



**DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE**

PLACE MATTERS



**ISSUE 41
MAY 2022**

CONTACT DETAILS – DOWNING PLACE URC

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

Telephone: 01223 756635

Website: www.downingplaceurc.org

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

Pioneer Minister: The Revd Alex Clare-Young
alex@downingplaceurc.org
07544 858918

Children's Ministry Team Co-ordinator:
Elza de Bruin Lara
children@downingplaceurc.org

Open Table Co-ordinator:
Alison Binney
opentable@downingplaceurc.org

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

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

Church Secretary: Margaret Thompson
secretary@downingplaceurc.org

Clerk to the Elders' Meeting

Owen Saxton
clerk@downingplaceurc.org

Treasurer:

Ian Strachan
treasurer@downingplaceurc.org

Hospital and Hospice Visitor:

The Revd. Deborah McVey
hospitalvisitor@downingplaceurc.org

Directors of Music:

Mark Dawes
mark@downingplaceurc.org

Ian de Massini
ian@downingplaceurc.org

Audio-visuals:

av@downingplaceurc.org

Front cover: The Mayor of Cambridge, Russ McPherson, greets newly–inducted Pioneer Minister Alex Clare-Young on Saturday 9 April.

Photograph by Jess Uden.

FROM THE MINISTER

A whole year has passed since we were able to re-occupy the Downing Place Church premises, after so extensive a redevelopment. I do not want to speak for others, but for myself I can honestly say that I have been truly surprised at how grateful I am for it. I am among those resorting to words akin to the ancient Scots, 'Wow'. That spontaneous exclamation has an eloquence all its own for summing up the impression of light, space and elegance that have been brought not just to the Sanctuary, but also to the Hub, the garden and the first floor, where modern meeting rooms cleverly retain Victorian features.



I prefer to work with words, so I don't have a very good imagination for envisaging what things will look like. I think that is why, at the planning stage, although people could describe their aspirations and preferred plans to me, I wasn't easily able to picture it. Moreover, although I had access to the building throughout the project, it was months before I could begin to see what the new space was going to be like. Scaffolding, tarpaulin, and whole areas being 'out of bounds' rather obscure one's vision! I entirely understand that not everyone likes it, or at least has a mixed reaction. It is, after all, very different from either Emmanuel or St Columba's, in both appearance and feel. And that makes me all the more grateful for the generous spirit that so many are bringing to it. It was never meant to be a preservation of the past. The dream was of honouring and building on our forebears' legacy from yesterday to create something 'up to the minute' for today, which would be our legacy to those who follow us tomorrow. If you love it, I am pleased. If you are gradually coming to appreciate it, thank you for giving it time. And if you are struggling, thank you for sticking with us as we are evolving into a new community. If there are things that it would help you to talk about, or ideas about how to continue letting it mature, please do not hesitate to ask to see me. I would be very pleased to meet you.

As I review the first year of activities that made the space so full of life, I am impressed by their variety, and grateful for the many people who enable this early thriving of:

- worship services every Sunday, both in person and online;
- each of the rites of passage, viz baptism of infants and a believer, marriages, and funerals;

- Bible Study;
- committee and group meetings;
- community usage, which includes some of the activities the two churches used to host, plus some new ones, like the anonymous groups, ecumenical Meditation Group, yoga, Lateral Flow Test distribution, academic robing room, etc;
- music of a considerably eclectic style, both for services and for concerts, arranged by our own Directors of Music and their colleagues, by *Cambridge Voices*, by *Sing Out Choir*, and of course, the greatly valued weekly Wednesday Concerts;
- the measured return of the Night Lite space for Street Pastors and of the Group Therapy Centre;
- the use of the Hub as a place for fellowship, work and meeting;
- and as I write, *Cambridge4Ukraine* is valuing the opportunity afforded by what we did so that they can occupy offices and meeting spaces for their work in welcoming people seeking refuge in the city from Ukraine.

Given this rich tapestry of activities since May 2021, I am conscious of the considerable potential for a great deal yet to be. That is even more likely now that we have been able to welcome the Revd Alex Clare-Young to be the Pioneer Minister working out of Downing Place Church in the Cambridge community. Their work will not leave us where they have found us, and who knows what will transpire?

In the month covered by this edition of *Place Matters*, we will celebrate Ascension Day, on 26th May. A Methodist minister, Janet Corlett, reflects upon that often forgotten but truly important moment in the church's year. She notes that Charles Wesley seems to have been as ready to write hymns about the Ascension as about Easter. Indeed, it's interesting to note that Mark's Gospel implies there's almost no time between Christ rising and ascending. In a Bible Study for the World Council of Churches, Janet Corlett muses, 'perhaps [Wesley] regarded the Lord's rising from the grave and into heaven as two aspects of the one triumphal procession'. Essentially, of course, the heavens and the earth are all part of God's one creation. The fact that we can no longer see the ascended Jesus is not meant to suggest he is no longer with us. Indeed, the Holy Spirit remains with us here and now, God with us today.

There's even more to Ascensiontide, too. Central to the purpose of the church, is its vocation to give dynamic, life-enhancing expression to the presence of

Christ in today's world. I dare to believe it is in so doing that the renewed premises of Downing Place Church achieve one of the things that is central to the concept that energised us to rejuvenate them for ours and succeeding generations. Janet Corlett's WCC Bible Study speaks of 'thin places': places where there seems to be no distance at all between heaven and earth. Might we aim for something like that as the inspiration for what happens in the Sanctuary, the Hub, the Hall, the Emmanuel Room, and everywhere else on our corner of Downing Street and Downing Place? As she puts it, 'we ourselves can become 'thin places', where dimensions collide, and earth is kissed by heaven.'¹ Don't misunderstand me – we won't always achieve that, because each of us is prone to get too much wrong too often. But, unless we aspire to something superlative, we will only ever achieve the mediocre. And I don't think Ascension Day is about the mediocre. For the sake of the world in which we are set, may God help us to be a community where heaven and earth both collide and kiss. As a more contemporary writer has it in an Ascension Day blessing:

God of laughter and tears,
immerse us in glory,
clothe us in power,
fill us with wisdom,
bless us with love. Amen

Ruth Burgess, in *Fire and Bread*
Wild Goose Publications 2006

So be it.

Nigel Uden

¹ The Bible study is available at [11th Assembly Bible study - Ascension | World Council of Churches \(oikoumene.org\)](http://11thAssemblyBiblestudy-Ascension|WorldCouncilofChurches(oikoumene.org)). It is one that prepares for the 11th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches late this summer in Germany. The Assembly's theme is '*Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity.*'

GOING PLACES - NEW SOCIAL EVENTS GROUP FOR ALL

The last two years have been difficult for many, perhaps most, of us, in terms of spending time with friends and acquaintances, and getting to know people better. This led me to come up with an idea; when I shared it with Nigel and others, they encouraged me to go ahead.

A new self-running social group is being set up, open to everyone with some connection to Downing Place.

If you're reading this, then you have some connection to Downing Place! Whilst we most frequently see each other – in person, or online – in the context of worship, and activities in our extended church community, most of us find that we often enjoy each others' company as friends and companions. The group **Going Places** simply offers informal opportunities to meet for tea in someone's garden, to go for a walk, go to the theatre or cinema: maybe get together for a barbecue, punting, a pub outing, poetry reading ... or any event, self-organised or public, where you'd welcome company.

Anyone can email a suggestion for a get-together of some kind to the group (and if you're not on email, we can pass it on for you), suggesting a maximum number if you prefer. Of course, you can reply and come along to anything that interests you. Anyone interested can be added to the email list – just contact Jane Bower or Tim Rowland and we'll see that you are included. Join us in **Going Places**!

Jane Bower



A note from Sheila Porrer

This May's Place Matters will be my last issue as editor. I am very pleased to be handing over to Tim Rowland, who takes over in June. Many thanks to everyone who has supplied "copy" of any kind, and especially to all of you who produced your very interesting profiles which helped us to get to know each other after the union of the two Churches. Thanks too to Ann, and before her Elaine, for support, and the computer expertise which has made such a difference to the look of the magazine.

