



**DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE**

PLACE MATTERS



ISSUE 33 - JULY/AUGUST 2021

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Front cover: Nigel Uden, Daniel Zeichner MP and Helen Christy in the Sanctuary of Downing Place during Daniel's visit on 11 June. Photograph by Jess Uden.

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IMPORTANT NOTE: **ATTENDING WORSHIP AT DOWNING PLACE**

Please remember to book in advance if you wish to attend worship at Downing Place – but don't think that by booking a seat you are preventing others from attending! A slightly different way of configuring the seating is being tried, so contact Margaret Thompson (her contact details are to the left) no later than Friday midday for the Sunday following. She will be able to say if a seat is available.

Uncertainties remain, and caution is the watch word, but as we resume "live" worship in Downing Place URC, it would be helpful to the church officers to know of any who do not wish to be photographed, or to see images of themselves projected or recorded from any church-based activity. Please consider this request and let Margaret Thompson (C 362500 or mt212@cam.ac.uk) know by Sunday 11 July. Consent will be assumed, otherwise

FROM THE MINISTER

June has been quite a month.

Downing Place Church reached the third anniversary of its creation by the union of Emmanuel and St Columba's United Reformed Churches. So many people are giving so much of themselves to these embryonic years, as two churches came together, melding a great deal that we have in common whilst carefully negotiating some marked differences of ethos.

In particular June saw two important transitions. First, a new team began to co-ordinate the church's Children's Ministry. It has been moving to watch as *Elza de Bruin*, *Daphne Thomas* and *Lorraine Thornton* settle into the role. How grateful we are to them for their readiness to do so. They, of course, will be building upon the fine start made by those who went before them. Downing Place Church's first Children's Ministry team was co-ordinated by *Rosemary Johnston* and on behalf of the whole congregation, I would like to express our thanks to her. We were greatly blessed that someone with Rosemary's insight and experience, passion and dedication, was willing to be so pivotal to establishing this key element of the new church's life. A church thrives most when it is authentically intergenerational, and Rosemary fed our determination to be that. For almost half her time in the role everything was reshaped by the Covid-19 pandemic. With remarkable imagination and commitment, Rosemary ensured that every single week children's ministry was sustained, courtesy of the internet, the Royal Mail and her wondrously fertile imagination. For the foundations that she has enabled us to lay, we offer sincerest thanks to Rosemary, and wish both her and Mike well.

June's other transition came as we began to re-inhabit the buildings on Downing Place. Tours have enabled quite a number of people to see them, and there is widespread approval. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Building Group. In order to oversee this project it has met forty-five times – so far – and each member has made a distinctive contribution. *Elaine Barker* brought over twenty years living and working in the building, knowing how it functioned and what users need from it. *Lindsey Bellis* with assiduous attention to detail enabled careful consideration of all sorts of options where choices had to be made, and particularly regarding storage. *Jane Bower* brought aesthetic expertise, helping us see the impact on eye and heart of so much that were planning. *John Bradbury* was invaluable until he left last year; his unrelenting vision and out-of-the-box thinking were inspirational. *Kelly O'Doherty* brought both architectural and artistic nous; if you seek an example of her skill, look at the design of the communion

table. The Group's work has been administered by *Robert Porrer*, with consummate efficiency; no convener could have asked for more. Also an architect, *Margaret Reynolds*, an earlier secretary to the Group, gave hours of her time, widely diverse professional expertise, and an infectious passion for ensuring everything is as green as possible. And last in this alphabetical list, but by no means least, *David Thomas*, gave of himself tirelessly, drawing upon nearly fifty years knowledge of the premises and all the skills of a relevant career; he was our greatly respected contact with Arch:Angel and Coulson Building Group day by day - I suspect literally daily, but Daphne could tell us! With all the weight with which the words can be invested, thank you, Building Group. Yours is a lasting and deeply appreciated legacy.

In conversation with various people of late, I have noted what a rare privilege it is to be minister of a church with such resources – people, pounds and premises. We have been blessed. That said, I am aware of what the Lord said to Abraham: 'I will bless you ... so that you will be a blessing.' (Genesis 12.2) Everything we have received, all we have been made to be, is so that we might make real God's goodwill and healing to the world. And that's a gift and a privilege too ... for us all.

