



**DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE**

PLACE MATTERS



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Cover photo: 'The Cross on the Chevin'

Photograph by Tim Rowland

Read more on page 14

MINISTER'S LETTER

Greetings to you all. It is my privilege to have the opportunity to write this final 'guest' minister's letter during our own minister's sabbatical – although I have hard acts to follow coming after John Proctor and Liz Caswell. It is also a joy, because not only can I look forward to the delight we will all feel at having Nigel back with us; but also, this month takes us on the final week of our Lenten journey as we travel through Holy Week to the joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter, the high point of the Christian year.

Plenty is said elsewhere in this edition of Place Matters about ways in which we can participate in the joys of the Christian season, so let me turn our focus to our minister's return. We'll all be able to get back to normal then – won't we? I sincerely hope not! Even if anyone can tell me what 'normal' is, as far as the life of DPURC is concerned. (I wonder whether anyone could actually come up with a definition of 'normality' on which we could all agree?)

One of the joys of belonging to Downing Place is my recognition of how diverse we are as members of the body of Christ whom God has drawn together to form this local church: a congregation called to continue Christ's mission of love and service through our lives and our buildings. I look around and I don't see 'normal'. I see young and older folk, male and female, differing nationalities and ethnicities; but I'm aware that among us there are less visible and hidden diversities too – economic, family, health (both physical and mental), education, sexuality, housing, personality type, etc. I thank God for our diversity, that everyone isn't like me; indeed that there is no-one else quite like me. But I confess that I sometimes behave, or think, as though I expect everyone to be able to understand, engage, respond to a situation very much as I do. God forgive me; and make me ever more alert to the diverse perspectives of others that can be so enriching, especially when they are challenging.



Apart from diversity in terms of who each of us is, there is also diversity in the life experiences we have all had, in the issues that attract our attention and prompt us to engage in mission and service to our local community, or further afield in the world. Many of us serve the wider church in various ways; but I wonder just how many organizations and activities that are not directly linked to DPURC we are involved in, between us, because of our love of Christ? Might there be benefits if much of this was more widely known and included in our congregational prayer life?

Where has Christ been leading you through the weeks since Christmas, while Nigel has been on sabbatical? What fresh insights into yourself, your faith, or the needs of the world have you gained through this journey? What questions have been raised that still need answers? I hope these weeks, that Liz described last month as ‘our sabbatical’ are proving fruitful for you.



Nigel will have had similar experiences through his time on silent retreat and as he has journeyed in the footsteps of Bach; and I'm sure he will want to share many of the fruits with us over the weeks and months after Easter. Will we also, individually and as a congregation, have fruits to share with him? I wonder what God will be able to do with such a diverse and wonderful mix

of fruits to nourish us, minister and congregation together, as DPURC journeys on. There might even be (12?) basketsful of fruit left over, after we have all been fed, to resource us to share the gospel and meet the practical and spiritual needs of others.

There was a lot of talk about churches and the world returning to a ‘new normal’ as we came out of the pandemic. Sadly, in many respects, the world appears to have reverted to its old way of life. Many good and faithful things have been happening in DPURC since we re-occupied our new buildings; but heaven forbid that we try to do the same, to revert to ‘pre-sabbatical’ ways, once Easter has been celebrated and our minister has returned.

Our God is a God of new beginnings, who is always doing something new (Isa. 42:9; 43:19), who has blessed us all in diverse ways during these last three months. May we welcome Nigel back joyfully; and look forward to discerning together how God has been preparing us for whatever comes next.

I wish you all a blessed Holy Week, a happy Easter and joyous new life thereafter.

Janet Tollington

PLACE MATTERS AT FIFTY

This issue of Place Matters is number fifty – half a century. In calendar terms, five years, eventful years for the world and for our Church.

The first joint magazine from Emmanuel and St. Columba's appeared in April 2018. It was simply titled "News from ... followed by the names of the two Churches. In June 2018, as we agreed on our new name, it became News from Downing Place URC. In July the URC logo was replaced on the cover by our new logo and a cover photograph, and the February 2019 issue first carried the new title of Place Matters. From July/August 2019 the different coloured covers became white, and so Place Matters has remained.

As the two Churches were working out the way ahead as one united Church we knew that a Church magazine could have a big role to play in bringing us together. Our two Ministers met with the editor over supper at the Girton manse to look at what we wanted to do. One suggestion was to profile members of both congregations so that we could get to know each other. As editor I interviewed one member, sometimes a couple, every month, and so many valuable life stories were opened up. (There could be many more, there seems to be an inexhaustible supply of interesting people in our congregation!)

As our ambitious building project proceeded we were able to publish photographs and reports about the works in the period when the Downing Place building was taken over by builders and contractors, showing people how the work was going and keeping alive the faith that we would end up with a beautiful and useful building, equipped with impressive up to date technology.

But what no one could have foreseen, of course, was the pandemic and the lockdown. For a year from the Spring of 2020 we worshipped at home, then in Westminster College, before our first live services at Downing Place in May 2021. Place Matters kept us all in touch, chronicled our Zoom services and all our Zoom meetings, reassured us that, after a break, work on the new building could still continue, and published an extra summer issue in 2020 to reinforce our sense of community.

So we look forward to the next fifty issues and beyond. We have a new editor and new ideas. Tim and Ann between them will maximise improvements in technology and production to enhance the quality of our magazine. We look forward to seeing the record of our Church life in Downing Place unfolding from month to month.

