



**DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE**

PLACE MATTERS



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Cover photo by Elaine Barker

FROM THE MINISTER

The centenary of the British Broadcasting Corporation is no mean anniversary. I grew up in one of those households for which viewing the BBC was the default choice. Not much made other channels appealing, and when Morecambe and Wise left the BBC for the opposition, watching their Christmas Special barely remained conscionable.

A hundred fast-changing years of informing, educating and entertaining has led one commentator to sum up the BBC as, ‘alongside the monarchy, ... one of the two pillars of British ‘soft power’’. If ‘hard power’ achieves its ends by coercion or payment, then soft power does so by attraction or cultural influence, and demonstrably that is what the BBC so consistently does throughout these islands, and across the globe.

Its position is far from unchallenged; nor should it be. Nevertheless, those who have lived in other parts of the world will probably acknowledge the lifeline the BBC is. Indeed, in nations whose own news outlets are markedly censored, the BBC can be the only reliable source of vital information about what is going on around one. Repeatedly, the cause of justice and peace has been served by the Corporation’s output. Even if for that alone, thanks be to God.

In a recent *Financial Times* article, Lionel Barber observes that the BBC’s is ‘a tale of creative endeavour and technological innovation, beset by a constant tension between leading and following the audience’. (8th February 2022) Reading that, I was struck by how we might say something similar about today’s Church. For all our endeavour and innovation, we can seem to be in one of Christendom’s seasons of challenge – at least in the West. Even with the Holy Spirit in our sails, and using the bountiful bequest that blesses Downing Place Church, it’s all too easy to yield to ‘gloomy doubts and faithless fear’, as Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-97) has it. I wonder whether the BBC’s ‘tension between leading and following the audience’ is part of the Church’s problem, too? It’s not that either is wrong. There are times when visionary leading of society is a legitimate role for the church, and others when there is prudence in listening to the trends of the world in which are set. Discerning when to do which, though, is a persistent challenge for people of faith, and looking back over the past few generations, one can find valuable examples of each.

In various parts of the world, the Church has been amongst those leading the campaigns against racism. Names like Martin Luther King and Desmond Tutu



are familiar, and both were working overtly in the name of God. Archbishop Desmond wrote of what endows humans with infinite worth is that we're made in the image of God:

'...each one of us is a God-carrier, God's viceroy, God's representative. This is why treating anybody as if they were less than this is veritably blasphemous.' (No future without forgiveness, (1999) page 11

Moreover, in his 1963 *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, Dr King was excoriating in his criticism of the church for *not* taking such a lead. Mindful of how first century Christians 'rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed', he opined,

'If the church of today does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authentic ring, forfeit the loyalty of millions and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club ...'.

Conversely, on other matters large parts of the Church have been responsive to society's trends - things like marriage and divorce, for example. Our evolving position has seen us responding to changing secular attitudes and policies with a theologically reflective approach. I find here the embodiment of what the United Reformed Church means when it says that

'under the authority of Holy Scripture and in corporate responsibility to Jesus Christ its ever living head, [it] acknowledges its duty to be open at all times to the leading of the Holy Spirit and therefore affirms its right to make such new declarations of its faith and for such purposes as may from time to time be required by obedience to the same Spirit.' (Statement of the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church, paragraph 6)

All that said, the Church's real lead must come from the Jesus Christ we unearth in the scriptures. I don't think that forbids us to inform, educate and entertain, but first and finally, Christ points us faithfully to worship God and radically to love both neighbour and stranger. Sometimes, we may be God's instrument to encourage society in these things, and other times society might be the prod and spur that enables us to be more authentic to our calling as the Body of Christ. And when the British Broadcasting Corporation helps us, then I am willing gratefully to take it seriously.

Nigel Uden

JOHN AND MAUREEN KENDALL – A PROFILE

John was born in Birmingham, and grew up in Ashby-de-la-Zouch in Leicestershire; Maureen was born in London and grew up in Ewell in Surrey. We met in October 1956 in the Congregational Society (CongSoc) at Oxford University – a fairly well-known marriage bureau – where John was just starting his second year in Chemistry, and Maureen was starting a degree in Maths. Consequently, and conveniently, we completed our courses in Summer, 1959, and looked for any town, probably in the UK, where there was a need for both a Chemistry and a Maths teacher. Thus we both started out teaching careers in Huddersfield in Yorkshire, where neither of us had any previous connections. As we had both grown up in Congregational Churches – in Ewell and in Ashby – we looked for a Congregational church in Huddersfield, and joined Hillhouse Congregational Church.

We were married in Maureen's home church in Ewell in Surrey at Easter 1960. In February 1961 our first daughter, Jane Margaret was born; and in July 1962, our second daughter, Clare Susan. They were both baptised by Revd Ernest Herbert at Hillhouse.

Meanwhile, the winter of 1962-3 was memorable for the length of time the snow stayed on the ground – from Boxing Day, 1962 until Easter, 1963. We had two small children under 3, and our only means of transport was a Silver Cross pram. So, John turned once again to the *Times Educational Supplement*, and discovered a demand for 'Teachers for East Africa' . . . we applied and we were successful . . . So, in September 1963, we found ourselves on an old turbo-prop aeroplane of Britannia Airways - we were on our way to Entebbe, Uganda. When we arrived, we were met by Ian Robinson, Headmaster of King's College, Budo, where John had been appointed as a Chemistry master on a three year contract. The school is built on a hill about 9 miles outside Kampala, and from our new-built bungalow we could just see Lake Victoria on the horizon!! It was idyllic!!

We loved our three years at Budo - John teaching Chemistry and Maureen teaching a little Maths, and our third child, a boy, Richard John, was born in July 1965. In school holidays we travelled all over East Africa – including Ngorongoro Crater, Amboseli Game Park, Mombasa on the Kenya coast, and even to the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro.

