



DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE

**PLACE
MATTERS**

MONTHLY
MAGAZINE



ISSUE 27
DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021

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PLEASE NOTE

There is no physical Church Office at the moment.

Ann and Elaine are both working at home until our new premises are ready to move into.

The Downing Place site is closed and the contractors cannot handle deliveries or enquiries.

The telephone number 01223 312814 has been diverted to a mobile which Ann and Elaine are taking in turns to keep.

If you need to post something, please email or telephone us to establish which address will be best to use.

Front cover photograph taken by Margaret Reynolds.



I have known for some weeks that homelessness would be the theme of the December/January issue of *Place Matters*. I was struck therefore, when, on the day I sat down to write this note, the Royal Mail brought the annual letter from *Crisis*. It describes itself as ‘the national charity for homeless people’, and helpfully reminds us that homelessness is not only about sleeping rough, though some homeless people do. To be homeless is to have nowhere permanently and adequately to call home. So, whilst one might be out on the streets, it is equally possible to be homeless when there’s no other option but to sleep on someone else’s sofa or – to quote *Crisis* – when ‘holed up in a lonely B&B’.

I have never been homeless in any of those senses, and I cannot imagine what it must be like. From the comfort of a book-lined study, it feels presumptuous to suggest that I could. That said, I do have enough imagination to sense that homelessness must be awful. The sheer discomfort of having nowhere to lay one’s head is bad enough, but the associated sense of belonging nowhere and to no-one is surely crushing of the human spirit, save for the most determinedly hermitic and nomadic amongst us.

In Bible times and today, there are examples of homelessness in this sense arising from difficulties in relationships. Duplicious Jacob offends his father and brother and has to go away to his uncle, but then offends him, so has to move on again. It is not that he ends up with no accommodation, but with a repeated interruption to his sense of belonging. Precocious Joseph infuriates his brothers and gets sold into an inhospitable slavery in Egypt. Even when power and prosperity eventually come his way as the Pharaoh’s second in command, Joseph’s heart remains open to his family; ultimately, I am left wondering if he continues to feel far from home. Right up to date, there’s the man I sometimes see in one of our city’s Car Parks. He speaks of his greatest sadness being falling-out with his daughter.

Such is the homelessness that so many know today – that sense of being severed from those who give life its purpose, stability and joy. Many know how it can happen when marriages end and nuclear family is fractured. It can also happen, of course, when financial troubles hit hard, and homes are lost, or when our sexual identity separates us from those who cannot understand. In all these situations, and many another, that homelessness of being estranged from others can be paralysing. I am struck, therefore, that *Crisis* seems to understand this with

its current motto – ‘together we will end homelessness’. It suggests that there is an inextricable link between resolving homeless and embodying community. When we’re bereft of accommodation, rarely does the problem get solved in isolation. It takes a network of concerned and committed companions – some statutory, some charitable – to see us through. The problem might be housing; the answer could be relationship.

I am struck that central to the narratives we read at Christmas there is the idea that God set up home amongst us. Depicting the human condition, the Fourth Gospel suggest that we are ‘far from home’ and God forges a relationship by being born among us in Jesus, pitching the divine tent in our midst. At the other end of Jesus’s life, there is another allusion to home. That same Gospel has Jesus say that in his Father’s house there are many mansions, and that God has prepared one for us. I do not for one moment think that is about the provision of a smart house somewhere. In my experience, a house most commonly becomes a home because of the quality of relationships we have, or once had, there. And such is the implication I draw from God preparing a mansion for us; it’s about God making possible a relationship of mutual trust and goodwill. God is our God and we are God’s people; there is an intentional and durable mutual belonging. As God offers a spiritual home that is about relationship, does God not also beckon us to liberate one another from homelessness by the relationships in which we invest, even with strangers on the pavement? In a similar vein, I’m challenged by the person who said ‘the point is not to feed the hungry, but to eat with them’. ‘Together we will end homelessness.’



Yet more poignantly, perhaps there’s another challenge this particular Christmas, as the pandemic continues. Even if we are not homeless literally, we may be kept from being with those alongside whom we like to share the festive season. Might our faith inspire us to find ways of ensuring those alone are at least contacted? To foster a sense of that belonging which is key to being at ‘home’, I am sure that using the telephone and other devices to keep in contact will matter as much as ever before, and maybe more. ‘Together we will end homelessness.’

At Christmas, and throughout the New Year, Bethan, Jess and I wish all of you the blessing of God, whose home is with us.

Nigel Uden

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In this Christmas and New Year issue of *Place Matters* we are looking at some of the organisations working in Cambridge to confront the problem of homelessness. The plight of being homeless has a special resonance at Christmas when we hear of a baby born in sub-standard accommodation, a long way from home.

There is hope here though, and there is a lot going on to try to solve the homelessness problem, which is especially severe in Cambridge where pressures on space are so great and housing is so expensive.

We look at some of the main charities active in Cambridge – Jimmy’s is our monthly cause for December, and we also hear of Riverside, Cambridge Cyrenians, Wintercomfort, the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, and, in Yorkshire, Nightstop. We are extremely grateful to those who have agreed to provide material, sometimes our own members, but also people from those charities who have generously given their time. In all cases more information and details of how to donate are given on the websites.

Those organisations we have been able to feature are of course not the whole picture. Public bodies such as the City Council and the University have been active too.

The City Council works with the Street Outreach Team and its Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy aims at ending both of these, and many different bodies support “It Takes A City”, an initiative targeting different aspects of homelessness, including women’s homelessness and youth homelessness, and offering support to get back on track. Cambridge Street Aid, a charitable fund supported by the Council, has raised over £100,000 in four years from donations. These funds are handed out as grants to help someone get off, or stay off, the streets of Cambridge and might provide smart interview clothes or a bike to help someone get to work. This year’s recent Street Aid week in October raised £3,500.

Students at both Universities are also active – students have set up CHOP – Cambridge Homeless Outreach Programme – to encourage students to interact with homelessness people, and Streetbite, taking hot drinks and snacks to people during the day,(and operating until last year from the St. Columba’s kitchen).

The Pandemic has had a huge impact – on the positive side, the City Council have been able to house all those rough sleepers who accepted help, but it has also made it more difficult for some face to face support services to operate.

Of course there is much more we could cover – Emmaus, the CAB, local foodbanks, and other bodies which can offer help with housing – but it is good to know that so many folk are caring for those for whom a settled life is just an aspiration.

Sheila Porrer



Cambridge Churches Homeless Project

CCHP is well known to Downing Place, and those of you who have volunteered will have already received this letter from Stephen Barwise about the plans for this winter. Stephen adds that the project is hoping to put a further three vulnerable homeless into safe accommodation this winter, if they can raise the funds.

