurricane over the celebrations afterwards.

Overseas with the Scouts

It was while I was based in Southampton that I became involved with the Venture Scouts and invited to participate in my first overseas Scouts trip in 1985, on a Unicef project, digging latrines. We went to Sri Lanka for five weeks, and I was Base Camp Manager – ‘**cooking and mending**’, i.e. **organising the food, and “mending” the people**. I had advanced training with the Ambulance service. I made many more trips with the Scouts after that and became the Scouts’ UK Global Adviser for Africa. I serve now as Manager of International Support, setting up international opportunities – there will be a team going out to the Amazon this year and another to Tanzania.

In 1988 I went to Nepal, where we worked with Sir Edmund Hilary, and his wife June. In 1991, while working for Ford in Edinburgh, I went with a party of Scottish scouts to Mongolia. In 2007 after I retired from Ford, I led an expedition to Malawi, spending nine weeks in a two-man tent! British Scouts still owned a campsite there, and we decided we ought to hand it over to the Malawian scouts, so we organized a full blown handover ceremony, with lowering and raising of flags. The Chief Scout flew out to attend. There were also trips to Ghana and Namibia and Malawi but it was the Gambian expedition in 1989/90 which really started my love affair with Africa.



With friends in Jiroff

I made my first trip to the Gambia in 1989, to the village of Jiroff, with a party of Scouts building a school for the village. I was invited to go back there in 2008, twenty years after my first visit, and now I go back every year. I wrote about our work there in last October's *Place Matters*. We have put in an accommodation block for the teachers, and more recently we refurbished this, and were asked to provide a teachers' toilet block. With funds from Downing Place and others we completed this just last November. We've also made a woman's garden, with a solar pump for water. The pump started leaking, and the cattle broke down the fence to come in to drink, and churned up the garden, so now we are arranging to get the pump mended and reinstate the garden. Wherever we can we use local labour, putting something into the local economy and passing on skills.



Painting the teachers' accommodation



The new toilets at Jiroff

Cambridge

Although I am Scottish, I now consider Cambridge as my home, and miss it when I am away. Back in 1995 I was working at Ford's Headquarters in Essex and looking for a place to live. I settled in Fen Ditton, and I have lived there ever since, except when I have been back to Edinburgh to support family. I soon became involved with village life, and especially the cricket. I am President of the Cricket Club, and this year, 2020, we are celebrating a centenary of cricket in Fen Ditton with a special dinner on 15th May with Jonathan Agnew to raise funds to refurbish our Pavilion – if anyone is interested they are very welcome to ask me about tickets!

My nephew from Edinburgh moved down to live with me in Fen Ditton as a teenager, and now he and his wife and two girls, aged eight and ten, still live locally. I see a lot of them – my nephew is like my adopted son and his daughters my grandchildren – they rule my life!

St. Columba's and Downing Place

I've tried various Churches, but my introduction to the then St. Columba's came about in a curious way. Up in Edinburgh in the early nineties I was getting interested in volunteer work in China, when friends introduced me to Keith Riglin who was then at Carberry and involved with a Chinese Missionary group. When I returned to Cambridge I met up with Keith again. I had been going through a period of doubt about my faith, but a remark by a friend in Malawi – that "God had sent me to work there" strengthened me, and after Keith gently encouraged me to come to St. Columba's I felt myself very much at home there. I was heartened by the interest in World Church and overseas mission, something I hadn't always found in the different Scottish Churches I had tried. I'm now a member of the Downing Place World Church and Public Issues group.

I am totally supportive of our union with Emmanuel as Downing Place and pleased that things are going so well. There will of course be compromises on both sides as we come even closer together and move into our new home, but the end result will be well worth it.

George Devine was talking to Sheila Porrer

THE CHERRY HINTON ROAD TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship has continued to meet weekly throughout November and for two weeks in December. We had an inspiring talk from Margaret Jude, and a visit from the Bar Hill singers. This was followed by a Christmas flower decoration session led by Alice Webb also from Bar Hill. Brian Mizon followed this the next week with a talk and the following week we had our annual Christmas service. Our carol service was taken by John Bradbury.

