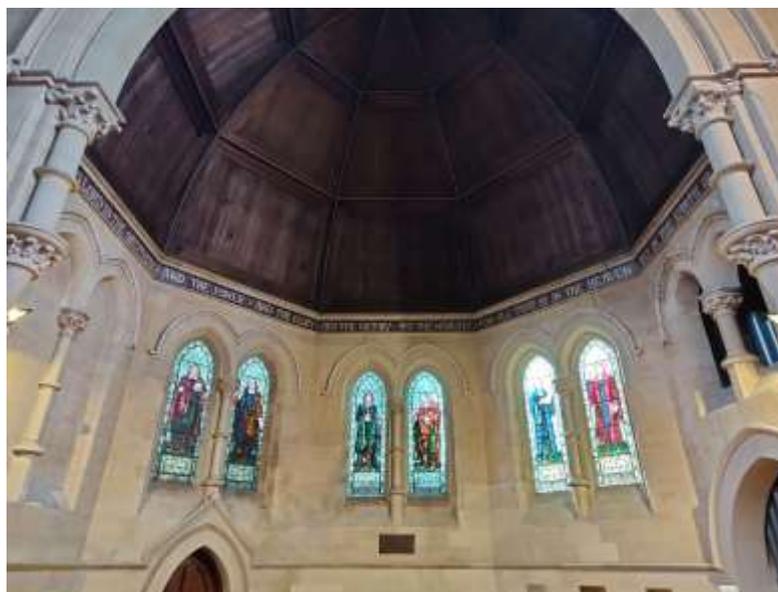




DOWNING PLACE  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
CAMBRIDGE

## PLACE MATTERS



MONTHLY MAGAZINE – ISSUE 22  
JULY 2020

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**Children's Ministry Team Co-ordinator:**  
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### **Clerk to the Elders' Meeting**

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## OFFICE COVER

Ann is now at Emmanuel on Tuesdays to assist with the clearing work going on. She is working from home on Mondays and Wednesday to Friday each week.

Elaine is dividing most of her time between clearing work downstairs; and working at her PC from home, because of better internet speeds which help when editing the large files involved in producing Sunday worship.

**Elaine's rest day continues to be Tuesday.**

This all means that the office telephone is frequently left unattended at present, although messages left on the main Church number are checked **daily**. **If you need to contact us urgently, it's better to use our mobile numbers** (listed opposite) as the nature of the clearing work means we are often elsewhere in the building.

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Last month I took us to the large, interdenominational, socially engaged Riverside Church in New York. I reflected upon the hymn that Harry Emerson Fosdick, its **minister**, wrote for the **Dedication Service ninety years ago this Autumn**. I'd like us to remain there this month, because I sense that its story has much to inform and inspire ours as we anticipate the renewed building of Downing Place Church. **Quoting from Dr Fosdick's 1957 autobiography, *The Living of these Days*, I'd like to draw out four points that I find relevant to us.**

First, Fosdick was renowned as a preacher. Those who designed the Riverside building assumed he would want an auditorium primarily fitted for preaching to large congregations. **'Upon the contrary, I answered, I wanted a sanctuary primarily fitted for worship ... that would speak to the soul even when the human voice was silent.'** As Downing Place Church, we have prioritised worship of the God who, in Jesus Christ, is in the business of reconciliation. Yes, the Word and Sacraments matter, and we will foster their importance, as a vital means of nourishing people's spiritual maturity. We also treasure music – as they soon came to do at Riverside, establishing a Symphony Orchestra; we value the visual, be it art or exhibition; and I'd like to ensure the place of silence, too.

Fosdick was essentially a people person. He treasured church people, marginalised people and influential people as well. He also enjoyed friendship on the golf course and at the coast. The other three points reflect that focus on relationships.

So, secondly, he was committed to a ministry defined by pastoral skill. **'... firsthand dealing with individuals has been the creative centre of my ministry',** he wrote, **'and a fruitful source of my preaching.'** As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, I am continually impressed by our commitment to pastoral care, and not just for the short term. With Fosdick, I have long believed in it, even when things are good, as the basis for fruitful pastoral encounters when they are hard. Moreover, even as there is powerful prophetic preaching, speaking truth to power, and itinerant preaching ensuring diverse voices in our pulpits, so there is also a place for preaching by a shepherd who knows the flock by name and nurtures them for their life in the world.

Thirdly, Fosdick opined that Riverside's big new building was not an end in itself. **'Our building represented a large expenditure and we were criticised for lavish outlay. Only if we could make it a centre of public service, ... could we justify the building with which we had been trusted.'** So often we have echoed that sentiment in our meetings! How crucially this sanctuary must also be a

springboard into the community. But Fosdick went further: ‘... we did not so much impose a prearranged programme on the community as ask the community what it wanted from us.’ The flexibility we have striven to provide in the renewed premises of Downing Place Church is precisely so that we can respond to needs with which the community presents us. It is good that, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, we have been able to appoint a Development Worker, Philip Wood, to assist us in researching and reading our city context accurately. Fosdick and his companions responded to the issues of their day – the Great Depression was doing its worst as Riverside was dedicated. We, too, are faced with the pressing issues of our day. Not least there’s that climate change to which much of this edition of *Place Matters* is devoted. Together with the imperative of reconciliation in a fractured society and of an integrated and visionary recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, the ecological crisis cries out for people of faith to take their place amongst all who are dedicated to justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

And finally, Fosdick strove for inclusivity, long before many bridging society’s economic, ecumenical, generational, LGBT, political and racial divisions. He intended a church that would not drive ‘into ecclesiastical exile souls whom Christ would have welcomed!’ As Christ reconciles us to God, so St Paul urged upon us the ministry of reconciliation, of putting things back together. Is that not also a timely message for our ‘coronavirussed’, climate-changed, black-lives-mattering, LGBT-celebrating, history-examining times?



I wonder if, like me, your anticipation is growing as we look forward to inhabiting our renewed premises. I shall be grateful to enjoy what has been done, all the time hoping and praying that it will be distinguished less by its beauty than by worship, service and reconciliation to inspire our hope and horizons.

Thus shall it be for the glory of God and the blessing of those it touches.

*Nigel Uden*

# THANK YOU

It is about five years ago that some of you wondered about nominating me to be Moderator of the General Assembly. As I now anticipate the completion of a two-year term on 11<sup>th</sup> July, I would like to thank you. To thank you for the affirmation and honour behind your suggestion, and to thank you for your forbearance during so much absence and distraction from the life and work of the embryonic Downing Place United Reformed Church. I am aware that others have borne responsibility that otherwise would have been mine, and that my focus upon pastoral care has been significantly diluted. I appreciate that you have been so considerate, and where I have misjudged which role should have the priority, I apologise.

In offering these words of gratitude to you all, I know you will understand when I mention particularly the church's officers and elders, and my colleague, John Bradbury. I know that without them Downing Place Church wouldn't be what it is, and nor would I have had the privilege of serving in this role. And privilege it has been. Moreover, I dare to believe that what I am and offer has been enhanced by the opportunity and challenge of the office. There has been much of value, and I hope to have a moment in the future for reflecting upon it all in writing. but for the time being I'd highlight five things, in alphabetical order:

representing the URC at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday;

taking part in judging the URC's Community Awards, in which churches are identified for the fruitfulness of their engagement in the communities they serve;

overseas journeys to Germany and the Church of the Palatinate for the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall, and to North America to the URC's partners in the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ;

visiting some experienced and respected former leaders of the denomination; and,

attending Youth Assembly, which demonstrated a tomorrow of promise and hope.