Nigel Uden



Nigel gives the blessing at the end of the first service on Sunday 16 May

Photograph by Jess Uden

PROFILE: DAVID TATEM

David is one of our newly elected elders

I was born in Plymouth in 1952. I am an only child and was brought up by devout Methodist parents and recall attending church three times on Sundays. I learned to march and play the bugle in the Boys' Brigade and like many young people drifted away from church in my early teens. Although the church was friendly, it seemed old fashioned, irrelevant and didn't really teach me how to think about my faith, something I was learning through other experiences. I had discovered the joys of camping on Dartmoor and would sit on the top of a tor on a clear night, under the stars of the milky way and had a sense of the presence of God. It was the beginning of a contemplative streak that has remained throughout my life.



Human stimulation came from my English teacher who was also the church secretary of a congregational church. He ran a discussion group to which I was invited when I was 17 and I saw his delight in encouraging us to think for ourselves, wrestle with issues, try to understand them and never be content with easy answers.

This was good grounding for my time as a student in Bristol where I studied Quantity Surveying. Far more of my time, however, was spent discussing theology and spirituality in one of the most active student Christian scenes of that period. Discussions exploring what faith meant ran into the early hours of the morning. We were not afraid to ask questions and try out new answers. At the end of my second year I went on a Chaplaincy visit to the German Kirchentag and the Taizé Community. Quantity Surveying was rapidly slipping into the background!

Sadly my father had died early in my second year when he was just 55 but had already told my mother that he wouldn't be surprised if I gave up surveying and 'went into the church'. He had spotted where I was heading before I did as it wasn't until my third year that I made the decision to candidate for the ministry. I confess I had no special sense of any roots in the Reformed tradition, rather more in mysticism and the ethos of Taizé! Nevertheless there were many things

about the URC that I felt at home with, not least its willingness to be open to change.

So in 1976 I came to Cambridge to study at Westminster and Cheshunt Colleges. There was no internship year in those days, and I was grateful to Tony Coates for making me his student assistant at Emmanuel. In the summer of 1979 I left to become the minister of Trinity URC in St Albans. This fitted my version of non-conformity as it was an unconventional church that offered two worship options running side by side on Sundays; a traditional service and a progressive lay led 'worship in the round' all-age alternative. In my 4 years there I learned far more than I was able to give as I constantly found myself being stimulated by new ideas.

The church building burned down in the summer of 1980 not long after I had met Ditty who had come from the Netherlands to study Dramatherapy at the local college of art and design (the two events were in no way connected). We were married in June 1983 before I moved to become the Ecumenical Chaplain to the Hatfield Polytechnic. This was a fixed term appointment and there were no other chaplaincy posts available nearby at the time, otherwise I might well have stayed in that area of work as I had developed an interest in the faith development of young people. I had, though, also been working with international students so the range of possible directions opened up and I jumped ship from the URC for three years and worked for the Church Missionary Society in East Anglia. We moved to Ely which brought me back into membership of Emmanuel for that period as well as during my next post back in the URC in Eastern Synod, as an early form of mission enabler. This led us to buy our home on the edge of Coton.

Marrying Ditty had, of course, opened another area of exploration in learning Dutch language and culture and gaining another homeland. Our children, Rik and Rea, both have dual nationality so I am now the only one without an EU citizenship and the less said about my feelings on that subject the better!

Coton has been our home since 1993, even when I served a church in Bedford and commuted, but when I became the Free Church Minister at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone in Milton Keynes we lived in Bletchley with our home rented out. Most of my work has been ecumenical, latterly in Church House with responsibility for ecumenical relations. Much of what I have had to deal with has been structural but my real love has been spirituality. Receptive Ecumenism, focussing on the gifts that we can receive from other traditions has excited me as has the discovery of Bibliodrama. This is still virtually unknown in the UK but has developed widely in several other European countries. Simply put it explores our connection with sacred texts, in groups, using a range of art forms with improvised drama being one of its core methods. Imagine doing physical warm ups before a Bible study and you begin to get the idea. I would love to find others

in Downing Place to share it with!