And thanks of course to Tim for taking this forward, I hope he will enjoy it as much as I have. I shall look forward to reading each monthly issue as Downing Place moves ahead and develops its distinctive mission.

WARM THANKS TO SHEILA PORRER

Many varied contributions have been important in the early years of Downing Place Church's life. Significant amongst them has been the tireless work of Sheila Porrer as Editor of Place Matters. In her partnership with Ann Auger, she has ensured its consistently excellent standard as the church's monthly magazine. Through many articles, each carefully researched and beautifully presented with illustrations, we have been kept informed about the daily life and work of the congregation, we have been inspired for the task to which we committed ourselves in June 2018, and we have been challenged to take seriously things like justice and sustainability. Not least, as the two churches grew together, we have been introduced to one another through the fascinating series of articles about church personalities. All of this has been key to our evolving united life. Sheila has brought an astute sense of what would be a good read, a meticulous attention to detail, and a devoted commitment to ensuring we all received Place Matters month by month. On behalf of us all, I would like to record our sincere and warm thanks to Sheila for her considerable service to the church, alongside everything else she does, including being an elder. We wish her and Robert well, and God's blessing.

Nigel Uden

INDUCTION OF ALEX-CLARE-YOUNG AS PIONEER MINISTER

SATURDAY 9 APRIL 2022

Alex writes: Thank-you all for a wonderfully welcoming and affirming service which was a timely reminder, in the words of three attendees, that pioneer ministry is, “not a watery, half-full cup of coffee, but a banquet of plenty for all”, “wonderfully uncomfortable” and, poignantly, that a pioneer minister comes “not with axe and sword but with empty hands ready to receive and to hold”. And so, as we reflect on this event and look to the future, I wonder what a banquet of plenty looks like for those spending time in Cambridge City Centre? I wonder how we best might support each-other in our wonderful discomfort? And I wonder what it might look like to hold out our empty hands and simply wait? To hold us as we travel, some words from Sophia Efthimiou, sung in the service by Sing Out Cambridge,

‘This is home where I belong, in this breath, in this heart. This is home where I belong, in this voice, in this song.’



Cambridge's MP, Daniel Zeichner, welcomes Alex and looks forward to their ministry among the people of Cambridge



The Scriptures were opened by Alison Binney (top), representing the Open Table community at Downing Place; and the Revd Dr Janet Tollington, formerly Old Testament Tutor at Westminster College (bottom)



Iain Spence, Director of Cambridge Street Pastors, brings greetings from the Street Pastors and NightLite teams and looks forward to working with Alex on the streets of Cambridge

Jane Bower writes:

It was a delight to be present, among many others, at yet another ‘first’ in the life of Downing Place Church. From the playing of *Penny Lane* and *Calling all Workers*, to the interpretations of ‘the right hand of fellowship’ (elbows, waves, bows....) this was a service of eclectic and exciting variety, opening new possibilities in worship, thought and mission.



*Alex is formally inducted as Pioneer Minister
by the Moderator of the Eastern Synod, Revd Lythan Nevard.*

Revd Lythan Nevard, Moderator of the Eastern Synod, presided, assisted by many other representatives of aspects of our church and city life. In her statement she said that God knows more about what this new role will entail than any of us yet do; reminders of what might lay ahead were provided in the slides of Cambridge and the events of daily life alongside the readings, and in the inspiring sermon given by Alex’s wife Jo, who used the song *Tom’s Diner* by Suzanne Vega to stimulate and challenge our thinking about where God was to be found, linking this to the story of Peter being asked to change his views on the food being offered to him in his dream (Acts 10:9-20).



The sermon was delivered by Revd Jo Clare-Young

Showing illustrations of Jesus washing the feet both of Ukrainian refugees and of Vladimir Putin, she stated that ‘God’s choice is radical inclusion. God chooses us all.’

In Alex’s own statement reference was made to various venues where we might ‘find our place’, and Alex acknowledged that the role of Pioneer Minister could well involve risks and vulnerability. Alex’s affirmations were made in courage and faith, and the congregation in turn promised to pray for, support and encourage them in their new role.

Revd Nigel Uden spoke of the clear calling that was felt both by Alex and by those seeking to appoint, and reminded us that Revd John Bradbury was key to clarifying the vision for the role; John would certainly have been present had he not been unwell, and had contributed to the prayers Nigel offered.

Choral singing was provided both by DP’s own choir and Sing Out, the latter eliciting applause from the Lord Mayor in which we gladly joined. A splendid array of cakes drew us into the hall for animated conversation.



The Downing Place Church Choir in full song

The last hymn of the service, written by Alex, asks that we ‘show love is a verb’ and listen for ‘whispers of God’s Holy Word, in voices we have not yet heard.’ Amen – may it be so.

All photographs were taken by Jess Uden

PROFILE—PIPPA JONES

I was born and brought up in Norfolk, first in Wymondham, where we had a lovely view of the Abbey, then just outside Norwich. I have 2 older brothers: Gordon, a retired history teacher, lives in Shropshire and has 2 adult children; and the other, Stephen, a translator and editor in French and German, lives in Canada, south of Montreal in the Eastern townships. He and his wife have 2 children as well.



Christmas in Canada with my nephew and niece

I began piano lessons at 6 and a year or two later mum took me to a concert in St Andrew's Hall, Norwich to hear Jacqueline Du Pre playing Schumann's cello concerto with the local orchestra. That was it! That sound, her personality and her long blond hair, sold the cello to me. I remember stamping my foot quite firmly, (not my usual style) when my parents thought learning the piano was sufficient for me. Very soon after starting lessons in school, I knew I wanted to be a cello teacher. Those were the days when learning an instrument in school was free. I had 10 years of tuition with Barry Wright and Stephen Thornton's mother accompanied me for my Grade 8! Small world.

I was very happy to get a place at Dartington College of Arts to study on the instrumental teaching course. Their methods were fairly unorthodox, which I appreciated, as I was not keen to study on a traditional course at a London College and didn't think I had reached the standard needed there in any case. After studying at Dartington, with a final year of teacher training at Rolle College

Exmouth, I was appointed cello teacher for the County Music Service in Cambridge. This gave me a really good grounding in cello teaching and for many years I taught violin in primary schools as well. At one time I had 17 schools and over 100 pupils! I had a number of happy years coaching the County Youth Orchestra, National Children's Orchestra and the Cambridge Holiday Orchestra.

I find that instrumental teaching is a really good way to get alongside young people. That one-to-one connection through music over many years can be a benefit in both directions. It's interesting to watch those pupils develop and also an opportunity to be a listening ear when they are in the midst of difficult times, or to celebrate with them in happier ones. There are former pupils that I keep in contact with and continue to follow their lives with interest. Some have become good friends.



Being part of the music service gave me many opportunities for playing. I have had experiences in many groups; string quartets/quintets, flute, cello and piano trios, small orchestras playing continuo, accompanying choirs in Bach's St Matthew and St John Passions and the B Minor Mass (including for Ian de Massini). I also play with EACHO which is an orchestra based in Cambridge.

Playing the cello is a skill that is always developing. I continue to have lessons (2 or 3 a year) and this helps to refresh my teaching as well. I have a really fine teacher at the moment, but one's colleagues also stimulate and encourage one to "keep on striving".

Rehearsing in Great St Mary's

I have, in the last 10 years been very fortunate to attend a chamber music course in the Czech Republic run by the Martinu quartet. Each group arrives minus one player and is completed by a member of the Martinu quartet. Having a professional playing with you is like having a rocket in your midst and, enables you to play beyond your capabilities in many ways. Zbynek Pad'ourek, who is the violist in that quartet, has been a huge inspiration to me and so many others. Meeting people from across the world who come to that course, is wonderful too. Music crosses many boundaries and languages.

