



**DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE**

PLACE MATTERS



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PIONEER MINISTER



Our new Pioneer Minister, Alex Clare-Young, will be formally inducted on Saturday 9 April at 2pm. The service will be led by Revd Lythan Nevard, Moderator of the Eastern Synod, and the preacher will be Revd Jo Clare-Young (Minister of Newport Pagnell URC and Alex's wife).

FROM THE MINISTER

Douglas J. Brouwer is an American Presbyterian pastor on pension. In his book, *Chasing after Wind*, (Eerdmans 2022) he tells of the 'life review' he undertook in the early days of retirement. It was sobering, because with so much time to think he concluded he had achieved little, spending forty plus rather fruitless years 'chasing after wind'.

Unsurprisingly, his associates thought differently. He also speaks of starting to go to church in the town to which he retired. Eventually he found one where he was content to sit in the pew rather than stand in the pulpit. After a few weeks maintaining a low profile, he asked the minister how he might support her. She replied, 'Show up.'



I think there is something important for us all there, recently retired ministers or not. As we learn to live with the coronavirus that re-shaped so much of life two years ago, it's almost as if we all need to learn how to 'show up' again. I know I have to, having learned *not* to in order to remain safe, I am now having to rediscover how valuable it is to mix with others in order to be the society Christ's church is meant to be. There's a safety in my study from which I have to challenge myself to emerge! There is lots of literature about how for many of us our church life is as much about belonging as it is about believing, and in that sense showing up is particularly important. Our sense of belonging is best nourished by our being together again, both for the hymns and for the coffee.

Of course, there is the showing up to Sunday services. I am not sure I buy that showing up to those is about supporting the worship leader. Rather, my sense is that showing up on Sundays is about ensuring the warp of one's own life story is complemented with the weft of hearing the story of God's providence and grace as we find them in Jesus Christ.

There is also the showing up for those activities by which we live out the love of God in the community. In these early days of our moving back into the refurbished premises, that includes Hub Hospitality, and also consistent pursuit of the sustainability agenda that is so important for the prosperity of those who come after us. 'Showing up' is not just about being seen in the Downing Place space. So many members are engrossed in other community-building organisations, which are nothing to do with institutionalised religion, but

nonetheless embody those fundamental values and virtues to which Jesus Christ points us.

Writing this in the third week of the President of Russia's action in Ukraine, I find myself wondering what 'showing up' means against that backdrop. I realise it can't mean giving-in to shoulder-shrugging helplessness, less still to pretending that assault isn't happening, however tempting and easy each of those would be. So I look for the best way to give money, and to connect meaningfully with people from Ukraine who find themselves in Cambridge. Both giving and connecting can be done individually and as a church. And then there's prayer. Maybe showing up is one way of understanding prayer - showing up for an encounter with God in solidarity with our siblings in the nations to the west of Russia. It could be that our prayers are about pleading with God; or are they a vehicle for railing at God; or perhaps they're identifying with the Spirit's interceding with wordless groans (Romans 8.28). I can't give a crisp definition of how prayer makes a difference in Ukraine and Poland and Moldova. Nor in Taiwan, for that matter, as it fears a similar action from its similarly giant neighbour. But nor can I persuade myself that *not* praying could conceivably be better. Prayer is that showing up which opens us to the influence of the Prince of Peace, and somehow, right now, whatever makes us pliable to that power seems urgently imperative.

I write, too, in the third week of Lent. We are preparing for Holy Week and Easter. Might 'showing up' epitomise what God does in the cradle and on the cross? This is the God who is not distanced in some remote and protected state of safety. The birth and death of Jesus are about the God who shows up, never to leave, never to shy away from the cost. And the empty tomb – what does that stand for? For me, the resurrection is an intimation of the God whose showing up is not just a one-off visit two millennia ago, but the abiding, faithful with-us-ness of God, who says “in all your darkness, the light of love may well flicker, and seem to get perilously close to being snuffed out, oh how I know that; but it will not be extinguished by evil. Will you show up to help me make it shine today?” I believe that is one crucial way of being Easter people.

As much as ever, I wish you the blessing of Easter's God, who shows up and calls us to show up, too.

Nigel Uden

MONTHLY CAUSE FOR APRIL

A Youth Centre for Oasis Shirley Park School, Croydon.



Asburton Lodge, the house which could become a Youth Centre.

Ian and Sheila Strachan's son Andrew teaches history at Oasis Shirley Park in Croydon, and Downing Place is pleased to support the school's appeal to create a Youth Centre.

The school is located in a deprived area of Croydon and is a school that faces many challenges. On the 30th of December 2021 one of their students, Zaian, a year 11 boy, 16 years of age, was stabbed to death in an unprovoked and brutal attack in a park very near to the school. Needless to say the mood, on return to school in January, of pupils and teachers was sombre. Some of the year 11 pupils were traumatised by this tragic event and it has been an incredibly difficult time for the school community.

