



**DOWNING PLACE  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
CAMBRIDGE**

# **PLACE MATTERS**



**ISSUE 35 - OCTOBER 2021**

## CONTACT DETAILS – DOWNING PLACE URC

**Address:** Downing Place United Reformed Church  
Downing Place  
Cambridge  
CB2 3EL

**Telephone:** 01223 756635

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

**Minister:** The Revd. Nigel Uden  
[nigel.uden@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:nigel.uden@downingplaceurc.org)  
01223 314586 (manse)

**Children's Ministry Team Co-ordinator:**  
Elza de Bruin Lara  
[children@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:children@downingplaceurc.org)

**Open Table Co-ordinator:**  
Alison Binney  
[opentable@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:opentable@downingplaceurc.org)

**Church Office:** Elaine Barker  
(Elaine's rest day is Tuesday)  
[elaine@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:elaine@downingplaceurc.org)  
01223 756635

Ann Auger  
(Ann's normal working hours are Monday-Friday 9-5)  
[ann@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:ann@downingplaceurc.org)  
01223 756635

**Church Secretary:** Margaret Thompson  
[secretary@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:secretary@downingplaceurc.org)

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

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

## **Treasurer:**

Ian Strachan  
[treasurer@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:treasurer@downingplaceurc.org)

## **Hospital and Hospice Visitor:**

The Revd. Deborah McVey  
[hospitalvisitor@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:hospitalvisitor@downingplaceurc.org)

## **Directors of Music:**

Mark Dawes  
[mark@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:mark@downingplaceurc.org)

Ian de Massini  
[ian@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:ian@downingplaceurc.org)

## **Audio-visuals:**

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

## **A PANDEMIC PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, as restrictions are eased and people are able to mix more freely, leave off their masks with great relief in hot muggy weather, help us remember and be gentle with those who are nervous, those whose health is daily endangered, those who do not celebrate what others are calling freedom. Let us remember those who feel left behind as the world crunches back into top gear again and let us - and our churches - not forget them. Amen

*By Dorothy Curtis, Lay Preacher, Wortwell URC*

*Cover photograph by Ian de Massini*

## FROM THE MINISTER

I found much to treasure and ponder in the recent Thanksgiving Service for Anne Wales. She was part of the Emmanuel family for the years that Derek, her husband, was minister in the 1980s and 90s. I had met them in other contexts, and like Emmanuel people, am grateful for their friendship.

Their son, Andy, was one of the speakers at the service, saying of her, ‘Mum absorbed life’s complexities and gave back practicalities.’ That, in itself, was food for thought, as was much else that we celebrated about this profoundly community-facing person.

As I reflect upon ‘absorbed life’s complexities and gave back practicalities’, I am aware that it is not only a model for our personal living but also offers something quite pithy as a way of understanding who we are as the Church. Three phrases have circled round my mind.

First, ‘life complexities’. Whether we look at our own lives or at society more broadly, there are complexities aplenty. I won’t bore you with mentioning yet again the obvious ones that dominate the headlines at the moment. Anyway, Anne’s work as a Samaritan for over 34 years made me think about life’s *hidden* complexities. How often we are oblivious when a person’s thoughts are so desperate that they will ring the Samaritans. In truth, though, even if we’re not that despairing, few of us are exempt from life’s hidden complexities. After all, we just don’t know what else is going on behind people’s front doors alongside the delights, be it inter-personal tension, diverse disappointments, that greyness whereby there’s just no abiding joy, lingering fear, bone-aching fatigue, straitened finances or what. Similarly, for every global drama that hits the headlines, there are hidden complexities shaping nations and fracturing international relations. I think of countries where there are too few vaccines, too little food or too much power abused by too few. So yes, life has complexities in abundance. Just as that is the world into which God comes in the person of Jesus Christ, so it is the world in which God has set us to be the Church – the Body of Christ. It is not an idyll. It is not a paradise. It is shot through with flaws and fissures, with mistakes and disasters, with complexities. Jesus is there and that’s where his nail-marked hand points us to be.



Andy spoke of his mother absorbing these complexities. That word ‘absorbing’ matters. When something is absorbed, it changes what has absorbed it. So, my blotting paper is forever different once it absorbs the *Quink*. Likewise, when we absorb life’s complexities, they do not leave us as they found us. Ideally, they heighten our sensitivity and deepen our compassion. Moreover, an absorbent Church is a community that faces up to the complexities so that we can think them through, exploring their causes, considering their ethical implications, discussing what theological insights they might offer. In that sense, the Church helps us live with life’s complexities in a thoughtful and responsible way. At its best, it nourishes our hope as we live with our own lives’ complexities and walk with others through theirs.