But for now, it is these thanks to you all that I would like to emphasise. Finally, I think you will recognise that I would like to close by acknowledging how wonderful Bethan and Jess have been in tolerating my absence and preoccupation, and in their unflinching support.

*Nigel Uden*

# WELCOME TO THE JULY 2020 EDITION OF *PLACE MATTERS*

In this exceptional year we are producing our monthly magazine in both July and August, so thanks to Nigel, Ann and Elaine who have agreed to shoulder the extra work involved to make it possible.

This July edition is a special issue devoted to the overriding problem of our times – climate change. It may appear to be quite heavy going – meaty articles, facts and figures, footnotes and websites – but this is vital reading for all of us as we examine what our own contribution, as individuals and as Church, should be to solving this crisis.

We are grateful to all our contributors, not only from Downing Place URC and its World Church and Public Issues group, but also Jane Heal, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge, who writes about Cambridge Carbon Footprint of which she is a Trustee, and the Rev. Dr. David Pickering, Moderator of the URC National Synod of Scotland, who has written for *Place Matters* about climate change in a theological (and also personal) context. Acknowledgment is also due to Nigel who approached David Pickering on our behalf, and to William McVey, not only for his own generous contributions, but for asking Jane Heal to write for us.

We hope to reflect further on different aspects of climate change in our August issue, with an emphasis on the natural world. In the meantime we remind you that Margaret Reynolds has described the sustainable features of our new building in the Redevelopment blog on the Church website.

You will see that instead of a note on what would have been our monthly cause for July and August there is something about our special appeal for Emmaus and Cambridge Aid, two locally based charities which are helping to mitigate the effects of the pandemic in Cambridge. We plan to return to our planned monthly cause, CamCrag, in our August issue.

We hope you enjoy reading this *Place Matters*, and that everyone is keeping safe and well as we continue in isolation.

*Sheila Porrer*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We all enjoy watching birds in our gardens. They are an important part of local biodiversity.



The Royal Society for Protection of Birds website encourages us to care for birds in our gardens.

We have been providing bird food. Feeding birds in the spring and summer may help them to raise their chicks more successfully.

We can make sure there is water. Birds need water for drinking and bathing. Water is particularly important in dry, hot weather during the summer when it can be hard to find. Most small birds need to drink at least twice a day to replace the lost water. Birds also like a bath!



## Bird watch – seen in Impington . . .

Blackbirds – nesting in climbing hydrangea

Blue tits – nesting in hedge

Bullfinches – like to peck at apple buds

Chaffinches

Coal tits – nesting in hedge

Collar doves – always in pairs, and in charge

Greenfinches

Greater spotted woodpecker

Great tits – nesting in hedge

Green woodpeckers – one came inside!

Hérons – patient attempts to catch fish

Jackdaws – noisy!

Jays - glamorous

Long tailed tits – always in a group flurry

Magpies – lurk

Mallards – on pond, eating weed

Pheasants

Pied wagtails – love the ‘stream’

Robins – on hand if soil is turned

Sparrows – busy, busy

Starlings – record of nine being fed by parents

Thrushes – with an anvil by the pond

Wood pigeons – bask in sun on high branch

Wrens

## NEW INTERNATIONAL MODERATOR



The Rev Dr Lance Stone of the English Reformed Church, Amsterdam, took over in May in Gibraltar as Moderator of the International Presbytery of the Church of Scotland. In St Andrew's Church he was presented with the presbytery stole by his predecessor, the Rev Irene Bom, OLM, Scots International Church, Rotterdam. (Photo reproduced by kind permission of the Editor of *Life and Work*, the magazine of the Church of Scotland)

## SPECIAL CHARITY APPEAL

Two charities have been chosen by our World Church and Public Issues group for a special appeal to counteract the effects of Coronavirus. The two charities, Emmaus and Cambridge Aid were chosen because they are local charities who help people in need in the Cambridge area and who have also been helping throughout lockdown.

Cambridge Emmaus is a charity for the homeless and has been existence since 1992. It aims to enable the homeless to get back on their feet by providing them with accommodation and work so they can be fully independent. Members of the community work in the secondhand shop and also in the café. People donate secondhand goods which are restored by the residents and sold in the shop. However since the lockdown, the shop and the café have been closed. The charity has been managing by living on their savings as there is no government support for the residents. There are forty people living in the community at present and it is a great opportunity for the homeless to move away from their previous lifestyle by becoming alcohol and drug free. Alcohol and drugs are not allowed on the premises. Residents are able to benefit from the structured environment. The eventual aim is for people to leave the community after about

two years and with support obtain jobs and housing. It is therefore vital that this charity is supported throughout the lockdown as it is in real danger of closing. Donations at this time are really appreciated, and can be given at [www.cambridgeemmaus.org](http://www.cambridgeemmaus.org).

Cambridge Aid, (formerly the Cambridge Central Aid Society) has been in existence for over a hundred years. It helps people in financial distress in Cambridge and the environs with grants of up to £150. It has no government support and is run by volunteers. The charity helps the mentally ill, single parent families, people suffering from domestic abuse and the homeless. The grants are very prompt and flexible so that the recipients can be given help at the time **when it is most needed. Applications are made by third parties, such as Citizens' Advice and Social Care.** About five hundred families are helped every year. Because of the lockdown demand is higher than ever.

**Stephen Thornton, a Citizens' Advice advisor, has very kindly supplied two cases** (suitably presented so they cannot be identified), which show how much Cambridge Aid is appreciated by the applicants.

A client called to say she had just moved out of a hostel for women who had suffered domestic violence with her young daughter. They had been fortunate to have been offered a two-bedroomed council flat. However she was unable to work at the moment, was on Universal Credit and simply did not have enough **money to buy a cooker, a 'fridge or a washing machine. One option was for her** to get an advance on her Universal Credit payments. But that would only come in the form of a loan which she would have to pay back over the next few months deducted from her meagre Universal Credit payments. Instead I was able to apply to Cambridge Aid for her to get a grant to cover the cost of buying good quality second hand white goods for which she was eternally grateful.

**Earlier this winter, another client came to the Citizens' Advice Office having** walked from a village a few miles north of the city to say he was living in a caravan. He was suffering from serious mental illness, was unable to work and was claiming Universal Credit. He said the only heating in the caravan was from a gas cylinder. The gas had run out a few weeks ago and he was freezing cold at night. That was clear from the look of him. I was able to apply on his behalf to Cambridge Aid for them to give enough money not only to get the gas cylinder refilled but for the transport to and from the shop. He beamed with delight when I told him.

Donations are therefore vitally important to meet increasing applications. Donations can be given at [www.cambridgeaid.org](http://www.cambridgeaid.org)

*Penny Milsom*

## A NOTE ON CHARITABLE GIVING

As Simone said in this week's diary, you can also make donations to both charities via the Church office, by cheque to Downing Place URC, or, preferably, by bank transfer, putting "Special" in the reference field. If you choose this route your donation will be divided equally between the charities. If you are able to use gift aid and you would like the charities to benefit, you need to donate to them directly via their website."