Many of these youngsters have difficult home lives and are often left to their own devices. In their leisure time there are distractions which can sadly lead to many of the youth not feeling safe on the streets in their community. There is a real need for there to be somewhere in the community for them to go, to

participate in activities be it sport or music, to give them purpose and for them to feel safe.

Oasis Academy Trust has an inspirational leader and Oasis Shirley Park has a pro-active headteacher who are determined to try to improve the lives of these youngsters and in so doing prevent further loss of life. An opportunity has arisen whereby the school has approached the council to take on the lease of a derelict park keeper's house in a park close to the school, the very park where this young man needlessly lost his life. **The plan is to make this into the Zaian Centre, a place for these youngsters to go.** The Centre would provide support and practical help for local families, working with other community groups.

Croydon council has its own financial difficulties and so the school has taken on the challenge of raising the funds. This is a huge undertaking for the school and community, hence the financial appeal.

Please follow the link below for further information, and to make an online donation click on "Help Build Zaian's Youth Centre". We hope there will be an opportunity to donate in person in a retiring collection on Easter Sunday when Andrew Strachan will talk about the appeal.

<https://www.oasisuk.org/appeal/a-legacy-for-zaian/>



FEBRUARY SPECIAL CAUSE - SING INSIDE

We are pleased to report that we raised a total of £1360 for Sing Inside during February, which comprises donations from our lunchtime concerts, our York Street fund and the retiring collection on 27 February.

AN INSIGHT INTO OUR RECENT JUNIOR CHURCH SESSIONS WITH THE YOUNGER GROUP

On 20th February, the Junior Church looked at the theme of loving your enemies. We played a pass the parcel game and as we unwrapped each layer we had to think of something kind we could do for others. We started with the easy to love people like parents and siblings and moved on to people we knew less well. To illustrate that love could be hard, we painted hearts onto hard stones.

The following week, we started our session praising God with some songs using our musical instruments. The children then watched a movie about the first story from the Bible, and saw how God created light and dark, the sun, moon and stars and filled the world with lots of beautiful plants, animals and people, giving people the task to look after it. We went out in our courtyard garden to see if we could find parts of what God created, and we found plants coming up and spotted a bird on a roof, and we also saw ourselves in the mirrors! The children then created their own light (candles) using sheets of beeswax, and did some beautiful drawings to celebrate God's creation.



On 6 March during Sharing Together time, Ken talked to the children about God Our Protector, following the reading of verses from Psalm 91. He gave each of the children a paper feather and a heart which they joined together to illustrate how God holds us all under his wings and safe in his care. We then left for our group and sang the action song 'Wide, Wide as the Ocean' demonstrating the extent of God's love for us. We shared the story from Luke

4 1-13 telling of the temptations of Jesus in the desert before starting his ministry. The children enjoyed using props to build up the story as we talked about the three situations where Jesus was tempted by Satan, with our 'snake' slithering off at the end having failed in his mission. We then talked about times we might have been tempted to do wrong and discussed things that can help us to do the right thing. Our activity involved drawing a continuous looping line on paper to represent God's story and his unfailing love for us. We then returned to church for the Communion service and decorated the feathers distributed earlier.



On 13th March, we took up the theme of Jesus as a hen who gathers her chicks under her wing and we made hens from large matchboxes and chicks that hid inside the box. The children also considered the motives of the characters in the story as good or bad and they voted with their feet by running to either end of the room.



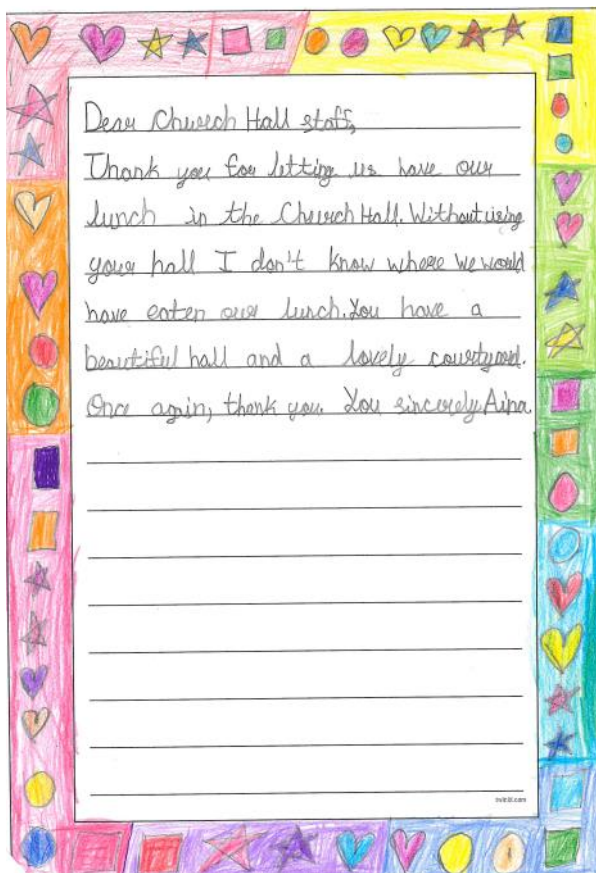
From the JC team with thanks to all our leaders and helpers