Finally, we learned of how Anne’s absorbing of life’s complexities resulted not in feeling helpless, less still complacent, but in giving back practicalities. That re-awakened me to what is surely an axiom: that the Church most effectively witnesses to the saving love of God as it allows itself to be shaped, changed, and adapted to the people’s needs it has absorbed. Indeed, might we even say that we haven’t actually absorbed the needs if we do not respond to them? For me, one such practicality for Downing Place Church is the installation of a shower in the Hub. In a way, it is symbolic of taking seriously the presence of homeless people in our city. Authentic absorbing, however, requires the shower to be more than symbolic. It needs to define our commitment to those for whom life is so complex that its wheels have fallen off.

All of which reminded me of Jesus of Nazareth, on the hillsides of Galilee and the streets of Jerusalem, absorbing life’s complexities and giving back the ultimate practicality of simple servanthood, by which love’s redeeming work was and always is done. Anne’s witness is that they are footsteps in which we, too, can tread, trusting it will make a difference.

*Nigel Uden*



*Photograph taken by Kelly O'Doherty on Sunday 19 September*

## DPURC RESPONSE TO REFUGEES COMING TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The Refugee situation was already made desperate enough by our government's counterproductive efforts to reduce the influx. Now our hearts have been wrenched yet again by the ill-managed exodus from Kabul which has torn Afghan families apart and left so many to the unpredictable mercy of the Taliban. Some of the Afghan refugees who have managed to reach Britain will find themselves in and around Cambridge and so it is our local refugee charities that will be supporting them.

In their turn, they need our support and the World Church & Public Issues Group has recommended to Church Meeting that an immediate donation of £1,000 be sent from the Emergency Fund, kept back from disbursement of York Street funds earlier in the year, to Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF), which is spearheading relief efforts, working closely with the City Council and other agencies.

Eddie Stadnik, CEO of CECF, writes, '*Currently we are in the process of **recruiting Farsi, Dari or Pashtu speakers** as community interpreters or caseworkers. We are promoting the **British Red Cross family and tracing service**. We are also **raising funds** for our refugee hardship fund to help asylum seekers and refugees, including Afghan refugees as they arrive in Cambridge.'*

Members who wish to donate may either use BACS via  
**Lloyds Bank 30-13-55 Acct number 02959873**

or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/1135786526946244/> .

Alternatively you may give by cheque payable to CECF and give this to Ann in the Church Office who will have a supply of CECF Gift Aid forms for those eligible to enhance their giving in this way.

Evangelism & Service and World Church & Public Issues Groups are exploring other ways in which DPURC might support refugees and asylum seekers, working with CECF and CRRC (Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign). We invite your ideas.

*Chris Wright*

## SPECIAL CAUSES FOR 2022

Each year, Downing Place offers financial support to a range of charities at home and abroad. The World Church & Public Issues group (WCPI) prepares proposals for monthly Special Causes and for distributions from the York Street fund, which are then presented to the Elders and the Church Meeting for approval.

To aid the WCPI's discussions, please make suggestions for causes you would like us to support, adding some sentences of explanation and, if possible, a link to the appropriate website. We are looking particularly for causes that fit our general remit of Inclusion, Sustainability and Wellbeing.

Suggestions should be sent **before 31 October** to either: David Reynolds or Chris Wright (respectively Convenor and Secretary of the group).

Details of the causes supported during 2021 may be found on the Members' area of the church website, <https://downingplaceurc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Special-Causes-and-York-Street-Donations.pdf>

*David Reynolds*



# SPECIAL CAUSE FOR OCTOBER 2021

## Commitment for Life

Commitment for Life is the name of the United Reformed Church World Development Programme, whose brief includes political action, education, financial appeal and cooperation with Christian Aid and the World Development Movement. It supports activities in four parts of the world, and in 2019 Downing Place agreed to focus on Bangladesh as our Commitment for Life partner.



As our Commitment for Life ‘link person’, I receive resources and information from Church House from time to time, most of which you can access from <https://urc.org.uk/cfl> These include ‘Moving Stories’ – brief updates from the four partner areas. You can read the current Bangladesh ‘Moving Stories’ page on our website or collect a news sheet from church.

Soon after I had succeeded Madeline Impey as our Commitment for Life partner, the April Place Matters included a reminder that each URC church makes a joint response in financial support for the global justice programme, and that individual church members and supporters might see a donation of 1 per cent of their annual income as an appropriate contribution. So that is our October Special Cause. That Place Matters article mentioned our new Commitment for Life web page, at <https://downingplaceurc.org/commitment-for-life> , and a ‘Donate’ button on that page which enables you to set up either a one-off donation or regular payments spread throughout the year. Remember to Gift Aid your contribution!