We were quite sad to return to the UK, but felt that the children ought to start their education in Britain. That was when we first came to Cambridge, as John was appointed a Chemistry lecturer at CCAT, Cambridge College of Arts and Technology, now Anglia Ruskin University – and we ended up living in Stapleford in 1966. Jane and Clare started school in Stapleford School, and

Richard went to the play-group in the Johnson Hall.

We joined Emmanuel in 1966, during the interregnum, just before the arrival of Revd David Geddes. Richard – now a bouncy nine-month-old – was baptised by David, and Jane and Clare joined Ruth Connolly in the Primary Department. John became a deacon and then later Church Secretary, and Maureen helped Ruth Connolly in Primary. The children all thrived in Emmanuel Junior Church – and, with David and then Tony Coates, we helped to plan Emmanuel Family Activity Days at local churches on Saturdays – two or three a year - with activities and group work for all ages and abilities, beginning and ending with simple worship together. Maureen was appointed Youth Secretary for the URC Cambridge District and helped plan more physical District Activity days for young church people – several held at Linton URC.

In 1974, we felt the pull of Africa again and left for Zambia where John took up a post at the University of Zambia (UNZA) in Lusaka and Maureen taught some Maths classes at UNZA. The girls were accepted in Kabulonga Secondary School, and Richard joined Lusaka Boys Primary School. We had a house on the UNZA campus.

We arrived just as Zambia was celebrating ten years of Independence – so the girls' first experience of school, was involvement in a mass gymnastic display, organised by the North Koreans, as part of the celebrations in the Independence Stadium. After that, school continued as normal, pretty well where they left off in the UK.



The Kendall Family in Zambia, 1976

We enjoyed the stimulating multi-national community of the University, and at St Andrew's United Church of Zambia Church in Lusaka, where Clarence Musgrave of the Church of Scotland was the Minister. Maureen became involved with several community projects in Kaunda Square, a large community close to our house on the University campus. Emmanuel sent some money for us to use as we wish, and, with the help of Elias Muzongachiso, the UCZ Youth Worker in Kaunda Square, the money was used to provide wire fencing round a community vegetable garden – the fencing was essential to protect the garden!! In vacations, we had the opportunity of travelling and camping in Zambia and Malawi.

We returned to Cambridge in 1977 as again the children had reached a stage when we felt their education needed to be in the UK. We settled back to life at Emmanuel. Maureen became an Elder, and then Church Meeting Secretary, with Robert Bell as Elders' Secretary; and the children were all involved with YPSEG – the Young Peoples' Sunday Evening Group - expertly run by Anthea Coates.

During this period, Emmanuel was making links with evangelical German churches, and we went on Emmanuel visits to both – first with Landau in West Germany in 1983, and then in 1986, with Dessau in East Germany – a difficult, but very interesting place to visit. We were made very welcome by Revd Alfred and Inge Radeloff in Dessau. We were overwhelmed by the generosity and friendliness of people in both congregations – especially as our German was almost non-existent!! We were able to return their hospitality at a later stage. We were also able to attend the Anglo-German Teachers' Conferences in 1984 and 1986. All these visits gave us an insight into the churches' situation in a wider European context than just the UK. The contrast between Dessau in Eastern Germany and the same city after unification was startling!



With Inge Radeloff in Dessau

During most of this period, after a one year course at the Cambridge Institute of Education, John was appointed Lecturer at Barnet College. Maureen had been able to get some part-time teaching at Hills Road Sixth Form College, and the children all got places in Cambridge Schools.

By 1987, all our children had now departed to University and we decided to move closer to Barnet. We let our house in Fulbrooke Road, and moved to Potters Bar in Hertfordshire. John was now able to cycle into Barnet – and Maureen picked up some Maths teaching at the College. Maureen also applied, and was accepted, to start the training as a Citizen's Advice Bureau adviser, first in Cambridge, and this continued when we went to Potters Bar.

We were made very welcome at the local URC in Potters Bar, where the Minister was Revd Hamish Hamilton. This was a lively and active church in the local community, and we soon felt at home. Maureen started the URC Lay Preachers' Course, with regular visits to her tutor, Revd Vivien Buddle, back in Sawston, and we both enjoyed our visits to the local URC churches.

At the end of 1996, John retired, and we returned to Cambridge and Emmanuel – to the newly refurbished building. The opening of the Fare Shares Café and the arrival of Time for God volunteers were highlights for us. We helped hosting these young people – and many of them still keep in touch with us - and remember our (shared) birthday!!

We also helped with the running of Castle End Mission, where services continued with the help of Castle Street Methodist Church – until the Mission finally closed in 2014. We continue to worship on Sunday evenings at Castle Street, where they have made us very welcome! The Mission is now home for the Chinese Community Church.

Our children are now married and we have ten grand-children and three great-grandchildren. For many years we had a family holiday together during the Easter break; and now, of course, we are delighted to see them, and their families, any time they come to see us!

Our lives in Cambridge over the years have been very much bound up with Emmanuel, but we now feel quite at home in Downing Place URC and its united fellowship.