DOWNING PLACE OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS

Because Downing Place is blessed with a location very close to a number of museums and places of interest which appeal to schools we often receive visits from classes of children seeking a place to rest and eat lunch before they move on to the next attraction. This offers us the possibility of a simple form of outreach to both the children and their schools which might perhaps be built on in the future. They are frequently impressed by what they see inside our building, but their itinerary does not usually allow time for them to linger and find out more about us.

We would like to be able to offer such schools the opportunity, while they are in the building, of exploring our church in more depth, discovering the significance of its different parts and perhaps asking questions about what we do and why. In order to be able to make such an offer we would need to have a small number of members who would be happy to come in occasionally, as needed, to show the children around and talk to them. We would provide volunteers with a few suggestions about what to look at and talk about, and perhaps some notes for the children to take away.

If you might be interested in offering such help or talking about the idea further, please contact Janet Bottoms or Ann Auger. Thank you.



PROFILE – ROBERT AND ELEANOR SMITH

We are both products of Glasgow, having been brought up and educated there. My father, JWD Smith, was a Church of Scotland minister who became Principal Lecturer in religious education at what became Jordanhill College of Education, while Eleanor's father, TS Graham, was a Senior Lecturer in mathematics at the University of Glasgow. Many of her other relations were also academics or teachers. Both our mothers had been teachers. It was perhaps natural then that we both became academic teachers ourselves.



(The picture above was taken outside our house in Lewes, on the day we celebrated our Golden Wedding in September 2016.)

My schooldays were spent at Jordanhill College School, founded as a school where students from the College could do their teaching practice while being mentored by the permanent staff. It took children all the way through from 5 to 18, so I had no need to change schools. This made for a very settled childhood, especially as my mother wasn't out at work so was always there when I went home. The school was also within easy walking distance. (Ailsa Buchanan taught at that school, but we didn't meet then. In recent years, we have shared reminiscences about the school, which still flourishes.)

Eleanor went to Laurel Bank school, a private school just five minutes down the hill from her parents' house, which was very near the University; I think there were fee concessions for children of university staff. She also stayed at the same school until she went to university. Sadly, her school no longer exists.

We both had two siblings. My brother Hugh was 10 years older than me, and my sister Alison 7 years older. There was a big gap because my father decided to retrain for the ministry and they couldn't afford another child until he had finished his course. Eleanor was the oldest in her family, with two younger brothers, Tom and John. We both spent many childhood summer holidays on the Isle of Arran in the Firth of Clyde, but in different parts of the island, so we never met in those days. However, our families knew about each other, because Eleanor's uncle Willie also taught at Jordanhill and knew my father. He had also met me at college events, and claimed that he always knew that Eleanor and I would get married!

We were also both churchgoers; I attended Jordanhill Church while Eleanor also attended her local Church, Wellington, which is where we were married. It is immediately across the road from the University. Both churches had active Sunday Schools and Youth Fellowships. In Lewes, we attended the closest free church, originally Lewes Congregational Church, which became Christ Church Lewes after we linked with the Methodists to form a Local Ecumenical Partnership in 1999. We both served terms as church secretary.

Our lives seem to have run on parallel lines. We both enrolled at the University of Glasgow to study Mathematics and Natural Philosophy (now called Physics; Natural Philosophy was the old name, dating back to mediaeval times), but I enrolled one year before Eleanor, so we didn't meet in classes, although we both attended some lecture courses given by her father. However, we both joined the Student Christian Movement (SCM – jokingly called the Society for Courtship and Marriage; very appropriate for us, and for several of our friends), and we met at bread and cheese lunches, run weekly by SCM. It was a meeting of minds, and we duly got engaged in November 1964 and married two years later, on 12th September 1966.

When we graduated, in 1963 and 1964, I started a PhD in Astronomy while Eleanor studied for an MSc in plasma physics. In the final year of my PhD, my supervisor had a sabbatical year in New York, and the funding for my studentship didn't run to a transatlantic trip, so instead I spent 1965-66 in Cambridge, at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, then in Silver Street. I had a wonderful year there, attending graduate lectures by famous people, making friends amongst my fellow students and meeting two more senior people who subsequently became my colleagues. My supervisor in Cambridge was hands-off, so I learned to work independently and made a lot of progress with my thesis.