We started back after Christmas with a Members Own where members brought poems and readings on the theme of Winter. Finally on Tuesday January 14th, Richard Lewney talked about his visit to Palestine . This was a United Reformed Church Palestine Study trip for people to inform themselves about the situation in Palestine. He showed us pictures of the wall which was erected by the Israeli Government after the Israeli Palestine war in 1967, and he told us about the oppressive effect on the everyday life of the Palestinians. He told us that the number of Christians both in Israel and Palestine have reduced considerably over the years. There is now only less than 2% of the population in Palestine who are Christians and 2% of the population in Israel who are Christians. This is because the young people move away from the area as soon as they can. We also saw pictures of olive trees being planted to prevent the Israeli settlers appropriating uncultivated land. This gave us much food for thought and made us realise how complex the situation in the Middle East is and how easy it is to apportion blame when there are people on both sides of the conflict who just wish for peace.

Our next meeting will be our AGM when members will be elected to serve on the Committee. So far the fellowship has donated £127.22 to the Bible Society for the year 2019 and £27.20 for Blue Smile. Our annual charity for the year 2019 was the Sally May Preschool in Sierra Leone international charity and the amount raised will be presented to the founder of the charity, Mariam Koroma when she comes to speak to the fellowship on February 4th, 2020. This year our annual charity for 2020 will be the Medaille Trust.

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 'What's on'** section every month.

Penny Milsom

GROUPS AT DOWNING PLACE

The Church Meeting has approved the formation of six Groups who will take forward particular aspects of our work, under the guidance of the Elders and the Church Meeting.

The Ministers and Elders are keen that the existence of these Groups should become widely known, and that church members with a special interest in the work of a particular Group will be able to express that interest, and make links with that Group.

The six Groups are as follows:

Evangelism and Service Group (Convenor: John Bradbury). The remit of this Group is to focus on Cambridge-based evangelism, witness and service (including providing support for the Pioneer Minister when he or she is appointed; and **more generally, support for our church's expressed wish to be an open and welcoming Christian presence within the city centre**).

Finance and Management Committee (Convenor: Stephen Thornton). This is the only **Group that is provided for in the Church's constitution (and that's why it is called a Committee!)**. As its name implies, it supports the work of the Church Treasurer and deals with staffing and management matters.

Pastoral Care Group (Convenor: Jenny Jacobsberg). This Group oversees the pastoral care of the congregation. It deals with some general matters, such as the **church's Safeguarding Policy, and the recruitment and support of Pastoral Visitors**; but it also sometimes discusses the pastoral needs of particular individuals. Because of the confidentiality requirements of discussions about individuals, this is the only Group whose meetings are not open to all members of the church (see further below).

Property Group (Convenor: David Thomas). This Group oversees the maintenance of the properties belonging to the church – church buildings, manses and other properties owned by the church that are currently leased. It is different from the Buildings Group, which is a temporary Group set up to oversee the current **redevelopment of the St Columba's church building**.

World Church and Public Issues Group (Convenor: Simone Maghenzani). This Group has both an international and a national focus. It aims to raise awareness within

our church about relevant international Christian activities (including Christian Aid, and the work of international organisations of which the URC is a member). **It is also concerned to bring to members' attention relevant issues within the UK** concerning – for example – social justice and social need. Among other things, the Group advises the Church Meeting on financial support for charitable organisations through the Monthly Special Cause appeals and distributions from the York Street Fund.

Worship, Discipleship and Spirituality Group (Convenor: Alan Rickard). This Group supports the work of the Ministers, and advises on various aspects of worship and discipleship, including the prayer life of the congregation. It also oversees **the work of the Children's Ministry programme, and our church's ecumenical links within Cambridge city centre.**

Each of these Groups has a 'Core Membership' of church members who are appointed by the Church Meeting. As mentioned above, however, with the exception of the Pastoral Care Group, the meetings of every Group are open for any church member to attend; and for this reason the scheduled meetings of Groups will be listed in the Weekly Church Diary.

Anyone who is interested in the work of a particular group is encouraged to speak to the Convenor of that Group, with a view to attending meetings of the Group. From time to time, also, vacancies arise in the Core Membership of Groups, and when that occurs it is always helpful for Convenors to have available expressions of interest to become members of the Group. At the present time, we are looking for new Core Members of the World Church and Public Issues Group.

Please do think about these matters carefully and prayerfully. As we move to our redeveloped premises later this year, we do very much want the various aspects of the work of Downing Place to be taken forward by the whole congregation.

John Bradbury

Nigel Uden

BUILDING WORK UPDATE

Robert Porrer took the images below during a site visit on 6 January.