Retirement has given us the opportunity to travel with our motorhome, which we do whenever possible. My surveying training still comes in handy as our house is the longest DIY project I have ever undertaken. I also tinker with computers and other forms of technology. I have electrified our two bicycles to give us more flexibility and converted two computers to run on an open-source operating system (Linux).

It all weaves into my understanding of spirituality which for me embraces all facets of life, blending concern for the environment with prayer, contemplation, social action, justice and equality with the challenges of new technology and so on. I am very glad to be part of a church that has chosen to embrace the challenges of being a modern church in the heart of a city such as Cambridge and look forward to the unexpected paths the Spirit may lead us on.

NEW CONTENT ON OUR WEBSITE

The Music Notes are now added to the website each week, and there is also information and pictures about our new Organ (which we read about in last month's Place Matters).

There are also photographs and a sequence from our first few Lunchtime Concerts.

See our dedicated Music pages: <https://downingplaceurc.org/music/>

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

Daphne Thomas, Elza de Bruin Lara and Lorraine Thornton.

We thought you would like an update as to where we are now. We've been meeting together electronically, learning what is necessary to maintain the high standards set by Rosemary and making plans for our future either from a distance or for our return to the building whenever we are allowed.

In the meantime, Lorraine is sending out the Children's Roots activities for each week. We are tenuously hoping all the families can meet on July 4th to prepare something for the "Sharing Together" part of the Service on July 11th.

Earlier we contacted all the teachers and helpers to see if they were able to continue to minister to the Junior church, when we return, and thank them for their contributions so far. We want to make a special mention of David Whitehead and Mary Cornick. They have made an enormous contribution to the lives of the children in, initially Emmanuel and later Downing Place. David has devoted 30 years of his life and Mary, 28 years, helping the youngsters to become the people they are today. Thank you so much. We have also said goodbye to Lindsay Malone who as a medical student supported us when her shifts allowed. She has now qualified and started on her career, in another county. Last, but not least we must acknowledge the commitment that Mike and Beth Humphreys made with the Children's Ministry, over many years and long before Downing Place came into existence. Hopefully they'll be able to come and worship with us sometimes and we can meet Lily.

Now the request: we wonder whether we could recruit a few more Leaders or Assistants to our list. We really hope we can return to normal life in Junior Church by September when our rotas will begin again. If we could recruit about 4 people, we might only have to serve once a month.

We hope whatever you are doing between now and then lifts your spirits, encourages you to mix more freely and allows you to enjoy life again.

Daphne, Elza and Lorraine

TRADCRAFT UPDATE FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2021



It has been lovely seeing the new church building slowly start to open up for worship and we are looking forward to the time when we will be able to reopen our Sunday morning Traidcraft stall. As this is unlikely to be before September, we are carrying on with our successful home delivery service and an update of our stock list has been circulated with the recent weekly notices. Currently we have a limited stock of items which we sell on a regular basis but will continue to order anything from the catalogue on request. A new Summer 2021 catalogue has been published recently and copies of this will be available on the church book shelves in the Hub for anyone who happens to be visiting the

church. The catalogue can also be viewed online at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

Traidcraft, together with its sister organisation Traidcraft Exchange, has continued to work tirelessly during the pandemic maintaining support to growers and producers in the developing world and to companies producing fairly traded goods in the UK. Both have also turned their attention to climate change and, with other Alternative Trading Organisations (ATOs), have begun working with farmers to develop new farming methods to mitigate the potentially devastating effects of adverse weather conditions and poor soil quality on their crops.

We thank the church for its continuing commitment to making donations to Traidcraft Exchange and to individuals who place Traidcraft orders. We are happy to continue delivering orders both large and small. Please also note that we have a stock of toilet rolls brought from Emmanuel but not suitable for use in our new toilet roll holders at Downing Place – perhaps you might like to consider adding a pack of these to your order!