Stephen writes:

Hello

The CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECT will not be running as a night shelter this Winter, due to the Pandemic and the consequent decision of the Government to fund Room Only accommodation for rough sleepers. The City Council offered Room Only accommodation to 230 rough sleepers, of whom 190 accepted the offer. The City Council has rehoused 110 of these people and intends to make housing offers to the remainder. The City Council is, however, unable to offer accommodation to rough sleepers with No Access To Public Funds, and CCHP is supporting particularly vulnerable rough sleepers in this position, paying for Bed & Breakfast accommodation until the City Council can appeal the decisions and take over providing accommodation. The rough sleepers that we are funding in Bed & Breakfast would normally have come into our night shelter had we been allowed to run. We have also funded Bed & Breakfast for two young vulnerable women until the City Council could organise accommodation, which they achieved in a few days.

The CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECT is also participating, with other homeless charities, in supporting rough sleepers in other ways, including creating cooked meals, and helping distribute them, as the accommodation provided by the City Council does not include food. We give thanks to those CCHP volunteers who are involved in this service.

Further to this, CCHP agreed to purchase a laptop and mobile phone for the use

of rough sleepers, so that they had access to internet communication. These items are held by staff and utilised when required by rough sleepers, for instance to communicate with Benefit Offices that are currently closed to anything other than internet/phone communication.

These are challenging times and being adaptable to the circumstances with which we are confronted is essential if we are to be of service. I am convinced that the Night Shelter Model will return, once the pandemic has receded and the government no longer funds accommodation for rough sleepers, but at present we continue to rely on our supporters to be able to provide the essential services required during these times.

While talking to the Apostles, Christ said

“I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome”

CCHP provides organised compassion and an opportunity to bear witness to GOD. In previous years, for four months, from the beginning of Dec to the end of March, covering 122 nights, we have housed 17 rough sleepers per night for seven consecutive years. At any one time, during these winters, there have been six churches and one synagogue involved in providing this service. This winter, the nature of the service offered will be different, but we intend it to be no less relevant to the rough sleepers with whom we engage.

If you would like to contact me about any of the above, please email me on

stephen@cchp.org.uk

Thank you.

Wintercomfort for the homeless (“Wintercomfort”)

DPURC member, Colin Christy, writes:

Wintercomfort for the homeless is a charity, based at Overstream House on Victoria Avenue, which acts as a day centre for homeless people. It is one of the principal agencies focussed on homeless people in Cambridge, along with the City Council, Jimmy’s and the Cambridge Street Outreach team.

It is open from 8:30 every day of the year and provides a place of human contact and acceptance for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed. All attendees receive an interview/induction and all contacts are logged on confidential client records. Basic welfare support such as breakfast, showers, laundry facilities, toiletries, clothing is provided for anyone in need and this is supplemented by a variety of specific services often provided by professionals; e.g. foot-care,

counselling, veterinary services, immigration advice, housing advice. In the year to March 2019, 836 people visited Wintercomfort on a total of 21,427 occasions.



Further engagement with service users is very important and the service team of approx. 10 staff each support nominated users and a specific work area such as sports, housing advice, volunteer support, job opportunities. Most homeless people have complex needs and a variety of learning and development activities are run to engage with service users, often aimed at building self-esteem, learning and training. These include art and crafts, team games, visits to museums and galleries, sporting activities in teams or 1:1, catering skills, IT and job skills, maths and english

skills (including a reading group and creative writing), social trips, cinema trips, walking group, gardening etc. Of the 836 people noted above, 509 engaged more fully on 5,433 occasions.

Learning and development activities can then lead to volunteering and possibly employment, which is an end goal in helping people become self-sufficient and the best way to help people get back into mainstream society. Wintercomfort's two social enterprises – "Overstream Clean" and "Food4Food" provide such opportunities for service users. Overstream will be known to some members of the congregation as they used to clean Emmanuel church and halls. Food4Food provides buffets for meetings and regularly receives high praise.

Obviously, during the first lockdown both of these operations were temporarily suspended and Wintercomfort's main operations changed significantly. Initially, and working closely with the City Council, Jimmy's and Street Outreach, the objective was to trace and verify all homeless people and place them in accommodation. Thereafter services moved to the provision of basic food supplies and maintaining contact. At the beginning of September, Overstream House re-opened providing basic welfare services in a Covid-19 safe manner and Overstream Clean also re-started operations.

I looked after the finances at Wintercomfort until fairly recently and am well acquainted with the organisation and the people there. If you should like to know more, whether it be about volunteering, governance, outcomes, funding etc, please email me. Alternatively visit the website at www.wintercomfort.org.uk

Riverside is one of the UK's leading social housing and regeneration organisations, owning or managing around 58,300 homes from Irvine to Kent. We have a track record of transforming lives and revitalising neighbourhoods dating back to 1928.

Insight into Riverside's supported services in Cambridge

Riverside has a wide range of housing and support services in Cambridge, each providing different levels of support for people experiencing homelessness.

They are Willow Walk, The Victoria Project, The Springs and Cambridge Youth Foyer, and each service works closely with partner agencies to provide an holistic package that is tailored to a person's needs. One key element Riverside uses is its Psychologically Informed Environments programme, which involves creating a service where the day-to-day running has been designed to take the psychological and emotional needs of people into account. This successful approach helps increase a person's self-esteem, belief and hope so they receive support for longer and achieve their goals.

Each service also organises activities that residents can enjoy such as cookery classes, art and craft and days out to places of interest – although some are temporarily on-hold during lockdown.



Eat together event in the summer

To help residents in its supported accommodation across the country during the pandemic, Riverside purchased £50,000 worth of digital gadgets so they can stay connected with the outside world. The digital tablets have either been gifted to people who need them or given to schemes which then loan them to residents, and Willow Walk received a digital tablet.



For Craig Teat the gadget has helped him cope with schizophrenia and depression.: “I use the tablet and the communal laptop to play games, watch videos and films. The tablet helps me take my mind of things and put me in a different zone to think about other things.”

Willow Walk is based in an historic building that has been helping to transform the lives of rough sleepers in Cambridge since 1874.

Service manager James Gordon gives an insight

into how music therapy is helping residents there.

He said: “The classes build a greater sense of community and a positive experience that differs to residents’ everyday routines. Willow residents are often at the beginning of their recovery journey when they come here, at a pre-contemplative stage to address their addictive behaviours. The group is for all musical abilities, allowing residents to participate in something meaningful and find new ways to express themselves creatively. It helps increase self-esteem, sense of purpose and more healthy relationships are formed.”



Over at The Victoria Project and The Springs on Victoria Road, residents can enjoy getting involved in a gardening project to boost their health and wellbeing, grow their own vegetables and enjoy life outdoors.

The Victoria Project provides safe and supportive accommodation to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, while The Springs is a follow-on accommodation for people with low support needs.

Cambridge Youth Foyer is there to support young people aged 16 to 25 who are homeless and want to engage in education, training or employment and become independent. The service is a safe and stable place for those who can no longer live at home or are leaving care, and focuses on supporting the person’s needs to help them move on in life.