Sheila Porrer (Editor, Place Matters, 2018 to April 2022)

DAVID AND TRISH WHITEHEAD – A PROFILE

David

I was born on the Isle of Wight, in Rose Cottage in the village of Niton, 2 miles inland from St Catherine's Point, the southern tip of the island. January of 1947 had snowdrifts blocking the roads, so instead of the hospital I was born at home, 'under the piano' as the family story goes. I spent much of my early life around the village; an abiding memory is, on foggy days, of hearing the foghorn of St Catherine's Lighthouse. Also, Rose Cottage was my grandfather's house; he was a carpenter and joiner with an adjoining workshop, and I remember the awful smell of the fish glue he used.

My father, who came from Barking, Essex, was a technician in the Royal Air Force (RAF), and my mother and I had a nomadic life around camps in England, also in Egypt and Cyprus. In 1951 we were all living in a flat in Ismailiya in the Suez Canal Zone of Egypt. There had been unrest for some time by factions opposed to King Farouk of Egypt. While the men were away at the RAF station, a mob rampaged through our town. My mother barricaded us in successfully, and subsequently we were rapidly returned to the UK. When we returned to Egypt the following year we lived in a married quarter at RAF Fayid and spent a lot of our leisure time at the Phoenix Boat Club on the Great Bitter Lake. My father was a keen dinghy sailor, and at that early age I was dumped in a boat – the fun of sailing never wore off for me.

In 1956 my father left the RAF and went to work at the British Aircraft Corporation (BAC) in Weybridge, Surrey. We moved into a bungalow in nearby Addlestone. At age 16, with a clutch of GCEs, I signed on as an engineer apprentice at BAC. After 2 years doing an Ordinary National Certificate at the local technical college, I was sent to Kingston College of Technology (now Kingston University) to do a 'sandwich' degree in aeronautical engineering (6 months at college, 6 months in BAC works, for 4 years). On one occasion, the Apprentice Association organised a coach to a rock concert at Kingston Odeon. Heading the bill were a local group who had just released their first record. Much



David at age 3, on sailing holiday with parents at the Norfolk Broads]

screaming from the fans, and bouncers preventing the stage from being invaded. I wonder what became of the group? They were called The Rolling Stones ... With the college sailing club I was taught to sail competently, and this included sailing expeditions on the River Blackwater in Essex. Latterly, I joined Weybridge Rowing Club, and competed at various regattas in fours and eights. After 6 years, having toured the factory's workshops and design offices, I completed my apprenticeship, having also gained a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Within a couple of years a young lady graduate aerodynamicist, Tricia Jeffs, joined the same office, and a friendship began. And this is where our stories came together.

But first -

Trish

I was born in 1948 in Canada. My father served in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), and he was repatriated there in 1945, having married my mother, an RAF nurse, in Egypt during the war. I don't remember that time, as we returned to England in 1949: I grew up in Chester, first attending local primary schools, then the Queen's School in the city centre.

My father sang in the Cathedral's voluntary choir, so my first church experience was the Cathedral Sunday school, which I didn't like because the children behind me kept pulling the long tassel on my hat (egged on by my big sister, I later found!) Later I went to Hoole Congregational Church with a school friend, and liked it there. I helped with the younger children in the Junior Church. I recently rediscovered a welcoming letter from Revd Geoffrey Hayes, sent the week before I became a church member in April 1964.

After A levels, I went to Queen Mary College (QMC), London, to read Aeronautical Engineering. I think there were 4 girls in an intake of around 120! I mostly attended the (Anglican) chapel at QMC, sang in the chorus of the Gilbert and Sullivan society, and enjoyed the cheapest seats of London theatres and cinemas to see the latest plays and films. One year I went to watch the Lord Mayor's Show and the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph. Another highlight was an early morning expedition to watch an RAF Harrier jump jet take off (in clouds of black dust) from the coalyard of a London station at the start of a transatlantic race.



Trish aged 4, with older sister Joan (left) and parents Don and Phyllis

My three years in London went quickly, and having secured a job with BAC at Weybridge, I went to Canada for the summer with a friend. We worked as waitresses at a golf club near Toronto, and travelled around on our days off, with help and a warm welcome from my Canadian relatives. We watched the first moon landing while we were there, and enjoyed using the members' swimming pool in the late evenings after the golf club closed. After Labour Day we left, and crossed Canada by train, with a fabulous few days in Banff in the Rocky Mountains, and a final couple of weeks with my friend's relatives in Vancouver.

Back in England, I started work at BAC in October 1969. My first task was to learn computer programming, having been told at college that aero engineers didn't need computers! I first met David at the department Christmas party. He was keen on rowing, and I spent a lot of time watching from freezing bridges, or cheering him on at summer regattas on the Thames.

David & Trish

David changed jobs in 1973 to work for the Ministry of Defence at Salisbury, and we set about buying a local house. We were married on 16 June 1973 at Weybridge URC, by Revd David Hallas. It was a scorching hot day, and both families turned out in force. Trish had been assisting with the local Brownie pack, and they formed our guard of honour on leaving the church.



Our wedding 16 June 1973, with Brownies

We settled into married life, and set about modernising our new (1930s) house. We were made welcome by Salisbury URC, with minister Revd Alan Thomasson. Trish went to work as a development engineer with Sadia Water Heaters, until they closed the factory after a takeover. After a secretarial course, she worked as ENT secretary at Salisbury hospital. We holidayed around UK, Europe and USA. David's new work took him periodically to Southern Germany and near Rome. In the summer of 1979, with Trish well pregnant, she flew out to join him in Munich, and we toured the sights of Bavaria and the Black Forest, including King Ludwig's castles. Other destinations pre-kids were North America, Europe and Iceland.