## PASTORAL NEWS

Our prayers and good wishes go with John Bradbury who has now moved to London.

Deborah McVey conducted the funeral (on 9 June) of Jane Buckley, an adherent at Emmanuel in the 1980s.

## MARCH SPECIAL CAUSE

March's Special Cause, which was for the Olive Tree Project organised by Embrace the Middle East, has now been processed. The collection raised £431 which was sent to Embrace the Middle East last month. Many thanks to those who donated.

### DOWNING PLACE URC ONLINE SERVICES JULY 2020

5th	Trinity 4	A service of Holy Communion led by The Revd Nigel Uden
12th	Trinity 5	Morning Worship led by the Children's Ministry Team
19th	Trinity 6	Morning Worship led by the Revd Nigel Uden
26th	Trinity 7	Morning Worship led by the Revd Nigel Uden

Watch online at  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7GQuqsJi5A2PFacVyp4YOg>

## PARALLEL LINES TO INTERSECTING TRACKS...

by David Pickering (Moderator of the URC National Synod of Scotland)

As a boy I grew up in a Christian family, attending our local Congregational church, and developed an interest in bird watching and a concern for the environment. I remember the grounding of the Torrey Canyon oil tanker with consequent spill, and the sad images of dead and dying seabirds, species I yearned to see. But the nearest overlap between my fledgling faith and environmental concern was singing *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. Thus my life continued, with parallel but non-intersecting lines. I studied environmental science, undertook research in environmental chemistry, candidated and trained for the ministry. But along the way I heard a penny-dropping sermon, with a message that faith informs environmental concerns, and environmental concerns inform faith. In a moment, parallel lines merged, I saw Bible stories in a new, integrated and liberating way.

The first story encountered in Genesis gives the Doctrine of Creation; that the world and all it contains comes from the free, creating actions of a loving God. **The daily refrain, ‘and it was good’ telling of the value of creation in God’s eyes, and thus if God so loves the world, shouldn’t we respect it? On day six there is a command for humanity to subdue the earth and rule over it, which is qualified by the then understanding of kingship. As the testaments unfold we discover that leaders are called to rule according to the teaching of God and for the benefit of both the people of God and the land. The sabbath and jubilee are for both soil and soul. The second garden creation story, with the commandment to till and tend the earth; that is to have a living, loving relationship with the soil from whence we came filled with the breath of God, and to which we will each return. To remember the wisdom of the psalmist, that the earth belongs to the Lord, and thus our calling is to live our lives enjoying the earth as tenants with the responsibility of a full-repairing lease. A calling to hand on the gift of creation in at least as a good a condition as we received it. The arguably best-known text from John’s Gospel, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life”, giving an insight that the personal salvation cherished by so many applies to the whole earth. Might the calling of our living be to offer a renewed or saved creation back to God? If so, such insights apply urgently and starkly to the climate crisis-riven world.**

**Whilst climate change may have slipped from the world’s agenda, the crisis has not gone away. Last year inspired by Greta Thunberg, children led a climate strike, now many of our schools remain locked up. Last year Extinction**

Rebellion brought many cities to a halt, this year the lockdown has achieved the same. Last year, David Attenborough called the world to hear the science and act. This year through the Covid-19 pandemic, we have learnt of the importance of policy being shaped by the science. Will this approach yet translate to policy being shaped by the science in the climate crisis? Will we take this crossroads moment to press the reset button, and shape a new and sustainable normal by investing in a low-carbon economy to build a truly sustainable future?

I am proud to belong to the URC, who, following the Society of Friends, became the first Church denomination in Britain to divest from fossil-fuel producing companies. But there is a continuing need for us to speak out prophetically and act prophetically, and in doing so to witness to our belief in the God of creation.

Through these lockdown days, faith and nature remain entwined. My wife and I enjoy a daily walk, usually taking in a local woodland park. Words barely convey the joy found in watching pond life emerge **from winter's cool, the seasonal** succession of flowers, most recently our first orchid. We know where the blackcap sings, have watched a moorhen sit tight on the nest, and now delight in the pair with four chicks paddling. My damselfly count is four species and butterfly count is up to five species, including a favourite, the orange tip.

Amidst so much heartache and trauma, **I've found a blessing in quiet roads and quiet skies, a sabbatical for the natural world; and with our church closed, I've** found in the community park, a natural chapel to wander and wonder with God. **And I'm glad that parallel lines of faith** and nature have intersected in my life. My hope and prayer is that our generation will turn from the desecration of our high-carbon lifestyle, respecting the natural world, **our grandchildren's generation, the most marginalised around the world** and the creator whom we worship.



# CLIMATE, COVID-19 AND CAMBRIDGE

by Chris Wright

Apart from the letter 'C', what links them? The Coronavirus Pandemic has thrown into sharp relief what scientists, environmentalists, Extinction Rebellion (XR), the Climate Coalition and many others have been telling us, in some cases for years. There is another Pandemic looming and it won't be stopped by lockdown, PPE, Test, Track & Trace, or even a vaccine. If we, however the 'we' is defined, wait until it hits us, we will all be overwhelmed. For the 'us' who live on islands of the Pacific or the coastal areas of Bangladesh (see the articles by William McVey and Janet Bottoms), being overwhelmed by rising sea levels and unpredictable storms is already a reality; for the 'us' who are farmers of Malawi or Uganda or Zimbabwe, being overwhelmed by drought after drought or by unseasonal flood is already a reality. The Climate Pandemic has already arrived.

In the few minutes spent writing that paragraph, four more emails that illustrate the link between these two Pandemics and the all-embracing factor which exacerbates both – INJUSTICE – have dropped into my inbox, from City to Sea, Traidcraft Exchange, Possible and Extinction Rebellion. Some are avowedly Christian or Faith based, others not so, but the messages are not so different. Some are looking at the big, world-sized canvas, drawing our attention to those places where the Pandemic has already hit, others are more local, but all come down to what the 'us' living in and around Cambridge can be doing. Many of us will already follow the Three R's – Reduce, Re-use, Recycle. Is there more that we can do?