Cambridge Cyrenians - Supporting the Homeless for Half a Century

Having recently celebrated their 50th anniversary Cambridge Cyrenians are the oldest charity providing support and accommodation to those experiencing homelessness in the city. Originating from the Simon Community founded in London, the charity took an unconventional approach to helping the homeless in a time where many believed the best treatment had been discipline. The Cambridge Cyrene Community took the time to understand the wants and needs of those who accessed their small twice-weekly club and soup kitchen. Facing much opposition, such as that of Councillor John Hughes, who had expressed concern that Cambridge was becoming “all right for a soft touch” for the street drinkers, the charity was able to secure a 12 bed accommodation named the Granville, on the corner of Broad Road and East Road, now the site of St. Matthew’s school playground.



First ever bed spaces at Granville

Unable to continue being supported by the Cyrene base in London, the Cambridge Cyrene Community became its own charity in 1970. The charity expanded further, opening more houses, running night shelters and regularly taking residents on small trips. For their 50th year, the charity has released a free book containing their history which can be located on their website (<https://cambridgecyrenians.org.uk>), or a hard copy can be requested through the charity directly. *(Editor’s note – recommended - an interesting read, not only about the Cyrenians, but also the recent history of the City of Cambridge)*

Since then, Cambridge Cyrenians has expanded to 104 beds in supported houses within the city through various forms of accommodation and extra support services. Included within these accommodations are those specifically for ex-offenders, working residents, female-only properties and long stay. The charity continues to seek creative and alternative ways to support its residents and has since also put in place an in-house counselling service, a Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, an Older Homeless Project and a thriving allotment community.



Director, James Martin, chatting to resident



One of our residents

Throughout 2020 the local charity has been dedicated to the expansion of their Older Homeless Project which currently cares for 25 men and women who have located further accommodation. The project aims to alleviate symptoms of loneliness and ensure the best chances for bright futures by providing people with the support and tools necessary to handle independent housing. No two days are the same in this role, and support is tapered to meet the needs of each of its clients. Cambridge Cyrenians aim to reduce the age of access for this service to make it more available for those struggling in their homes by providing another support worker to take care of more service users. This lifeline service has been particularly helpful throughout the pandemic for those vulnerable and isolated, and continues to operate as normal with social distancing and PPE in place.

Phil Wood, our Community Development Worker, writes about Nightstop

The Nightstop Story. Hospitality in an age of Covid-19

Visiting Emmaus Cambridge just before the second lockdown, reminded me just how important the Christian response to homelessness is. Although Christianity has suffered decline across most of Western Europe, the Christian Church remains the largest provider of social care in the UK outside government. Emmaus is a wonderful organisation, founded in 1949 by a French Capuchin Friar, the Abbé Pierre. When I worked for Nightstop in Leeds, they were one of our partners, supporting our young homeless guests.



Leeds Nightstop never was an exclusively faith-based project. Many of our hosts saw their hosting as an expression of Christian welcome. Others took a more pragmatic view. I heard a volunteer make a compelling connection between one person's surplus space and another's homelessness. But, most of our volunteers were Christians and

Nightstop originally grew out of the combined hospitality of two congregations in Leeds. In a largely individualistic culture ungrudging welcome stands out. For Jews, Christians and Muslims the practice of welcome represents perhaps the oldest of shared Abrahamic community values. The recollection, transmission and development of this tradition continually seeds a succession of new settings and fresh expressions of hospitality. As God's people find ourselves facing new cultural challenges, hospitality accompanies mission.

Nightstop began in 1987. It was Hilary Willmer's idea to co-ordinate hospitality already offered by local churches in Leeds. Barnardo's CANA (Churches and Neighbourhood Action) did the original research. The concept was simple. Emergency accommodation for young homeless people provided in the homes of volunteer hosts. There are many more Nightstop projects now, in the UK and Canada. Depaul Nightstop was formed in 2007, successor to Nightstop UK. Our Leeds project was the original vintage. It seems a while ago now but it's good to remember the 1980's mood. In Thatcher's Britain youth homelessness reached epidemic levels. At its height Leeds Nightstop had more than 130 volunteers - hosts and telephone contacts.

The welcome of strangers is direct but there is no such thing as 'simple hospitality'. Hospitality has always been offered against a backdrop of complex



political and social flux. Genesis paints a graphic portrait of tensions between a nomadic and settled way of life.

Relationships between host and guest are often highly nuanced, even in the biblical text. On the road to Emmaus, the way Jesus begins as guest and becomes host has a kind of subversive playfulness.

Recognising the broader context of

hospitality is important. The scale and pace of hospitality also matters. In our culture ‘hospitality’ is a commodity. ‘Corporate hospitality’ is a quite different thing from the kind of welcome offered to strangers on dusty biblical journeys, or on the streets of Cambridge. For the people of God, doing what we always have – offering intimate, ungrudging hospitality – the open home and the welcoming community offer desperately needed contemporary space for healing and renewal. Whatever the Promised Land we hope for as the People of God, it will certainly be a hospitable place.

On the 26th January 1992 the BBC aired a documentary in the Everyman series, ‘Entertaining Angels’, which featured Leeds Nightstop. Three and a half million people watched the programme and the resulting publicity brought an overwhelming response, including interest in setting up other Nightstop projects. One of these projects was Bradford Nightstop, now the busiest scheme of its kind in the UK. Recently Bradford Nightstop announced that they would be unable to take referrals until March 2021 in view of the pandemic. There has been much discussion on the impact of Covid-19, but the effect on emergency accommodation has been considerable. It isn’t possible to do Nightstop by Zoom!

Depaul Nightstop have highlighted the predicament of young people, who often face physical, emotional and sexual abuse in the event of homelessness. Covid brings fresh concerns, with thousands of jobless young people in housing crisis. It is certainly a conundrum. At a time when there are unprecedented obstacles to hospitality – even hosting or visiting family members – the need for a warm welcome has never been greater. Nightstops across the country have embarked on a volunteer recruitment drive, at the same time as many projects are temporarily closed. It’s a wise move to plan for hospitality in the middle of a lockdown. Cambridge has no Nightstop. Food for thought and prayer!

Bibliography

Christine D.Pohl, 'Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition'. 1999, Eerdmans.

MONTHLY CAUSE FOR DECEMBER

JIMMY'S CAMBRIDGE

Members of Downing Place will be familiar with Jimmy's homeless charity, now 25 years into its work with Cambridge's homeless. Barry Griffiths of Jimmy's explains how they have been operating during the pandemic, and their aspirations for the future.

Current work

The pandemic's stay-at-home order challenged how the charity operates, as an institution rooted in providing accommodation but encouraging residents to spend their days outside. This included decreasing the number of residents housed (due to the elimination of shared sleeping quarters). However, Jimmy's was still able to deliver on its purpose of providing day-to-day activities and essential support (e.g. planning for housing, applying for benefits, finding medical help).