My father was one of 4 boys, born in Wales and he was the only one not to go into the church, although he served as an elder at Trinity Church, Norwich for

many years until his death.

My mother was Italian, with a Swiss-French mother and Italian father. My parents met just after the war, when my dad was working for the Allied Screening Commission, in Rome, compensating Italian civilians for helping British prisoners of war who had escaped. My mother worked for the International telephone network.

They married at the Scottish Presbyterian church in Rome. After they'd married and had moved to the UK my parents lived for the first year with my father's parents in Scotland. It was a big change for my mother.

My grandfather, Anselmo Ammenti was a Methodist Minister. My grandmother, Rose supported him in many ways and due to Anselmo's stipend being very basic, the family took in paying guests, usually Swiss tourists. At that time they lived in Venice. The church there is very close to St Mark's Square. My mother told me that when they moved to Venice when she was 8, she thought they'd moved to Fairyland.



My parents' marriage in Rome

A book by Valdo Benecchi, once a prominent figure in the Italian Methodist church, includes a chapter on my grandfather Anselmo's work, particularly as minister of the Methodist Church in Rome, where the family moved after leaving Venice in 1939. It documents how, as an outspoken critic of the Fascist party he was denounced by them for speaking out about the discrimination against the Jews. As things became ever more perilous, he with his wife hid Jews during the war, enabling them to make false papers and escape capture. Some were hidden in their home and others in the church.

My mother told me that he was a very charismatic preacher and I wish I had known him, because he died when I was four, so I only have a vague memory of him on a visit with my mother the year before his death.

It's a matter of regret to me and my brothers, that we were not brought up bilingual. Of course, holidays visiting family in Italy developed my ear, but most of my Italian language has been learnt since I left home. Since the start of the first lockdown, my brothers and 2 of my cousins in Italy have met regularly for an hour-long chats online. It's been a real joy to get to know my cousins better



My mother, brothers, me and Anita (my cousin from Italy) on the Norfolk Broads

and have some corrections in pronunciation and expansion of vocabulary. Of course we also reminisce about our parents and holidays together.

When after 3 happy years training to be a peripatetic teacher in Devon, I got the job in Cambridge, my brothers commented wryly that, as usual, I had fallen on my feet. Indeed that's true. I have had so many opportunities to play in groups, met so many people and continue to love teaching.

Arriving at Emmanuel URC, where Tony Coates was the minister, I came into membership soon after. I certainly did not envisage being nominated as an elder, but was struck by comments our then minister, Derek Wales made from the pulpit one Sunday after receiving "that letter," saying "who were we to deny gifts others see in us?" So finally, full of trepidation, I agreed. That was 28 years ago.

Like so many others I've spoken to, being nominated an elder is daunting and humbling, but an honour and privilege. I suspect that most of us serving, did not envisage becoming elders. However, it's also an opportunity to discover things that one didn't know one could do. It's good to be pushed out of one's comfort zone sometimes. One of the aspects that I find very moving, is serving Communion and another I find enjoyable and rewarding is having a pastoral group. I feel that being part of a team of people who have varied gifts is a blessing in so many ways.



A short break with church friends

JOHN WHITEHORN

There was great sadness at the news of the death of Rev. John Whitehorn, not just in Downing Place but across the world and especially in Taiwan where had lived and worked. But there was also thankfulness for his life and celebration of his achievements. At the service of thanksgiving here in Downing Place on April 5th, which was livestreamed and watched by friends abroad, we heard tributes from family and from colleagues, including two videos from the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the Paiwan Presbytery, which made clear just how John's work there was still held in great esteem and himself in great affection.

Here in Cambridge back in 2015 John was interviewed for St Columba's *Reflections*, an occasional magazine, as part of an issue on missionary work from this Congregation. We reproduce here that interview, as a tribute to John and an acknowledgment of his contribution to that work.

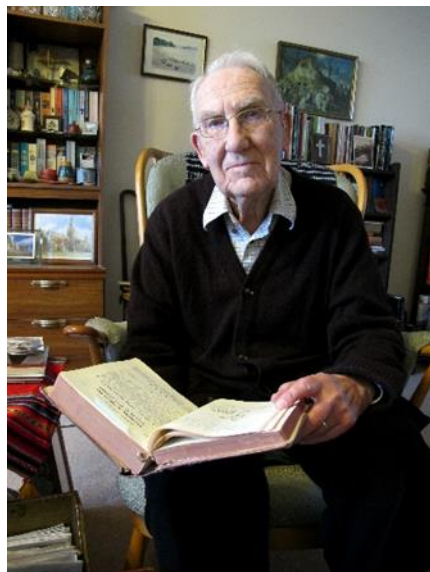
JOHN WHITEHORN INTERVIEWED

The name of John Whitehorn, a current member of St Columba's, appears on the Missionary Board alongside that of his first wife, Elizabeth. He told Sheila Porrer about his career.



John Whitehorn was born in 1925 in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, where his father was the Minister of the Presbyterian Church, before serving in York and Oxford, and then moving on to Westminster College in Cambridge as Professor of Church History in 1938. His paternal grandfather was Session Clerk in the English Presbyterian Church in St. John's Wood, and his brother Michael was also a Minister. After leaving school in 1943, John joined the Army and was sent to India, and to Karachi for a year, for instruction in Japanese at the British Army school there. He was then transferred to Hong Kong to serve as liaison officer for Japanese lawyers representing defendants in war crimes trials, accused of mistreating British and other prisoners of war. He was demobbed in 1947, and returned to Cambridge, where he spent three years at Trinity Hall, reading classics and theology. He then moved on to the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, where he studied phonetics and techniques for learning and recording a language where no written sources exist.

His knowledge of Japanese had prepared him for language and translation work in Taiwan, where the Presbyterian Church of England sent him in 1951. After he had travelled round the island and met people from the different tribes, it was agreed that he should undertake the study of Paiwan, one of the minority languages spoken by indigenous tribes. Taiwan had been under Japanese rule between 1895 and 1945, and in those years the language of education, Japanese, had become the lingua franca of the island. After 1945 Japanese was replaced by Mandarin Chinese, but a minority – around 2% of the population – still used local dialects from the Polynesian language family, a group stretching from New Zealand in the South to Taiwan in the North, and from Madagascar in the West to Easter Island in the East. Paiwan was spoken by the second largest of around ten indigenous tribes, peoples living in the southern part of the mountainous east of the island. Out of a Taiwan population of more than 7 million at the time, around 70,000 were Paiwan speakers – rather less than 1% of the total population.



By the time John arrived in 1951, just a few Paiwan people had become Christian. The main town of Pingtung, where John would be based, had one Christian Minister from the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, and he had arranged for a Church Sister to live in the villages and teach the Christian Gospel. Half a dozen little Churches had been established, and one or two local men had been to Bible College. One young man was chosen to help John learn the Paiwan language – starting from scratch, with no written sources to help!

They began on the first day by pointing to parts of the body – head, hand, leg – for the young man to name them and John to write them down phonetically. The gradual exploration of the language took a year or so, and after this time it was possible to write out hymns and parts of the Bible in Paiwan, beginning with St. Mark's Gospel. It was a team effort, eventually involving half a dozen local speakers who translated from the Japanese Bible, or, in the case of the younger ones who had been educated after the Japanese left in 1945, the Chinese Bible. John made any necessary corrections by correlating the Paiwan text with the English Bible, and wrote down the Paiwan version, using English alphabetic characters. The whole of the New Testament was published in 1973, with the Paiwan text in Mandarin Phonetic Adaptation Script, in deference to the wishes

of the Chinese Nationalist government. This script had been developed for children to use before they could understand or pronounce the thousands of ideograms of Mandarin Chinese. The Chinese text written in these ideograms appeared at the bottom of the pages. The illustrations look familiar, as they were taken from the Good News Bible!



The first verses of St John's Gospel in Paiwan

Twenty years later, in 1993, the Paiwan New Testament was again published, this time in romanised abc letters, together with about half of the Old Testament. John continues to work on the Paiwan language, collaborating with scholars from Canada and Taiwan who are working to finalise the text of the remaining parts of the Old Testament.