*Tim Rowland*



## PROFILE: HAZEL SANDERSON, ONE OF OUR NEW ELDERS

Unusually, for these days, I was born and lived all my life in Cambridgeshire. My early days were spent in Cottenham, then a small village, north of Cambridge. My parents and both sets of grandparents lived in the village their entire lives, becoming part of the close-knit thriving community, which was largely based on agriculture. Cottenham had several lively churches, including a large and well attended Salvation Army corps. My early life revolved around this meeting place, with my parents, sister, and all our connected families. We used to joke that my Dad knew every single person in the village, usually greeting them with a nod and a ‘alright mate?’



*Hazel and David*

Music featured high in every Army meeting (one on Saturday evening and three on Sunday as well as Sunday school am and pm!) My Mum taught the junior Singing Company, the recorders, the melodicas, the accordion band and the timbrel group. She later taught the Songsters (adults). My Dad played in the band, as did I later, following two generations in playing the tenor horn. Mum also taught me to play the piano and I gradually became proficient enough to accompany both singing groups with her conducting. It was a very busy and full childhood.

On marrying and leaving home, I moved all the way to Cambridge and attended St Andrew’s Street Baptist church where I was baptized. After fourteen years there, I joined Emmanuel during a time of personal and church difficulties. I found solace and acceptance at Emmanuel straightaway and stayed. My third child, Peter was dedicated there not long after I became a member. I met David and we remained worshipping at Emmanuel. My older boys, then thirteen and nine, continued in the Sunday school until the lure of football matches came calling. I will be forever grateful for the support that Emmanuel gave me in those early years.

Two of my boys have since flown the nest. The eldest, Mark, is married to Charlotte and has a little boy, Theo, aged seven, who has just started his career in karting. Michael, my middle son, is a teacher and is getting married to Amy next year. (We are very excited already!) Peter, my youngest, is off to university in Manchester in a few weeks.

I was fortunate in my early education to be awarded a place at the Cambridgeshire High school for girls, like my Mum before me. I had just finished my A levels there when it became Long Road 6<sup>th</sup> form college. I went on to do a BA in History much later whilst bringing up two boys, finally finishing it six years later and with three boys. Life is always full of surprises!

When able to, I returned to work as an administrator, working and training as a librarian at Selwyn College for five years, then returning to medical administration at Cottenham GP surgery for another five years and finally with the student counselling service (part of the University Academic services) for nine years. I recently found myself without paid work, another time of adjustment but also a time hopefully to pursue the things that I love, such as walking, English literature, taking photographs and playing the piano. I'm also looking forward to learning more about gardening, hopefully keeping my Dad's horticultural genes going. I'm a huge tennis fan and watch as much as possible and love classical and folk music. David and I have enjoyed many folk and classical concerts over the years. He enjoys walking too, so we have had lots of holidays which included long walks, (Cornwall, Pembrokeshire, The Gower, Northumberland and Norfolk). Thankfully now, with no children asking 'are we nearly there yet, I need the toilet...!'!

I've been a huge supporter and believer in 'love in action' and became a volunteer with Cambridge City foodbank after my Dad passed away eight years ago, supporting them until recently with their administration. I may return yet. My Mum passed away three years ago, (and my two remaining Aunties this year). Mum would have been very pleased that I have accepted the invitation to be an Elder at Downing Place. It has been a huge leap of faith for me, and I have much to learn but will give it my best.



BAPTISM OF WILLIAM CLEARY  
SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2021

*Photographs taken by Kelly O'Doherty and Jess Uden*



*The moment of baptism*



*Will makes his confession of faith*



*Will receives a lighted candle from his Elder, Jane Bower*



*Congratulations Will, from all at Downing Place.*

# SUSTAINABILITY



Cambridge Carbon Footprint is running its 12th year of Open Eco Homes tours and workshops between 15 September and 15 October; 13 of these are now open for booking on the [Open Eco Homes website](https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/open-eco-homes-events/) (<https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/open-eco-homes-events/>)

You can find details there of sessions on home ventilation, the carbon positive family home, smart electric homes, and planning your refit.

But special mention for:

Downing Place United Reformed Church Zoom on Thursday 14 October, (<https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events/eco-redevelopment-for-city-centre-church/>). Open Eco Homes recognises the value of our sustainable redevelopment and hopes this will be an example to others.

Note that all sessions are usually recorded and posted on the [CCF/OEH website](https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/open-eco-homes-events/) (<https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/open-eco-homes-events/>).