In late 1979 our first daughter Lindsay was born, in the local hospital after an early morning rapid drive! Maternity leave was unknown, and childcare not readily available, so Trish didn't go back to paid work for several years. We settled into family life with all its joys and complications, with David regularly away in Germany or Italy. One summer we borrowed a friend's caravan, and drove up to the Northumberland coast – tremendous coastal scenery around Lindisfarne. Culinary note - avoid cooking locally-smoked kippers in your caravan. Delicious, but the smell lingers for a long time!

Come 1984, David was getting itchy feet to move on to new work. We moved to Cambridge on a freezing February night, with a very disgruntled cat in the back of the car, to Swaffham Prior, and David joined Marshall at Cambridge Airport as Deputy Chief Aerodynamicist. Within 2 years he was Chief Aerodynamicist and Flight Test Manager. There followed major involvement in a series of aircraft projects including substantial modifications to existing aircraft. Many of these projects were based on the RAF C130 Hercules military transport aircraft, a venerable workhorse, and the Lockheed TriStar airliner. Again frequent business trips to Europe and North America. On one such trip, David and a colleague flew to Los Angeles, then drove out to Edwards Air Force Base in the middle of the Mojave desert – tumbleweed blowing, but fascinating historic test aircraft.

We joined Emmanuel URC, as suggested by Alan Thomasson, who knew Revd Derek Wales, and we were very warmly welcomed. After a while, David decided to try something different from technical work, and became a Junior Church leader. At that time the Junior Church had children from babes in arms to teenagers, with different teaching groups. It certainly proved a challenge, but very satisfying. Emmanuel had its major refurbishment, and we temporarily worshipped in Westminster College Chapel.

Our second daughter Rosemary arrived in 1986. When she started at Perse Girls' School in Cambridge, Trish began working at a local veterinary histology laboratory, and after a while moved on to the NHS, eventually becoming a

Biomedical Scientist in the Histopathology department of Addenbrooke's Hospital. The logistics of child management became even more complex. Both girls proved musical, Lindsay playing bassoon and piano to Grade 8, and enjoying time with the County Youth Orchestra. Rosemary plays violin and piano. Then before too long they had taken A levels and were off to university, Lindsay for Music and Acoustics at Southampton, Rosemary for English at Bristol.

After graduating, Lindsay became an acoustic consultant in Southampton, then after a few years moved to New Zealand with her then boyfriend, now husband, living in the beautiful harbour district of Christchurch. Now their two sons are older, she again works as an acoustic consultant. We have been to visit them a number of times (a very long way!) and seen New Zealand's magnificent scenery. En route to New Zealand, we took the opportunity to visit Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Seoul. Rosemary took up teaching English as a foreign language, which she practised in Cambridge, London, Madrid, Seoul (South Korea) and finally Sheffield. She lives with her partner Laurie and their two small boys in Sheffield, and continues her teaching.



Our daughters Lindsay (left) and Rosemary

David maintained contact with his friends in Salisbury, and for several years took part in cruising yacht expeditions across the English Channel to the Channel Islands and the north French coast. Very exhilarating. David resumed

his hobby of racing a sailing dinghy at Ely Sailing Club, not in the winning class, but great fun.

With his mature years, David now finds jumping about a dinghy too strenuous, so now restricts his boating to radio-control model yachts, with a 'race meeting' every week. In 2019, to celebrate Trish's seven-oh birthday, we flew in a 1930 Dragon Rapide passenger aircraft from Duxford airfield at low level down to London, along the city Thames and return to Duxford. Much more fun than a modern airliner!



After our Dragon Rapide flight

Trish enjoys gardening and dressmaking, and served for 12 years as a treasurer at Emmanuel URC. On retiring, Trish started learning to play the clarinet, and David followed soon after with the baritone horn. We both enjoy the Saturday Music Workshop at Duxford.

So that is David and Trish, now rattling around at home. We get to see Rosemary and family fairly regularly, but haven't been to New Zealand since before the Covid lockdown in 2020. We are now thinking of downsizing to a bungalow.



David in his Solo class racing dinghy at Ely Sailing Club



David with baritone horn

David and Trish Whitehead

POETRY AT DOWNING PLACE, NO. 3 – ANN PHILLIPS

Editor: Soon after this series on Downing Place Poets began last November, I was eager to include Ann Phillips as soon as possible! I did ask Ann to choose two of her poems, and to tell us something about the circumstances under which she wrote them. To my surprise and delight, Ann has rewarded us with two new, unpublished poems. Ann's prefaces, and the poems, now follow.

SALUTATION

Many of my poems arise out of puzzles, or simple pondering on words from the Bible or from other wise writings. As happens here. Why should the angels – heavenly beings – meet us with what seems more like a subdued scowl than a smile?

Surely we should be admiring and rejoicing in the work of God's hands, not seeing pitfalls? I believe that so we should – Bringing the honey of life to others notice, and passing on God's message that what he has for us is love – emphasising to our fellow-humans that love casts out fear, with which we can offer the smile of perfect peace.

This is the salutation of the angels:
Fear not Don't be afraid
as if our hair stood on end at the magnetism of their presence
or the shock of the news-headlines they so casually announce
Even stars die and we are made of stardust
What may be made of us – rot, sifted ashes?
We would like forget-me-nots
(Not so, for some minute, twice varied
With arcades of snagging brambles
Their small fruit spoiling in the cling of fog)
Not our concern. Our business is with being
drawing the honey from the comb essence out of knowledge
a tingle of immanent joy in the stretched antennae.
From such abundance giving what we can
laughing when we can laugh telling truths and saying
Don't be afraid

PATTERN

Reading the Gospel accounts of the Last Supper, and Judas's immediate acceptance of Christ's bidding that he should do his own job, I was left wondering how long Judas had known what he was there to do – hadn't he known since the first breakfast? Surely he had – knowing indeed at first sight that it was Jesus and he himself together who should set in motion God's great plan for humanity. Both being so needed they at once achieved an understanding of the divine plan and their combined part in it. Later they would see it working through until its completion and the triumph of new life, new beginning, love forgiving, love reinvigorating, God's purpose for us come true. For the whole of humanity, for us all, and so for me and for you.