Meanwhile John had come back to Cambridge in 1954 to study for two years at Westminster, where he was ordained in 1956. As an ordained Minister, he could carry out baptisms and ordinations of elders in the mountain villages where he travelled. He returned to Taiwan in 1956, having married, in St. Columba's, his first wife, Elizabeth Haslam, a doctor, whose name also appears on the St. Columba's Missionary Roll of Honour in the Gibson Hall. He worked in Taiwan until 1970, and two of his four children were born there, the other two travelling out at the age of three months. Elizabeth worked part-time in local Christian clinics and hospitals, and also home-schooled the children for part of the day. They did however also attend local Taiwanese kindergarten schools, being taught in Chinese and learning about Chinese life and culture. The family lived in Pingtung and attended a local Taiwanese Church, while John continued to make journeys in the mountains, looking after the Christian communities and also continuing with his language work. Their nearest European neighbours were the Norwegians who ran a local hospital.

The family moved to the Giok-san school (Yushan in Mandarin Chinese) on the

East Coast of Taiwan for two years in 1964 when John was asked to be Acting Principal of that training school for potential Ministers and pastoral workers for the tribal peoples, while the Principal took study leave abroad. In theory the translation work continued, but in practice the demands of the training school took priority.

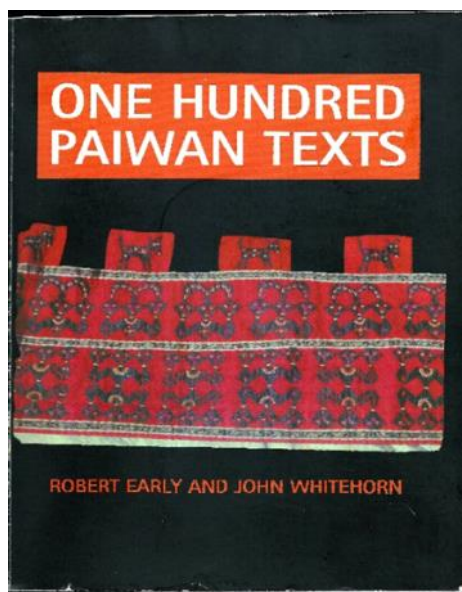


Giok-san School 1965



The Whiteborns in Taiwan in 1969

John's work on the Paiwan language continued after his return to England in 1970. He was a contributor to a Paiwan-English Dictionary, which appeared in 1982. The originator of the Dictionary, Raleigh Ferrell, an anthropologist from Washington State University, wrote in his introduction that "The Reverend John Whitehorn, Presbyterian Missionary in Pingtung Hsien, was of tremendous help with this Dictionary. he painstakingly went through the entire document and furnished me with an extensive list of corrections and additions based on his own many years experience with the language. I recovered much valuable data with these leads. ...his influence will be observed on nearly every page." Work on the dictionary continues, with John supplying new material to the editor for on-line publication. John also worked with scholars from Australasia to publish "One Hundred Paiwan Texts", which appeared in 2003.



More recently John was the first contributor to the World Oral Literature Project, an archive of "heritage recordings" initiated by the School of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge. He was able to provide a series of audio-tapes in the Paiwan language he had made in Taiwan, which have been digitised and are available on-line (www.oralliterature.org). As for the Paiwan language, it is still spoken by a substantial minority of the tribal peoples of Taiwan – thanks to John's work it has achieved recognition and been recorded for future generations.

TRAIDCRAFT UPDATE, APRIL 2022



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Thank you to all who have supported the Traidcraft stall in recent months and made special purchases in the lead up to Easter. We have been able to build up trade steadily on Sunday mornings and have found that setting up the stall at the Hub tea bar has given us more prominence. This has resulted in increased sales and more conversations about Traidcraft as people queue up for their coffee!

Since February, we have also been running a stall in the Hub on Wednesdays between 12.00 noon and 3.00pm, as part of the Hub Hospitality initiative. This has been welcomed by concert goers and those working or attending groups in the church premises, as well as by church members and those visitors who pop in for a cup of tea or coffee throughout the day.

We would also like to thank those of you who have continued to help setting up and serving on the stall. We are a relatively small group and would welcome anyone who feels they could join the Sunday rota or offer any help on a Wednesday, either on a regular basis or occasionally to cover for someone unable to attend. If you feel you could help in any way please contact Lorraine or Stephen who will explain what is involved.

Please remember that although the stall is now running successfully again, we are still happy to take orders and make home deliveries for those who find that more convenient than shopping on a Sunday. Just pick up a catalogue and email or phone Lorraine to place an order.

Any Fair Trade purchase made, either from Traidcraft or in the supermarkets helps to provide growers and producers in the developing world with a fair price for their goods in order to support their families and the ability to improve facilities and educational opportunities in their local communities.



Lorraine and Stephen Thornton

INTRODUCING BIBLIODRAMA

Some years ago I was introduced to a practice which, across much of Europe, is known as Bibliodrama. Although it developed largely within the German church scene in the 1970s as well as in a number of other European countries, it has never taken root in the UK beyond the workshops that I and one or two others have led from time to time, having trained as a facilitator in Germany.

Its name might suggest that it involves the performing of Bible stories but in reality it is rather different. It can be described as the engagement of the whole person, not just the mind, with sacred texts or themes in different but related ways that can explore interpretation, meaning, implications and the relationship with our own lived experience. This is often playful and always with creative intentions.

The drama involves spontaneity and improvisation rather than the following of a script. It is also a group exercise which is for the benefit of the group as well as the individual, so there is no intention to create a performance for others. This means that the interaction between participants is an important part of the exercise and at the start people are asked to treat both the text and whatever others may share or create within the workshops, with respect. Participants are not there to argue or disagree, except sometimes in the taking of a role, but to listen. Confidentiality can be important which is why it hard to find videos of Bibliodrama in action except where express permission has been given.

It's also important that no-one needs to be proficient in acting or below a certain age or fit and nimble! It can be engaged in by anyone. The only requirement is the willingness to have a go. Workshops do not only use drama. A variety of other forms of expression are regularly used, depending on what may be appropriate. Suggestions for this may come from the facilitator or may be generated from the group itself. The tone may be serious or playful. Whatever approach is used it is focussed on exploring the significance of the text and our encounter with it.

Each workshop normally has three components; some form of physical warming up that connects us physically as well as mentally with the text; playing with the text, however that is done and then the sharing of experience and reflection. One of the strengths of the approach is that whilst occasionally some 'expert' input perhaps about the background to a text may be helpful or important, in the actual play, everyone's contribution is as valuable as everyone else's. The usual length of a workshop is 3 hours.

I hope that there will be some who would be interested at least in an introductory session and then possibly in some further sessions on a pattern to be decided. A Bibliodrama day can be held on a theme with two workshops or an evening workshop on an agreed regular pattern is another possibility.

If there was enough interest it may be possible to hold an introductory session in early to middle June with a time to be agreed.

Although there is little filmed Bibliodrama, as I have explained, a Hungarian colleague has created a resource on the intercultural and interreligious use of Bibliodrama, 'The Word and the Act'. Not every Bibliodrama session follows the same pattern but this serves as a good introduction. If you look at the video you will see that international Bibliodrama is almost always conducted in English! The video is on You Tube in 2 parts and can be accessed via these two links <https://youtu.be/MNPe0KWIS0> (Part 1) <https://youtu.be/-AbrjNwiXD8> (Part 2)

Please let me know if you are interested and if there are at least 6 people we can look for a date and time to set up a workshop.

David Tatem

STAMPS FOR CHARITY

Over the past years, many friends have given me a great variety of UK and foreign postage stamps which I have sent to Christian Aid via a third party. Regrettably, with immediate effect, the third party is no longer involved with this arrangement and I have therefore stopped sending stamps to Christian Aid. They have acknowledged with gratitude our gifts over the years.