The Sustainability Group reminds you that as a registered Eco Church we at DPURC will be striving to reach the following goals:

## COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

1. Our church organises events providing an opportunity for local people to engage with local leaders on local environmental issues (e.g. local MPs, AMs or council leaders):
3. Our church arranges for local environmentalists to speak in our services:
4. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) works with local sustainability movements like Transition Towns:
5. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) organises environmental awareness-raising events (e.g. film evenings, Fairtrade events etc.):

14. Our church participates in regular sustainability initiatives (e.g. Carbon Fast, WWF's annual Earth Hour event):
15. Our church participates in campaigns concerning national environmental issues:
19. Our church financially supports an environmental charity.

## LIFESTYLE

4. The members of our church receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit:
5. Our church encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption:
6. Our church encourages members to limit their waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, recycle:
7. Our church hosts activities and/or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods (e.g. clothes swap events or 'give and take' schemes):

*Margaret Reynolds*



**Tour**

**Eco-redevelopment  
for city-centre  
church**

Thu 14 Oct  
19:00-20:00

OPEN  
eco  
HOMES

Cambridge  
Carbon  
Footprint

Photo: M Reynolds

# CHURCH LIFE

## REDEDICATION WEEKEND

The dates (third attempt!) have been flagged for a long time, and our guests have these in their diaries too, with others still to respond. The service on Saturday 6th begins at 2.30pm, when the preacher will be the Revd Dr John Bradbury. Tea will follow with a chance to say the "Goodbye" to John that was not possible in May 2020.

On Sunday 7th, worship for the Communion service is at 11.00, as usual. The Revd Clare Downing, one of the serving Moderators of the URC General Assembly, will preach.. It is difficult to say in mid-September how many seats will be available for the congregation, nor is it known how feasible live streaming will be. Please get in touch with me by email or phone if you want to make a provisional request for one of the days. The closing date to do this is Friday 22 October.

*Margaret Thompson*

## AUTUMN HOUSE GROUPS

A series of six House Groups begin in October to tie in with our focus on creation, the environment and sustainability. These will be led by Janet Tollington based on the following Old Testament texts that will enable us to explore the theme from different perspectives: Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a; Job 38-39; Psalms 8 & 104; Proverbs 8:22-31; Isaiah 40:21-31; and Ezekiel 47:1-12.

Groups will meet in person in the Gibson Hall on Monday afternoons (2.30 – 4.00pm) and by Zoom on Tuesday evenings (7.30 – 9.00pm) in the weeks beginning October 11 and 18, November 1, 8, 15 and 22. Please contact Kelly O'Doherty to obtain the Zoom codes.

A general introduction and weekly handouts will be provided in line with previous recent practice.

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

There will be a Macmillan Coffee morning in the Hub on Saturday 2 October between 10.30am and 12 noon. Contributions of cakes and treats will be very welcome and can be dropped off the day before, or on the morning itself.

The logo for Macmillan Cancer Support, featuring the word "MACMILLAN" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font above the words "CANCER SUPPORT" in a smaller, white sans-serif font, all set against a solid green rectangular background.

Last time we ran this in the foyer of Emmanuel it was a great opportunity to meet people living and working in the area who were looking for a Macmillan Coffee morning to attend. Please do drop in if you're in town.

Many thanks to Elaine Barker for setting this up and to everyone who helps and provides refreshments.

### **FIRST AIDERS - DO YOU NEED A REFRESHER?**

We now have a First Aider on duty at each Sunday morning service, and all of them have had some training from St. John's Ambulance or the Red Cross.

But we do need to refresh our skills, and during the pandemic it has not been easy to get together with others to do a bit of practical revision.

If you have attended a training session in the past and would appreciate the chance to meet with others to practise together and get to know the Church's first aid resources, please get in touch with Jess Uden or Sheila Porrer to arrange a group meeting.

### **LUNCHTIME CONCERTS - WEDNESDAYS AT 1PM**

Free Lunchtime Concerts with a retiring collection for our monthly Special Cause. Booking is not necessary. Come and bring friends!

6 October	Titika Maragoula (soprano & Lance Mok (piano)
13 October	Irena Radic (piano)
20 October	Tim Palmer (tenor) & Hugh Palmer (piano)
27 October	Timothy Peake (piano)



## MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS IN THE HUB

The gathering, formerly known as 'Ferried Friends' has met monthly for 3 months in the Hub. A new name is being considered for the future.

It is being organised by Liz Barrow and Penny Flynn.

Members and Friends have been identified to whom a lift might be offered, and drivers found as well. A few who are able come by their own means.

We share in coffee, tea and biscuits/cakes and, most importantly, conversation and Christian fellowship.