John and Maureen Kendall

CELEBRATING URC-50 AT DOWNING PLACE URC

Editor: Having received so many mouth-watering pictures of cake-cutting at our celebration on 2nd October, I asked Augur Pearce to set the scene for us. His recollection of our morning Communion service is followed by an account of his own, rather singular experience in Westminster Abbey on 5th October 1972 – another response to Tony Spring’s question, “where were you in ’72?” (Place Matters, October 2022)

The Golden Jubilee of the URC’s formation was marked by a special service at Downing Place URC on 2 October 2022. The Minister presided at Communion, with reflective music composed for the occasion by Ian de Massini. The hymns by noted URC writers included Professor David Thompson’s composition for our building’s rededication a year ago; and David’s sermon centred on the view that Presbyterians and Congregationalists who united in 1972 merely ‘did their duty’, for which (Luke 17:10) they should not expect reward. There has been no divine intervention to halt declining membership or the dwindling availability of ministers. The 1980s saw the URC’s identity defined more by what is distinctive rather than what it shares with other Christian traditions – which have themselves done little to broaden their own appeal and make the 1972 vision of one Church realistic. But for David, we look back fifty years not aggrieved at God’s failure to do more, but in quiet and modest celebration of a duty done. We retained that celebratory spirit over coffee, enjoying a superb birthday cake prepared by Liz Barrow. Thank you, Liz!



WHERE WERE YOU IN '72?

Though hardly a precocious ecumenist at fifteen, I was also in [Westminster Abbey on 5 October 1972](#). Boarders next door at Westminster School were invited as extra ushers on big occasions – the inauguration of the General Synod in 1970, Princess Anne's first wedding in 1973. Imagine me with rather more hair than today, dressed in scholar's gown, white tie and tails.

What did I make of it? Brought up conforming to the Church of England, I had been confirmed only the previous summer. Holy Communion first became special for me as an occasional experience, not the stuff of weekly worship. Back home in Pembrokeshire, I enthusiastically joined my mother's search for 1662 Prayer Book parishes in preference to the 1966 experimental rite of the Church in Wales. I felt no ambition then for ordained ministry: my early, obscure enthusiasm for being a herald had cooled (after discovering heralds were unpaid) and I was turning to consider the law.

I knew virtually nothing about the URC's predecessor traditions. I chose 'mediaeval' as my History period for A Level, and that ended firmly in 1485. So I probably hadn't even heard of our first father Huldrych Zwingli, let alone Bucer, Bullinger, Calvin or Knox. The only Reformer I knew was Cranmer; and if I thought of Presbyterians I thought of Scotland. It seems my ignorance was not unique. Being in charge of hoisting the School flag over Little Dean's Yard, I received the regular circular from the Abbey's Clerk of Works regarding flying of flags over the Abbey. Having copied that information into my diary, I can still read today the entry for 5 October: 'Abbey Flag – Methodist Service'.

As for the people who gained their seats in the Abbey under my direction, I'm not sure I ever paid them much attention (sorry, Pamela!) though I recall they sang with great gusto. I hope I'm now *slightly* less self-centred.

Soon after 1972, I found a spiritual home in the Kensington Anglo-Catholic church where I had been baptised: with a pious but scholarly Vicar who believed in instructing his flock, and a curate with a son my age. I learned to appreciate



dignified worship, symbolism, and a sense there is more to existence than we can see or scientifically prove. I became an altar server, and learned church could be fun.

But it was the 1975 move to Oxford that really showed me ecumenical variety. The Catholic Chaplaincy in the Newman Rooms, Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, the Orthodox in Canterbury Road, and St Columba's URC, hidden away in a side street. Each held something attractive for me, complementing student and public worship in my 'college Cathedral'. In Christian Unity week something happened in each of them. But I never wanted to take the best of each and turn it into the norm for them all. The variety and choice seemed to me a great blessing. I came to read Jesus as praying in John 17 that his followers should agree in what mattered most, not that they should be alike in every particular. To speak in slogans, I came to advocate 'reconciled diversity' in matters of faith, rather than 'visible unity'.

I am sure much was achieved by the 1972 formation of the URC, both for its members and for the broad canvas of British Christianity. It witnesses to some principles of importance – the office of elder in the Christian community, to which I myself was called some 33 years later; the Holy Spirit's ability to work in decisions of the local congregation; the Gospel's social implications; the variety of ends God's gift of marriage can serve. I am not too worried that the 1970s vision of a single structure with one locus of decision-making was never realised. But I hope that, whether or not there is a URC to celebrate the centenary in 2072, some of these principles, the memory of some towering URC figures, and some of the better hymns from *Rejoice and Sing* will still be around!

Angur Pearce

A ROCHA RESTORE FUND SEPTEMBER SPECIAL CAUSE

We raised a total of £798.39 for the A Rocha Restore Fund with our retiring collection and Lunchtime Concert contributions, which together with a contribution from our York Street Fund meant we were able to send a total of £1300 to A Rocha.

As agreed in October's Church Meeting, we also sent an additional £500 to Islamic Relief's special fund to help victims of the flooding in Pakistan.

Ann Auger

EASTERN SYNOD MEETING ON SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2022

A report from Penny Flynn

The Synod meeting was held at Christchurch, Braintree: unfortunately, I had Covid and so I had to attend online. The Moderator, Revd Lythan Nevard, also had Covid and so the new clerk, Revd David Coaker, attending his first meeting in post, had to step in to chair the meeting. He did so brilliantly!

Opening worship was led by the minister of Christchurch, Revd David Sebley, and their worship team. Revd Charles Martin was presented with a gift to celebrate his jubilee, and new members of Synod were welcomed. Keir Hounscome, the previous clerk, was presented with a gratitude gift by Synod staff, as was Lindsay Brown who was moving from Mission and Training Officer to new work at Church House in London. Christchurch, Rayleigh, was presented with a Children and Youth Friendly Church Award, by Nicola Grieves, Children's and Youth Development Officer.

We heard of a wonderful mission project in Dovercourt, near Harwich, Essex, serving vulnerable people through 'The Lounge' – a safe space with various activities and none for people of all ages which arose from Churches Together partnering with local community bodies based around the principles of 5 ways of well-being: be active, keep learning, connect, give and take notice. The lounge looks like a newly-decorated hall, set up with space to read quietly, do craft, have refreshments and conversation; an area for babies and their carers; and seemingly very significantly, and outdoor space with a firepit, where folk can gather who don't wish to venture inside, and where encounters could begin and connections made.