Lorraine and Stephen Thornton

PASTORAL NEWS

Olive Darke's death on 15 June ended a lifelong commitment to the Church, most recently at Emmanuel/Downing Place. We give thanks, and remember her family and friends as they grieve. Olive's funeral will be held here at Downing Place on Tuesday 6 July at 1.30pm.

To end on a happier note, July marks an anniversary for Elaine Barker, twenty-five years since she came to her job at St Columba's.



Portrait of Olive as a young woman

SPECIAL CAUSE FOR JULY AND AUGUST HOME-START



'Home-Start is a local community network of trained volunteers and expert support helping families with young children through their challenging times. We are there for parents when they need us the most because childhood can't wait.'

Home-Start works with families in communities right across the UK. Starting in the home, the approach is as individual as the people they're helping. No judgement, it is just compassionate, confidential help and expert support. Last year Home-Start UK supported 56,000 children in 27,000 families in communities across the UK.

Home-Start is a charity that may be familiar to many as our church has supported them through the monthly cause in the past. Knit One Give One has been donating jumpers and a variety of other items regularly too, and a couple of times a year I drop off a sack or two of goods for distribution through their local Home-Start group. At Christmas time, there is a request for knitted Father Christmases and stockings.

I was a Home-Start volunteer for a number of years. Once my children were all at school, and knowing they had a pretty good home life, it seemed the right time to offer support to families who struggled for any of a wide variety of reasons. The volunteers support through weekly home visits to 'their' family, where at least one child must be of pre-school age. Parents are supported with mental health issues, isolation, postnatal illness, caring for a disabled child, parenting skills, through practical and emotional help.

As a volunteer, I would play with the children, do crafts, accompany the parent on an outing, take the child to pre-school; I would sometimes be with the parent and child together, at other times the parent would get time to themselves for an hour or so – often a rare and much-needed treat.

From a supported Mum: *'One thing I can be sure of is that I wouldn't be sat here now without the help and support of Home-Start. I have so much to thank them for. They have given me and my children a new lease of life! For that I will eternally be grateful.'*

'The earliest years make the biggest impact: Home-Start makes sure those years count so that no child's future is limited.'

You can donate to our local Home-Start on-line by going to <https://homestartcambridgeshire.co.uk> . Alternatively, you can send a cheque to Ann in the office, made out to Downing Place URC.

Penny Flynn

THE GIBSON LUNCH CLUB



We hope to be able to re-start the Lunch Club in September, which will take the same form as it did until it closed in February 2020.

The lunch will be held on the third Thursday of the month for nine months of the year, the exceptions being the holiday months of July and August, and December, when a special Christmas meal is held in a different venue.

We are at the present time a team of seven, but would very much like to welcome a few more helping hands.

Further details will be announced at a later date.

Dixon Hutchinson

TOURS OF THE REFURBISHED PREMISES

Most members have not yet seen the transformation to Downing Place Church and Halls. Those who were able to come to the tours that were organised in May were very impressed with what they saw and pleased to have the opportunity to see, not only the Sanctuary, but also the various other rooms and facilities that we now have.

Members of the Building group and the Operations group would be pleased to show more people round. If you are interested, please contact the Church office on 01223 756 635 and suggest some times when you could be available. It would be ideal if 4 or 5 of you could come together.

Jenny Jacobsberg



Photograph taken by Amrita Brandman, the mother of our first concert performer.

GLOBAL JUSTICE CAMBRIDGE - REFUGEE WALK



Global Justice Cambridge are building a refugee walk to take you to sites linked to refugees in Cambridge.

If you click on this link

<http://groups.globaljustice.org.uk/cambridge/>

or search on-line for Global Justice Cambridge, you will find details of nine (so far) locations in Cambridge with links to refugees, plus several links to more information on organisations helping refugees.

We have just had Refugee Week, so this is a good time to think about the situation of people fleeing hardship and persecution and what Cambridge has done – and can do – to help.



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Unit H, The Paddocks 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 8DH

www.cambridgereuse.org.uk

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HELP SHAPE THE DOWNING PLACE CHURCH MISSION PROGRAMME

Following the highly successful open meeting held earlier in the year on the subject of sustainability, there will be another open meeting, this time on the subject of what our outward-facing mission programme should be now that we have our magnificent new building. This will be organised by the Evangelism and Service Group and will be held on the evening of Tuesday 21st September from 7pm to 9pm, over Zoom.