We haven't advertised or publicised these gatherings, yet thought other folk would wish to know about them. We haven't yet managed to invite everyone on 'our' list, or called on the services of all the willing drivers.

We began by being careful with numbers, so not too many were mixing together. The other main limitation is on parking space; although we are so grateful to be able to get 2 or 3 cars in the courtyard, if a passenger has a blue badge their driver can park on the road outside.

So, if you receive a phone call from someone offering to drive you to the church for 'coffee in the hub', those gathered will be pleased to see you. And the interesting part is not knowing who else will be there and where the conversation might lead...

*Penny Flynn*



## NEWS FROM MEMBERS



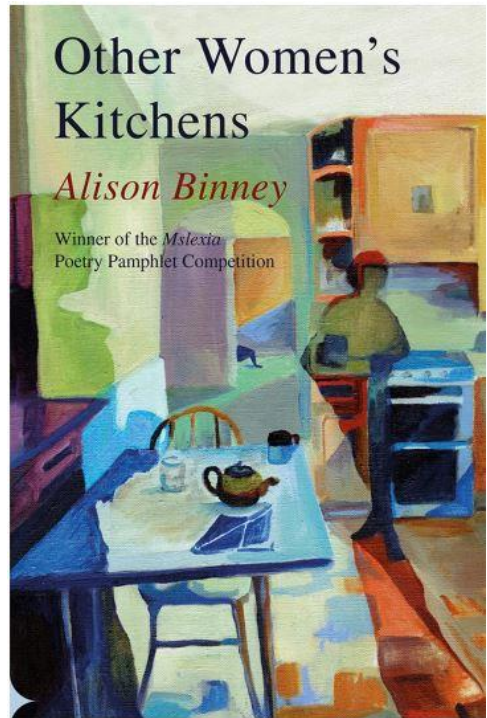
*Congratulations to Dan and Katie Barker; Elaine's eldest son and daughter-in-law; married at Downing Place on Saturday 21 August 2021.*

Congratulations to **Alison Binney**, whose first major collection of poems, *Other Women's Kitchens*, has been published by Seren Books.

The collection won the Mslexia Women's Poetry Pamphlet Competition 2020 and the Mslexia pamphlet prize for poetry. Seren Books say that the pamphlet "introduces us to a gifted new voice who writes with flair and feeling about coming out and coming of age as a gay woman in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain." You can read more and order a copy of the book from the Seren Books website:

<https://www.serenbooks.com/productdisplay/other-womens-kitchens>

Alison has kindly given us permission to reproduce the final poem in the collection.



### **Grain**

some nights after we close our books  
you crawl under my arm and tell me  
how we were carved from the same tree  
the top of your head from my chin  
my hand from your ribs the same grain  
running through both of us all the way  
from my ear to your little toe and back up  
so rolling towards sleep moored  
to your deepening breath I count  
all our rings from heartwood to bark



# Meet the Moderator

A chance to meet Revd Lythan Nevard,  
Moderator of Eastern Synod.

URC Cambridge Area Partnership Meeting

**7pm Thursday 14 October**

Bar Hill Church  
Bar Hill, Cambridge CB23 8EH.

You can also join by Zoom. Please contact your  
Church Secretary for the link.

*Pastoral Advocates:*  
Revd Dr Rick Mearkle  
Richard Lewney  
*M&M Advocate:*  
Alison Jiggins



Cambridge Bible Society Action Group invite you to

## **Autumn gathering**

### **South Sudan**

A better tomorrow begins today

Guest speaker: Dr Eeva John

**Friday 22 October at 7.30 pm via Zoom**

Please register your interest by emailing:

**[penny.f.flynn@gmail.com](mailto:penny.f.flynn@gmail.com)** for zoom link

## LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

*About five years ago the congregation at St. Columba's heard a talk from someone experiencing dementia, followed by the reading of a poem by Alyson Hughes who was also living with the condition.*

*We reproduce both these moving documents here.*

### Living with Dementia

Living with dementia is a gradual process that creeps up on one, with effects sometimes only seen in retrospect.

Three years ago I went, with some scepticism, to see my GP because my wife felt I was, at times, 'forgetting' day to day matters. I thought I sailed through the 'tests' he gave me – and was surprised when he said I had better see a Consultant!

Some weeks later – after further tests and brain scans I found myself, with my wife, sitting opposite a Consultant, at the Memory Clinic, who told me that I had 'mild dementia' – possibly dementia with Lewy Bodies.

However well the diagnosis is presented it brings apprehension for the future, for one's self and one's family. I have found Living with Dementia sometimes difficult but one can be helped by sharing experiences not only with family but also with new found friends that I have met at local meetings.