We also heard of the Faith in Action day, at which discussions were held, questions raised and acknowledgment given to what was already being done. This forum is open to anyone interested; one can dip in and out.

Key to the meeting was further explanation of the deployment thinking and planning, none of which was conclusive just yet. With ministers leaving Synod and retiring, the opportunity had come to declare some vacancies – but a new model of ministry was being planned, based upon that particularly in the East Midlands Synod. This would see churches not so as much pastorates and more as partnerships. Several churches would be grouped together, according to need, with one church as the Hub or Resource church. Ministry of ordained and lay members would be shared between those involved – 'a family solution to a family problem' – administration, finances, eldership, worship-leading and more shared

across the whole partnership. Ways would be found to share meetings, so reducing the overall number for any minister in charge. Decisions might be made at the next Synod meeting (March 2023). Folk were asked to consider in small groups the following four questions: What excites you? What concerns you? What are the opportunities? What are the obstacles? Feedback was generally positive, with some questions requiring further investigation and thought.

The Synod Pastoral Committee believed training would be needed for Synod Accredited Lay Local Church leadership. More work would be done to explore this and anyone feeling a call to such ministry was encouraged to begin with the URC's Stepwise route initially.

Three Synod representatives to General Assembly gave brief reports, including Alex Clare-Young, who was glad of the resolution and the ongoing discussion around Pioneer Ministry and Equalities. They mentioned the newly-opened Newbiggin Hub, for the training of lay pioneers, and had urged further recognition of the work of ordained pioneers too.

Other business included a proposal from Witham URC, made at the previous meeting, which would have seen the Synod support churches' contribution to the Ministry and Mission Fund by 25% for two years initially. But members voted to retain the current system of Synod supporting churches on an individual case-by-case basis. One member from Witham, who is also the URC Treasurer, thanked Synod for being the best at maintaining its level of contribution to the M&M fund over many years.

Closing worship was led by the clerk, who had preached on the same text and enjoyed a discussion of it at his church during the week – whereas the poor Moderator hadn't got very far with her preparation before becoming ill!

Penny Flynn, Downing Place representative to Synod

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!

2 November	Titika Maragoula (soprano) & Richard Carr (organ)
9 November	Helen Farrar (piano)
16 November	Adam Repa (piano)
23 November	Aliya Turetayeva (piano)
30 November	Richard Hinitt (organ)

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

GOING PLACES AT THE MASSEYS

On 17th September, Jenny and Malcolm Massey invited the Going Places group for a visit to their garden in Highfields Caldecote. They have a lovely rural garden which includes a couple of fields and woodland about 150m from the house.

The weather was sunny and crisp. In addition to each others' company, we also met the Massey's horse, dog, and free-range chickens. We ate our packed lunches out in the woodland area, alongside a pleasant cabin that the Masseys creatively fashioned from recycled materials. The highlight of the day, for me, was roasting marshmallows over the fire pit after lunch. Finally, we finished up with a "cuppa" while soaking up the sun at the seating area near the house, with chickens roaming underfoot.

Jenny and Malcolm were planning to adopt a newly rescued young dog the following day. We crowd-sourced names to give them some extra ideas. On seeing him, they named him Badger.

If you'd like to join Going Places, please contact Tim Rowland or Jane Bower. Anyone is welcome to suggest an activity and then self-organise it with others in the group that are available to attend. Whether it's a rural respite, or a theatre evening in town, there is something for everyone. Why not join us next time?



DOWNING PLACE SPECIAL CAUSE FOR NOVEMBER 2022

HOPE FOR JUSTICE



Hope for Justice is an international charity founded in 2008, now working across five continents. Its mission is to bring an end to modern slavery and human trafficking and to protect the human rights of victims and survivors. It not only helps victims and survivors directly, but works with governments, law enforcement agencies and the general public to bring about change.

It aims to:

- **Prevent exploitation** - helping vulnerable people protect themselves from trafficking through education and community empowerment
- **Rescue victims** - working with law enforcement and other agencies to identify victims of modern slavery and rescue them. Rescue is not an event, but a process.
- **Restore lives** - providing expert aftercare with legal and on the ground support.
- **Reform society** - working with authorities to help recognise modern day slavery and help prevent it.

Quoting from their website: <https://hopeforjustice.org/what-we-do/>

Hope for Justice does more than raise awareness. We act. We are investigators with years of law enforcement experience, we are multilingual outreach workers, we are accredited trainers, legal experts, social workers, therapists, nurses, policy specialists, campaigners and professionals. Hope for Justice is on the ground in the places that are worst affected by human trafficking and modern slavery, and our work will not stop until all are free.

In the last year alone, the charity helped reach 199,894 children and adults. Currently 7 in 10 victims are girls. You can help the victims of modern day slavery and trafficking by giving to November's monthly special cause. To make a gift-aided donation, or consider becoming 'A Guardian' by regular giving, visit <https://hopeforjustice.org/donate/>

Hazel Sanderson

THE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED HOUSEHOLD ENERGY REBATE – COMING SOON!

Just a few months ago, in the July 2022 issue of Place Matters, I wrote about the government-funded energy rebate which had just been announced by the (then) Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak. Every British household will receive a £400 grant towards their energy bills from this month (October 2022), with additional support for those in greatest need, including a new £300 payment to those receiving state pensions.

Since then, energy providers have explained that the rebate will be ‘paid’ in monthly instalments of £66 or £67, between October 2022 and March 2023. It will come in the form of discounts on our energy bills in that six-month period.