I am still happy to receive stamps of any sort or age. I am now sending them on to the Leprosy Mission to assist their vital work in many parts of the developing world. They already have arrangements with dealers to realise funds.

I do hope that you will continue your donations, however large or small!

With grateful thanks,

Ted Dennison



MONTHLY CAUSE FOR MAY CHRISTIAN AID

May is Christian Aid month – **Christian Aid week** begins on **May 15th** – and Christian Aid is our monthly cause for May.

The theme for Christian Aid Week 2022 is “**Hungry for Justice**”. The spotlight is on communities in Zimbabwe where mothers like Jessica and Janet struggle to feed their families as drought means their crops are failing. But this is just one aspect of the injustice brought by climate change which affects especially the global south.

Christian Aid, as ever, works with local partners to find ways to tackle the problems. They provide better water supplies, teach farmers how to grow drought resistant crops, and how to build storage barns for surplus crops to get them through the drought seasons. The emphasis is on empowering local communities, especially the women, and never on handing out charity.

Read what Christian Aid say about this year’s appeal

Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives.

Our planet is changing, but some people are feeling the effects of these changes more than others. Weather extremes are now more frequent and more intense, and the world is facing a climate crisis.

For the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Coronavirus, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival.

One country that is on the frontlines of this crisis is Zimbabwe. In rural Zimbabwe, seven out of ten women rely on farming to earn a living and provide for their families. But the climate crisis has brought intense droughts that have left their land barren.

With no rain, women and men can’t grow enough food and they struggle to provide for their children. Drought starves. It robs women of the chance to farm and drives their families into hunger.

In times of drought, many families can only afford to eat one bowl of porridge a day. Women are hungrier, and often skip meals to share with their children what little food they have.

Meet Jessica: a mum, hungry to provide food – and hope – for her family.

‘Women are at the mercy of climate change and hunger,’ says Jessica Mwedzi, a loving and hard-working mum. Jessica is one of the many women at the mercy of the climate crisis. Drought makes every day a struggle for her survival. Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family.



Jessica toils on her farm, but food cannot grow on her ashen dry land. ‘One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening,’ she says. Drought makes women like her hungrier, poorer and robs them of the chance to earn a living with dignity..

Jessica shares her heartbreak: ‘My children crave a good meal, but I can’t provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry.’

Jessica watches her sons and daughters play outside as the golden sun fades across the sky. They hold hands, dance and sing. She finds a ray of hope that she will overcome this tough time. One day, Jessica will be able to provide her much-loved children with good food, and a full life, free from hunger.



Jessica and her family walk home from their garden as the sun sets

Meet Janet: a grandmother who transformed her dusty land into a garden of hope.

Another woman who has faced the worst of the climate crisis is Janet, a grandmother from Zimbabwe. In her village, Janet has experienced first hand how drought pushed her family into desperate hunger.

‘One year, there was so little food. Rains had not fallen. We ate things which we wouldn’t eat in normal times. I made porridge and gave it to the children, then removed a portion and put it down for the dogs. The children picked up the dogs’ share because they weren’t full. When I saw this, I knew the situation had become unbearable,’ Janet shared. ‘My heart was so painful thinking that my family would die. By God’s grace we did not die. We soldiered on.’

With faith, hope and love for her family, Janet brought her family through this painful time with the support of Christian Aid’s BRACT programme (Building Resilience through Absorptive and Adaptive Capacities for Transformation). BRACT helps the most at-risk communities in Zimbabwe to prepare for and adapt to the changing climate. Working with local partners, Christian Aid’s work empowers vulnerable communities to grow drought-tolerant crop, teaches women like Janet how to grow food in dry seasons and helps families to build storerooms to preserve food so they have the resilience to bounce back from future droughts. Families learn to eat more healthy, nutritious food and gain new skills for alternative sources of income when agriculture fails.

By learning how to grow drought-resistant crops with the support of Christian Aid,



Janet Zirugo with her great grandson Mufaro at their home in Zimbabwe



Janet's granddaughter Taonga carries an armful of food her grandmother has harvested.

Janet was able to bring her family through a painful time and turn her barren land into a garden of plenty. Now, her farm is bursting with life, and she harvests enough surplus food to share with her neighbours while also storing enough to survive future droughts.

Janet is a survivor, a force of kindness and a hunger fighter with the power to provide food and hope for her whole family. Her joy is seeing her grandchildren's smiling faces as they relish the food she has grown. 'My life is changing,' Janet says. 'This project is uplifting us. We are thankful'

As she reflects on how her life has changed, Janet sings with joy. And we rejoice with her.



Janet Zirugo waters fine beans in her garden of plenty

All images are © Christian Aid/ David Brazier

Empowered to provide

This Christian Aid Week you can help women like Jessica and Janet turn hunger into hope. Hand in hand with your church and community, you can restore justice to our world.

So far, we've helped over 27,000 people in Zimbabwe to stand strong and resilient to the climate crisis. But there is still more to do. With you by our side, we won't stop until everyone can live a full life, free from hunger. And with your generous support, women like Jessica will be empowered to provide food – and hope – for their families. The funds raised could help more women like Janet develop skills to provide meals for their family today and preserve and store food safely for the next season of severe drought.

This Christian Aid Week, will you stand with women like Jessica and Janet?

GIVE:

Please donate this Christian Aid Week (15-21 May). Your donations will help families facing poverty and injustice around the world.

- **£5** could buy **water taps** for a community garden
- **£15** could buy **drought-resistant seeds** like sorghum or millet to help **10 farmers** like Jessica to grow food
- **£60** could **train 50 women farmers** to adapt and grow food in the changing climate
- **£250** could help a family **build a storeroom**, and **provide seeds and fertilisers**

Every pound raised, every prayer said and every action taken, are expressions of our Christian love and compassion.

ACT:**Take action and call on justice to be restored**

In addition to standing together to support mums like Jessica and Janet in practical ways, this Christian Aid week, we also urge you to join us in taking action as we call on justice to be restored.

We believe that those most responsible for the climate crisis – including wealthy countries and fossil fuel companies – should pay for the loss and damage being caused in Zimbabwe and across the world.

As the climate crisis worsens, extreme weather will continue to devastate communities and destroy lives. The losses that occur during such events cannot be recovered and the damages are huge.

Christian Aid's Loss and Damage Campaign urges politicians to:

Push for a new global fund to pay for the loss and damage caused by the climate crisis

Introduce a new 'climate damages' tax on fossil fuel companies.

You can join us as we call on the UK Prime Minister and add your voice to climate justice. Sign our campaign online at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/loss-and-damage-petition>

PRAY

You can also pray with us for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that as a global community we will care for our common home and for people living in poverty.

Every one of us can change lives. And together, we can restore justice to our world.

Join us this Christian Aid Week to turn hunger into hope.

What are we doing in Downing Place and around?

Sunday 8th May – Service and Bring and Share Lunch

Our **morning service** will be led by the World Church and Public Issues group, and will have a Christian Aid theme. There will be envelopes in Church for your donations.

After the service there will be a **Bring and Share lunch**, with a speaker from Christian Aid. Watch out for the sign-up sheet where you can say what you will bring for the lunch. We will also need volunteers to help serve and clear away. Please try to come along if you possibly can to show your support for Christian Aid.

Sunday 15th May – Christian Aid service at All Saints Church Cottenham at 6 pm., with refreshments afterwards. This is the first time Cottenham have hosted our service, so we very much want to support them. It's a chance to get out into one of Cambridge's villages on a spring evening.

Saturday 21st May – Christian Aid Big Brekkie at St. John the Evangelist Church, Hills Road, 9 am -12pm. Everyone is welcome. St. John's hosted our Christian Aid service last year.

And a date for the diary :

Saturday July 9th: Christian Aid thank you tea for all supporters at **St. Augustine's Church, Richmond Road (CB4 3PS) 2.30pm-5pm.**

How Can I Give to Christian Aid?

There are several different ways you can make a donation to Christian Aid this year.