A full set of images can be seen on our redevelopment blog at www.downingplaceurc.org/redevelopment-blog/



Sanctuary



St Columba's Hall - The New Hub (1)



St Columba's Hall - The New Hub (2)



Gibson Hall - New steels in place

SPECIAL CAUSE FOR FEBRUARY



Romsey Mill is a local Christian charity creating opportunities for disadvantaged and vulnerable young people and families throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Our four Programmes are:

Our Youth Development Programme supports the most at-risk young people within the community, often working with them at times of great personal



crisis. We create opportunities for young people to build character and confidence, equipping them for the future via accredited programmes and through long term relational support.

We are the lead response in and around Cambridge for first time mums aged 19 and younger and dads up to 25. We provide expert personal, educational and parenting support, equipping young parents and their children for a positive future.

We also deliver playgroups such as Little Millers for families with pre-school children.

Our Aspire Programme supports young people with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASCs) with autism-friendly youth clubs, helping over 100 ASC young people to make friends and learn important life skills.

Across all programme areas, our focus is on promoting social inclusion and empowering young people to inspire positive change within their own lives and within the communities they live in.

Thank you to Downing Place Church for your support, and most recently for funding music activities for our Babies and Buddies group. To continue to support our local work:

Cheques to be made out to Romsey Mill Trust Ltd.

2019 SPECIAL CAUSES

Through your generosity in 2019, we were able to send the following charities these donations.

January	Cambridge Churches' Homelessness Project	£545.03
February	Medical Aid for Palestinians	£721.00
March	Cambridge Street Pastors	£476.20
April	CAMCRAG	£208.60
May	Albert Kennedy Trust	£313.30
June	Water Aid	£506.50
July-August	Blue Smile	£431.55
September	Lyn House	£293.85
October	Commitment for Life	£6,322.20
November	Bible Society	£291.90
December	Besom in Cambridge	£395.37
TOTAL		£10,505.50



(Image by Mohamed Hassan from Pixabay)



Christmas Collections

Downing Place have sent £764.56 to Christian Aid this month, £480.85 from the Christmas Day Offertory and £283.71 from the collection at the Epiphany service.

Date for the Diary:

Christian Aid Roadshow

Saturday 14th March, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

At Downing Place, Emmanuel building

With Malcolm Guite

Come along and learn about plans for Christian Aid Week in May, campaigns on climate change, and proposed changes for Christian Aid structures.

Refreshments will be served.

Please see poster opposite

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

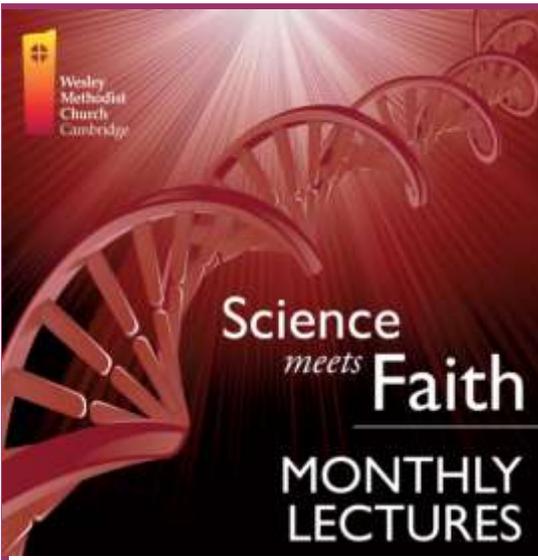
Time: **10am - 12 noon**

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



www.christianaid.org.uk

Eng and Wales charity no. 1108861 Scot charity no. SC038150 Company no. 8171589 Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. 114218101 Company no. 74028154 and FSC charity no. 20014182 Company no. 428028. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. © Christian Aid January 2017 21642



WESLEY CHURCH,
CHRIST'S PIECES

SCIENCE MEETS FAITH
MONTHLY LECTURES

MONDAY 7.45PM

MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY

Professor Andrew Steane, Physics
Department, Oxford University

**'Seeking to know: a humane
philosophy of science and
religion'**

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Sheila Porrer

ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

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

ITEMS FOR MONTHLY

PRAYER DIARY: Maureen Kendall

WEB EDITOR: Alison Binney

Please send all items to be included in the March edition to both Sheila and Ann
by the cut off date of Wednesday 19 February 2020.

Any items received after the deadline will not be included.

The March edition will be available in church from Sunday 1 March