In that article back in July, I wrote that many of us will be glad of the support: but some of us might be asking “Why me?”. The money will be paid to every household in the country, irrespective of ‘need’. It came as a welcome surprise when the Chancellor himself announced that he will give his £400 energy bill rebate to charity, and suggested that other ‘wealthy’ households could do the same.

Well, the time has now come! If you are considering donating at least part of that energy rebate to a charity that will assist those most in need of support, please keep in mind charities such as:

the Cambridge City Foodbank [Cambridge City Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

the Cambridgeshire Surviving Winter appeal [Surviving Winter Appeal | Cambridgeshire Community Foundation \(cambscf.org.uk\)](#)

National Energy Action [National Energy Action \(NEA\) - the UK's leading fuel poverty charity](#); and

On the other hand, if you and your family are struggling to keep up with these price increases, help is available from Cambridge City Foodbank (above) in the form of gas and electricity top-up vouchers.

Tim Rowland, Editor, Place Matters

There have been far too many places badly needing our help recently – dreadful floods in Pakistan, the savage war in Ukraine, hunger and privation in Bangladesh and Afghanistan, and more. Now Christian Aid are asking us to help to tackle the famine in East Africa. Can we put our hands in our pockets again?

Millions of innocent children, women and men in East Africa are taking desperate measures to survive in the face of extreme hunger, caused by failed harvests, livestock deaths and the worst drought in forty years.

These severe conditions linked to the climate crisis have been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has further increased global food prices and turned a tough situation into a dire crisis.



The response to humanitarian needs in Ukraine has been remarkable. We must now urgently act in that same spirit for East Africa.

Working through local partners, Christian Aid is responding to the severe drought in Ethiopia and Kenya and helping over **300,000 people** by:

- repairing wells
- handing out water purification kits
- providing cash support
- trucking water to drought-affected communities
- providing fodder and medicine to keep valuable livestock alive

Could you donate to the appeal?



- £30 could buy water hygiene kits for six households
 - £50 could buy food for a household of five
 - £109 an emergency shelter and a hygiene kit for one household of five
- ... but all contributions are welcome.

To give on-line, go to the Christian Aid website www.christianaid.org.uk and find the East Africa crisis appeal under Appeals.

Christian Aid are still not encouraging postal donations, but you can donate by telephone on **020 7523 2269**. To pay directly into Christian Aid's bank account you can ring **020 7523 2226**. For queries ring **020 7523 2493**.

Prayer for East Africa

Loving and compassionate God, when Famine stalks the land, nothing grows.

Plants cannot, people cannot, ideas and dreams cannot
everything withers and dies.

It is a violent aberration of your will for the world,
and it is multiplied now by conflict, climate change and covid.

God of the flourishing field, there is enough to feed us all.

Call us to that sacred sharing, neighbour to global neighbour

Your gifts of food, water,
a chance to live the life so delicately crafted by your divine spirit.

We will not turn away but turn towards each other
with generosity and a justice-driven compassion that searches for solutions.

Famine stalks the land, so may our outrage grow,
may our determination steel itself, may our solidarity spur us into action.

God of the flourishing field,
help us feed each other.

Amen

PUTTING THE FUN INTO FUNDRAISING AT FULBOURN URC COFFEE MORNING

By Gill Godber

Around fifty people enjoyed coffee and homemade cakes at the annual Fulbourn United Reformed Church Coffee Morning, held on 10th September 2022.



The calm before the storm!

L-R: Doreen Scowen, Norma Scullion, Thelma Hynes, Pearl Ling, Lorna Woor, Marilyn Harmer, enjoy a quiet moment together!

Hosted by Gill and ‘Two metre’ Peter Godber at their home and garden in Fulbourn, the event included live music by three pianists, a violinist and a ukulele player.

Reverend Nigel Uden led a minute’s silence in remembrance of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Thanks to Allison Henderson, Fulbourn artist, there were family friendly art activities for children, namely a giant ‘50’ inter-active mural to be coloured in! Other stalls and activities included: ‘Name the Teddy, Bring & Buy, Beauty Gifting, and Croquet. Raffle prizes were donated by: Body Image, Lollipop, Richard Wombwell – Fulbourn Village Greengrocer, The Gog Farm Shop & Deli, Darwin Nurseries, Quay Mill Hotel ‘Imagine Health Spa’, The George Pub (Babraham), Fulbourn Pharmacy and Chickz Next Door Hair salon (Linton).

Organiser Gill Godber said: “We are very grateful to our volunteer helpers, village bakers and raffle prize donors, without whom it would be impossible to host an event like this!”



The raffle in full swing!

Highlight of the morning was the cake cutting by Reverend Nigel Uden of a big blue 50th URC cake, including the words: 'Faith, Hope & Love since 1972'. It was designed to commemorate the forthcoming 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church.

The United Reformed Church was planning to mark its 50th anniversary on 1 October 2022, though this has been postponed due to the rail strike that day preventing many people travelling to London.

www.urc.org.uk.

The Fulbourn-based event raised £510 for URC Church funds.



Rev'd Nigel Uden and Gill Godber cut the cake!

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

On 18th September in Junior church, we were talking about the parable of the dishonest manager from Luke 16. We reminded ourselves what a parable is and named as many as we could remember. We then told the story, adopting cross, sad, or puzzled faces as appropriate. We then went on to discuss good and bad things we can do with money and even shared some mature views on a few grey areas. While we continued to talk on these things, the children designed and made money boxes, starting from cardboard nets.

The following Sunday, we talked about the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. We looked at the story playing out with two little people, one very rich having lots of food, and the other poorly sitting at his gate. The rich person pretended not to even see the poor Lazarus. We put up happy or sad faces depending on how we thought the person whom we were looking at in the story play was feeling.



We talked about how they should have behaved so that both of them would have been happy all the time, and learned that it is important to look after other people around us, not pretending that they don't exist. We then put some water paint on what we thought were blank sheets of paper, but actually turned out to have a person drawn on them that became visible when we painted it.