He was my dancing-partner
steady eye always set on mine
as in a mirror right hand becoming left
my shadow as near me as my heel
Under the voice on the mountains offering
over the voice of Peter sounding retreat
I heard him other
It was he who faced what came and what was to come
he saw the danger the stretch the lift out of man
what acceptance meant
and knowing us counterweights in the balanced act.
right on his cue he stood up alone and went
Without me he was empty he followed me out
my blood money price of a slave bought his death too
They invented for him a death counterpart of mine
hung on a tree but no he fell in his field
pouring out of himself the self he had had to be
When we met again from me to him was the kiss
no other no mirror no shadow.
only this



THE CROSS ON THE CHEVIN

Tim and Judy Rowland write:

Before coming to Cambridge, we lived on West Chevin Road in the town of Otley, in West Yorkshire. Our house stood at the foot of a substantial 'hill', the Chevin, with views across Wharfedale from the top. This April edition of *Place Matters* creates an opportunity to tell a tale ... about the cross that you can see on the front cover of this issue.

Every Easter, a giant wooden cross has looked out from the summit of the Chevin, nearly 1000 feet above the town. It was first erected on that site more than fifty years ago, and it soon became a well-known Easter symbol, supported and enabled by the ecumenical partnership *Churches Together in Otley*. It is put up each year two weeks before Easter, and stays in position for a month. The cross is 32ft. high with a span of 16ft. The gargantuan task of carrying it to the top of the ridge is accomplished by a team of about 50 volunteers.



An early morning service (around daybreak) is held at the foot of the cross on Easter Day. A plaque attached to the cross, commissioned by *Churches Together*, reads:

This cross, which is erected every Easter, reminds us of the eternal love God has for every person. It is made from wood salvaged from the Manchester bomb outrage on 15th June 1996.

It is a sign that good can triumph over evil as Jesus conquered death and promises us everlasting life.

We thank God for what He has done for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus and pray that everyone may experience this for themselves.



The first cross was erected in 1968 and a new one was constructed for the Millennium in 2000, when the town's ministers wrote:

“The ‘Chevin Cross’, standing over the town, symbolizes the Cross of Jesus himself - and a love which overshadows and embraces the whole world - a gentle, compassionate, forgiving, welcoming love. The ‘Chevin Cross’ is an empty Cross, celebrating, too, the resurrection of Jesus Christ - and the power of God which can overcome fear and darkness. The Cross of Jesus Christ speaks not only to ‘the world’, but to each one of us, inviting us to draw close to the God whom Jesus called ‘Father’ ... Will you respond?”

Photographs from

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tjblackwell/sets/72157626353158397/>

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

Sunday February 19th 2023, we had prepared a 'mountain' for transfiguration. However, all our children were off on adventures during half term. Perhaps some of them went to see mountains!

A big shout out to our children who did manage to come in during the Cambridge half-marathon on March 5th. Revd. David helped us think about going on a journey, like Sarai and Abram, with God's help. In our room we lit oil lamps and thought about Nicodemus visiting Jesus to wonder about God's world. Nicodemus would need to move on from old ways. We drew round our feet in card and made colourful patterns. 'One more step along the world I go. From the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you.'



On 12th March we explored the story from John 4 when Jesus met the woman at the well. After listening to the story and building up a tableau of the scene, we all visited the water dispenser in the Hub and served each other to a cup of water ensuring that no one was left out. We then talked about how long it would be before we would need another drink and wondered what Jesus meant by the Water of Life. We continued with a craft activity, making folded paper flowers which we floated on water. We watched them open and bloom, revealing our names and personal decorations on the petals. We concluded that everyone could be accepted and welcomed by Jesus.

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!

5 April	Eduard Sanchez (flute)
12 April	Jessica Lawrence Hares (soprano) & Olga Elbourn (piano)
19 April	James Williams (piano)
26 April	Nigel Blomiley (cello) & Richard Shaw (piano)

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

SPRING AT DOWNING PLACE

Last November, pots of all different shapes and sizes, large and small began to appear in the Hub; together with bags of compost and what to my non-gardening eyes looked like a lot of small onions. One Friday, when we had downed tools for the week (or at least I had!) the secret was revealed by our Director of Music and Assistant Caretaker, Ian – we were all to plant up our own tubs with bulbs; the tubs would then be named and in Spring we would then have the pleasure of watching our own personal tub explode with colour and life.

We set to with trowels and onions, and planted up our own tubs!

Over the next couple of weeks, everyone who visited the Hub for any reason was invited to choose a tub and get planting. Looking round, I can see the names of church members, children, people who work in the Hub during the week, people who drop in regularly and have become friends... even contractors and people who came in to fix things were offered their own tub as well as a friendly welcome and a caffeinated beverage.

It has been a joy to watch my tub bloom into life – from the first tight buds on 21 February



To the full bloom of early March!



Even more than the pleasure of watching your individual pot bloom, is the collective joy of all these pots, different sizes and shapes, straggling blooms and assorted colours, all bravely emerging from their little onions to bless us with colour and new life. It's perhaps an obvious parallel, but they symbolise for me the diverse community which has evolved here in the 2 years since we moved back, nurtured by warmth and refreshment – both physical and spiritual.

My grateful thanks to Ian for the initiative, for providing the tubs and onions, and for his boundless energy and warm welcome, which has done so much to provide the soil in which our Downing Place community has taken root.