A recent Guardian Weekly article states that despite the enforced global economic shutdown with travel of all sorts, except our daily exercise of course, almost at a halt, the International Energy Agency expects the drop in emissions for 2020 to be only between 6% and 8%. Compare this with the 7.6% by which emissions have to fall EACH YEAR to keep global warming below 1.5C. So is the answer, 'No more travel'? *Do we really need that motor car that's been sitting idle for weeks* (I hope you have kept the battery charged!), especially if we are retired and not as quick in our reactions as formally? Are we still safe to drive it? Buses, trains and taxis will be accessible to us again soon and will get us to many places. Travel might take longer but we are free to read or listen to music. The savings on vehicle tax and insurance alone will pay for a good number of taxi rides. POSSIBLE (formerly 10:10 Climate Action) has just launched their STRIDE AND RIDE 5 campaign, inviting those for whom it is possible to take a pledge and thereby:

1. Tackle climate change by keeping road emissions down

2. Keep public transport safe for those who need it, and those who work on it
3. Keep our air clean
4. Keep our streets safe, quiet and peaceful
5. Improve our health and lower the strain on our precious NHS

Other fossil fuel hungry consumers, such as power stations, have not ceased during lockdown. *We can* take up with our pension funds and our banks the question of divestment from fossil fuels. *We can*, if our roof is suitable, install solar panels to reduce our demands on the national grid. The EU promises a green recovery from Covid-19 but this year alone the European Central Bank is spending €1.1 trillion in propping up the economy with most of that going to fossil fuel producers and consumers, claims the SumOfUs campaign group. Some of the profits from such companies and banks would be recovered, estimated at £5 billion a year in the UK, and could be devoted to healthcare, education and sustainability, if *we could persuade* our government and others to introduce the long-discussed ‘Robin Hood Tax’. **Now is the time when such things might just become possible.**

Recently Nigel Uden and Derek Estill, as Moderators of General Assembly, signed on behalf of the URC a letter being sent to European Union Leaders by, inter alia, Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC). It was calling for an investible and sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, with emphasis upon five points.

1. Prioritise human relief and job creation without locking in high carbon pathways.
2. Support the Green Deal and uphold the Paris Agreement.
3. Member States should ensure COVID-19 support addresses climate risk.
4. Prioritise climate resiliency and net zero emissions economic solutions.
5. Embed investor participation in recovery planning.

There are many other petitions and campaigns which *we can* support. Some people question the value of such easy action that we can complete without leaving the desk, but there is plenty of evidence that they do have an effect, plus they might encourage us to further activism. The latest email into my inbox is an update from the two young girls, Asha and Jia Kirkpatrick, who have been campaigning to save the orangutan from extinction caused by destruction of Indonesian forests for palm oil production. After 5 years PepsiCo has agreed to change its palm oil sourcing policy, following action already taken by Kelloggs, **and is encouraging other multinationals to do the same.** ‘Haba na haba hujasa

kibaba' is a Swahili proverb which sums up the value of such activism, 'Grain by grain fills up the measure.' *We can* each add a few grains.

Some of the many places to look for further information and campaigns:

City to Sea: <https://www.citytosea.org.uk>

Climate Coalition: <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org>

Extinction Rebellion: <https://rebellion.earth/>

Global Justice Now: <https://www.globaljustice.org.uk>

IIGCC: <https://www.iigcc.org/about-us>

Jubilee Debt Campaign: <https://jubileedebt.org.uk>

POSSIBLE: Stride & Ride 5 <https://wearepossible.org/a/stride-and-ride>

Robin Hood Tax: <https://www.robinhoodtax.org.uk>

Traidcraft Exchange: <https://traidcraftexchange.org>



## CAMBRIDGE CARBON FOOTPRINT

by Jane Heal

Emeritus Professor of Philosophy,  
University of Cambridge

Climate change is a technical challenge but also a psychological one. To engage with it effectively we need to understand the science and which elements of our economy and lifestyle are particularly damaging to the environment. But we also need to be aware of the pressures of habit and expectation which make it difficult to change to more sustainable patterns of living. CCF was founded in 2005 by Ro Randall, bringing expertise in psychotherapy, and Andy Brown, with expertise in low energy building, precisely to meet this dual challenge. And over the years CCF has brought the two strands together in a range of projects, all of which provide both practical advice and psychological support for personal action on climate change

One major project CCF is working on at present calls on much of what we have learnt over the years. It is to develop, on behalf of the City Council, the Cambridge Climate Change Charter. The Charter will be available online and will

provide to individuals, and to businesses and organisations, the opportunity to pledge publicly to practical action to reduce their carbon footprints, together with information, resources and support for carrying out those actions.

The key to successful action is breaking things down into manageable steps so as to get a real grip on the situation, and that is what the Charter will enable. There are two strands of engagement with climate change which every individual and every business or organisation can undertake.

The first is to reduce your own carbon footprints. For individuals, the Charter will offer a footprint calculator, estimating impact in the areas of food, home energy, travel and shopping. And then there will be suggestions for the most **effective lifestyle changes, based on the individual's answers.** For businesses and organisations the options will be different, but the principle is the same, namely a systematic look at what is currently being done and identification of practical and effective things to do.

The second strand of activity is climate leadership which means, in addition to doing something as an individual or business or organisation, explaining what you are doing and encouraging others to act as well. For individuals this might be talking to friends and family, about why you are going to insulate your house, or eat less meat, or take your holidays by train in the UK rather than fly abroad, or whatever it is that you have decided to do. In a business or organisation it might mean appointing someone to be climate champion or talking to other businesses or organisations. And individuals, businesses and organisations can all support climate related events and projects in the community, in schools and in workplaces. Among some of the most successful practical events in recent years have been swishes (clothes swapping events) and repair cafes. These are difficult in the current situation, but we hope to see them, or adapted version of them, return in due course. And events such as talks, concerts, exhibitions or workshops can keep us all better informed and encouraged and can spread good practice.

Just speaking for myself here, it seems to me that one of the most hopeful developments of the last couple of years has been growing public awareness of the seriousness of the climate situation and willingness to talk about it – and to act. I am an academic and in the organisations I am most familiar with, the University and Colleges, there is a great deal of serious planning and action, concerned with reducing climate impact. It is no longer slightly eccentric to be concerned about climate change but mainstream. And this is true all across the country. But it is still the case that we need to do more and to move faster in the direction of a sustainable pattern of life. The old habits and expectations will take over again unless we keep on our toes! What each of us can do as an individual,

to work to reduce our own carbon footprints and to encourage others, in our families, businesses or organisations to do likewise, remains crucial.

So please look out for the launch of the Charter later this summer and sign up to it. And look out for the other CCF projects and events (including Open Eco Homes, on which William McVey writes elsewhere in this magazine), about which you can find information on the CCF website at <http://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/>. CCF can function only because of the commitment of our volunteers and supporters. If you would like to become involved there is information on the website.

## **THE UK CARBON FOOTPRINT AND GLOBAL HEATING**

a personal view by Mark Reader.

To achieve sustainable levels of global heating, humanity has to reduce its "Carbon Footprint" - which is measured in "tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents" (that is heating equivalents) or tCO<sub>2</sub>eq's per year. These are well established, since 1896 and earlier. And, for the heating equivalents, we now have "budgets" - for 2 degrees Celsius of global warming, or for 1.5 deg C of global warming, set in billions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq that we can afford to add to the atmosphere, to achieve those levels of heating.

Since I was born in 1961, the heating layer has gone from 318 ppm (parts per million) to 419 ppm today. So the "heating layer" - or concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> - the main heating gas - has gone up by a third, thus already achieving climatic records every year, and almost 1 deg C of global average heating. Hotter atmospheres carry more water.

Personally, I have a relatively efficient small and well insulated home, so I use only 1000kWh of electricity and 3500 KWh of gas pp/yr. Or, in other words, 1.0 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq (at current emission factors). Plus 2.1 tonnes for my food (as I don't really eat beef/lamb\* and I often have beans or soya). My footprint does however include around another 3 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq at work (owing to a draughty Victorian building that, for most occupants, is too hot and too cold). But, I don't own a car and haven't flown anywhere for 9 years.