After this craft activity, we went outside to help Ian planting lots of bulbs in troughs for our church garden. We all had a trough and did our utmost best with planting a mixture of small and big bulbs, hoping that we will have nice flowering troughs in spring.

On Sunday 2 October the younger children celebrated the URC's 50th anniversary starting with a lively song of praise from our new compendium of 'Really Good Songs for Junior Church' – Hallelu, Hallelu. We had seven children in the group who joined in enthusiastically with the simple words and actions. We then reminded ourselves of what it was like when St Columba's and Emmanuel churches came together and drew comparisons with the formation of the URC in 1972. The children then looked at the Faith, Hope, Love poster produced by the URC for the occasion and talked about some of the symbols in the design. Someone had even noticed the same entwined cross and fish motif on Nigel's stole. After that we set to work on making our own version of the poster which you may have seen displayed on the Junior Church Room window. After returning to the service for communion everyone was able to share in the celebration cake and each family took home a booklet of stories and activities produced by the URC for the celebration.

On 9th October, we were retelling the story of the ten people with leprosy, whom Jesus healed, but only one of whom remembered to say thank you. With the children, we considered healing, remembering, and saying thank you. We learned to sing 'Jesus' hands were kind hands', accompanied by a tenor recorder. We then played the memory game, where, after memorising ten objects on a tray, the children worked out which two had been removed. We finished with a craft activity to make thank you cards for someone special and said a prayer, where the children took turns to thank God for something or someone in their lives.

The following Sunday, we talked about the parable of the persistent widow. We learned the song 'read your bible, pray every day' and spoke about how we sometimes keep on asking things to our parents and that they then might give in, such as asking for a candy or for watching TV. We realised that we can also pray persistently and that God will hear our prayers and give us what is good for us. We then decorated some crosses, which looked like stained glass after we had decorated them, as a reminder for our prayers.

Elza de Bruin-Lara, Lorraine Thornton and Daphne Thomas with help from the JC team.

PIONEER MINISTRY

There are three upcoming events for the Solidarity Hub. The Trans Day of Remembrance (TDoR) vigil is an event which has been requested by a number of folks, and will provide an opportunity to offer pastoral care to those who are grieving at this time. For more information about the international commemoration of TDoR visit the link below. This event will be followed by tea and coffee, leading into our November Open Table Service, which will be led by Revd. Fiona Bennett, moderator of the URC's General Assembly.

Our November Solidarity Scripture event will continue the theme of gender, with particular reference to God's gender and gender justice.

On the 1st of December, Solidarity Hub will recognise World AIDS day by hosting a talk on the ongoing international response to HIV/AIDS, speaker tbc. Please do come along to support these events and to learn more.

<https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/event/2022-11-20/transgender-day-remembrance>

Alex Clare-Young

To celebrate the beginnings of the Solidarity Hub project, and to strengthen our link with Rowan: 'a vibrant, independent, registered charity providing an arts centre and forest school for adults with learning disabilities', Alex is inviting people to create a piece of art on any of the themes of 'inclusion', 'wellbeing', or 'sustainability' for Rowan's art exhibition which focusses on the broader theme, 'Together'.

This collaborative community exhibition facilitates connections between Rowan and the wider community, and raises vital funds for their work. It will also enable us to highlight the ministry that we are exploring through the Solidarity Hub. If you would like to be involved, please contact Alex by the end of November to arrange to pick up your canvas. Alex will then need to receive your completed canvas by the 1st of February 2023. There are a limited number of canvases available, so if you would like to take part, please let Alex know as soon as possible.

To read more about the exhibition, where your artwork will be displayed, visit:

<https://www.rowanhumberstone.co.uk/events/charity-art-exhibition-together/>



SCRIPTURE

Dinner and Discussion Group. 4th Sundays. 7.30-9pm.

We will share a simple vegan and gf meal together and talk about our experiences and understandings of some of the most tricky and relevant topics in society today.

Prompts from scripture, quotes, questions, and tactile prompts will be offered around the meal table, sparking conversation about the links between scripture, our experiences, and social justice. This year's topic is 'power', exploring issues of power in daily life.

Please come prepared to listen to lots of different viewpoints and experiences, to voices and stories that you haven't heard before, and to ideas that may challenge you. We will speak from our opinions and experiences, celebrating diversity and challenging injustice.

Oct. 23rd - Debunking Death

Nov. 27th - God & Gender

Jan. 22nd - Liberating Love

Feb. 26th - Lamenting Lent

Mar. 26th - Saying Sex

May 28th - Maximising Minds

Jun. 25th - Pursuing Pride

If you have any questions about any of these titles or would like to know in advance what we might discuss, please do get in touch.

Join our Facebook event to find out more about Solidarity Scripture:

<https://fb.me/e/1Yk5Uwa44>

Find the Solidarity Hub on social media @cambridgesolidarity hub

Or scan the qr code to join our mailing list:



STRONG & STEADY

AN EXERCISE PROGRAMME DESIGNED TO
BUILD STRENGTH AND BALANCE

SUPPORTING CARE PARTNERS LIVING
WITH DEMENTIA AND MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT
TO BUILD RESERVES AND MAINTAIN INDEPENDENCE.

Introducing the *new*
Strong & Steady exercise programme.

Join us for two "side-by-side" weekly exercise classes to help you both move more and build your physical fitness. These classes are a mix of standing and seated exercises designed to build stability and strength in a safe, supported and fun way. Each class matches participants' abilities, so there is a place for both care partners.

Taster Session

Wednesday, 26 October
11 to 12:00pm

Weekly classes
start on Wednesday, 2 November
11:00am to 12:00pm

Downing Place URC
Downing St, Cambridge, CB2 3EL

Contact Dementia Compass at 07876 350 638
or hello@dementiacompass.com
to book or for more information.