It is hoped that as many church members as possible will be able to attend and we will make every effort to find ways of engaging with those who do not have internet access.

The evening will be based on the URC publication, 'New reality, same mission: a discussion paper', a copy of which you can find at: <https://urc.org.uk/images/Communications/docs/New-reality-same-Mission.pdf>

Please put this event in your diaries now and further information will be available over the summer.

Stephen Thornton
Convenor, Evangelism and Service Group

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS - WEDNESDAYS AT 1PM

Our concerts have got off to a flying start, with full and very appreciative audiences. A couple have had to be cancelled because the performers were affected by restrictions relating to the pandemic; but we have a full line up - at the moment! - for July and August. At present, booking is essential - see our website or call the Church Office. Bookings for each concert open at 4pm on the previous Wednesday.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 7 July | Christine Stevenson (piano) |
| 14 July | Katy Edgcombe (mezzo-soprano) |
| 21 July | The Himley Trio |
| 28 July | Christian Dawson (piano) |
| 4 August | Charlotte Moseley (violin) |
| 11 August | Erina Ishiyama (piano) |
| 18 August | Olive Murray (soprano) |
| 25 August | Constance Chow (piano) |

CHURCH VISITS

Helen Christy has arranged a series of meetings with key individuals with an interest in the City Centre – our MP, Daniel Zeichner, our local Councillors, and others involved in community engagement. All have been impressed with our new premises and what we might be able to offer to the City.



Helen Christy shows local MP Daniel Zeichner round our courtyard garden



Ian shows Daniel our digital organ

WORK ON THE COURTYARD GARDEN



*Ian putting in some plants for the summer to give the garden colour
and encourage birds to visit*

Photographs on pages 16 and 17 by Jess Uden.

DIARY OF A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF LEN BOWER

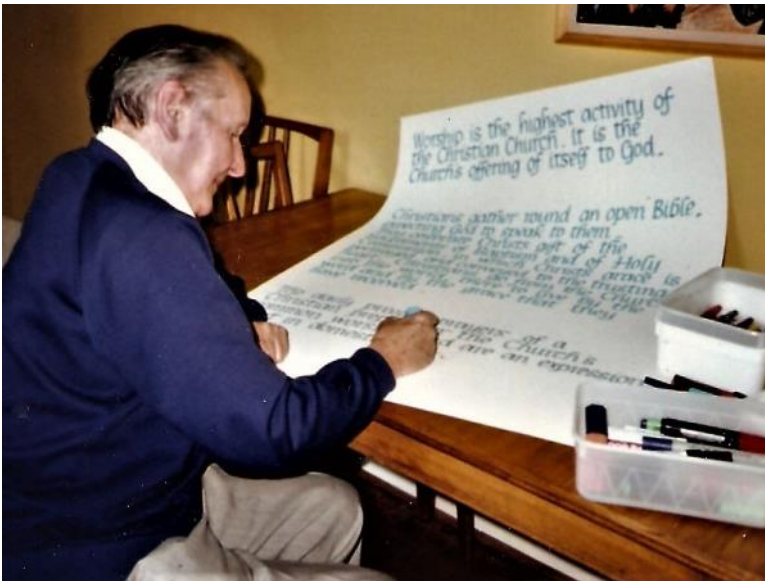
Jane Bower has been reading through diaries kept by her father, Len, which she is donating to the Great Diary Project, an archive of personal diaries based in the Bishopsgate Institute in London. Jane writes:

My father kept a diary for most of his life. He asked me to keep and read them. Here are some extracts from one year. Note that they were written many decades ago, and that his views are not necessarily mine! Jane Bower

Things are now pleasantly quiet after Christmas. It's a pity that society seems to have made it a period dominated more by stress than sanctity, or the manic material rather than magic maternal!

(Mentions distressing item of world news) I'll leave all further references to the media. This book is for homeliness, i.e. holiness with me in it.