Also sharing my personal story with you provides a way of making sense of changes.

Day to day my life has taken on a routine, which helps me to formulate my 'present time', because more and more I find that it is the present which is important.

I can recall quite a bit of the 'far-past' past; the 'recent past' is more of a task. As for the future – a couple of days forward, yes, that's OK – but next month? I really can't visualise.

I still need mental stimulation – there are a few subject areas that work for me – an early favourite was politics – but this often became a rather tenuous subject leading to verbal conflict with friends and family!

I therefore reverted to a previous favourite pastime of mine which was the American Civil War. Now though rather than further reading, which is difficult, I confine myself to the battle maps alone. I can concentrate on a map rather than lots of words. I can remember, for the most part, what I know about these



*Now a poem by Alyson Hughes, who herself has dementia.*

### Recalling the Memories

These are my memories of times gone by,  
They will stay with me forever till the day I die.  
Sometimes they need unlocking by a sound or a smell,  
Or a flicker of a face I once knew well.  
These are events of long ago that play back in sepia or monochrome.  
But I don't seem able to recall at will,  
And it's harder to remember since I became ill.  
Yesterday is a memory that fades so fast,  
Yet vivid are the days of my childhood past.  
Scrumpling for apples just out of reach,  
Children laughing along the beach.  
Skinny dipping in the sea,  
Easter parades and Whitsun tea.  
Christmas carols and twinkling lights.  
Alcohol fuelled lusty nights .....

Some of these memories always under key and lock,  
Not to be revealed for fear they'll shock!  
But these are my memories of times gone by,  
You can't take them away, they're mine till I die.

*Alyson Hughes, 2016*





## ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY – A NEW SERVICE

Since 1979 the Alzheimer's Society has been the best known association involved in the management of dementia. They run several projects, though are no longer able to support groups such as memory cafés, and local organisations including the Rotary Clubs have stepped into the breach.

The Society is introducing a new service, **Dementia Connect**.

This is a new personalised dementia support service for anyone affected by dementia. The aim is to reach every person living with or affected by dementia and to extend the reach to support families in care homes. For more information on this scheme you can go to <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/dementiaconnect> or e-mail [Dementia.Connect@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:Dementia.Connect@alzheimers.org.uk).

To find out more about this and the other projects offered by the Society you can also telephone **0333 150 3456**.

Current projects include:

The **Winter Pressures** project, offering extended support to Carers who are in crisis, those facing hospital admission and those who have loved ones in hospital.

The **Peer Group Support** project, offering specialist peer support groups for carers and people with dementia

The **Dementia Friend** scheme, whereby you can be someone who learns about dementia and can help to support people affected – for more information contact <https://dementiafriends.org.uk>.

In the last issue of Place Matters we had an article about *Dementia Compass*, and its founder, Edye Hoffmann. Edye has now written to say that the *Portals to the World* programme will run again this year, and that they are in contact with Cambridge United Community Trust to resume the programme they were running with the Club. We wish them every success in getting going again after the worst of the pandemic.

## THE GIRTON ROTARY MEMORY CAFÉ

– at the St Vincents Close Community Hub, Girton – 1st Friday of each month  
10-12



*Brian Lawless*

The Girton Memory Café has been running for over 10 years and over 100 sessions organised by Cambridge-south Rotary Club and staffed by members and volunteers. Covid 19 has meant we have had to stop our meetings for a while, but we plan to relaunch later this year – see below.

The café is a consistently safe and enjoyable place to be with a jolly atmosphere and many willing hands to help and is now part of the fabric of our village's life. The aim of the events is to bring together those with memory loss and their carers and to stir up nostalgic memories with songs and stories and poetry from more youthful times and is open to all comers.



*Xmas - Chocolate Treats for all*

Rotary is one of the largest community service organisations in the world and there are four local clubs in this area. Cambridge-south Rotary Club has several members in Girton and when the idea of forming a Memory Café was raised there were quickly several volunteers involved and it has gone from strength to strength. It has developed a momentum of its own and matured as the years have flown by.

Each first Friday of every month the enthusiastic team of volunteers gathered by the Club set up their drop-in pop-up café in the comfy Community Centre. Between 10am and 12pm coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits are served, free to all comers who enjoy a cosy chinwag and a singalong with our resident group of singers, players and raconteurs who are supplemented by special guests every now and then. Our special guests have included the Flukes Ukelele Band, guitarists Brian Lawless and Jerry Harrison, the Girton Musical Theatre chorus, local Clog Dancers and Personal Trainer Iain Bachelor.