I also enjoyed living in college (Sidney Sussex) and made a life-long friend of the only other graduate student living in the college, as well as getting a taste for after-dinner port in the graduate common room! I attended St Columba's on Sunday mornings, and Great St Mary's in the evening, singing in the choir. The evening services featured sermons by well-known people, such as Enoch Powell. Afterwards, we often retired to the room of the senior choir member for refreshments and talk, sometimes about the sermon. Of course, I also learned to punt, teaching myself in the early autumn in the absence of summer visitors! I also took the opportunity to visit all the colleges – in those days, it was easy just to walk in and look round.

I also joined what was known as the ProngSoc, a joint young people's group for St Columba's (Presbyterian) and Emmanuel (Congregational). I remember

members of ProngSoc punting up the river for breakfast on May morning 1966! When we moved to Cambridge in 2016, it was natural to start attending St Columba's again, finding ourselves once again getting involved in a church union, although not this time across denominations. We found everyone very welcoming and now feel completely at home.

While I was in Cambridge, Eleanor moved to St Andrews for the year, to finish her thesis and to teach maths as an assistant lecturer. She enjoyed learning about a different university's traditions, such as how to wear one's (undergraduate) red gown, the Pier Walk and Raisin Monday.

We spent the first two years of our married life in Glasgow. We were fortunate in both obtaining temporary three-year positions as university lecturers, in astronomy (Robert) and mathematics (Eleanor). We were also jointly an Assistant Warden at Wolfson Hall, one of the university's halls of residence; a small flat in the Hall went with the job so we didn't have to hunt for a house. After I had submitted my thesis, we started looking for more permanent posts. A fellow student pointed out an advertisement for a research fellowship at the recently founded University of Sussex. I knew the area slightly, so I applied and was successful. The post was for two years in the first instance, with the possibility of extension. I don't think either of us imagined that we would still be there when I retired 38 years later!



We moved south in the autumn of 1968, having bought a house in Lewes, the County Town of East Sussex, on the edge of the Sussex Downs. Eleanor went before me, because she had obtained a job teaching maths and physics at what was then Brighton and Hove Grammar School for Boys (now Brighton, Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College, known locally as BHASVIC) and needed to start her job a month before the beginning of the university term in October. Our twins, Rachel and Debbie, (left), were born two years later, in September 1970, so she stopped teaching full-time and in 1971 started a series of part-time tutoring jobs, including with the Open University (OU). Her links with the OU grew gradually as our children became more independent

and she had more time. She finally worked full-time at the Regional Office in East Grinstead, first as a Senior Counsellor and then as the Staff Tutor in Mathematics, with responsibilities for all the part-time tutors in the region, and doing some tutoring herself. I used to marvel at her facility in helping students on the telephone when they called up with a question about the latest assignment. She had some lovely colleagues, whom I got to know on various OU occasions.

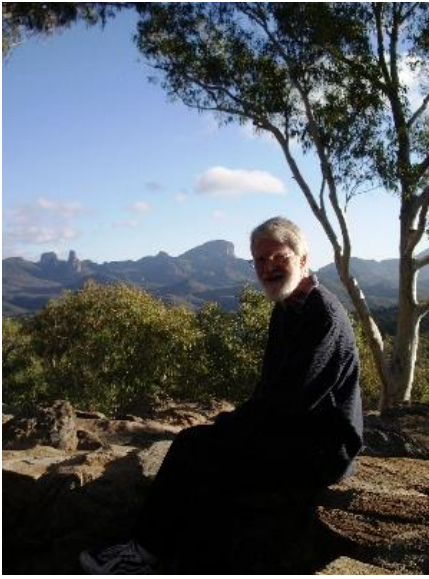


I obtained a permanent contract as lecturer in astronomy in 1973, and we moved house that summer to obtain more space. It was a lovely house, near the top of a hill, with views over the town, including Lewes Castle (above), and we remained there for 43 years, with various house extensions as we could afford them.

Becky was born in late January 1975, and we set out in early April for a six-month sabbatical in Toronto. I was working with a colleague, but otherwise we made the most of the chance to explore Toronto, which had great facilities for children, and to see many neighbouring parts of Canada, such as the vast Algonquin National Park north-west of Ottawa. Niagara Falls were a must, and didn't disappoint, but we also enjoyed the local park. I saw some of the States as well, on a grand seminar tour across the country to places where I knew people, from Virginia to Arizona to Vancouver. We returned to Canada in 1979, arranging a house and car exchange with a couple in London, Ontario for two months in the summer. Beside work, I remember attending a play (*Love's Labours Lost*) at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford (Ontario).

Conferences, seminars and research visits provided me with opportunities for shorter overseas trips. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) holds big international conferences every three years and I have been to nine of them, mostly on my own. However, we did both go to the two-week IAU meeting in Sydney, Australia, in 2003 and spent five weeks in Australia, visiting old friends.