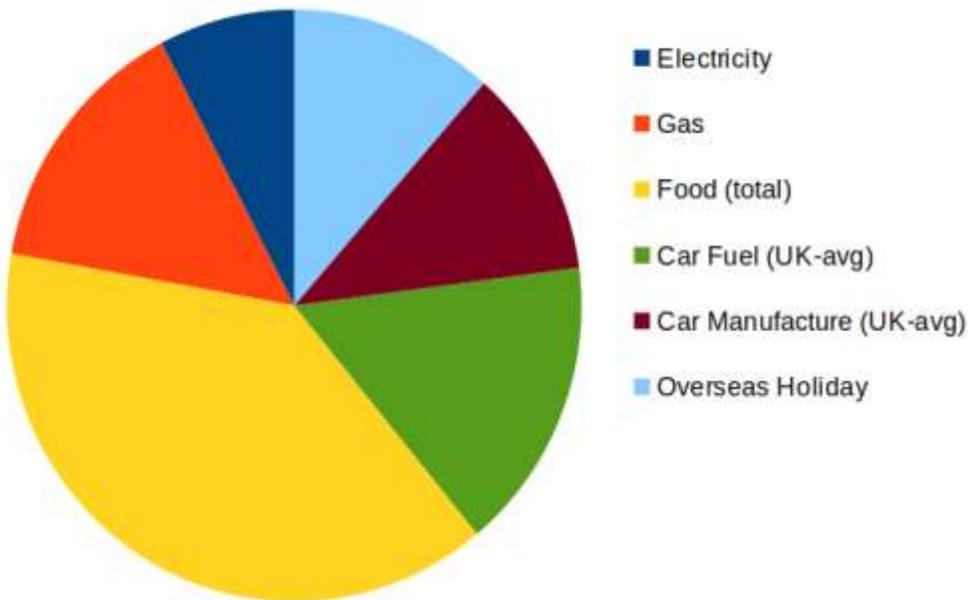
By contrast the averages, per person, for the UK are nearly 3 tonnes for gas+electricity, 5 tonnes for food (with over 3 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq for the average beef/lamb consumption alone) 3.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq/yr for a car, and over 1.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq for a short overseas holiday.

However according to the World Bank, looking at national boundary emissions, UK emissions in 2016 per capita per year were only 7.1 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq/cap/yr, whereas, according to what I compiled (above) from good sources, our footprint is more like 11-13 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq. So, really unless I am mistaken, we must be "offshoring" a lot of our emissions, in food/ manufactures/ and holidays.

Food for thought!

\*An excellent summary of food emissions may be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714)

Sources of UK Footprint (avg tCO<sub>2</sub>eq/capita/year)



## ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

Do have a look at the short and lively animation produced by the Royal Society of Arts which you can find at this address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUh-TXKIdiE>

# A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

by William McVey



I paddled ankle-deep in sea water along the main (only) road to church and back again to my host's home, past the graves of their ancestors in their front garden – above ground in their concrete tombs because of the water level – under the shade of small trees grown in oil drums because the poor coral soil was contaminated by brackish water. This was Tuvalu – the fourth smallest nation in the

world, so remote that it is 11 hours flying time from Auckland via Fiji – and where most land is no more than 3 metres above sea level (*see the excellent photos of the situation*).<sup>1</sup>

Here the sea washes over the islands whenever an exceptional tide or storm blows up. Having experienced all this, and been briefly involved in the island's government planning for possible eventual evacuation and abandonment of their homeland, it was a cause of personal distress and anger to hear the comments of the climate-change deniers on my return home.



It is reported that the vast majority of climate scientists agree that human activity has led to the global climate crisis. Carbon pollution from fossil fuels is warming the planet and sending natural systems out of balance. As one brief example: the **British Antarctic Survey's current fieldwork in West Antarctica suggests that over the past 30 years, the amount of ice flowing out of the Thwaites Glacier and its neighbouring glaciers has nearly doubled.** A run-away collapse of the glacier, considered a real and present danger, would lead to a significant increase in sea levels of around 65cm (25 inches). Think of the impact on Tuvalu. But consider too, our area. A rise in sea-level continuing at the present rate could eventually inundate the area south from the Wash as far as Histon.

The global challenges that we face today demand bold ambitions. Clearly these are required at a global level, but each person can make an individual difference – that together will help towards reducing the rate of change in the climate.

I am a poor example – having created a large carbon footprint through flying repeatedly around the world for four years. But some mitigation was accomplished through ‘offsetting’ the calculated carbon footprint by donating to *Climate Stewards*<sup>ii</sup> – part of *A Rocha*,<sup>iii</sup> which is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to mobilising Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. A Rocha supports and develops community forests in the developing world. A Rocha also runs the scheme through which Downing Place URC received its *Eco Church Award*.<sup>iv</sup>

Here, *Cambridge Carbon Footprint* (CCF) is committed to practical work. Jane Heal, one of my fellow trustees, has written elsewhere in *Place Matters* about our activities. Deborah and I have made our house available for tours each year by people interested in new developments or in renovations that will create high functioning, low energy homes. Our timber-frame house, factory-built and erected on site in 7 days, some 5 years ago now, includes: solar water panels, photovoltaic cell panels to generate electricity, rainwater harvesting for re-use in the house, triple-glazed windows, heavy insulation, natural ventilation and LED lighting. As it requires little water or space heating, we minimise the use of electricity and gas. So **it’s cheap to run and very comfortable to live in.** You can see ours and other properties from previous tours here.<sup>v</sup>



We can all make changes to our life-style that will help to reduce our impact on the planet and so slow the change in our climate. Look at the CCF website; see the excellent work of *Transition Cambridge*<sup>vi</sup> in which Margaret Reynolds is involved. Check out *Circular Cambridge*<sup>vii</sup> and *Cambridge Sustainable Food*<sup>viii</sup> for ideas. And admire and learn from the many ecological features that Margaret, Kelly O’Doherty, David Thomas, and Robert Porrer are including within the new Downing Place church building.

- i. [www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/may/16/one-day-disappear-tuvalu-sinking-islands-rising-seas-climate-change](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/may/16/one-day-disappear-tuvalu-sinking-islands-rising-seas-climate-change)
- ii. [www.climatestewards.org](http://www.climatestewards.org)
- iii. [www.arocha.org.uk](http://www.arocha.org.uk)
- iv. [www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)
- v. [www.openecohomes.org](http://www.openecohomes.org)
- vi. [www.transitioncambridge.org](http://www.transitioncambridge.org)
- vii. [www.circularcambridge.org](http://www.circularcambridge.org)
- viii. [www.cambridgesustainablefood.org](http://www.cambridgesustainablefood.org)

## BENGAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE

by Janet Bottoms

Every few years a cyclone is created in the Bay of Bengal, the reason being the shape of the bay which makes a kind of funnel between the narrowing land masses on either side. A cyclone is formed by warm, moist air rising from the ocean to create a storm which the rotation of the earth then causes to rotate, and this in turn raises a storm surge that races north to crash, finally, on the head of the bay where the world's largest delta region is created by the junction of the great rivers Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna. Physical damage caused by the strong winds is compounded by heavy rain and tidal waves that flood this flat



land and surge up the rivers. A really strong wave can push the water more than fifty miles up-river, causing the displacement of up to 200,000 people. It has been said that “the north coast of the Bay of Bengal is more prone to catastrophic surges than anywhere on Earth”.