Every month has a different theme, and costumes and activities vary to suit. Our Christmas Party of course involves Santa Claus, his elves and a present for everyone, while our March Birthday parties always include a lovely handmade cake and a sample of the last years' themes. January often sees outrageous pantomime costumes that get more elaborate every year!



*Our Pirate Kings*

Over our time many well-known faces have come along to join in the fun. Andrew Lansley MP with Councillor Douglas de Lacy came to mark our original opening in the historic Girton WI Hall 2011, then Heidi Allen and colleagues came to see us too. In 2018 the Cambridge TV were doing a project on local



*John at the piano*

Dementia Care and took some well-chosen footage and interviewed Liz and John Bell, our music co-ordinators, to great effect.

Rtn Richard de Horsey has been a driving force from the start and has been our Host since the beginning. With his wife Wendy he ensures that we all co-ordinate well each time. He is evangelistic about how effective and supportive such cafes can be and often gives talks to encourage new cafes to set up, these have included St Neots, London, Trumpington, and most recently Cambourne so far.

If you would like to know more about the Girton sessions or such Cafes in general then please do get in touch with Richard. See website for next dates and themes - [www.cambridge-southrotary.org.uk](http://www.cambridge-southrotary.org.uk) .

Just come along – hope to see you there!

NOTE – Due to the Covid 19 lock down we have of course had to temporarily close. We are missing our get-togethers and are really looking forward to getting back to normal.

We have every hope of running a Covid safe Celebration Re-launch Party – 10am Fri 5th November 2021

*Thanks to Sian Franklin and Richard de Horsey for providing this article*

## GHASTLY CHURCHYARDS AND BRAVE MEN

An illustrated Zoom talk in the Gardens Trust *Unforgettable Gardens* Series by **Dr Virginia Warren**, (*Dip Garden History from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust member*) on the evening of **Thursday 18 November**

This talk will be about the setting up of two unconsecrated, Nonconformist cemeteries in East Anglia in the first half of the 19th century.

At this time, death - like life - was more straightforward if you were well off, rural and a member of the Church of England. But if you were Nonconformist, the church and state placed constraints on your way of life and how and where you were buried.

Most urban churchyards were grossly overcrowded and mismanaged. If you were condemned by penury to live downwind of one and obliged to use its parish pump, even Baldrick wouldn't swop places with you. The water from one Norwich parish pump was described as "almost pure essence of churchyard".

Step in the determined and philanthropic Unitarian minister Thomas Drummond, and the convention-defying Bishop of Norwich Henry Bathurst. These men saw a need to allow Nonconformists to be buried using their own services, in their own cemeteries, and for these places to be gardens, not horror shows.



*The tomb of Thomas and Ann Drummond in the Rosary Cemetery, Norwich  
The urns represent death and mourning - she was the first person buried there.*

The 1821 unconsecrated Rosary Cemetery in Norwich is testament to their forward-thinking approach, and an early example of a garden cemetery compatible with Wren's widely disregarded suggestions of a century before.

Forward two decades and shift to Cambridge, and cross paths with the phenomenal JC Loudon. Brought up Presbyterian in a Scottish tenant farming family, he was a social reformer who gave practical expression to his philosophical and political views through garden and landscape design and practice, architecture and education.

As well as publishing prodigiously on these topics, this remarkable man made a fortune and lost it, married a science fiction writer, and coped with severe ill health and an amputation.

When Cambridge Nonconformists wanted their own cemetery, it was apt that they should commission him - and utterly typical that he should make Histon Road Cemetery a centrepiece exemplar of his 1843 book *On the Laying Out, Planting, and Managing of Cemeteries and on the Improvement of Churchyards*.

Members of Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Gardens Trusts, the Nonconformist congregations of Norwich and Cambridge, and Friends of the two cemeteries should email to ask to receive the Zoom link. It will be sent during the week starting 15 November.



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Histon Road Cemetery by N Chadwick - [geograph.org.uk/p/5936255](http://geograph.org.uk/p/5936255)

*Histon Road Cemetery with the spire of St Luke's Church,  
now a United Reformed Church itself, in the distance.*

## MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

3 October	Chris Baker David Tatem Janet Tollington	Wicken Methodist Bassingbourn Melbourn
10 October	Liz Caswell Janet Tollington Nigel Uden	Fowlmere Stetchworth and Cheveley Fulbourn
17 October	Liz Caswell Penny Flynn Nigel Uden	Stetchworth & Cheveley Bassingbourn St Anne's on Sea, Lancashire
24 October	Janet Bottoms Penny Flynn Janet Tollington Nigel Uden	Bishop's Stortford Buntingford Whiting Street, Bury St Edmunds Fulbourn (pm)
31 October	Chris Baker David Tatem Janet Tollington	Burwell Melbourn St Neots