Ann Auger

Occasional quotes.....

A thought from Albert Einstein, passed to us by our minister Nigel Uden, who received it from Pamela Cressey.....

'Everyone is a genius, but if we ask a fish to climb a tree it will spend its whole life thinking it is a failure.'

Like to support your local charity shops? Why not purchase a children's book, toy or a small game and donate it to The Sallymay International PreSchool in Sierra Leone through the Knit One Give One group at Downing Place URC. Many thanks.

Anne Disney.

SOLIDARITY HUB NEWS

Hi everyone, thank-you so much for your ongoing support – I, and my little new community, are really thankful for you. I haven't written for a while, so you would be forgiven for asking...

What is Solidarity Hub again?

We are always finding new ways to describe ourselves. Solidarity Hub is a collective of dreamers and doers who gather to create new spaces for social and eco justice. All are more than welcome, and we particularly strive to create spaces that are LGBTQ+ affirming, neurodiversity accessible, and trauma aware. That simply means that we create safer spaces where LGBTQ+ identities are not questioned, where a range of learning, communication and sensory processing styles are celebrated and catered for and where we are aware of the needs of people who may have experienced complex trauma, particularly in faith-related spaces. I will write more on each of these factors over time.

At the moment, we are a core group of eight people, who regularly attend Solidarity Scripture and other Solidarity Hub events, who meet up 1-to-1 and in small groups for conversations and pastoral care, and who are working on promoting social and eco justice in Cambridge City Centre. There are another thirty-or-so folk on our mailing lists, who come along to the meetings or events that particularly interest them. We average 12 people at an event. In addition, we network with other social and activism groups and with leisure/hospitality venues in the City Centre and work together where we find similar goals. We support each other, and other organisations, in this work. We like being a small group and numerical growth is not a main aim, though reaching out is. I will probably write more about the numbers question soon, too.

Craftivism!

One of the things that we love doing at Solidarity Hub is craftivism. Whilst craftivism might sound challenging, it is really simply a fun way of communicating the things that matter to us to other people who spend time in the city centre. Activism just means 'the use of direct action to work towards a result'. We are using our craft skills and hobbies to work towards greater social and eco justice where we live! Our main project at the moment is creating an LGBTQ+ Solidarity Quilt. This is a way to create 'mobile safe spaces' for LGBTQ+ people in a city that has no LGBTQ+ public space. We currently have 37 squares and are aiming for 200 in 2023. If you would like to join in, let us know. We are also working on plans for a piece of public art at Strawberry Fair. The theme of the fair is 'Revolution' and we are bringing biblical

inspiration in with our sub-theme, ‘Act Justly’. Our craft will be seen by thousands of people at the fair. It’s exciting to be able to make such a big impact! We like small activities and actions too, though. Watch this space!



A square from the Solidarity Quilt, created by Hannah Henley.



An image of the piece of fabric which we will be decorating for Strawberry Fair, with an Alex for scale!

Dresden

I had the privilege of visiting Dresden last month, where I was sent by the URC to discuss sexuality and gender together with folk from other member churches of the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe. I was part of a working group helping to edit the ‘gender’ section of the arising document, which will be published over the summer. I didn’t manage to see much of Dresden, but was inspired by what I did see. Three images speak to me particularly loudly. The altar around which we shared communion was severely damaged by bombing. In the sermon, my German colleague and friend Kathleen, who visited Downing Place with the Young Protestant Theologians some months ago, spoke of the importance of noticing the cracks. Unity, for her, doesn’t mean ignoring the cracks but recognising and pondering them. A banner (below), which looks like Jesus or a saint holding up a bicycle sign, drew my attention as I wandered the local area. Finally, on my journey home through Germany by train, I took a picture of some graffiti from a moving train. When looking back at the picture, the eco theme was striking. This act of ‘craftivism’ made me think all the way



*The altar at Haus der Kirche,
Dresden*



*A craftivist banner at the
shops in Dresden New Town.*



*Houses with street art by
the railway line,
somewhere near Cologne.*

back home.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 13th May: Starshine Nightwalk

Part of living out ‘solidarity’ is about joining in with things going on in our city. Last year, I invited church members to join us at the Starshine Nightwalk, a charity walk arranged by the Arthur Rank Centre. Sadly, I was ill on the day, but Hazel Sanderson and her cousin were there and had a great time raising money for a good cause and lighting up the city centre. We are planning on trying again this year and would love more folk to join us. Have a look at the webpage and let Hazel or me know if you are interested—and see if you can spot Hazel and her cousin in the pictures— <https://www.arhc.org.uk/fundraising/events-challenges/star-shine-night-walk/>. If you would like to sponsor Hazel, visit: <https://arhc.enthuse.com/pf/hazel-sanderson-aa539>

Wednesdays from the 17th of May: 11am-1pm: Solidarity Hub Crafts

Solidarity Hub are starting a craft group for all ages at Hub Hospitality, on Wednesday mornings from 11-1. There will be some activities provided, for a mix of abilities and interests, as well as the opportunity to bring your own crafts along or to join in with Solidarity Hub’s bigger projects if you would like to. The group will begin on Wednesday the 17th of May. We are also planning a Friday evening group at the CB1 community centre – watch this space for more details.