This has, of course, been happening for centuries, and the storms vary in strength and destructive force, but in recent years they have become more frequent and more powerful. The temperature of the sea surface has risen significantly, especially in the relatively shallow and easily warmed waters of the Bay, causing more frequent and stronger storms and some of the fastest sea level rises in the world. Much of Bangladesh is very low lying - a rise in sea level of just three feet would submerge almost 20% of the country - and since the fertile delta soil provides the best farming land in the country most of the population live in the coastal areas. Another likely result of climate change is that the arrival of the monsoon, on which the agricultural system depends, is becoming more irregular.

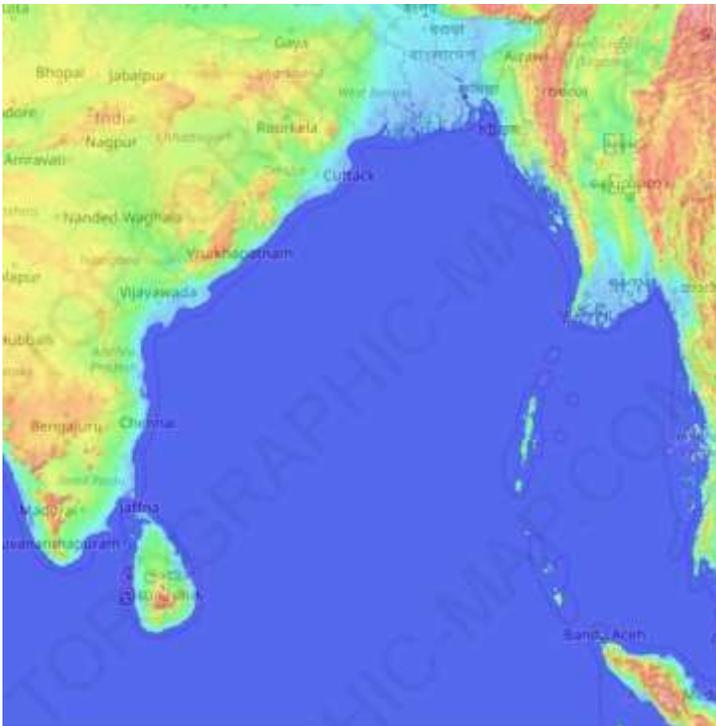
There have been other, man-made changes. The delta, which spreads across the India/Bangladesh border, includes 4,000 square miles of swampy mangrove forest, called the Sunderbans and designated a World Heritage Site. This forms a “green infrastructure” supporting a wide diversity of birds, plants amphibians and animals, including the Bengal tiger. Village dwellers also live and make their living in the Sunderbans, one estimate suggesting that this natural eco-system supports about four million people. Recently, however, increasing pressure on scarce land has led to tens of thousands of acres being cleared to make way for roads and conversion to agriculture and fisheries. One result, according to the World Wild Life fund, is that the number of tigers has fallen dramatically and they may soon become extinct, but the Sunderbans also form an important bulwark against the blows of cyclones and wave surges so the progressive loss is



endangering the last natural defenses against the increasing number and ferocity of cyclones.

The Bangladesh government has worked, along with charities, to create early warning systems and shelters. It also has a Climate Change Strategy for long-term – very long-term – protection and development, but the costs seem prohibitive for what is a poor country with limited resources, while every major cyclone costs millions in physical damage done and loss of crops. Large engineering projects that have worked in places like the Netherlands are unsuited to its shifting soil. Coastal embankment projects and attempts to prevent the erosion of riverbanks and islands are largely small-term attempts at fixing the most immediate threats.

Bangladesh is the tenth most densely populated country in the world, with a present population approaching 160 million and estimated to be 186 million by 2030. The number migrating from the coastal areas to urban slums because their livelihoods have been destroyed is increasing fast and predicted to reach a possible 13.3 million by 2050. If climate change continues to cause sea levels to rise it is likely that even larger mass migrations will follow - yet the people of Bangladesh themselves are responsible for only 0.3% of the emissions producing this climate change.



# WILLIAM M MCVEY

Some recollections

Church has been a big part of my life since my baptism in 1949 at six weeks old in the chapel of Church House – the **original St Columba's Church** of Scotland, Pont Street, London having been destroyed by bombing in 1941. My Scottish parents had met at the church during the Second World War. My father was much involved as an Elder, but also served other Scottish charitable organisations in and around London alongside his daily work as a Civil Servant. His example, and the strict Presbyterian upbringing that my younger brother and I had from our parents, have undoubtedly conditioned the rest of my life.

Being alternately workaholic and indolent, I work best with stimulating people or to a deadline or crisis. When idling I read avidly and I had the opportunity to indulge in this while travelling for four years as Secretary for Finance and Stewardship at the Council for World Mission.

CWM had just sold the site of the former Nethersole Hospital in Hong Kong for over 100 million pounds. My primary task was to ensure the efficient stewardship and equitable use of this money belonging to the 31 member churches of CWM. Amazingly there was no induction process; instead, within two weeks of joining CWM I was off (with a briefcase full of cash) for six weeks to Southern Africa on the first of a series of visits to churches in more than twenty different countries across the world from 1997 to 2001. I learnt to communicate in (though regrettably never to properly speak) a multitude of foreign languages, Pidgin English, Spanish, Portuguese, Samoan and many others. I led or worshipped in different churches, on a sand dune in the Kalahari Desert, on a beach in the Pacific, on the eighteenth floor of a tower block in Hong Kong, in the WCC Ecumenical Centre in Geneva.



*Battersea Park Scouts  
Athletics Competition 1967*

I represented CWM in many ecumenical organisations in this country and abroad. I worked with Christian Aid, Oxfam, CAFOD, and Save the Children Fund, helping CWM Churches to develop their mission activities. To be set alongside the progress and accomplishments of the local churches there were many times of stress, disappointment and despair, even the odd scare. Shortly after the end of the war in Bougainville I arrived in a small plane whose other passengers dispersed leaving me alone but for the pilot; the church representative **didn't turn up until I was about to re-board** the plane. My visit was not a success for the church, but I did spend useful time with Médecins Sans Frontières. On another occasion both engines failed as the small plane took off over the sea in the Solomon Islands

The churches engaged in mission work and Frances Brienen (currently a Deputy General Secretary of the URC) was one of my colleagues working in that area. Alongside that, CWM provided funding for local projects that would result in a future income stream for the churches – and thus hopefully abolish the begging-bowl mentality that made for the uneasy and often dependent relationship **between the '(rich) north' and the '(poor) south'**. **My aim was to serve the local church, honour local gifts and stimulate activity** and I spent a great deal of time in discussions with local Churches to help them design activities that would command the financial support of their peers in the CWM family. We were challenged by the Charity Commission of England and Wales to demonstrate that these activities were consistent with the charitable aims of CWM – to spread the gospel ..... etc. Some difficult meetings ensued but, after some robust discussions, our programmes were eventually accepted.