## DIARY

Services are conducted by the Minister, except where shown

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Fri	01-Oct-21	Meditation Group	5:30pm	St Columba's Chapel
Fri	01-Oct-21	Westminster College Quiet Day	10:00am - 4:00pm	Church & Hub
Sat	02-Oct-21	Macmillan Coffee Morning	10:30am	The Hub
Sun	03-Oct-21	Sunday Worship with Communion	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Mon	04-Oct-21	Officers' Meeting	4:00pm	Downing Place URC
Tue	05-Oct-21	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Tue	05-Oct-21	Civic Trust Awards Assessment Visit	11:30am	Downing Place URC
Wed	06-Oct-21	Lunchtime Concert - Titika Maragoula (soprano) & Lance Mok (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	07-Oct-21	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	07-Oct-21	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Sat	09-Oct-21	Celebratory Orchestral Concert Conducted by Peter Britton and including contributions by Ian de Massini, Pippa Jones and Mel Rose.	7:30pm	Downing Place URC (Book via our website)
Sun	10-Oct-21	Sunday Worship led by Dr Augur Pearce	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Mon	11-Oct-21	Autumn Housegroup	2:30pm	Gibson Hall
Tue	12-Oct-21	Autumn Housegroup Contact Kelly O'Doherty for the link	7:30pm	Zoom



Tue	12-Oct-21	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Wed	13-Oct-21	Elders' Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Wed	13-Oct-21	Lunchtime Concert :- Irena Radic (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	14-Oct-21	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	14-Oct-21	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Thu	14-Oct-21	Area Partnership Meeting: 'Meet the Moderator'  See page 20	7.30pm	Zoom
Fri	15-Oct-21	Meditation Group	5:30pm	St Columba's Chapel
Sun	17-Oct-21	Sunday Worship led by Robert Pope	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	17-Oct-21	Open Table Communion Service	7:00pm	Downing Place
Mon	18-Oct-21	Autumn Housegroup	2:30pm	Gibson Hall
Tue	19-Oct-21	Autumn Housegroup  Contact Kelly O'Doherty for the link	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	19-Oct-21	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Wed	20-Oct-21	Cambridge Music Festival	tbc	Downing Place URC
Wed	20-Oct-21	Lunchtime Concert: Tim Palmer (tenor) & Hugh Palmer (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	21-Oct-21	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	21-Oct-21	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Fri	22-Oct-21	Bible Society Autumn Gathering  (see page 21)	7.30pm	Zoom

Sun	24-Oct-21	Sunday Worship	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Mon	25-Oct-21	Finance Committee Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	26-Oct-21	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Wed	27-Oct-21	Lunchtime Concert: Timothy Peake (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	28-Oct-21	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	28-Oct-21	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Fri	29-Oct-21	Meditation Group	5:30pm	St Columba's Chapel
Sun	31-Oct-21	Sunday Worship	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Mon	01-Nov-21	Autumn Housegroup	2:30pm	Gibson Hall
Mon	01-Nov-21	Officers' Meeting	4:00pm	Downing Place URC
Tue	02-Nov-21	Autumn Housegroup Contact Kelly O'Doherty for the link	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	02-Nov-21	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Wed	03-Nov-21	Lunchtime Concert: Alice Bishop (soprano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	04-Nov-21	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	04-Nov-21	World Church and Public Issues Group Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Sat	06-Nov-21	Dedication Weekend Service (see page 15)	2.30pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	07-Nov-21	Sunday Worship with Communion	11:00am	Downing Place URC

# LECTIONARY

*The following are the readings from the Revised Common Lectionary for each Sunday.*

*If there are to be varied on any occasion, the reader will be notified in advance.*

## **3<sup>rd</sup> October**

Genesis 2.18-24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1.1-4 and 2.5-12

Mark 10.2-16

## **10<sup>th</sup> October**

Amos 5.6-7, 10-15

Psalm 90.13-17

Hebrews 4.12-16

Mark 10.17-21

## **17<sup>th</sup> October**

Isaiah 53.4-12

Psalm 91.9-16

Hebrews 5.1-10

Mark 10.35-45

## **24<sup>th</sup> October**

Jeremiah 31.7-9

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7.23-28

Mark 10.46-52

## **31<sup>st</sup> October**

Deuteronomy 6.1-9

Psalm 119.1-8

Hebrews 9.11-14

Mark 12.28-34





MAGAZINE EDITOR: Sheila Porrer

ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

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

WEB EDITOR: Ann Auger

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

The November edition will be available from **Sunday 31 October**.