Pioneering Ministry Celebration Event

When I began this pioneering ministry project, I promised you a party when we

reached the 1-year milestone on our journey together. So, it's time to celebrate! Can you believe its been a year already? **If you would like to join us to celebrate, please come along to The Hub at Downing Place Church on Thursday the 20th of April at 4.30pm for afternoon tea, followed by a time of prayer at 6pm. If you would like to volunteer to help with refreshments, please let me or Ann Auger know. If you are coming along, please sign up at reception so that we can estimate numbers for catering.**

I am also planning to meet up with both church members and solidarity hub members at some of the locations where I spend time throughout the day on the 20th of April. These venues are quiet during the day, so we will have the space (and noise levels ...) to have a chat. In each venue, there are five spaces for church members to come along to chat with us about what we get up to. Please sign up at reception if you are interested. (Ask for Alex's sign-up sheet and folk will know what you mean). The venues that we will be going to (which all serve tea and coffee and other soft drinks as well as alcohol) are:

11am: Town and Gown

12.30: Gibson Lunch (Please sign up as usual)

2pm: Cambridge Tap

3pm: Revolutions

4.30pm: Afternoon Tea (The Hub at Downing Place Church)

6pm: Evening Worship

Saturday 10th June: Open Table Network National Gathering

The Open Table Network National Gathering is at Downing Place on the 10th of June. This will include worship, talks and workshops on the theme of solidarity with, and as, LGBTQ+ folk. All are more than welcome. Timings and a booking link will be shared nearer the time. If you are available and would like to volunteer to help on the day (doors, refreshments, welcoming etc) please let me or Ann Auger know.

Sunday 11th June: 2pm: Christian CND

On Sunday the 11th of June, Solidarity Hub have arranged a workshop with a member of Christian CND. More details will be available nearer the time.



COME AND SING FOR UKRAINE

On the afternoon of Sunday 26 February, I joined more than 80 singers on the Downing Place dais to begin rehearsing Fauré's *Requiem* under the inspiring and insightful baton of Peter Britton. Most singers had never met each other before, and had varying degrees of familiarity with the piece – which helped build a sense of camaraderie - 'Do you know this piece? Oh good, I'm glad I'm standing next to you!'

And so we began – and within a few bars I thought 'This feels and sounds amazing!' With a sense of wonder that our ensemble should be so strong already, when we had only just begun to sing..



There is a particular sweet spot you sometimes experience in choral music – moments of sublime harmony, where a choir breathes and sings as one entity – you are no longer aware of yourself as an individual voice; but become lifted up into a swell of sound which is distinct and yet you are part of it. It doesn't

happen all the time, or even most of the time, even when you sing with the same group of people every week! Yet I sensed it several times as we rehearsed and then performed not only the *Requiem* but a piece which was new to me, Silvestrov's *Prayer for Ukraine*.



This latter piece grounded us in our purpose for gathering, which was to show our support and to raise funds for our Cambridge4Ukraine friends, many of whom were in the audience. Some younger Ukrainian friends performed traditional Ukraine folk songs for us in their turn, wearing traditional Ukrainian costume – the delight from both the audience and performers at this spectacle was wonderful to behold from our vantage point on the dais! And [so](#) the Ukrainian children were able to sing their songs in a strange land.

We stood with the people of Ukraine in every sense that afternoon. Music unites people, and touches places in the human heart nothing else can reach.

On a more mundane (but important!) note, we raised £1557.03 from donations from the performers and audience, and every penny will go to help our Cambridge4Ukraine friends in their work on behalf of Ukrainians nationals in Cambridge.

Ann Anger

The organist for this event, Ian de Massini, writes:

I was aware, in preparing for this event, that there would seem to be no ‘Choir & Organ’ version of the Fauré *Requiem* readily available in which the music for the organ stuck, as faithfully as possible, to the composer’s original intentions. All the many versions that I spent time examining were various organists’ re-

working of Fauré's orchestral score such that it would conveniently fit under an organist's two hands and feet without much rehearsal!

But Fauré was famous for his deft and subtle approach to composition, clearly seen in his beautifully-wrought, long melodic lines (as in the opening of the *Agnus Dei* in his *Requiem*), his suave, and often unpredictable, harmonic fluctuations (as in the whole of the *In Paradisum*), but most of all in his utterly sublime, piquant, and self-effacing use of the orchestra. Who else would dare to assign the leadership of the orchestra to the lowly Viola section, leaving the Violins to play just a few bars, here and there, during the duration of his *Requiem*?

Therefore, I decided to write a new organ accompaniment to Fauré's *Requiem*, one that exploited to the full the dazzling possibilities that Downing Place Church's ground-breaking *Hauptwerk* Digital Organ (not be confused with the old-fashioned 'electric' organ) is able to offer its executant. Thus, I was able to re-create the two, separate, rippling Viola lines, each in contrary motion with the other, throughout almost the whole of the *Sanctus*, whilst playing, at the same time, the high-soaring Violin solo melody with my feet. I was also able to immediately add the stentorian French Horn entrances at all those points in the score dictated by the composer, by using the 4th, 'floating' keyboard that we had installed onto our new organ.

For me, that fund-raising performance was my way of saying "Thank you!" to Fauré by re-creating, as faithfully as possible, all the subtlety and suavity of his *Requiem*. As the final bars of his music melted into a profound silence, I quietly gave thanks for being a musician in this beautiful church, and having the privilege to have taken part in this very special event. *Soli Deo Gloia*.



Downing Place's Hauptwerk digital organ

DOWNING PLACE SPECIAL CAUSE FOR APRIL 2023

‘MOTIVATION’

We are very pleased to recommend the work of MOTIVATION to the church. Motivation is an international development charity and social enterprise, providing wheelchairs that meet users’ needs in the environment they live in. We have supported its activities for nearly 30 years.

When Motivation started out, disabled people had limited legal rights and there were no global guidelines for wheelchair provision. Since then, the United Nations has outlined the global rights of disabled people, and Motivation has worked with the World Health Organisation to create standards for quality wheelchairs, service provision, and training.