I spent half my career as a theoretical astronomer, but around 1985 I switched to observing as a result of a collaboration with a colleague from RGO. I much enjoyed my 19 observing runs, mostly on the island of La Palma in the Canaries but ranging from South Africa to Mexico and including five trips to Australia. I often took research students, and we usually managed some sight-seeing as part



of the trip! The telescopes in Australia are on the edge of the spectacular Warrumbungle National Park, New South Wales (left).

After formal retirement, I continued to teach one graduate course for about five years; I also supervised final year students on projects that used the university's 18-inch telescope on the edge of the Ashdown Forest. Eleanor remained on an OU exam board for a similar length of time. After that, we started taking more foreign trips, visiting Antigua in 2011, St Lucia and Turkey in 2013 and back to Canada in 2015, where we took our first cruise. The ship went from Vancouver up the so-called Inside Passage to Juneau in Alaska, with spectacular scenery. We then stayed for

a few days with friends on Vancouver Island before going home via a Montreal friend's cottage in rural southern Quebec, near the border to Vermont. The following year was fully occupied in house-hunting and moving to Cambridge, which we did in October 2016.

Later, we took cruises in Europe, on the Douro in 2018 and from Amsterdam to Berlin in 2019, but by that time Eleanor was beginning to show increasing signs of memory loss. She was formally diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2017, and her symptoms worsened rapidly during the first lockdown in 2020. She is now well settled in the Cambridgeshire Care Home in Great Shelford.

FA4Y – FULBOURN ACTION FOR YOUTH

Although our own work amongst young people is not extensive – ‘small but perfectly formed’ - we have tried to sponsor local youth work. One example would be Romsey Mill.

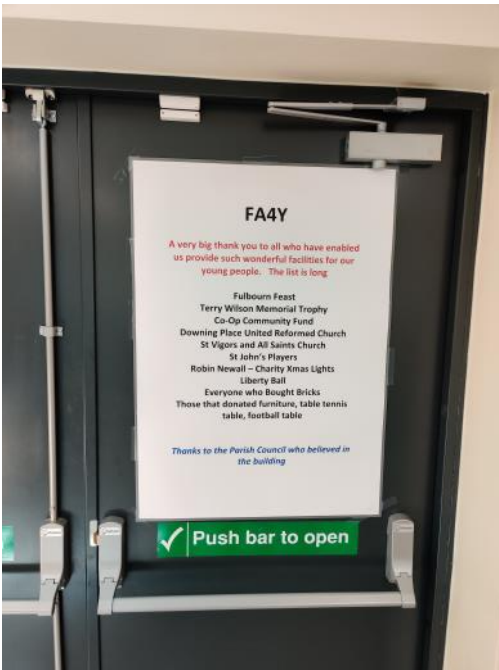


In that spirit, before the pandemic commenced, Downing Place Church voted to donate towards new premises for the Youth Club in Fulbourn. Recently I was at a meeting in the building, which opened in the months immediately prior to the first lockdown. Two years later it is now getting back into full swing. Two clubs meet, one for people in Years 6 and 7 and the other for those in Year 8 upwards. Each attracts well over twenty participants each week.





There is a large meeting room, called the Lounge, a well-equipped kitchen, and a particularly popular Music Studio.



The attractive facility, on the edge of the Recreation Ground, just opposite the United Reformed Church, also hosts the Parish Council, and another young people's organisation, the Scouts.

In the Lounge, the fire door is enhanced with a notice thanking donors. It is a fine example of the diverse work that we are able to encourage using the York Streets funds. On behalf of the FA4Y Trustees, with some of whom I was meeting, I bring warm appreciation and best wishes.

NPU



APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

Intense conflict in Ukraine is threatening the lives and livelihoods of civilians across the country.

Christian Aid is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee and supports their appeal for Ukraine. Any donations to the Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal will attract matching funding from the UK Government. Christian Aid are working with two partner organisations in ACT Alliance, (a global faith-based coalition), to offer assistance to Ukraine refugees: Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

So far, HIA has distributed 28 tonnes of food supplies and other lifesaving essentials to people on the Ukrainian borders. It has also established a refugee help point.

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Back then, we worked with partner churches to alleviate suffering by raising the equivalent of £3 million plus in today's money.

We supported, equipped and enabled partner churches in mainland Europe to provide what people needed. Nearly 80 years later, we are doing the same.

To donate to the **Christian Aid Ukraine appeal**, go to

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-crisis-appeal>



Natalia, and her two children, Igor, 9, and baby girl Nastia, 2 months, are the first family to stay in a shelter supported by our partner HIA in Lviv, western Ukraine. Nastia is also the youngest internally displaced person there.