We have seen a significant increase in numbers of beneficiaries experiencing a deterioration of mental health and reaching 'crisis point' and increased feelings of isolation, hopelessness and segregation from the community. Many of our beneficiaries have been unable to access essential parts of their support structures due to lockdown restrictions over the last six months, which has left them vulnerable and has increased demand for Jimmy's' services.

This includes 150 rough sleepers housed in temporary hotel or B&B accommodation through the pandemic by the UK government, who required support services. Despite not receiving additional funding Jimmy's redeployed a Support Worker to meet their needs

Going Forwards

Jimmy's in Cambridge is 25 this year. What was once a small night shelter in the basement of an old church, now provides beds for over 60 people and support for many more. Everyone we help at Jimmy's has been sleeping rough on the streets. Life has taken some bad turns. What we offer is hope, a chance to help someone back on their feet. A bed, hot food, a listening ear, a chance to tackle the issues that caused them to end up on the street in the first place.

Our ultimate goal is to end homelessness, but while it exists, we continue to provide the support people need. We were excited to open 6 new modular homes in June. We've acquired a bit of land on a church site to put 6 new homes built by people who were formerly homeless. While a smaller, modular home won't suit

everyone, actually for many single people, given the choice of a room in a hostel or shared house - or your own place with your own front door, it's a great opportunity for people. They are in demand, and we've 17 more coming in 2021. We'd really like to find some more land - this is what helps people turn their lives around.

As we approach the winter, Jimmy's will remain open in order to fully support people in its centres and accommodation, and to support those finding themselves newly homeless (a surge is anticipated here, due to the current eviction ban ending in December).



Jimmy's CEO, Mark Allan, with the new modular homes

Details of different ways to donate to Jimmy's are on their website, or you can send a cheque, payable to Jimmy's Cambridge, to Jimmy's, 1, East Road, Cambridge. CB1 1BD

MONTHLY CAUSE FOR JANUARY 2021

Zoë Norgett writes about The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust

The Stephen Lawrence Charitable trust is an organisation that promotes equality and a fairer society. They ‘work with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds aged 13 to 30 to inspire and enable them to succeed in the career of their choice’. The charity was founded in memory of Stephen Lawrence, a young man who was murdered in an unprovoked racist attack. He was an aspiring architect but was never able to fulfill his ambitions. The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust gives young people opportunities to fulfill their ambitions.

‘In 2020 the Trust will:

- Provide over 1,000 young people with careers guidance through our Schools programme
- Support over 250 young people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds through the trust’s flagship Building Futures programme
- Award up to £150,000 of bursaries and scholarships to support students who would otherwise struggle to stay in education.’

This is a charity that matters to me because change still needs to be pushed until our society is fair and equal for all. Opportunities given to young people alter their course of life hugely so it is of great importance that all effort is made to give young people equal opportunity regardless of race, ethnicity or background.

I study a degree in engineering and if it weren’t for opportunities I was given in school that promoted women in engineering, I may not have decided to follow this career path. Black Lives Matter protests this summer highlighted to me the systematic racism still present in this country and I believe that opportunities given in school are an effective way to push for greater equality.

Giving:

You can donate online - see the Donate section of

<https://www.stephenlawrencetrust.org/>

Or via BACS transfer, using the details below. Please send a confirmation email to Carolyne at <cyamoah@stephenlawrence.org.uk>

Bank Name: Lloyds Bank

Account Name: The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust

Account Number: 02826992 Sort Code: 30-94-08

A gift aid form is available on the Trust’s website.

FROM THE URC MONTHLY UPDATE: NAOMI YOUNG-RODAS

On 3 October, the Revd Naomi Young-Rodas, Minister of Christ Church Rayleigh, conducted her first wedding, following her ordination in 2019. The wedding was the same-sex marriage of a couple, Pam and Diane, who have been together for 23 years, and who were very pleased finally to get married in Church..



Our Autumn e-appeal via the e-envelope in November's *Place Matters* has raised **£420** so far.

Many thanks to all those who have donated to show “neighbourly love” throughout the world.

Sheila Porrer

What? Love Can't be Locked Down - our online Christmas entertainment

When? Friday December 11th , 6.30-8.00

Where? The comfort of your own home (or someone else's, if we're allowed by then)



When the idea came to me of having a home-grown, online Christmas entertainment evening, I just hoped there would be some interest. I have been overwhelmed with the response - so many items have been offered that there is a waiting list, and there have also been eager requests to join the Zoom get-together afterwards. Thank you so much - this means that we are in for a really special evening.

Please note, this event is only viewable LIVE on the night, at 6.30pm. Every care has been taken with regard to safeguarding, and for this reason the film will be made unavailable after viewing. The link will be sent to everyone in the congregation, and can be forwarded to personal friends who have direct links with Downing Place if you/they wish.

We encourage you to book your place on your sofa with suitable refreshments and, if you wish, festive headgear/clothing/background to add to the atmosphere when we meet for a chat on Zoom after the show (there will be a short break between the show's finish and the Zoom get-together.) Please support our gallant entertainers! I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you,

Jane Bower



CAMBRIDGE AREA PARTNERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 7.00PM

We encourage members to participate in this online event - please contact Margaret Thompson to obtain the relevant Zoom code.

Cambridge Area Partnership
December Meeting (Zoom)



A future and a hope

- being church in the 2020s
(including an address by John
Bradbury, General Secretary)

7.00 pm
Wednesday 2 December 2020

Pastoral Advocates:
Revd Dr Rick Mearkle
Revd Deborah McVey
Richard Lewney

M&M Advocate:
Alison Jiggins

The meeting will be held on Zoom. Please contact your church secretary for the link.

Photo by Dariusz Sankowski on Unsplash

SHARING POSITIVE EXPERIENCES

The Pastoral care group would like to gather some personal views of what members have found beneficial during the last 9 or 10 months since the start of the first Lockdown. It may be particular types of contact with family, Church, neighbourhood or friends further afield. Perhaps you have taken up a new interest, rekindled an old one, or tackled some long outstanding items on your 'to do' list. Books, films, TV programs, online meetings, book festivals etc may also have proved beneficial.

If you have some thoughts you would like to share, please email me or post your contribution to Jenny Jacobsberg, (please contact Ann or Elaine if you need the address). Your experiences may well be of help or inspiration to others - I plan to produce an article for February's Place matters - without identifying the contributors, if that is your wish.

Best wishes

Jenny Jacobsberg

ADVENT FESTIVAL SERVICE

Sunday 13th December 2020

'BE AN ANGEL'



The service will be available to watch via our Youtube channel from Saturday evening (12th) onwards

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7GQuqsJi5A2PFacVyp4YOg/>



Downing Place United Reformed Church
Mid-week Carol Service 2020.

This year's Mid-week Carol Service, particularly for those living with Dementia and their carers, will take place on TUESDAY DECEMBER 8th at 11am.

We hope to welcome members of Downing Place, family members and friends from around the world, to the Zoom Service. Please email contact@downingplaceurc.org or telephone 01223 312814 to take part.