(Prescription prices rise) Sickening. What happened to the welfare state? All the govt. think about is lowering income tax so that it's every man for himself instead of his brothers. The health service should be free, paid for out of income taxes of different kinds. Made apple crumble.



Len Bower working on a Church visual aid at around the time these diary entries were written

Sunday. Somehow living a Christian life, or trying to, seems to me to have hardly anything to do with going to church services; I never really know what they're for. What church did Christ go to every week? You go to worship. But how do you do it? Communal singing? Listening to someone else praying (on your behalf? Is being there an act of worship? It always seems only to be a social/organisational sort of thing, plus bible reading and attempts at biblical interpretation. Ah well. The measure of one's religion is the effect one has on other people.

Sunday. Stayed and listened to organ voluntary after the service, brilliant. I clapped, as always, but was alone in this – was told that clapping was now not allowed!! Ha! How God would have laughed at the absurdity! Such things are silly, and nothing to do with Christianity.

Sunday. After service (organ, Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance No. 3) called out 'Bravo!' rather than clapping. (Jesus, by my side, clapped.)

Sunday. (*Names preacher*) The alternative to counting sheep.

My cold was at its peak today. Headache, ringing ears, hardboiled brain, legs made of warm wet bread, bunged up nose and sore throat. Put that to music. Stayed in and sat in warmth, allowing eyes to clang shut frequently. Had hot drinks, made unenthusiastic sandwich. Then sank like a drunken slug into mi chair. (*not a misprint – he usually wrote 'my' as 'mi'*)

Good library book, *Common Sense Christianity* by C. Randolph Ross. Equally straightforward fresh air thinking to Leslie Weatherhead many years ago. I've always thought that all we need is the three gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and find he says just this! Good and scholarly. Might buy it, might not.

Tuesday. Went to town and got video recorder. Tried to understand the instruction manual (it was double Dutch to me). I rang an electrician to sort it all out. Periodically through the day I attempted to read the brochure, but it's written in 'computer Englishthink', a cross between wills and probate and the small print in insurance policies. Apart from that, I'm intimidated by anything mechanical (i.e. cars, cameras with anything other than one button).

Wednesday. Tried to understand the video recorder for two hours. Couldn't get anything to work except the clock. Gave up. Read my TV manual, which shed light on the strangulated Nuspeak of the video brochure.

Friday. Electrician came to set up the video. Said 'everything was fine now' and went. My next job is to understand the 'instructions for use' brochure.

Saturday. Got up 6am. Tried everything. Nothing worked. Gave up at 9am.

Nuspeak words:

Menu diagrams = Information in words

Info = Information

Scrolling through = Putting sequences of verbal information on the screen

Counter information(!) = number of revolutions tape has made

Timer Event (!) switch to operate programme timing.

Had kipper midday (Fish Event).

The video recorder gives me a sense of neurotic insecurity. (I'm the same with anything that works by machinery, never feel in charge of it, it's in charge of me. Aaak!! Hence cars, which can injure other people, terrify me, i.e. the idea of being the driver; scream!)

What a lot of wood there is in a Victorian sash window and surrounds! Like painting HMS Nelson. I mean HMS Victory. Made salad mixture specialité de l'imagination avec verts variés et des oeufs et jambon and fresh gooseberry crumble.

Very warm heavy-aired day, somewhat oppressive, like a sandbag duvet.

Invented a carrot cucumber celery cheese concoction, the 5C special. Nice. Just right for these clammy warmbreathy days.

Made Yorkshire Pudding din as I felt Yorkshire Puddingish, a yearning sensation.

Spot of shopping at Superdrug (awful word). Letter from Jane thanking me for radio bible reading programmes. Sent her a pile of new monologue ideas. Bought slippers, present ones going into decline.

Night, surprising phone call from Peggy Smith (nee Jones) who sang with our band at St. Athan 1943-44! She looked up 'Bower L' in the phone book and tried it. Met Peggy and her sister, two aged ladies, over a pot of tea. I was 24 when last we met. She was a sweet singer.

Did baked spuds with a savoury gravoury.