In many places where I worked I was conscious of following in the missionary footsteps of many former and current members of Emmanuel<sup>ii</sup> and St Columba's<sup>iii</sup> churches (read their accounts in the publications noted below). To have been a minor part of that remarkable chain of testimony is a cause for wonder and gratitude.

My service for CWM was a short but hugely important influence. It has displaced from this narrative even my marriage to Deborah in 1973, the birth of our four **children, Deborah's ordination, my training with a prestigious London firm of Chartered Accountants** (discovering later that most of the partners were Old Etonians), our move from London, my work with Chater & Myhill in Jesus Lane, with RELATE and the CAB; and then a 13-year period in the Elysian Fields that were Darwin College – so different in those days from commercial life.

Displaced also are the additional responsibilities I happily accepted while at Darwin: advising accountant for the Needham Institute (in Sylvester Road) with



*Deborah and William  
married on 28 July 1973*

Joseph Needham; Chair of Governors at Coleridge Community College for eight years; joint founder of Daily Bread Cambridge Ltd, and other diversions. I assisted Deborah to run Traidcraft in Cambridge – including the two Christmas ‘pop-up shops’ that sold in excess of £60,000 of goods. I went to India on a Traidcraft-Christian Aid study tour and briefly engaged with the Cathedral Relief Services in Calcutta – undertaking speaking engagements around East Anglia on my return. After a diagnosis of cancer, I was the grateful beneficiary of expert care in Addenbrookes Hospital, recovering after spending Christmas undergoing radiotherapy.

Since the 1990’s I have been extensively involved locally, regionally and nationally in the URC: as an Elder, Treasurer, on Synod committees, then Synod Clerk, Mission Council, and various national committees – including convening the Assembly Arrangements Committee (responsible for General Assembly each year).

After the travels worldwide with CWM I worked at the Perse School in Hills Road, five minutes walk away. Life was much less hectic and more family-orientated, though I sorely missed the interest and excitement of the international work. However, since 1988 Deborah and I have developed close relationships and exchanged visits with many continental European church friends. Other travels have taken us to visit friends and family in the USA, Australia (representing the URC at the Uniting Church General Assembly), New Zealand, Hong Kong, Chile, Argentina, Kuwait, Oman and Canada

After six happy years at the Perse School I moved in 2007 to take up the new post of Bursar for Westcott, Wesley House and the Eastern Region Ministry Course –to create a co-operative venture. I was unsuccessful and, despite some

positive achievements, that aim was abandoned in the third year and I left unhappily as a result. Considering retirement, I consoled myself by taking up occasional work at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, satisfying my life-long enthusiasm for aviation.

In 2010 John Barrow recommended me to the Faraday Institute for Science & Religion, where I became the financial manager. By the time we moved into the new Woolf Institute alongside other members of the Cambridge Theological Federation on the Westminster campus I had been a trustee or staff member of six of its organisations.



*Olympics London 2012  
Deborah's guardians!*

Deborah and I volunteered for, and enjoyed the razzamatazz of, the 2012 Olympics – Deborah as a Chaplain, and me working for the International Protocol Team at the Paralympics. In 2013 we spent 10 days in Israel on a study course at Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre; an exhausting experience that certainly made a lasting impression, but which left us dismayed about the Israeli action against the Palestinian peoples.

Retirement from the Faraday in 2018 left me with more time to spare and I became a trustee of the Cromwell Museum<sup>iv</sup> in Huntingdon. I joined Lyn's House Cambridge<sup>v</sup> - the L'Arche-type community - and established it as a charity. In what some have wrongly

assumed to be a penance for all the air-miles I travelled, I became a trustee of Cambridge Carbon Footprint.<sup>vi</sup> Apart from lending my financial skills, Deborah and I have participated in the *Open Eco Homes* each year. There is more about CCF in another article in this magazine.

I have been greatly privileged to have the opportunity to serve these various organisations. None of this work could have been achieved without the support and encouragement that Deborah has consistently given – and for this I am truly

thankful. I continue trying to abide by Micah 6.8: “... and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”.

- i. I commend to you the collection of essays by R L Stevenson in: “An Apology for Idlers”
  - ii. “Wide as the World” Emmanuel URC 1995. “Emmanuel Abroad” Emmanuel URC 2001. “Wider Still and Wider” Emmanuel URC 2007.
  - iii. St Columba’s Church Cambridge 1879-1979. A Centenary Survey. R Buick Knox
  - iv. [www.cromwellmuseum.org](http://www.cromwellmuseum.org)
  - v. See the Facebook page; or, [www.gov.uk/find-charity-information](http://www.gov.uk/find-charity-information) and see ref: 1187876
  - vi. [www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](http://www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org)
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Commitment  
for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

## Moving Stories

Responding to the crisis in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories

Israel has threatened to annex of large portions of the Jordan. This move has challenged the international consensus for a two-state solution. It will also render UN Resolution 2334 – which affirms the illegality of settlements and calls for differentiation between them and Israel – meaningless.

**William Bell, Christian Aid’s head of Middle East has called on Boris Johnson to respond.** Bell calls on the government to end all trade with illegal Israeli settlements. The UK must demonstrate unequivocally that it considers these settlements, and any further annexations, unlawful and contrary to peace.

The United Reformed Church (URC) has a long history of informed interest in and practical partnership with Christian people and projects in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Mission Committee is deeply concerned by the proposals of annexation, and has strongly endorsed the Early Day Motion (#464) tabled on 11 May 2020, which was signed by 79 MP’s (at the time of writing) drawn from all political parties. This motion states:

That this House notes with concern the plans of the new Israeli coalition government to annex part of the occupied West Bank [and highlights that any such annexation of territory occupied in 1967 is a breach of international law which rejects any acquisition of territory through force and that it would be a

major threat to peace; notes that when Russia illegally annexed the Crimea in 2014, the UK joined EU partners in imposing sanctions on that country; calls on the Government to make clear to the Israeli Government that such a step will have severe consequences for the UK-Israel relationship; and further calls on the Government to introduce sanctions similar to those imposed on Russia in the event that an annexation of occupied territory takes place.

The early day motion can be found here:

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/56954/proposed-israeli-annexation-of-part-of-the-west-bank>

Commitment for Life is calling on everyone in the United Reformed Church to write to their MP, asking them to support Early Day Motion #464.

Please make contact, whether you MP has signed up yet or not. Each letter – in the mind of your MP – is multiplied many times! We are determined to show solidarity with all those suffering injustices in the Holy Land.

You can use this handy website to find, and write to, your MP. Put in your postcode, and scroll down to ‘MP.’

<https://www.writetothem.com>



Picture by Kevin Snyman in Sept 2019

This barrier was placed illegally by the Israeli Defence Force. Angela (right) explains to the URC group that its purpose is to push the local Bedouins off their land

# DOWNING PLACE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

## BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER TOPICS

JULY 2020

Below are the Bible readings we may be following together as the Downing Place community during July. You are invited to read them each Sunday as you prepare for worship – whether you read the service at home or watch it on-line – you will be able to share in worship with all at Downing Place URC.