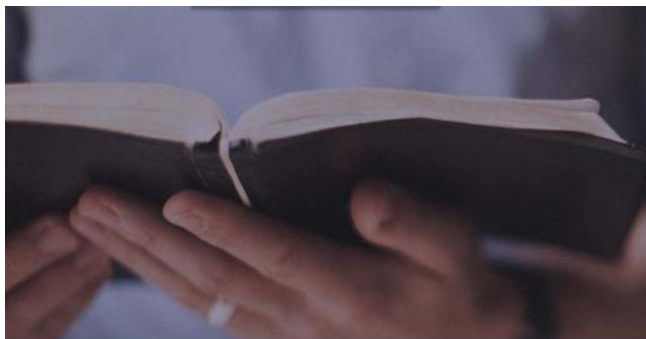
Please tell anyone else you think would like to celebrate with us.

We will contact "Care homes" in the area, particularly where our members are currently living.

The service will be recorded and available on YOUTUBE later.



ADVENT HOUSE GROUP ON ZOOM.



Three Tuesday afternoon sessions on the 1st, 8th and 15th December, 2.30 -4pm.

This house group is a continuation of the group that has been meeting on Zoom to study Worship and has chosen to continue meeting for three more sessions to share in study for Advent, but there is room for more and anyone who would like to join us will be very welcome.

The material chosen for these meetings (on Zoom) will be taken from the Scottish Bible Society resource material “Equip”, designed “to encourage better understanding of, and deeper engagement with, the Bible” - see <https://scottishbiblesociety.org/equip/>. We shall study and share in conversation around three of the seven passages in their “Advent” course “to help us prepare ourselves to remember and celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world”. Nearer the time I will send details of the three passages that we shall be focusing on to all who indicate that they would like to join us. Please contact Deborah McVey, who “hosts” the group, or myself or Ann/Elaine.

Janet Bottoms.

PROFILE - PETER SARKIES

I grew up in the Cambridge area, in a small village called Hilton near St. Ives. I come from a medical family- my father is a retired ophthalmologist; his father and grandfather were also doctors of Armenian ethnicity who lived in Calcutta. My mother taught English at Swavesey village college and later at Kimbolton School. Despite the relatively isolated nature of the village I had a good time there, especially in summer holidays when I worked on a nearby lettuce farm in the mornings and played football with my friends in the afternoons.



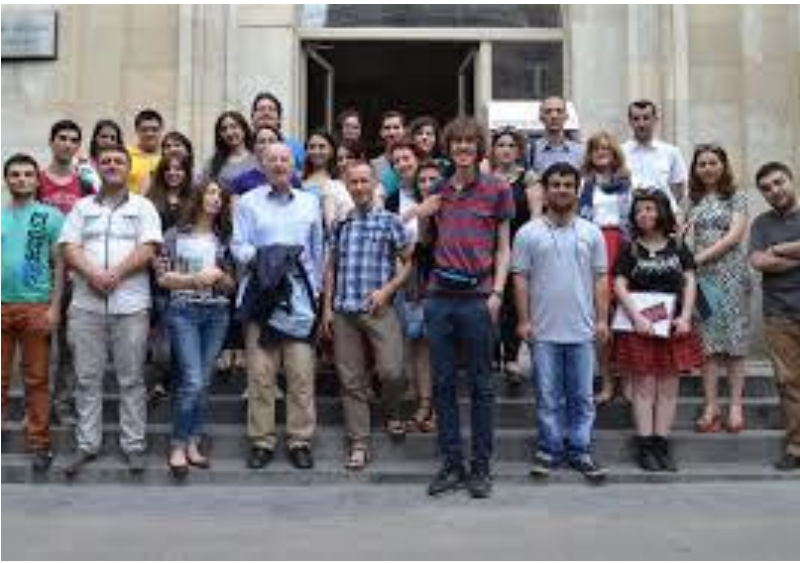
I always assumed I'd become a doctor myself but as I went through secondary school I became fascinated by pure science, initially physics and subsequently biology and genetics inspired in particular by the publication of the human genome sequence. After a few arguments I eventually persuaded my Dad to let me apply to study biochemistry at university rather than medicine and I was really lucky to get a place at Oxford. Academically it was a fantastic experience- the system is arranged so that you have tutorials with experts in particular topics to supplement the lecture courses. There's also a lot of other activities going on beyond studying: I spent quite a bit of time playing bass guitar in a rock band and I ran cross-country races. Most importantly it's where I met my wife Lyndall who was also studying biochemistry- we got married during our last year of studies.

After undergraduate studies I considered studying medicine but I realised that there were so many questions that I wanted to know the answers to so I decided to do a PhD. I moved back to Cambridge to study at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology- a famous Institute on the Addenbrooke's site. Fortunately Lyndall got a place to study postgraduate medicine in Cambridge and so we moved together. After my PhD I stayed on in Cambridge to do a post-doc in the Gurdon Institute on Tennis Court Road. After this I was lucky enough to be given the chance to start my own research team at Imperial College in another MRC research institute based in the Hammersmith Hospital in West London.

All through my career I have been working on epigenetics. Whilst the sequence of DNA is the blueprint for how every cell in the body works, the sequence of DNA is exactly the same in every cell despite the fact that different types of cells have different functions. This is possible because different cells use different “genes”-parts of the DNA sequence that code for the proteins that determine cell function. For example, cells in the liver makes an enzyme that digests alcohol whereas cells in the pancreas produce the hormone insulin that controls blood sugar. The information that tells cells which genes to use and which to shut down is called “epigenetic” because it is not just encoded in the DNA sequence alone. When a cell divides it remembers this information- so the two daughter cells produced use the same set of genes as the mother. My research team is studying how this transfer of epigenetic information is achieved- this is particularly interesting because one of the key features of cancer cells is that their epigenetic information becomes confused such that cells “forget” what they are supposed to be doing, with terrible consequences.

As a child, I attended church with my parents; my father comes from a Christian background and in fact my grandfather was ordained as a minister which he practised alongside medicine. As an adolescent, however, as I became more and more interested in science I drifted away from church. I was never a dogmatic atheist- I read the God Delusion by Richard Dawkins when I was doing my PhD and thought it was absurd- I just adopted a rather lazy agnosticism that is quite prevalent in science. In my day-to-day life I try to solve problems of practical relevance for understanding how organisms work. Within this context invoking God as a solution is not necessary and in fact would be completely counter to the entire scientific method. I say this is lazy because it comes from thinking that, as the specific problems that I am familiar with do not require a spiritual explanation, the same is true for all important questions. Subsequently though I’ve realised that there are many questions in life, even in biology, where an answer that embraces the spiritual is the only rational possibility.