There will be envelopes in Church throughout May, and at the Lunch on May 8th

for your cash and cheques.

And of course there is the e-envelope, an efficient and cost-effective way of giving on-line.

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/sheila-porrer-downing-place?channel=copy>

Follow this link to go straight to Downing Place's own e-envelope and make a secure donation to Christian Aid.

Or go to the Christian Aid website for ways to donate on-line.

You can also phone **020 7523 2269** to make a telephone donation.

Or for details on how to pay money directly into Christian Aid's bank account please call **020 7523 2226**.

Christian Aid are still discouraging postal donations.

Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal – Update

As well as the ongoing work to bring climate justice to Zimbabwe and elsewhere, Christian Aid is still very active in relief work in the Ukraine conflict. Christian Aid are now working with 3 partner organisations in the ACT Alliance; Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) in Ukraine and Hungary, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Poland, and Swiss Church Aid (HEKS) in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania, to offer assistance to internally displaced peoples and to refugees.

So far, HIA have reached 26,187 people with lifesaving aid, shelter, truckloads of food (345 metric tons), water, sanitation and health support, as well as offering vital information for refugees and internally displaced people.

Through the DEC emergency appeal, Christian Aid has donated £1 million for trauma first aid kits and £1 million for urgently needed medical and pharmaceutical equipment, items and supplies, for Ukraine, through their partner Crown Agents, which is working directly with Ukraine's Ministry of Health to supply these kits to those caught up in the fighting.

To find out more, to donate and to sign a petition to our Government asking for a better humanitarian response, go to [Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal - Christian Aid](#)

A Christian Aid prayer for Ukraine

God of all peoples and nations,
Who created all things alive and breathing,
United and whole,
Show us the way of peace that is Your overwhelming presence.
We hold before you the peoples of Ukraine and Russia,
Every child and every adult.
We long for the time
When weapons of war are beaten into ploughshares
When nations no longer lift up sword against nation.
We cry out to you for peace;
Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and
safety
Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved
ones
Be with those who are bereaved.
Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression
And fill leaders with the wisdom that leads to peace.
Kindle again in us a love of our neighbour,
And a passion for justice to prevail and a renewed recognition that we
all play a part in peace.
Creator of all hear our prayer
And bring us peace. Make us whole.

Amen



Yoga for Ukraine

**SATURDAY 7TH MAY
SESSIONS FROM 10AM - 4PM**

**DOWNING PLACE URC
CAMBRIDGE**

Support your own wellbeing and make a difference with donation classes raising funds for the DEC Ukraine Appeal

With yoga for all levels, mindfulness, art for wellbeing, reflexology, refreshments and more - there's something for everyone in a beautiful setting

**BOOK NOW
& DONATE**

YOGAPROJECT.CO.UK

VIGIL FOR UKRAINE

Jess Uden reports:

On Monday 11th April we held a vigil for Ukraine and everyone affected by all that is happening there.

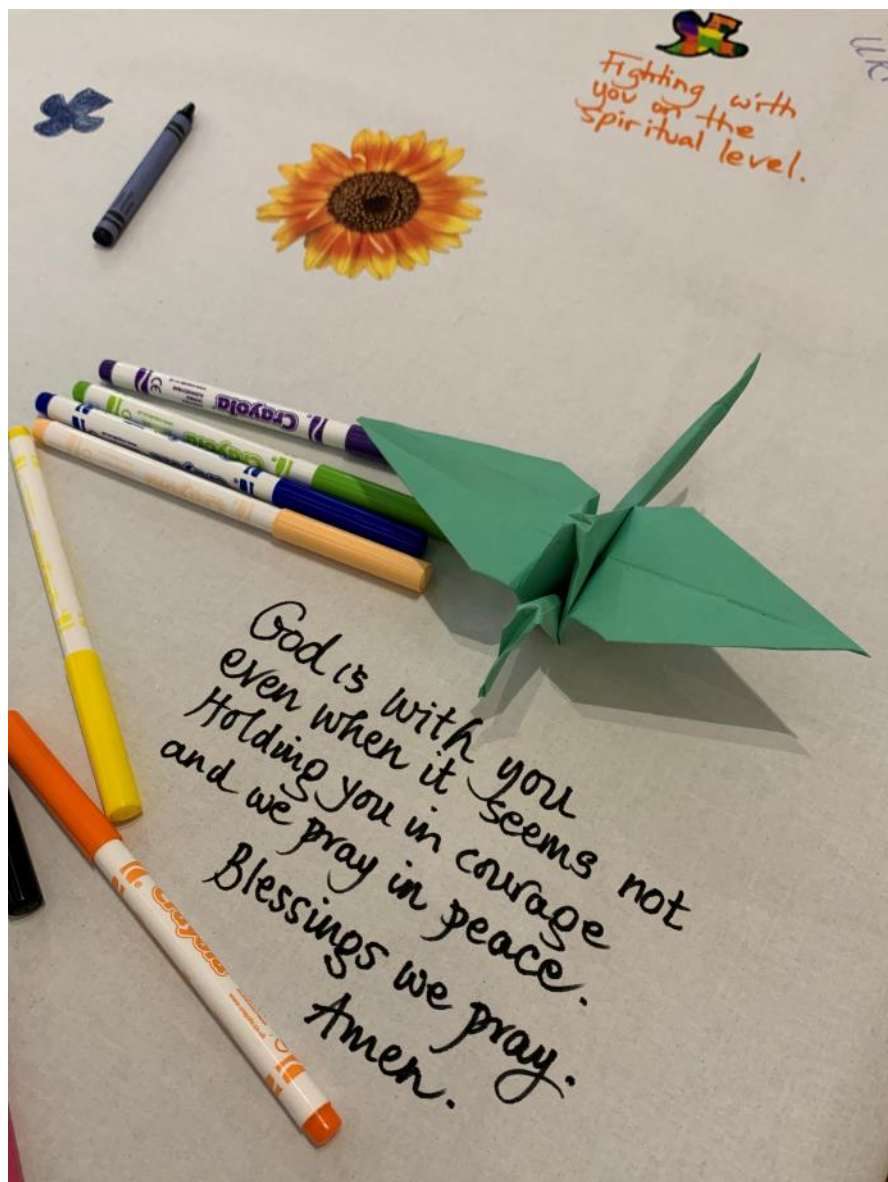
Throughout the day we welcomed not only congregation members and those who work at Downing Place, but also ecumenical and interfaith visitors from around the city. There were moments of speech, with liturgy on the hour every hour, moments of music from the cello, piano and organ, moments of creativity through colouring, origami and the composing of poems and prayers, and many moments of silence when candles were lit and the invasion of Ukraine, and how it is affecting millions in and around Ukraine was contemplated.



As we journeyed through Holy Week we knew many others weren't necessarily in a position to think of anything but their own suffering and struggles, therefore as we held Ukraine in our hearts and prayers we also remembered people in other parts of the world, close to home and far away, who are suffering in a myriad of ways.



Thank you so much to those who joined us and those who made the event possible; Nigel Uden, Alex Clare-Young, Deborah McVey, Janet Bottoms, Liz Caswell and Penny Flynn who led the liturgy, and to Pippa, Ian and Mark who gave us such exquisite music to accompany the day, and to those who made the event possible behind the scenes.



EGG DECORATING FUNDRAISER



On Sunday 24th April, Orthodox Easter, *Cambridge 4 Ukraine* held a cultural afternoon of Ukrainian Easter egg decorating, with all funds raised contributing to sending second-hand ambulances and medical supplies to Ukraine.

All those who gathered in the Gibson Hall and Hub were encouraged to create patterns on eggs using ancient techniques, pysanky & krashanky. During the pysanky process, eggs are decorated using the wax-resist (batik) method, where an instrument called a kistka or pysachok is used to "write" the design using wax. The typically colourful krashanky are created using edible paints and materials such as leaves and flowers to create relief patterns. They are typically made with boiled eggs that are later consumed as part of the Easter tradition.