New chairs are designed for local conditions and with available materials in mind. By supporting Motivation, we will ensure that people will get appropriate wheelchairs and the support they are entitled to. They will also be enabled to be active members of their communities and will receive support for their mental and emotional well-being.

You will find more information about the work of the charity on their website <https://www.motivation.org.uk/>

Thank you for your practical support.

Ted and Margaret Dennison.



PREVIOUS SPECIAL CAUSES

A very big 'Thank you' from Lyn's House Cambridge

We're enormously grateful to you for your generosity, and wanted to say a bit about the kinds of things it will support.



Lyn's House small-group meal

Lyn's House is an ecumenical Christian community and registered charity. We're open to people from any or no faith tradition. We provide a space for life-enhancing friendship amongst people with and without intellectual disabilities, many of whom are in their 20s and 30s.

We do this by providing a space for several small, mixed-ability groups to meet over food and prayers fortnightly across the academic year.

We also gather as a whole community for a tea party once a month during Cambridge terms.

The space we provide centres on a rented house where the small groups meet, and where three young adults without disabilities live as an intentional Christian community and take a lead in helping organise our life as Lyn's House.

Lyn's House subsidises the rent our resident community pays. There's no charge made to anyone for food at our gatherings. We pay for taxis for anyone without their own transport, so that no-one is prevented by financial considerations from coming to Lyn's House. We're entirely reliant on donations to be able to do this.

It's difficult to say quite what Lyn's House means to those of us who are part of it. A parent of one of our friends with an intellectual disability simply said "It's difficult to say how much it means to her, because it means so much".

One of our friends who was a member of the resident community for three years said "I can honestly say my time living in Lyn's House has been one of the most important things I've ever done in my life... It's made me more of who I am".

It's also difficult to express how much it means to receive the kind of support you've given. But it's important to say it: so thank you VERY much, from all of us!

If you'd like to find out more, please drop us a line at lynshouse.cam@gmail.com

Carole Irwin, member of the Lyn's House Steering Group

CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION

Downing Place United Reformed Church
4 Downing Place
Cambridge
CB2 3EL

Organisation ID 9019292

7th March 2023



Dear Downing Place United Church,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you so much for your kind and generous donation of £1600 which we have received on 6th March 2023.

Your church's incredibly generous gift of £1600 will help us to fund fully-inclusive, comprehensive eye health programmes, in some of the poorest parts of the world, so that people with visual impairments are no longer *out of sight, out of mind*.

God calls us by name to spread his heart of love by doing his work, and together we create lasting change. Your kind gift is helping to provide surgical equipment, healthcare training and medical supplies; and enable people to receive the vital treatment they need.

You are bringing life changing transformations to both individuals, and their whole communities; and together, we're ensuring they can see God's love in action.

Once again, we thank you so much for partnering with Christian Blind Mission at this time.

Should you require any further information or have any further questions. Please give our friendly team a call on 01223 484700 or email us at info@cbmuk.org.uk

May God continue to bless you in all you do throughout this coming year.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Housden
Head of Marketing, CBM UK
markh@cbmuk.org.uk

CBM, Munro House, 20 Mercers Row, Cambridge CB5 5HY
CBM Scotland, 83 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2ER
CBM Northern Ireland, The Mount Business Centre, 2 Woodstock Link, Belfast BT6 8DD
• 01223 484700 • info@cbmuk.org.uk • www.cbmuk.org.uk

Christian Blind Mission (United Kingdom) Ltd. Charity Registration No. 1058162 (England & Wales) SC041101 (Scotland)



Patron: Baroness Brinton



Photo: Hijra in Bangladesh: Wikipedia; public domain

In Bangladesh, there are small, well-defined, transgender communities called Hijras. Hijras are often born male but look and dress in traditionally feminine ways. They face discrimination in every aspect of life: healthcare, education, public transport, and constitutional rights. The main reason is lack of awareness in the wider population, along with no official recognition or formal statistics.

Our partner Bandhu Social Welfare Society has been lobbying on behalf of the transgender and Hijra communities for seven years, alongside UNFPA (the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency) and UNICEF. This year, they achieved a significant victory when the National Curriculum and Textbook Board of Bangladesh agreed to incorporate comprehensive sexuality education into the national curriculum, which helps sensitise children on gender diversity. Bablai Raj Kumar is a Hijra. He writes that he used to work as a manual scavenger. Our Christian Aid partner in the region trained him in manufacturing cleaning products and flower stands. Now he earns 20,000 rupees a month, enhancing his status in society.



Latest Campaign from Global Justice Now

Global Justice Now would like to thank Commitment for Life sincerely for its generous support throughout 2022 and into 2023.

Rich countries and polluting corporations in the global north are the most responsible for climate change. As much as 92% of the carbon emissions that are in excess of safe planetary limits come from those rich countries. These include the UK, which is historically the world's 5th biggest polluter. Billions of people across the global south are facing climate chaos, despite being the least responsible for causing it.

At the COP27 climate talks, held in November 2022, countries finally agreed to set up an international compensation fund for 'loss and damage' due to climate change.

Global Justice Now is campaigning to make sure that this compensation is paid by the big polluting corporations in the fossil fuel industry, including in the UK, which has a moral and historic responsibility to act.

Global Justice Now is encouraging us to stand in solidarity with the global south in their demands. We can do this by telling the UK government to make polluters pay for loss and damage! You can do this by signing the petition addressed to the Prime Minister that is on their website www.bit.ly/mpptcd

Prayer

God, thank you that we have the privilege of serving you. Give us the courage to face down injustice, the strength to make a difference, and the wisdom to choose the right action to bring about your desire for peace, equity, and justice, especially for the poorest in the world. In Jesus we live and pray. Amen.