AUTUMN HOUSEGROUPS

.....continue in November

The theme is: **'Family, friend, or foe ... Israel and her neighbours'**

They will be led by Revd Dr Janet Tollington, who writes:

'The six sessions will explore the relationship between the people of Israel and other groups who lived around them, using Old Testament texts to discover how kinship ties, land issues, religion etc influenced the ways in which these were understood and developed. Relationships with Egypt and Syria remain a contemporary issue; but places such as Moab, Ammon and Edom (today's Jordan) and Philistia, Phoenicia, Canaan (today's Palestine, Lebanon and Israel) are also highly relevant in today's world. Each session will stand on its own and focus on a specific neighbouring group, although there will be a link between them.

The sessions are open to everyone and won't require any prior study. We will explore a selection of different Biblical texts each week, so bring a Bible with you. Each session will hopefully open up lots of issues for discussion about how we relate to those around us in our own land as well some of the bigger political issues of today.'

Continuing from **31 October** (after a half-term break) at 2pm at the church, and Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm on Zoom.

Mondays at 2pm - October 31st, November 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th at the church.
or Tuesdays November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th on Zoom

It would help to let *Penny Flynn House Group Coordinator* know if you hope to attend, especially for the evening group so you can be sent the Zoom link. You are welcome to attend any or all weeks, as you are able.

Penny Flynn
House Group Coordinator

FOLLOWING ON FROM THE BIBLE SOCIETY AUTUMN SUPPER

On Tuesday November 1st in the Hub at Downing Place, there will be an opportunity to meet Graham Kings over coffee and discuss some of his poems, which were the centrepiece of the Autumn Supper. 10.30 for 10.45am. Please just come along!

PASTORAL NEWS

The postponement of events to mark the jubilee of the United Reformed Church was a disappointment to many, but Nigel was able to take a piece of Liz Barrow's celebration cake to present to Gwen Hall, Chairman of the Congregational Church of England and Wales in 1972, when he visited her on the exact anniversary on 5th October

The postponed visit from January of Bishop Keith Riglin was safely accomplished when he preached at the morning service on 16th October. As with many of our visitors, he was impressed by the transformation of the St Columba building.

Newcomers Coffee Morning

Saturday 5th November, from 10am

Downing Place Church



If you have started coming to services
or events in the Church and Halls
during the past year,
or are new to Cambridge,
please come and join us.



#findyourplace

Come & Sing (or listen) for Ukraine!
FAURÉ'S REQUIEM & SILVESTROV'S PRAYER FOR UKRAINE
 PETER BRITTON, CONDUCTOR, & IAN DE MASSINI, ORGANIST

ON SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER
 TRINITY PLACE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE

POSTPONED

additional rehearsal in same venue, Sat 5th November, 2 - 4pm

To sign up Please visit: tinyurl.com/24j2w2j6

Voluntary participation fee of £10

4:00pm - 5:00pm: performance

music

QR code

free admission, tickets

4:00pm - 5:00pm: performance

ads to

C4U



Do you enjoy singing? Are you in a choir?

Carol singing for Christian Aid

This Advent Christian Aid are planning to sing carols in the Grand Arcade, just outside the John Lewis entrance. **We need volunteers** – to sing, to hold collecting tins, to offer Giftstar terminals for card donations, to look after the money – but **especially to sing**.

We have booked a slot **from 2 till 4 on Saturday 26th November**, the day before Advent Sunday – if we leave it any later the students will have gone down and we hope some might join in. But the Christmas decorations will be up and the Christmas lights will have been switched on.

We did this before the pandemic, and it was well received by shoppers and passers-by.

So do please think whether you could spare a couple of hours on Saturday 26th November to sing for Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal – this year to combat hunger in Malawi. If you are interested, please get in touch.

Thank you

Sheila Porrer

AREA PARTNERSHIP

The next Cambridge Area Partnership will be held at 7.00pm at Bar Hill on Thursday 17th November.

The Moderator, Lythan Nevard, will speak and a zoom connection will be available nearer the date.

LECTIO DIVINA

William and Deborah McVey will lead four sessions of Lectio Divina in Advent.

These will be on Zoom again for four weeks, the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd December on Friday mornings from 8.30 till 9.30am. If this is something you would like to experience as part of your Advent devotions, do be in touch with either of us.

DIARY

Services are conducted by the Minister, except where shown

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Tue	01-Nov-22	Bible Society coffee and discussion— see p.27	10:30am	Gibson Hall
Tue	01-Nov-22	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Tue	01-Nov-22	Autumn Housegroup (see p.27)	7:30pm	Zoom
Wed	01-Nov-22	Dementia Compass—Strong & Steady (see p.26)	11:00am	Emmanuel Room
Wed	02-Nov-22	Lunchtime Concert - Titika Maragoula (soprano) & Richard Carr (organ)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	03-Nov-22	Midweek Worship led by Penny Flynn	11:00am	Church or Chapel
Thu	03-Nov-22	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	03-Nov-22	World Church & Public Issues Group	7:30pm	Zoom