The day the event was held was not only the one on which Orthodox Christians celebrate Easter Day, but also that which marked two months since the conflict in Ukraine began. That night six regions of Ukraine were bombed, with infrastructure such as railway stations, key to evacuation, targeted by missiles.

The money raised by the fundraiser, over £1000, will go towards helping Vitalli, a friend of *Cambridge 4 Ukraine* who is sourcing, buying and delivering second-hand ambulances (£6000 - 8000 each) and medical aid to cities in Ukraine under missile fire. So far he has delivered three, packed with life saving medicine and equipment.

Cambridge 4 Ukraine <https://www.cambridge4ukraine.uk/home>

are working tirelessly on a whole range of initiatives to support Ukraine and those affected by the conflict there. Amongst many other events, you can often find them on King's Parade meeting with concerned students and residents to support each other and stand together. Each Saturday, at Downing Place, they meet with refugees and those who are hosting them, or who would like to host those who arrive in the future, to see what they need and how *Cambridge 4 Ukraine* and their partners can help.

Seeing their work, and a numbers of our hirers rally around to fundraise gives us a glimmer of hope in the midst of struggles throughout the world, not only in Ukraine.



SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR THOSE WHO NEED ADDITIONAL CARE, INCLUDING THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

The Pastoral Care Group decided to research sources of information on local care homes, care providers and other facilities that would be useful to members who are caring for relatives and who may be living with dementia.

As well as help and advice from hospitals and doctors' surgeries and suggestions and recommendations from friends and neighbours, this document could provide a starting point in a search for relevant information around the subject of care.

We are grateful to Christine Russell for compiling the information, which is also available in the Church office, together with some example information guides.

A Useful Websites and phone numbers

Care Choices

A website service allowing you to search by postcode or region for care homes, care homes with nursing and home care providers that meet your requirements across the country.

www.carechoices.co.uk

An annual publication, **A Guide to Independent Living in Cambridgeshire**, is produced by Care Choices in association with Cambridgeshire County Council and the NHS. It includes a directory of home care providers.

Copies can be obtained by emailing carechoices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The local government website has a lot of general information

Organising care and support - Cambridgeshire County Council

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/organising-care-and-support>

Delivered by Cambridge City Council, South Cambs District Council and Age UK in Fenland, East Cambs and Huntingdonshire.

A general online search: 'Cambridge social services uk', shows plenty of general websites with information.

Health and social care - South Cambs District Council

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/sport-health-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing/health-and-social-care>

NHS website gives information about local health services and health conditions.

www.nhs.uk

Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent health and adult social care regulator which can give the latest inspection report on an agency

www.cqc.org.uk

03000 616161

United Kingdom Homecare Association (UKHCA) has a list of approved homecare agencies in your area

www.homecareassociation.org.uk

Age UK

www.ageuk.org.uk

www.ageuk.org.uk/cambridgeshireandpeterborough 0300 666 9860

Age UK produce information guides on many subjects.

To order guides, call the Age UK Advice Line **0800 678 1602**

Some example guides are available in the office

The Silver Line Helpline providing friendship, information and advice through calls to trained volunteers

0800 470 8090

www.thesilverline.org.uk

B Useful equipment

Special equipment can be bought in shops and online

NRS Healthcare Pro has lots of items and the website is used by physios/ occupational therapists. www.healthcarepro.co.uk

Basic things like doorsteps, grabrails, raised loo seats etc are available from Amazon too.

C Ready meals

Various companies can supply ready meals, some frozen, some don't need to be kept in freezer.

D Other services

Taxi card scheme vouchers

Disabled Parking Badge

Lifeline alarm/pendants etc.

Stair lifts - As well as installation cost, consider maintenance/call out costs and compare with other companies before making decisionn.

Please let us know of other relevant information, so that we can keep this document updated.

Christine Russell
Pastoral Care Group
April 2022

NIGHTWALKING WITH THE PIONEER MINISTER

Dear all,

I have decided that, given that my ministry is worked out in the streets and venues of Cambridge City Centre, I would like to be a part of turning the streets of Cambridge Green to support Arthur Rank.

This year we're aiming for a record number of walkers to make the streets of Cambridge glow green for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity! On Saturday 21 May 2022 we'll gather to walk a 10km route around the city to raise funds so that Arthur Rank Hospice Charity can support local people living with life-limiting conditions and provide vital end-of-life care.

Would you like to walk with me? It would be great to get a Downing Place team together!

If so, email me at alex@downingplaceurc.org and I can add you to the team!

Either way, do check out the walk at:

<https://arhc.enthuse.com/pf/alex-clare-young>.

Peace,

Alex Clare-Young



Circle of Security Parenting Group

Connected Lives is a charity that exists to support family life in all its messiness. We run groups and courses for parents and partners to help families thrive and we are starting a new group in the centre of town.

The groups give parents and carers a map to understand their babies' and children's emotional needs and space to reflect on their own strengths and difficulties. We all have times when we struggle to be the parents we want to be and meeting with trained facilitators and other parents can help us work out what's going on.

Groups run for 8 weekly sessions (1 1/2 hours long) with up to 12 parents and carers attending. There is a mixture of video footage, fun exercises, and lots of time for discussion. Parents who have attended love the groups and since 2010 over 900 have participated.

**Monday face to face Group starts at 10.00 - 11.30 am
from 9th May - 4th July (half term break on 30th May) at
Downing Place United Reformed Church, Cambridge City
Centre**

Register Now!

www.connectedlives.org.uk/circle-of-security-cam

or email: katie.logan@connectedlives.org.uk

NEWS FROM RED BALLOON



Join us on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June 11am-5pm to explore the gorgeous garden of Red Balloon's Founder, Carrie Herbert.

Our annual summer event is back in full force! We're opening the gates to this hidden gem in the heart of Cambridge city, and giving people a chance to relax among the beautiful flowers. The plants are already growing strong and we are very excited to welcome you in to see this year's beautiful greenery.

We will have free entry and refreshments, with all donations made going to support Red Balloon.

We look forward to seeing you!

Location

Come along to 49 New Square, Cambridge, CB1 1EZ to see the beauty of the garden first hand.

Opening Times

Saturday 11th June, 11am-5pm

Sunday 12th June, 11am-5pm



Enabling Christians to respond to the ‘silent crisis’^[1] of children in care and care leavers.

Leaving care: ‘daunting’, ‘scary’ and ‘overwhelming’

For care leavers, turning 18 is not simply a significant life event but marks the official end of ‘legal care’ and a cliff edge into independence variously described as ‘daunting’, ‘scary’ and ‘overwhelming’.

The stress, anxiety and added vulnerabilities caused by this “rapid and crowded transitions to adulthood”^[2], when young people are often forced to change accommodation, organise benefits, and live independently is hardly surprising and, as a result, outcomes for care leavers remain disappointing: care leavers are over-represented in the sex industry as well as the prison and homeless populations, have significantly worse outcomes in education, and are more likely to have a mental health disorder.

A newly established organisation with a Christian ethos, Concrete Rose, is looking to equip and empower members of the church family to respond to this need by establishing a supported lodgings scheme across the city and region. The scheme, ‘Room to spare’ will recruit, assess, train, and support local individuals, couples and families to act as ‘hosts’ providing a bedroom, a safe environment and love, support and guidance to a young person whilst being able to continue with their daily routines including working, socialising and holidays. Concrete Rose supports hosts through 24/7 on call support and, in turn, young people by weekly one-to-one sessions with professional youth workers.

Concrete Rose’s founder, Mike Farrington, has worked with ‘at risk’ young people since 2003 and for local Christian charity Romsey Mill for the last 12 years: “When you consider that the average age for most young people to leave

home is 23 it's no wonder that care leavers and vulnerable young people, many of whom have histories of trauma and no family support structures, find it hard to cope living alone. Concrete Rose has been established to provide a different option and to utilise the resources in the local church to provide safe, caring, nurturing accommodation placements that can transform the future for young people who need some extra support”.