Afternoon on the bric-a-brac stall at the Jumble Sale; the usual frenetic bedlam, not to say imbroglio; what people will buy is fascinating. They descend on the tables loaded with rusty wreckage, odd pan lids, plastic yoghurt cups, broken plastic purses, cracked eggcups, old bathroom sinks and so on like seagulls on a rubbish tip.

When X preaches, my mind reacts like a tape recorder which erases five seconds after it records. Self-wiping sermons. I think X confuses Jesus's way of life with bible-worship.

Played the two complete André Previn tapes (my musician of musicians, and speaking of piano of course, his sheer musical sensibilities).

December, the materialistic nightmare (instead of a time of reassurance and peace and love to all mankind). Scudding clouds (what else scuds other than clouds?)

Sermon like a meal of wet brown paper. Dissertation on a passage from Genesis. Nothing about the people of today, last week's news, current political philosophies, life today. Roll on Rabbi Blue! Wish there was something like an open forum in church, where people felt safe to say exactly what they felt about Christianity, the Church and so on.

Bought cover for washing line, like one giraffe's trouser leg.

Started Christmas shopping, best not to leave it until town is like an anthill.



Mark inaugurates our new organ at the Communion service on June 6th

Photograph by Robert Porrer

THE CHERRY HINTON ROAD TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Since the last report for Place Matters, the Fellowship has continued to meet in a variety of ways. After the carol service led by Nigel Uden last December, we were able to donate £150 to the Bible Society from the collection and a very generous donation. Since December, the CHR Tuesday Fellowship have held Zoom meetings until June because the weather has not been warm enough to meet outside. On May 25th, 2021, we had a Pentecost service led by Nigel in the church hall and with Brian Mizon playing the piano. We were delighted that seventeen people attended the service.

Our recent Zoom meetings have also included an update session from Marion Korama on the Sally May International Pre School in Sierra Leone and we were so pleased to donate £50 for the school. We also had two quizzes, a Bible study on Psalm 23, and a session discussing the Annual Report.

We started our summer gatherings on June 7th when we met in Pamela Cressey's garden. We hope to continue with these gatherings while the weather is warm, although numbers are limited partly because of the restrictions (in case we have to meet indoors if it becomes wet) and partly because of the numbers we can accommodate in our gardens. We hope to have our next meeting on June 22nd in the hall at St Athanasios when Pat Heap will give a talk.

In the meantime we continue to meet in any way we can and also to keep in touch by phone and of course with the help of the monthly newsletter compiled by Wendy Roe. Everyone is welcome to come when we have our meetings in the church hall as we have plenty of space to accommodate people in a socially distanced way.

Penny Milsom



PANDEMIC PRAYER FROM THE URC DAILY DEVOTIONS

Healing Father, giver of wholeness,
as we move once again out of a life of restriction and into the glory of your
world,
we give thanks for places and people of healing,
for individuals in communities, churches, hospitals, and care homes.

We pray for your healing to be present
in the lives of all who hurt and grieve and in the midst of a broken world.
As we move towards being able to worship you again in our communities,
Let us not forget those churches that remain closed and the congregations
that may never worship together again.

We ask that we too will receive the touch of your presence in our lives
so that we can pass it to others who have not yet seen your glory and majesty.
Help us to open ourselves to You as our lives gradually open up,
and give us hope enough to trust in Your resurrection promises.

*When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.
God be merciful to me, a sinner. Amen*

Ann Barton, local leader at Whittlesford URC in the Eastern Synod



Nigel Uden and Owen Saxton hold a minute's silence and pray for racial justice on 25 May.

Photograph by Ann Auger

DIARY

Services are conducted by the Minister, except where shown

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sun	04-Jul-21	Sunday Worship with Communion	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	04-Jul-21	Junior Church Event	2:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	04-Jul-21	Open Table Discussion	7:00pm	Downing Place URC
Mon	05-Jul-21	Officers' Meeting	4:00pm	Zoom
Tue	06-Jul-21	Funeral of Olive Darke	1.30pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	07-Jul-21	Lunchtime Concert - Christine Stevenson (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	11-Jul-21	Sunday Worship led by church members	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Wed	14-Jul-21	Lunchtime Concert - Katy Edgcombe (mezzo-soprano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	15-Jul-21	Elders' Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Sun	18-Jul-21	Sunday Worship Preacher:: Revd Derek Wales	10:30am	Downing Place URC
Sun	18-Jul-21	Church Meeting	12:30pm	Zoom
Sun	18-Jul-21	Open Table Communion Service	7:00pm for 7.30pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	21-Jul-21	Lunchtime Concert - The Himley Trio	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	25-Jul-21	Sunday Worship led by Dr Janet Bottoms	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Wed	28-Jul-21	Lunchtime Concert: Christian Dawson (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC