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sat	05-Nov-22	Newcomers Coffee Morning (see p. 28)	10:00am	The Hub
Sat	05-Nov-22	Nightlite	10:00pm - 3:00am	Emmanuel Room
Sun	06-Nov-22	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	06-Nov-22	Sunday Worship with Communion	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	06-Nov-22	Open Table Social	7:00pm	Zoom
Sun	06-Nov-22	Cambridge Early Music Concert	7:30pm	Downing Place URC
Mon	07-Nov-22	Autumn Housegroup:	2:00pm	Rooms 1 & 2
Mon	07-Nov-22	Officers' Meeting	4:00pm	Downing Place URC
Tue	08-Nov-22	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Tue	08-Nov-22	Autumn Housegroup	7:30pm	Zoom
Wed	09-Nov-22	Dementia Compass—Strong & Steady	11:00am	Emmanuel Room
Wed	09-Nov-22	Lunchtime Concert - Helen Farrar (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	10-Nov-22	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion	11:00am	Chapel
Thu	10-Nov-22	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sat	12-Nov-22	Sing for Ukraine! has been POSTPONED—more information to follow		
Sun	13-Nov-22	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	13-Nov-22	Sunday Worship led by Revd Liz Caswell	11:00am	Downing Place URC

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sun	13-Nov-22	Fundraising Event for Ukraine	2:00pm	Downing Place URC
Mon	14-Nov-22	Autumn Housegroup	2:00pm	Rooms 1 & 2
Mon	14-Nov-22	Pioneer Minister Management Group	4:00pm	tba
Tue	15-Nov-22	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Tue	15-Nov-22	Autumn Housegroup	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	15-Nov-22	Worship, Discipleship and Spirituality Group	7:15pm	Zoom
Wed	16-Nov-22	Dementia Compass—Strong & Steady	11:00am	Emmanuel Room
Wed	16-Nov-22	Lunchtime Concert - Adam Repa (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Wed	16-Nov-22	Cambridge Early Music Concert	7.30pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	17-Nov-22	Gibson Lunch	12:30pm	Gibson Hall
Thu	17-Nov-22	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	17-Nov-22	Midweek Worship led by Augur Pearce	5:30pm	St Columba's Chapel
Thu	17-Nov-22	Elders' Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Sat	19-Nov-22	Connected Lives Drop In	2:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sat	19-Nov-22	Nightlite	10:00pm	Emmanuel Room
Sun	20-Nov-22	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	20-Nov-22	Sunday Worship	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	20-Nov-22	Vigil: Trans Day of Remembrance Service (see p.24)	6:00pm	Downing Place URC
Sun	20-Nov-22	Open Table Communion Service	7:00pm	Downing Place URC

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Mon	21-Nov-22	Autumn Housegroup	2:00pm	Rooms 1 & 2
Tue	22-Nov-22	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Tue	22-Nov-22	Autumn Housegroup	7:30pm	Zoom
Wed	23-Nov-22	Dementia Compass—Strong & Steady	11:00am	Emmanuel Room
Wed	23-Nov-22	Lunchtime Concert - Aliya Turetayeva (piano)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	24-Nov-22	Midweek Worship with Communion led by Revd John Proctor	1:00pm	Church or Chapel
Thu	24-Nov-22	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Fri	25-Nov-22	Planned Broadband Outage - Virgin Media	9:00am -3:00pm	Whole Building
Sat	26-Nov-22	Nightlite	10:00pm -3:00am	Emmanuel Room
Sun	27-Nov-22	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	27-Nov-22	Advent Sunday Worship	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	27-Nov-22	Church Meeting	12:30pm	Church
Sun	27-Nov-22	Solidarity Scripture Meal (Gender) (See pp 24-25)	7:00pm	Gibson Hall & Hub
Mon	28-Nov-22	Autumn Housegroup	2:00pm	Rooms 1 & 2
Mon	28-Nov-22	Finance Committee Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	29-Nov-22	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios Church
Tue	29-Nov-22	Autumn Housegroup	7:30pm	Zoom
Wed	30-Nov-22	Dementia Compass—Strong & Steady	11:00am	Emmanuel Room

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Wed	30-Nov-22	Lunchtime Concert - Richard Hinit (organ)	1:00pm	Downing Place URC
Thu	01-Dec-22	Talk and Action: World AIDS Day (see p.24)	7:00pm	Gibson Hall & Hub
Thu	01-Dec-22	Midweek Worship led by Jane Bower	11:00am	Church or Chapel
Thu	01-Dec-22	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sat	03-Dec-22	'Alumni' Choir Christmas Concerts	5.30pm & 7:30pm	Downing Place URC
Sat	03-Dec-22	Nightlite	10:00pm -3:00am	Emmanuel Room
Sun	04-Dec-22	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	04-Dec-22	Sunday Worship with Communion led by Revd Nigel Uden with Revd Lythan Nevard	11:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	04-Dec-22	Open Table Social	7:00pm	Downing Place URC

MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

6 November	David Cornick Simone Maghenzani Janet Tollington	Bury St Edmunds Trinity Hall (Evensong) Melbourn
13 November	Chris Baker Simone Maghenzani Nigel Uden	Burwell Turin via Virle Free Church (online) Fulbourn Village Remembrance Service
20 November	Liz Caswell Janet Tollington	Stetchworth & Cheveley Buntingford
27 November	Penny Flynn Deborah McVey Janet Tollington	Fowlmere St Luke's, Cambridge Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden
4 December	Janet Tollington	Stetchworth & Cheveley

LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER 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.

6 November 3rd before Advent

Job 19.23-27a

Psalm 17.1-9

2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-17

Luke 20.27-38

13 November 2nd before Advent

Malachi 4.1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Luke 21.5-19

20 November Christ the King

Jeremiah 23.1-16

Psalm 46

Colossians 1.11-20

Luke 23.33-43

27 November Advent 1

Isaiah 2.1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13.11-14

Matthew 24.36-44

4 December Advent 2

Isaiah 11.1-10

Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19

Romans 15.4-13

Matthew 3.1-12





Painting by Len Bower

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Tim Rowland

ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

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

WEB EDITOR: Jess Uden

Please send all items to be included in the December/January edition to both Tim and Ann by the cut off date of **Wednesday 16 November.**

The December/January edition will be available a little later than usual, from **Sunday 4 December.**