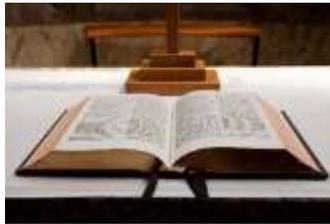
On the next two pages there are prayers for every day of the month, suggesting church and related matters, as well as wider concerns during this time of uncertainty, that need our prayer support. On the final page there is the prayer published by the URC over the names of Karen Campbell, Derek Estill and Nigel Uden, following the death of George Floyd.

July 5<sup>th</sup>: Zechariah 9. 9-12; Psalm 145. 8-14; Romans 7. 15 -24a;  
Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-30.

July 12<sup>th</sup>: Isaiah 55. 10-13; Psalm 65. 1-13; Romans 8. 1-11;  
Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23.

July 19<sup>th</sup>: Isaiah 44. 6-8; Psalm 86. 11-17; Romans 8. 12-25  
Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43.

July 26<sup>th</sup>: 1 Kings 3. 5-12; Psalm 119. 129-136; Romans 8. 26-39;  
Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52.



## ARROW PRAYERS FOR JULY 2020

1. Pray for this new month, reflecting on the situation in which we find ourselves, and trusting God to care for us in all situations . . . .
2. Pray for our Minister, Nigel, thanking God for his ministry with us, as he **also leads the whole URC in this unusual situation of 'lockdown'.**
3. Pray for our Elders and Pastoral Visitors – remembering by name those with whom you have the most contact – and thank God for their ministry.
4. Pray for Ann and Elaine, who are working from home, and help to keep the congregation informed about the many changes that are happening in church life at the moment.
5. This is Sunday!! Pray for our minister, Nigel, and musicians, Mark and Ian, and thank God for the on-line services we share – especially we pray for **those we do not know who are worshipping with us during 'lockdown'.**
6. Pray for the Church Officers, Nigel, Margaret, Owen, Ian, and Stephen Thornton, in attendance, who are meeting today – may the time they spend together be fruitful, and thank God for their support and commitment.
7. Pray for friends you know who are finding this time more difficult than most – especially those who have lost loved ones, or are themselves unwell.
8. Pray for the children in our congregation - and their parents - that they may find things to do that strengthen and support their faith.
9. Pray for the Ferried Friends – members of our congregation who would be meeting this morning for cakes and fellowship, but who are not on-line.
10. Pray for URC Mission Council, which meets today, and especially for John Bradbury, who is now the General Secretary of the URC.
11. Pray for URC General Assembly, in whatever form it is meeting, and especially for Nigel, as he ends his term with Derek Estill, as Moderators.
12. This is Sunday!! Pray for the children and leaders in the Downing Place **community as the children's ministry team lead our worship on line today;** and for the Open Table community as they meet this evening.
13. Pray for children in your family – in your neighbourhood – and across the world, who are having their normal routine of school and play disrupted.
14. Pray for friends in other churches near you – that they too may find comfort and support from their own church communities.
15. **Pray for the Elders' meeting today, as they continue, with Nigel, to lead our congregation in these strange and uncertain times.**

16. Pray for your local city and county councillors, as they work to create an environment that provides opportunity and security for local people.
17. Pray for the local shopkeepers – still concerned about supply and demand **as more and more people are out in the city. Pray they may stay safe . . .**
18. Pray for young people - as another summer weekend may tempt them to break the rules that have been put in place for public safety.
19. This is Sunday!! Pray for Church Meeting which will follow on-line worship this morning, .
20. This week we will pray for people directly affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and today, we pray for those who are sick, particularly those left with permanent changes to their way of life.
21. Pray for the nurses and care workers in care homes who have responsibility for the day-to-day care for elderly and disabled people.
22. Pray for the doctors, nurses and hospital workers who have to make decisions daily that affect the lives of those in their care.
23. Pray for people with physical disabilities whose lives have been affected by the virus, and who have to find new strength to cope with change.
24. Pray for the government, whose daily decisions affect the lives of each one of us – that they may make wise, not necessarily popular, decisions.
25. Thank God for all the health and community workers who continue to work for the NHS in many other roles not connected with the virus.
26. This is Sunday!! This would have been our final Sunday in the Emmanuel building – we thank God for all that Emmanuel has meant to us, and we **pray that its future with Pembroke College is assured and is in God's hands.**
27. So, we look ahead – and we thank God for Westminster College whose chapel will provide a temporary Sunday worship home for the Downing Place community until the new building is completed.
28. Pray for the builders, Coulson, and the architects, Arch:angel, and pray for the safety of all those working on the building site.
29. Pray for the Elders and the DPURC Building committee, as they prepare the new building for our daily and weekly use.
30. Pray for our Minister, Nigel, that August may be a time of reflection and peace, as he leaves his role as Moderator, and returns to pastoral ministry.
31. Pray for your family and friends as we look forward to August - a holiday month unlike any other.

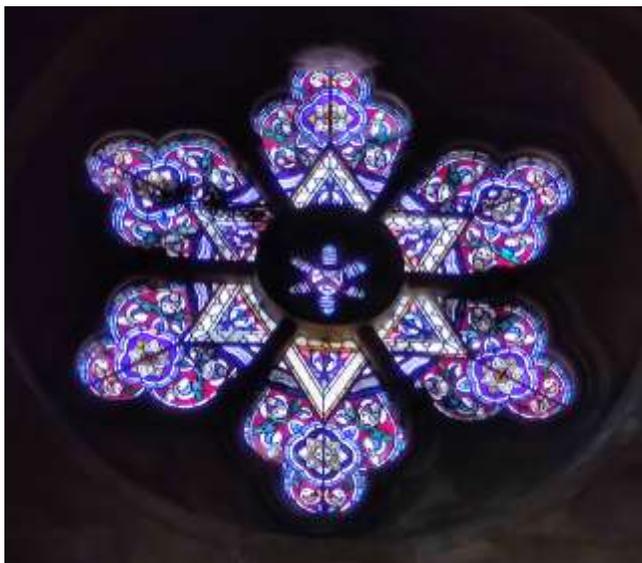
## Prayer

Eternal God,  
deeply troubled by what is happening following George Floyd's death,  
and by too much other inhumanity that doesn't reach the headlines,  
we cry to you as the one  
whose love was the victor at Easter and  
who pours it into our hearts at Pentecost.

Observing the pain of a fractured world,  
use your love to drive us from sadness to compassion;  
    watching the pain of the bereaved,  
    use your love to move us from pity to companionship;  
        faced with the pain of marginalised people,  
        use your love to point us from complacency  
        to your commonwealth.

In our praying,  
let us not just talk to you,  
but yield to your love;  
    in our anger,  
    let us not just rail against injustice,  
    but manifest your love;  
        in our actions,  
        let us not just flail about aimlessly,  
        but build the civilisation of love.

Until none of us are disregarded for who we are  
nor any diminished by what we fail to be,  
we keep on praying in the name of Jesus Christ,  
Amen



MAGAZINE EDITOR: Sheila Porrer

ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

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

ITEMS FOR MONTHLY  
PRAYER DIARY:

Maureen Kendall

WEB EDITOR:

Alison Binney

Please send all items to be included in the August edition to both Sheila and Ann by the cut off date of Wednesday 22 July 2020.

Any items received after the deadline will not be included.

The August edition will be available during week ending Friday 31 July