Sun	01-Aug-21	Sunday Worship with Communion led by Revd Professor David Thompson	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Wed	04-Aug-21	Lunchtime Concert: Charlotte Moseley (violin)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	08-Aug-21	Sunday Worship led by Richard Lewney	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Wed	11-Aug-21	Lunchtime Concert: Erina Ishiyama (piano)	1.00pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	15-Aug-21	Sunday Worship	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	15-Aug-21	Open Table Communion Service	7:00pm for 7.30pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	18-Aug-21	Lunchtime Concert: Olive Murray (soprano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	18-Aug-21	DEADLINE for submitting items for September's <i>Place Matters</i>		
Sun	22-Aug-21	Sunday Worship led by Revd Chris Baker	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Wed	25-Aug-21	Lunchtime Concert: Constance Chow (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	29-Aug-21	Sunday Worship	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Wed	01-Sep-21	Lunchtime Concert: Eric McElroy (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	05-Sep-21	Sunday Worship	11:00am	Downing Place URC

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 4th September: Revd. Lythan Nevard to be inducted as Eastern Synod Moderator. At Stowmarket URC by invitation and to be live streamed.

Sunday 5th September: Revd. Phil. Nevard to be inducted as minister of Castle Camps, Sawston and Whittlesford URC's by the Eastern Synod Moderator. At Sawston Free Church by invitation and possibly to be live streamed.

MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

July

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 4 | Janet Bottoms
Liz Caswell | Fowlmere
Melbourn |
| 11 | Deborah McVey | Sawston |
| 18 | Chris Baker
Liz Caswell
Janet Tollington | Haddenham Methodist
Bassingbourn
Stetchworth & Cheveley |
| 25 | Chris Baker
Janet Tollington | Fenstanton
Fulbourn (evening service with communion) |

August

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | Liz Caswell
Augur Pearce
Janet Tollington | Sawston
Melbourn
Wylde (West Midlands) |
| 8 | Chris Baker
Janet Bottoms | Littleport Methodist
Haverhill |
| 15 | Janet Bottoms
Janet Tollington | Melbourn
Stetchworth & Cheveley |
| 22 | Liz Caswell
David Cornick
Janet Tollington | Clare
Bassingbourn
Burwell |
| 29 | Janet Bottoms
David Tatem
Janet Tollington | Bishop's Stortford
Fulbourn
Bassingbourn |

LECTIONARY

July

4th

II Samuel 5.1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; II Corinthians 12.2-10; Mark 6.1-13

11th

II Samuel 6.1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1.3-14; Mark 6.14-29

18th

The Revd Derek Wales

Readings TBA

25th

II Samuel 11.1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3.14-21; John 6.1-21

August

1st

II Samuel 11.26-12.13a; Psalm 51.1-12; Ephesians 4.1-16; John 6.24-35

8th

II Samuel 18.5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4.25-5-2; John 6.35, 41-51

15th

I Kings 2.10-12 and 3.3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5.15-20; John 6.51-58

22nd

I Kings 8.22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6.10-20; John 6.56-69

29th

Song of Solomon 2.8-13; Psalm 45.1-2, 6-9; James 1.17-27; Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September

5th

Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2.1-17; Mark 7.24-37



*Yellow roses at our first service on 16 May
Photograph by Jess Uden*

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Sheila Porrer

ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

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

WEB EDITOR: Ann Auger

Please send all items to be included in the September edition to both Sheila and Ann by the cut off date of **Wednesday 18 August 2021**

The September edition will be available during week ending **Friday 27 August.**