Aleyejah Omenesa, care leaver and Concrete Rose board member, recognises the benefits a supported lodgings placement can bring to young people: “I know what it feels like to be at that stage where you're leaving foster care and it's very daunting and you feel very vulnerable. You don't know what's going on in your life and you have no stability and in some cases people don't have loved ones around them. Supported lodgings provides the support a young person needs; they'll learn independence skills whilst living with someone who cares for them and has their best interests at heart.”

Concrete Rose is currently in the process of recruiting hosts and welcomes the opportunity to talk to church leaders about the 'Room to spare' initiative.

For more information: www.concreterose.co.uk // mike@concreterose.co.uk

“I will make the Valley of Trouble a door of hope” Hosea 2:15

^[1] Looked after children: The silent crisis', Oakley et al (2018)

^[2] Centrepont, From care to where? Care leavers' access to accommodation, 2017

RECENT DOWNING PLACE DONATIONS

We are pleased to report that we sent a total of £1761.31 to Marian Koroma for the Sallymay school in Sierra Leone for the March Special Cause. The total comprised donations from our lunchtime concerts, our York Street fund and the retiring collection on 27 March.

Three Twentieth Century Masterpieces



Stravinsky Apollo

Britten Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings

Poulenc Organ Concerto

Tenor **Dale Harris**

Horn **Annemarie Federle**

Organ **Ian de Massini**

String Orchestra of Britton's Peers

Conductor Peter Britton

Friday 27 May - 7.30pm

Downing Place URC, Cambridge

£15, £10 (concessions), £5 (students), £2 (children)

Tickets at the door / Enquiries 01223 369018

VISITING PREACHERS

Sunday 1st May 2022

At the May Communion, Ken Rathje will tell us of his recent three-week pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine.

Sunday 15th May 2022

A fortnight later we welcome the Very Revd Prof David Fergusson (sic). A Church of Scotland Minister, he is the Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge. Formerly Professor of Systematic Theology in the University of Aberdeen (1990-200) and Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh (2000-2021), he serves as Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland and Dean of the Order of the Thistle. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (2004) and a Fellow of the British Academy (2013).

Sunday 16th October 2022

We are very pleased to have been able to re-arrange the Covid-delayed visit of the Episcopal Church Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, the Revd Dr Keith Riglin. He was minister of St Columba's until 2008.

MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 1 May | Janet Tollington | Melbourn |
| 8 May | Liz Caswell Maureen Kendall Simone Maghenzani Janet Tollington Nigel Uden | Buntingford Castle Street Methodist (pm) Vierle Free Church, Turin, Italy (online) Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford Fulbourn |
| 15 May | Chris Baker Janet Bottoms Liz Caswell Penny Flynn Deborah McVey | Ely Methodist Melbourn Stetchworth & Cheveley Bassingbourn Sawston |
| 22 May | Chris Baker Liz Caswell Simone Maghenzani Deborah McVey | Fenstanton Fulbourn Chieri, Italy (online) St Luke's, Cambridge |
| 29 May | Janet Bottoms David Cornick Maureen Kendall Janet Tollington Nigel Uden | Bishop's Stortford Melbourn Stetchworth & Cheveley Buntingford Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden |



DIARY

Services are conducted by the Minister, except where shown

| | Date | Name | Time | Location |
|-----|-----------|--|---------|----------------------|
| Sun | 01-May-22 | Sunday Worship with Communion | 11:00am | Downing Place URC |
| Tue | 03-May-22 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St Athanasios Church |
| Tue | 03-May-22 | Elders' Meeting | 8.00pm | Gibson Hall |
| Wed | 04-May-22 | Lunchtime Concert - Yoon Seok Shin (piano) | 1:00pm | Downing Place URC |
| Thu | 05-May-22 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Fri | 06-May-22 | Meditation, Mindfulness and Music | 7:30pm | Church |
| Sun | 08-May-22 | Sunday worship led by the World Church and Public Issues Group | 11:00am | Downing Place URC |
| Sun | 08-May-22 | Christian Aid Lunch | 12:30pm | Gibson Hall |
| Tue | 10-May-22 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 11-May-22 | Lunchtime Concert - Katharina Megli (mezzo-soprano) & Ilga Pitkevica (piano) | 1:00pm | Downing Place URC |
| Wed | 11-May-22 | Property Group | 6:15pm | Zoom |
| Thu | 12-May-22 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Thu | 12-May-22 | Elders Meeting | 7:30pm | Gibson Hall |
| Sun | 15-May-22 | Sunday worship led by Revd Nigel Uden, with Revd Prof David Fergusson | 11:00am | Downing Place URC |

| | Date | Name | Time | Location |
|-----|-----------|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| Sun | 15-May-22 | Open Table Communion Service | 7:00pm | Downing Place URC |
| Tue | 17-May-22 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 18-May-22 | Lunchtime Concert - Nigel Blomiley (cello) & Richard Shaw (piano) | 1:00pm | Downing Place URC |
| Wed | 18-May-22 | Buildings Group | 6:00pm | The Hub |
| Thu | 19-May-22 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Thu | 19-May-22 | Gibson Lunch | 12:30pm | Gibson Hall |
| Fri | 20-May-22 | Meditation Group | 5:30pm | Chapel |
| Sat | 21-May-22 | Nightlite | 10:00pm -4.00am | Emmanuel Room |
| Sun | 22-May-22 | Sunday worship led by Dr Augur Pearce | 11:00am | Downing Place URC |
| Sun | 22-May-22 | Annual Church Meeting | 12:30pm | |
| Tue | 24-May-22 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 25-May-22 | Lunchtime Concert - Jennifer Bastable (contralto) and Ian de Massini (piano) | 1:00pm - 2:00pm | Downing Place URC |
| Thu | 26-May-22 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Sat | 28-May-22 | Nightlite | 10:00pm -4.00am | Emmanuel Room |
| Sun | 29-May-22 | Sunday Worship | 11:00am | Downing Place URC |
| Tue | 31-May-22 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St Athanasios Church |

| | Date | Name | Time | Location |
|-----|-----------|--|----------|-------------------|
| Tue | 31-May-22 | Evangelism & Service Group | 7:30pm | tbc |
| Wed | 01-Jun-22 | Lunchtime Concert - Alice Bishop (soprano) & David Elwin (piano) | 1:00pm | Downing Place URC |
| Thu | 02-Jun-22 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Sat | 04-Jun-22 | Nightlite | 10:00pm- | Emmanuel |
| Sun | 05-Jun-22 | Sunday Worship with Communion | 11:00am | Downing Place URC |

AREA PARTNERSHIP

The next Area Partnership meeting will be at Sawston Free Church on 22 June at 7.00 for 7.30pm.

This is an opportunity to meet others from URCs in and around Cambridge.

Nicola and Lindsey from the Synod Office will be speaking.

Please let the Church Office know if you'd like to go and are in need of a lift.

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!

- 4 May Yoon Seok Shin (piano)
- 11 May Katharina Megli (mezzo-soprano) & Ilga Pitkevica (piano))
- 18 May Nigel Blomiley (cello) & Richard Shaw (piano)
- 25 May Jennifer Bastable (contralto) & Ian de Massini (piano)

See more on our website:

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

LECTIONARY FOR MAY 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.

May

1 May Easter 3

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

Psalms 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 15:1-12

8 May Easter 4

Acts 9:36-43

Psalms 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

15 May Easter 5

Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

22 May Easter 6

Acts 16:9-15

Psalms 67

Revelation 21:10,22-22:5

John 5:1-9

29 May..... Easter 7

Acts 16:16-34

Psalms 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

5 June Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17, (25-27)



MAGAZINE EDITOR: Tim Rowland
(from June edition)

ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:
Please send items to both Tim Rowland and Ann Auger
(ann@downingplaceurc.org)

WEB EDITOR: Ann Auger

Please send all items to be included in the June edition to both Tim and Ann by the cut off date of **Wednesday 18 May**

The June edition will be available from **Sunday 29 May**.