The shelter is in a church building and was established at the very beginning of the war. A priest runs it and says they shelter 150 refugees daily. Some refugees rest for a short time there and some stay longer. Women and children are prioritised so that they don't need to sleep at overcrowded railway stations

Natalia and her children arrived in Lviv by bus. The family comes from the Kyiv region. Natalia's husband is in the army.

Our village was destroyed. There was bombing every day. I feared for my family. I'm afraid for my husband.

Natalia says she wants peace for her children. She says she wants to stay in Lviv until the end of the war, because the bombings in her home village were incredibly stressful.

When there was bombing at night, I did not know where to go. We feared that our building would be destroyed. In this shelter, I feel peaceful.

A Prayer for Ukraine from Christian Aid

Borders, barricades, bewilderment...

When the bargaining begins,

God please protect peace

Sanctions, security measured in minutes and it's scary

When safety scatters,

God please protect peace.

War dresses up in peace-keeper's clothes,

Troops amass, the ground trembles and so do people ...

When the future feels fragile,

God please protect peace.

The littlest, the least likely to have a say,

those whose lives are sanctioned and bargained over –

Violence always finds them first.

And the 'oh so important' political manoeuvres mean nothing to them.

They just want to live.

When the winners want to wipe them out of the way,

God please protect peace.

We will not turn away. We will stand together –

God, give us the strength to protect peace.

Amen.

Please keep looking at the Christian Aid website for the latest news on aid to Ukraine – the situation is changing all the time.

Christian Aid Week 2022

“Hungry to Provide”



This is the theme for this year’s Christian Aid Week which begins on **Sunday May 15th**. The focus is on Jessica Mwedzi, a mother in rural Zimbabwe, who struggles to feed her children as droughts caused by climate change make growing crops more and more difficult. Donations to Christian Aid Week can help Jessica and many other mothers grow drought tolerant crops, and learn new skills to preserve and store food for the dry season.

There will be a **Christian Aid Service** at **All Saints’ Church in Cottenham** on **Sunday 15th May** at **6 pm**, with news from Christian Aid. Refreshments will be available after the service to give a chance to meet and talk to others. Please come along if you can and spread the news about it, especially if you are in the Cottenham area.

Here in Downing Place we hope to hold a **bring and share lunch** for Christian Aid after the service on **Sunday May 8th**. Please put a note in your diary – more details next month. Watch out for the **e-envelope** in the May edition of Place Matters, to make your on-line donation easier.



The Iona Community - A Call to Peace with Justice and an invitation to gather together in April

The Iona Community Members and Council seek justice and peace for all everywhere, believing that the community we seek must be mirrored in the community we practise. At this time of war, as we make requests of those in power so also we rededicate ourselves to using our own power, alone and together, to bring peace with justice. In the face of violence, and in the knowledge that words alone are never enough, we remind ourselves that Jesus calls us to welcome the stranger, tend the sick, provide shelter for the persecuted (Luke 10: 25 – 37) and speak truth to power (Luke 1: 46 – 55).

Jesus calls us to be reconcilers and peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). We believe this means that we are called to

Be Islands of Sanctuary: War unleashes trauma, suffering, terror and poverty on households, cycles of debt on nations and desecration of both natural and built landscapes. We call on the UK government to declare the UK to be ‘islands of sanctuary’ and a) to take immediate action to open all pathways to sanctuary (housing, work, health care, safety, education) for any fleeing war or persecution including those from Ukraine and b) to lift immediately the restrictions on asylum seekers currently in detention in the UK.

Sustain Life on Earth: The fossil fuel cost of modern warfare accelerates carbon emission rates at a time when our window of opportunity is closing for hopeful climate action. We weave our lives as stewards of creation with our work as peacemakers. We support our Members to rededicate ourselves to living as close to a carbon neutral life as possible.

Eradicate Weapons of War: The threatened use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons is a threat to the whole of creation. We continue our decades-long stance against the use or threatened use of nuclear weapons and call on the UK government to remove all such weapons from British soil. We will continue to protest the presence of such weapons of mass destruction until they are removed.

Practise Reconciliation: We seek reconciliation knowing that it only comes after peace and through justice as part of an intentional process. We call for calm and urgent diplomacy and mediation to bring the war in Ukraine to an immediate end.

Pray for Peace: We reach out in prayer and solidarity to the people of the churches of Ukraine and Russia. We ask the leaders of the Russian churches, and church leaders everywhere, to use their power and influence to call for peace and an end to violence. At this time of Lent, we rededicate ourselves to action rooted in deep reflection.