My agnostic mindset started to change a few years ago when I visited Israel for work. I was staying in the cosmopolitan warmth of Tel Aviv but, as I had a few days spare, I got on a bus and went to Jerusalem. When I arrived, in the tense and cold atmosphere of the Old City, I followed the tourist train to the church of the Holy Sepulchre. Despite its relatively unprepossessing interior I was interested to see inside, if slightly cynical of the genuflecting crowds of the devout on the threshold. However, when I entered I was completely overcome by a feeling of “otherness”; standing next to Jesus’ tomb I was moved to tears by the realisation that this was where an incomparable human, who has inspired, challenged and saved humans for two thousand years had been buried.



Peter teaching a course in the Department of Biology at Yerevan State University in Armenia”

For a while I was a little too scared to really process what had happened, but gradually I started to think about the possibility of God and how it might fit in to my scientific worldview. Last winter I decided to embrace it properly and, having recently moved back to Cambridge from London, started to look for a church. I tried a few- some traditional Anglican churches and a more evangelical setting, without being inspired. However, when I walked into the old Downing Place on Trumpington Street and was presented with a service sheet, a hymn book, and a warm smile I immediately felt welcome and at home. Since then I’ve been every week (albeit virtually for the last few months!).

Routinely attending Downing Place has led me to start thinking and reading about theology. In some ways, analytical approaches to biblical texts and rational thought about questions of spirituality is similar to the scientific approach. The challenging and exciting difference is accepting that the plurality of answers that are often possible in response to particular questions might all be true simultaneously. The strongest thread running through my faith is the majestic inspiration the Christ provides humanity as documented in the New Testament but I’m trying to learn more about the Old Testament and finding inspiration there too. I attend Open Table and have found the Bible Study, as well as the stimulating discussion groups, particularly useful in developing my understanding. It’s also wonderful to have the support and guidance of a designated Elder, Pippa Jones, who I’ve also really enjoyed playing music with. I’m so happy to have formally become a member of the community and I’m eagerly anticipating growing further in faith together with you all. Thank you!

A PETITION SHARED BY CHARLOTTE THOMPSON

Dear friends, I am very concerned about climate change and would like to do something to slow global warming. I hope you are willing to help me with this. I have created a petition about banning outdoor heaters. If you agree, please do sign and share my petition to ban polluting outdoor heaters. France banned them earlier in the year, but the UK hasn't done anything yet.

Obviously cafes are desperate for business, but in much colder countries like Sweden they manage to eat and drink outside without unnecessarily using energy and adding to negative Climate Change. According to figures from low carbon consultancy Carbone 4, four exterior gas-powered heaters running at full power for eight hours produce the equivalent carbon emissions of an average car travelling for a distance of 350km.

We are concerned about all our futures, so please do support me to protect our world. I need at least 10,000 signatures to get the government to answer the petition so please do share the petition link by email, on social media and with any environmental or other organisations you belong to. Here is the link:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/553328?fbclid=IwAR1HjH-dHBKnsR379LjDcOjSe8nrKeKzMzOJQl0BoAn-YgR-qk9bwpiEzbnk>

Please note, there are two stages to signing. Once you have added your name and postcode you will get sent an email, which you have to click to verify that you want to sign the petition. If you don't click on that email your signature doesn't count!

Many thanks,

Charlotte Thompson



BUILDING WORKS UPDATE



This photograph, taken on 14th November, shows the scaffolding and hoardings while the builders work on the new entrance in Downing Place, on the roof of the Chapel and the new windows on Downing Street. They are taking advantage of the current lockdown and reduced vehicle and pedestrian traffic to have the scaffolding permitted over the pavement in Downing Street.

Robert Porrer

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

A Christmas Season challenge for everyone

A CHRISTMAS ALPHABET

A B C

Write the letters of the alphabet down the side of a big piece of paper (or two, or more) and next to each letter write or draw something Christmassy. For example S could be 'SOCKS' [for Dad, or shepherds to wash] or 'STAR' [in the sky]. Feel free to phone a friend and collaborate. Then you might design the whole list into a big picture.

Happy to see your results.

Rosemary, children@downingplace.urc.org




IAN DE MASSINI

For many years, Ian de Massini, one of our Directors of Music, has been composing and arranging music – most of all for choirs. With Mark Dawes, he brings countless delights to our musical life Sunday by Sunday.

Last month Ian's career moved into a remarkable new phase, as for the first time one of his pieces was published. Stainer and Bell have released his unaccompanied setting of *Away in a manger*. Some of you will have heard it when *Cambridge Voices* have included it in their programme. The editor's note says Ian's version of these familiar words 'brushes away the cobwebs of the past', in parts 'rapt and prayerful' and in others 'romantic and emotional'.

This is a fine acknowledgment of Ian's skills, and we add our warmest congratulations. We are grateful and proud to have you at the heart of the church's life, Ian. Thank you for all you add.

Nigel Uden



Welcoming
IAN DE MASSINI
<https://stainer.co.uk/massini>

CHORAL NOW
IAN DE MASSINI
Away in a manger
SATB unaccompanied
Stainer & Bell

STAINER & BELL

Ian de Massini joins Choral Now

**Publication officially released for Ian de Massini's carol,
*Away in a manger***

Ian de Massini writes: I know "Pride comes before a fall", but I really would like to share with you all the overwhelming pleasure that I have experienced today, having just read the official publicity which the choral music publisher, *Stainer & Bell*, has just sent out to the Directors of Music of every cathedral, abbey, major church, and university chapel in the land, featuring the very first piece of music of mine to be published; a setting of the well-known Christmas text, *Away in a manger*.

I wrote the piece, purely for my own enjoyment, some five years ago, during the year when King's College, Cambridge was celebrating the 500th anniversary of the completion of its chapel's stonework. Then, an opportunity arose for my own choir, *Cambridge Voices*, to perform my carol as part of their seasonal concerts in December of that same year. After that, I and my choir moved on to other pieces of new music, and my little carol was more or less forgotten.

But Providence quietly intervened, and, unknown to me, a copy of my carol was shown to the eminent choral director, Christopher Robinson (former Director of Music of Worcester Cathedral, then of St George's Chapel, Windsor, and finally of St John's College Chapel, Cambridge), just after he had been booked to conduct a fund-raising Christmas concert in King's College Chapel last year. There was a small gap in the concert programme, and a colleague of mine, Ben Parry (ex-Swingle Singer, former Director of the Dunedin Consort, and now Assistant Director of Music at King's) showed Mr Robinson my score, and Christopher liked it, and agreed to perform it to a capacity audience in King's last December, an audience which included both the Dean and the Provost of King's. They both liked my little piece, and organised for the score to be sent to the Director of *Stainer & Bell*, one of the leading publishers of choral music in the world. He also liked it, and now I find that my carol has just been published! Sadly, the current COVID pandemic will most likely put a stop to any performances of it this year, but I've had Emails this evening from both Clare and Selwyn College Chapels in Cambridge, from Westminster Abbey, and from St Edmundsbury Cathedral, all of which have ordered multiple copies, with commitments to perform my carol next year, which is terribly exciting! And video and audio recordings are planned, in King's Chapel, as soon as the COVID regulation will allow, sometime in 2021.

Some things happen in life that you never, EVER, dreamt could possibly happen, and this is most definitely one of them. And so, I can do no better than quote a translation of the Latin prayer, written in 1441, by King Henry VI, founder of King's:

*Lord Jesus Christ,
who has created me, redeemed me,
and pre-ordained me to be this which now I am,
you know what you wish to do with me;
do with me in accordance with your will, and with your unfailing mercy.
Amen.*

Ian's profile according to Stainer and Bell:

Ian de Massini read Music at King's College, Cambridge whilst a choral scholar in the famous chapel choir, during which time he was profoundly moved by the building's timeless, ethereal majesty, qualities that he also perceives in the sound of plainsong and in the music of Maurice Duruflé. With his own ensemble, Cambridge Voices, which he founded in 1987, Ian was awarded the *Prix d'Or* by the French classical music magazine *Diapason*, for his pioneering recordings of Duruflé's works. These were made exclusively in the composer's church of Saint-Étienne-du-Mont, Paris, together with those of Duruflé's successor as organist, Thierry Escaich, which were written especially for these performers. Ian has also commissioned, premiered, and recorded much of the choral music by contemporary Swiss composer Carl Rütti. Ian still sings regularly in King's Chapel, now as a member of King's Voices, the college's official mixed-voice choir.

Performance note for Ian's *Away in a Manger*.

A carol at the heart of Christmas celebrations that has inspired over forty tunes since its first appearance in print in 1885, *Away in a Manger* has a surprisingly complex history of misattribution to Martin Luther and others, explained in fascinating detail in *The New Oxford Book of Carols*. Brushing aside the cobwebs of its past, Ian de Massini's new musical setting transports the familiar words to an unfamiliar location: a crib scene evoked not in the midst of a homely parish church, but in a primitive Middle Eastern stable beneath the lucent darkness of a starry night sky. The piece invites two distinct manners of performance: in its outer parts rapt and prayerful, befitting the pungent modal inflections and drone-like seamless harmonies; and in its middle section, Romantic and emotional, gently moving with warm expressivity. A fundamental presence, too, in the score is the timeless atmosphere of the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, a profoundly spiritual element in the music of this composer, who has sung regularly there since his days as a choral scholar.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT DOWNING PLACE



Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

DPURC needs a new Commitment for Life Link Person to take over the role from Madeline Impey.

What is Commitment for Life?

Commitment for Life is the successor to the 1% Appeal through which funds are channelled to **Christian Aid** and the World Development Movement (renamed **Global Justice Now**), under which 75% of funds raised are for Christian Aid, 5% for Global Justice Now and 20% for advocacy, education, grants and administration. Every URC church was and is automatically a member, though not all participate.

Four projects provide a focus: originally Israel/Palestine (agricultural), Jamaica, Zimbabwe (Silveira House) and Bangladesh. Central American projects replaced Jamaica in 2013 when Christian Aid withdrew from there. Money received is shared equally between the projects but individual churches are invited to focus on one of these. DPURC's focus is on **Bangladesh**.

How do members give support?

Commitment for Life is a pledge of our personal commitment to donate 1% of disburseable income (or some other amount) each year to this particular fund. Some people arrange to do so by monthly, quarterly or annual direct debit. Others use the envelopes provided on request from Church House, together with an explanatory leaflet. Some church members give in both ways. Gift Aid can be added, and obviously this is encouraged.

What's involved for the Link person?

[1] Ensure that the congregation hears about CfL through updates sent out from the CfL team at Church House.

[2] Help to arrange a special Sunday, usually in September or October, when our CfL appeal is the Monthly Cause, drawing on resources made available by the CfL team. Details of the event would be discussed with the World Church and

Public Issues (WCPI) Group. At the end of the appeal the DPURC office will send the money raised to Church House.

[3] When CfL sends out news of campaigns by Global Justice Now and Christian Aid, encouraging people to sign postcards and write letters, the link person communicates these to the congregation.

If you feel you could take over as Link person, or would like to discuss the matter further, please contact either David Reynolds (convener, WCPI group) djr17@cam.ac.uk or Chris Wright (secretary, WCPI group) [<cw95765@gmail.com>](mailto:cw95765@gmail.com)

Why not **sign up** to receive the regular on-line “**Moving Stories**” published by CfL about its project areas. Please go to the CfL website, Resources, Moving Stories, where you will find details of how to enrol.

RECORDING SERVICE MATERIAL



Recording our services has been key to how we have sustained the worship of Downing Place URC throughout the pandemic. It seems there will be many more weeks when that is going to be necessary. Once we are in the renewed building we envisage that there will remain opportunities for us to use recorded material in a variety of ways.

For many months now we have been valuing the work of David Flynn to record, with William McVey assisting. Elaine Barker inherited from John Bradbury the skills of editing, and she and David make a fine team. Then there is the task of overseeing Zoom services, for which Alison Binney and Owen Saxton have done really careful work. We thank all of these dedicated people for everything they are doing. As time goes by we are keen to add to the team of people who can work on the services in this way. That will enable each person to have to do it on fewer occasions, and involve anyone who would like to offer these skills to the church.

So, this is a request for anyone with IT/sound recording/photography and/or Zoom skills to identify themselves with a view to providing advice and/or assistance. Please let Nigel know if you are interested, and we will all be delighted and thankful to hear from you. Thank you. *NPU*

GREETINGS



The Scots' Church, Melbourne, Australia

During the Zoom service on 15th November, Jenny and Andrew Holmes were 'with us' from Melbourne, Australia, and Jenny had pre-recorded the readings. When being thanked, Jenny was asked to give the greetings of Downing Place Church to the Scots' Church in Melbourne, to which they transferred their membership after a long association with St Columba's. The Interim Moderator, The Revd Philip Court, has responded.

Jenny and Andrew Holmes, communicant memers of the Scots' Church Melbourne, have conveyed the greetings of Rev Nigel Uden to myself, our ministry team and our congregations.

Please pass on my thanks to Nigel and my greetings to him and the congregation of Downing Place United Reformed Church. If any of your people should visit Melbourne once this season of pandemic has passed, they are sure to find a warm welcome at the Scots' Church.

With every blessing

REV PHILIP COURT

Interim Moderator

The Scots' Church Melbourne

I replied with appreciation, inviting any from the Scots' Church who found themselves in Cambridge to know themselves welcome at Downing Place Church. It is a fine expression of the unity of Christ's body across the globe.

WORLD CHURCH SUNDAY

24th January 2021



The service recorded for Sunday 24th January, will be led by the World Church and Public Issues Group, and enables us to mark World Church Sunday, albeit slightly delayed from this Autumn.

As the preacher, we are very pleased to welcome the Revd Dr Jonathan E. Soyars, who is Tutor in New Testament Language, Literature and Theology at Westminster College.