Gather in Community: At times like these we need one another. And so we invite all to ‘global gatherings for peace’ for 30 minutes on the 7th, 21st and 28th of April at 18:00 GMT. We will spend time in conversation and prayer, galvanizing, supporting, listening to one another as we respond to violence through prayer and actions for justice and peace. Join here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89612290037?pwd=UkkvQzZGbkRlVHQycHY0MTA0WjZ1dz09>

March 2022

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Lord (Jim) Wallace of Tankerness, writes following his visit in February:

Dear Nigel,

I am writing to thank you and the members of Downing Place United Reformed Church for your invitation to join you for Sunday worship and for the warm and excellent hospitality which you accorded to Rosie and myself over the weekend. It was so very much appreciated.

I valued very much the opportunity to worship again, and although much has changed, the warmth of welcome was every bit as generous. We also welcomed the opportunity to tour the hall complex, which will certainly lend itself to visionary and imaginative use. And seeing and hearing the organ was something very special.

Thanks too for accommodation and for feeding and “watering” us so well. The friendship and hospitality from your good self and all whom we met made it a very special weekend for us. I hope it is not too long before we meet again.

With all good wishes and blessings,

Yours sincerely, *Jim*

NEWS FROM ARCHANGEL

We were delighted to hear that Downing Place received a ‘highly commended’ award in the recent Cambridgeshire Design Awards run by the Cambridge Forum for the Construction Industry. Congratulations to our architects, Archangel and everyone who worked so hard to create our beautiful building.

Archangel Architects

314 Tweets

Follow

 CFCI @CFCICambridge · 18h

Building Awards: Best Conservation, Alteration, or Extension over £2m - Highly Commended awarded to Downing Place United Reform Church @withspirit @Coulson_Group #CambsDesignAwards



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View of New hub

archangel
ARCHITECTURE WITH SPIRIT

MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

3 April	Deborah McVey David Tatem Janet Tollington	Sawston Bassingbourn Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden
10 April	Liz Caswell Nigel Uden	Stetchworth & Cheveley Fulbourn
14 April	Nigel Uden	Fulbourn
15 April	Nigel Uden	Fulbourn
17 April	Liz Caswell Janet Tollington	Melbourn Buntingford
24 April	Janet Bottoms Janet Tollington Nigel Uden	Stansted Stetchworth & Cheveley (am) Fulbourn (pm) Dorking URC



LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Here are the details about services in Holy Week and Easter. We are grateful to three United Reformed Church ministers whose contributions are the backbone of our services throughout these important eight days.

April 10th Palm Sunday

11.00am Morning Worship,
with the reading of the Passion Narrative according to St Luke
The Revd Dr David Cornick leads and preaches
This service will be in person and live streamed,
with the recording available subsequently

April 11th Holy Monday

April 12th Holy Tuesday

April 13th Holy Wednesday

The Revd John Proctor is recording reflective moments for these days, including music from Ian de Massini.

*The recordings will be available on the
Downing Place Church YouTube channel,
intended to make access possible at any time of day, to suit viewers' diaries.
Available from the evening before, on YouTube.*

April 14th Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion
The Revd Deborah McVey
*This service will be in person and live streamed,
with the recording available subsequently*

April 15th Good Friday

10.00am A service for the city centre Free Churches,
at St Andrew's Street Baptist Church,
led by its minister, The Revd Dr Steve Langford,
with Pfarrerin Kerstin Othmer preaching from the
German Speaking Lutheran Church
This service will be in person and on Zoom concurrently

5.00pm The Way of the Cross, a Devotion for Passiontide,
featuring the words of Eric Milner-White and the organ music of
Philip Moore
This in person service will not be live streamed.

April 16th Holy Saturday

The last of John Proctor's recorded reflections,
available from the evening before, on YouTube.

4.00pm Music for Easter Eve
- a free concert by *Cambridge Voices*

April 17th Easter Day

11.00am Holy Communion

The Minister

*This service will be in person and live streamed,
with the recording available subsequently*

7.30pm Open Table Holy Communion

The Minister

This in person service will not be live streamed.

CAMBRIDGE VOICES AT DOWNING PLACE

Directed by Ian de Massini

Saturday afternoon, Easter Eve, April 16th, from 4.00pm:

a concert of choral music for Easter Eve (free admission)



Thomas Tomkins	<i>O God, the proud are risen against me</i>
Henry Purcell	<i>Hear my prayer, O Lord</i>
Antonio Lotti	<i>Crucifixus</i> , for 8 voices
King John IV of Portugal	<i>Crux fidelis</i>
Heironymus Praetorius	<i>Tulerunt Dominum</i>
King John IV of Portugal	<i>Crux fidelis</i>
Kosaku Yamada	<i>The Karachi Tree</i>
R. Vaughan Williams	Variants upon <i>Dives & Lazarus</i> , for choir (World Premiere)

DIARY

Services are conducted by the Minister, except where shown

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Fri	01-Apr-22	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Sun	03-Apr-22	Sunday worship with Communion	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Mon	04-Apr-22	Officers Meeting	4:00pm	Downing Place URC
Mon	04-Apr-22	Lent House Group	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	05-Apr-22	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Tue	05-Apr-22	Lent House Group	2:30pm -	Rooms 1 & 2
Tue	05-Apr-22	Thanksgiving Service for Revd. John Whitehorn	2:30pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	06-Apr-22	Lunchtime Concert - Tobias Campos (tenor)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	06-Apr-22	Hub Hospitality	10:00am - 4:00pm	The Hub
Thu	07-Apr-22	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Fri	08-Apr-22	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Sat	09-Apr-22	Induction of Alex Clare-Young as Pioneer Minister, followed by tea	2:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	10-Apr-22	Palm Sunday, worship led by Revd Dr David Cornick	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Mon	11-Apr-22	Holy Week reflection with Revd John Proctor		Youtube
Tue	12-Apr-22	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Tue	12-Apr-22	Holy week reflection with Revd John Proctor		YouTube
Wed	13-Apr-22	Lunchtime Concert - Eduard Sanchez (flute)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Wed	13-Apr-22	Hub Hospitality	10:00am - 4:00pm	The Hub
Wed	13-Apr-22	Holy week reflection with Revd John Proctor		Youtube
Thu	14-Apr-22	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	14-Apr-22	Maundy Thursday Communion led by Revd Deborah McVey		
Fri	15-Apr-22	Free Churches' Good Friday Service	10:00am	St Andrew's Street Baptist Church AND on Zoom
Fri	15-Apr-22	Good Friday Service	2:00pm	Fulbourn URC
Fri	15-Apr-22	Good Friday Meditation	5:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sat	16-Apr-22	A Concert of Choral Music for Easter by Cambridge Voices (see p.27)	4:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sat	16-Apr-22	Easter Eve reflection, led by Revd John Proctor	5:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	17-Apr-22	Easter Sunday worship with Communion	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	17-Apr-22	Open Table Communion Service	7:30pm	Downing Place URC
Tue	19-Apr-22	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Tue	19-Apr-22	REMINDER - Sign up for Gibson Lunch		
Wed	20-Apr-22	DEADLINE for submitting articles for May 'Place Matters'		
Wed	20-Apr-22	Lunchtime Concert - Ivan Hovorun (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	20-Apr-22	Hub Hospitality	10:00am - 4:00pm	The Hub

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Thu	21-Apr-22	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	21-Apr-22	Gibson Lunch	12:30pm	Gibson Hall
Sun	24-Apr-22	Low Sunday Worship led by Penny Flynn	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Mon	25-Apr-22	Officers Meeting	4:00pm	Downing Place URC
Tue	26-Apr-22	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Tue	26-Apr-22	Worship, Discipleship and Spirituality Group Meeting	7:15pm	Zoom
Wed	27-Apr-22	Lunchtime Concert - Roland Robertson (organ)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	27-Apr-22	Hub Hospitality	10:00am - 4:00pm	The Hub
Wed	27-Apr-22	World Church & Public Issues Group Meeting	7:30pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	28-Apr-22	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	01-May-22	Sunday Worship with Communion	11:00am	Downing Place URC

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 April Tobias Campos (tenor) & Yau Cheng (piano)
13 April Eduard Sanchez (flute)
20 April Ivan Hovorun (piano)
27 April Roland Robertson (organ)

See more on our website:

<https://downingplaceurc.org/lunchtime-concerts/>

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL 2022

These are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary, as in ROOTS, the material used by our Children's Ministry team. They may be altered if that is the preacher's wish.

April

3 *Lent V, Passion Sunday*

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

10 *Palm Sunday*

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 118:1-2;19-29

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 19:28-40

14 *Maundy Thursday*

Exodus 12.1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalm 116.1-2, 12-19

I Corinthians 11.23-26

John 13.1-17, 31b-35

15 *Good Friday*

Isaiah 52.13-53.12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10.16-25 or Hebrews 4.14-16 and 5.7-9

John 18.1-19.42

17 *Easter Day*

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2;14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12

24 *Easter 2 (Low Sunday)*

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

May

1 *May Easter 3*

Acts 9:1-6,(7-20)

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 15:1-12

PRAYER FOR PEACE

FOR THOSE WHO ARE FLEEING: SANCTUARY

FOR THOSE WHO ARE STAYING: SAFETY

FOR THOSE WHO ARE FIGHTING: PEACE

FOR THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE BREAKING: COMFORT

FOR THOSE WHO SEE NO FUTURE: HOPE

FOR THOSE IN LEADERSHIP: WISDOM

ADAPTED FROM POOR CLARE MONASTERY GALWAY

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 May edition to both Sheila and Ann by the cut off date of **Wednesday 20 April**

The May edition will be available from **Sunday 1 May**.