He graduated PhD from the University of Chicago and also studied at Princeton Theological Seminary.

He is priest of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

Jonathan is also the Director of the Cheshunt Foundation, a charitable trust affiliated with Westminster College that nurtures theological education for ministry in the United Kingdom and around the globe.

CHURCH DIARY

At the time of writing, it is not possible to know when services and meetings in person may be allowed to resume. We will keep everyone informed on a week-by-week basis via our weekly notices, and also via our Church Calendar on the website and via Church Suite. If you don't currently receive the weekly notices but you would like to, please let Ann Auger know. Live events are in italics for now, to indicate they are provisional.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Where
Sunday 29 Nov	Advent Sunday Worship led by Revd Nigel Uden	From Saturday evening	Youtube
Monday 1 Dec	Advent House Group (see p24)	2:30pm	Zoom
Tuesday 2 Dec	Cambridge Area Partnership December meeting (see p 21)	7:00pm	Zoom
Thursday 4 Dec	DEADLINE for booking into live Sunday Worship on Sunday 6 December at Westminster College		Contact Margaret Thompson
Sunday 6 Dec	Sunday Worship with Communion led by Revd Nigel Uden	From Saturday evening	Youtube
<i>Sunday 6 Dec</i>	<i>Sunday Worship with Communion led by Revd Nigel Uden A live communion service will be held at Westminster College</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Westminster College</i>
Sunday 6 Dec	Open Table Discussion	7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday 6 Dec	DEADLINE for submitting your contribution to 'Love can't be locked down'		To David Flynn
Monday 7 Dec	Officers' Meeting	4:00pm	Zoom

Date	Event	Time	Where
Tuesday 8 Dec	Carol Service (especially for those living with dementia and their carers in mind) (see p23)	11:00am	Zoom
Tuesday 8 Dec	Advent House Group	2:30pm	Zoom
Friday 11 Dec	'Love can't be locked down' (see p20) A seasonal celebration in words and music followed by a social gathering	6:30pm	Zoom
Sunday 13 Dec	Festival Advent Service led by the Children's Ministry team	From Saturday evening	Youtube
Tuesday 15 Dec	Advent House Group	2:30pm	Zoom
<i>Tuesday 15 Dec</i>	<i>Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship A carol service to be led by Revd Nigel Uden and held in the Church Hall</i>	<i>2:30pm</i>	<i>St Athanasios Church, 154 Cherry Hinton Road</i>
Sunday 20 Dec	A live Carol Service via Zoom led by Revd Nigel Uden A recording will be available later via Youtube	11:00am	Zoom
Sunday 20 Dec	Open Table Cambridge hosts a live Communion Service via Zoom	7:00pm	Zoom
Thursday 24 Dec Christmas Eve	A live Midnight Communion service via Zoom led by Revd Nigel Uden	11.30pm	Zoom
Friday 25 Dec Christmas Day	A recorded Christmas Morning Service will be available via Youtube from Thursday morning		Youtube
Sunday 27 Dec	Sunday Worship led by Revd Elizabeth Caswell. A recorded service will be available on Youtube		Youtube

Date	Event	Time	Where
Thursday 31 Dec	DEADLINE for booking into live Sunday Worship on Sunday 3 January at Westminster College		Contact Margaret Thompson

JANUARY CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Where
Sunday 3 Jan Epiphany	Sunday Worship with Communion led by Revd Nigel Uden A recorded service will be available via Youtube		Youtube
<i>Sunday 3 Jan</i>	<i>Sunday Worship with Communion led by Revd Nigel Uden A live service held at Westminster College</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Westminster College</i>
Sunday 3 Jan	Open Table Discussion	7:00pm	Zoom
Monday 4 Jan	Officers' Meeting	4:00pm	Zoom
Sunday 10 Jan	Sunday Worship led by Revd Dr David Cornick A recorded service will be available via Youtube		Youtube
Tuesday 12 Jan	Elders' Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Sunday 17 Jan	A live service of Morning Worship via Zoom led by Revd Nigel Uden A recording will be available later via Youtube	11:00am	Zoom
Sunday 17 Jan	Open Table Cambridge hosts a live Communion Service via Zoom	7:00pm	Zoom
Monday 18 - Sunday 25 Jan	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY		

Date	Event	Time	Where
Wednesday 20 Jan	DEADLINE for submitting items for Place Matters		Send to Sheila Porrer and Ann Auger
Sunday 24 Jan	Sunday Worship led by the World Church and Public Issues Group. The preacher will be The Revd Dr Jonathan Soyars, New Testament Tutor at Westminster College A recorded service will be available via YouTube from Saturday evening		Youtube
Sunday 24 Jan	Church Meeting	12:30pm	Zoom
Sunday 31 Jan	Sunday Worship led by Revd Nigel Uden A recorded service will be available via YouTube from Saturday evening		Youtube

The CHR Tuesday Fellowship is planning to continue in the New Year subject to Government restrictions and will either take place either in the chapel or church hall at St Athanasios.

FEBRUARY DIARY - ADVANCE NOTICE

The annual LGBT History Month Service will be held on Sunday 7th February at 11am

It will be Holy Communion, live via Zoom.

The 2021 theme for LGBT History Month is *BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT*.



LECTIONARY

Sunday 29th November 2020 **Advent Sunday**

Isaiah 64.1-9
Psalm 80
I Corinthians 1.3-9
Mark 13.24-37

Sunday 6th December

Isaiah 40.1-11
Psalm 85
II Peter 3.8-15a
Mark 1.1-8

Sunday 13th December

Festival Service Children's Ministry Team
Readings TBA

Sunday 20th December

Carol Service

Genesis 3.8-19	The Fall
Isaiah 9.2 and 6-7	The Promise
Luke 1.26-38	The Annunciation
Luke 2.1-7	The Birth
Luke 2.8-20	The Shepherds
Matthew 2.1-12	The Magi
John 1.1-14	The Prologue

Sunday 27th December Elizabeth Caswell

Christmas I

Isaiah 61.10-62.3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4.4-7
Luke 2.22-40

Sunday 3rd January 2021

Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6

Psalm 72

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday 10th January

David Cornick

Genesis 1.1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19.1-7

Mark 1.4-11

Sunday 17th January

I Samuel 3.1-10, (11-20)

Psalm 139

I Corinthians 6.12-20

John 1.43-51

Sunday 24th January

World Church Sunday

The World Church and Public Issues Group with Jonathan Soyars

Jonah 3.1-5 and 10

Mark 1.14-20

Sunday 31st January

Deuteronomy 18.15-20

Psalm 111

I Corinthians 8.1-13

Mark 1.21-28





*Pots ready for the courtyard at Downing Place URC
Thanks to Margaret Reynolds for the photographs*

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Sheila Porrer

ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

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

WEB EDITOR: Alison Binney

Please send all items to be included in the February edition to both Sheila and Ann by the cut off date of **Wednesday 20 January 2021**

The February edition will be available during week ending **Friday 29 January**