SUNDAY 14TH MAY – SATURDAY 20TH MAY

This year's Christian Aid Week is all about peas. Yes, that's right, peas.

To be precise, pigeon peas, also known as yellow split peas. This is a crop which can grow in drought conditions, is highly nutritious, and can be made into all sorts of tasty dishes. It can be ground into flour to make bread or pastry and much more.

Pigeon peas are bringing hope to communities in Malawi struggling with the effects of climate change (and of course the recent storms which have devastated whole areas of the country).



In Christian Aid Week we shall be hearing about two women, Jen and Esther, who are growing pigeon peas and using the proceeds to support their families and pay for their education. Esther Saizi and her cooperative make bread from processed pigeon peas. They meet every morning in the

warehouse Christian Aid has built and use the large oven to bake bread to sell at the market. Of course this is just one of Christian Aid's many projects in Malawi and elsewhere which your donations will help to support. You can see details of the huge variety of Christian Aid's work on the website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/our-work/programmes/all-programmes>

More details about Christian Aid week in May's *Place Matters*, but please make a note now about this year's **Christian Aid service**.

When: Sunday May 14th, 6.30 pm

Where: Castle St. Methodist Church, with thanks to the Minister, the Rev. Jenny Pathmarajah

Who: Our speaker will be the Rt. Rev. Dagmar Winter, Bishop of Huntingdon.

Please do try to come to hear about Christian Aid Week and listen to Bishop Dagmar.

Any questions about Christian Aid week, please contact Sheila Porrer.



THE BASIS OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE YORK STREET MONIES

At the January 2023 Downing Place URC Church Meeting it was agreed that church members would find it helpful if a short article could be included in *Place Matters* to explain the basis of distribution of the ‘York Street monies’, and how that will change following completion of the restructuring which is currently in the process of approval by the Charity Commission.

What is the source of these York Street funds? The former St Columba’s Mission Hall in York Street, donated to the Church by the Lewis and Gibson sisters in the 1900s, was demolished in 2001, and since 2003 a purpose-built medical practice has been on the site. The net surplus from the rental of the property has, to date, been distributed to Downing Place URC (DPURC) - previously to St. Columba’s - based on the following allocation:

75% to the General Fund

25% to the York Street Fund, for distribution to good causes

For the year ended 31 December 2022, the net distribution is estimated as £110,000, which will result in £82,500 (75%) being distributed to the General Fund of DPURC, and £27,500 (25%) being allocated to good causes. Each year, the Downing Place World Church and Public Issues Group brings a recommendation to Church Meeting concerning the charities (the ‘good causes’) to be supported in the coming year.

When the restructuring is complete, one-third of the distribution will be remitted to Synod, with the remaining two-thirds being distributed to DPURC. (There is an understanding that Synod will apply their receipt to support the work of the Pioneer Minister). From the two-thirds to DPURC, the same allocation as

previously will be used [i.e.](#) 75% to General Funds, and 25% to the York Street Fund.

For the year ending 31 December 2023 the net distribution is estimated as £108,000, which will be distributed £36,000 (1/3rd) to Synod and £72,000 (2/3rds) to DPURC.

The distribution to DPURC will then be allocated £54,000 (75%) to General Funds, and £18,000 (25%) to good causes.

So, for every £6 of the net distribution, the change in the allocation is this:

Before restructuring:

£4.50 to DPURC General Fund

£1.50 to York Street Fund for good causes

After restructuring:

£2 to Synod

£3 to DPURC General Fund

£1 to York Street Fund for good causes

Ian C. Strachan

PASTORAL NEWS

Covid has not gone away, but those of our number afflicted in March are now on the mend. Hospital admissions for one or two other members were of short duration, fortunately, although some in the congregation have faced family bereavements. Please also remember the administrative staff who can be called on to step into other areas of responsibility, in order to serve the church community.

Getting to church on a couple of Sundays proved challenging. Weekday services were unaffected, and the World Day of Prayer on 3rd allowed visitors from other churches to view the re-developed premises, and enjoy refreshments in the Hub, thanks to Deborah McVey's oversight.

This is also the appropriate point to thank all visiting preachers during Nigel's sabbatical, as we look forward to his return.

A message of thanks has been received for the letter which Nigel sent to the members of St Bene't's after their vicar, Anna Matthews, died, and whom we remembered in the intercessions on 12 March.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT DOWNING PLACE

Here are details about all of our services over Holy Week and Easter

2 April Palm Sunday

11:00am Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
to be led by the Revd Chris Baker.

This service will be held in person and livestreamed, with the recording available afterwards

Our Holy Week services will open windows onto the cost of God's love. Four online services, for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Holy Saturday will follow St John's account of the passion. Their titles are 'Anointed', 'Lifted up!', 'Betrayed' and 'Buried'. Through prayer, readings and music they offer the chance to reflect each day on our Lord's love for the world and on our discipleship. These four services, led by the Revd Dr David Cornick with music by Ian de Massini, will be available on our Youtube channel from early morning.

3 April Holy Monday - 'Anointed'

4 April Holy Tuesday - 'Lifted Up'

5 April Holy Wednesday 'Betrayed'

6 April Maundy Thursday

7.30pm A 'live' service of worship with Holy Communion
to be led by the Revd David Tatem

7 April Good Friday

10:00am Free Churches' Good Friday service at Wesley Church
Preacher: Steve Langford

1:00pm 'Have you heard'

A reflective service led by Jane Bower and Ian de Massini
(see opposite page for details)

8 April Holy Saturday - 'Buried'

4:00pm Cambridge Voices' Holy Week Concert (see opposite page for details)

9 April Easter Day

Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
to be led by the Revd Liz Caswell

This service will be held in person and livestreamed, with the recording available afterwards

HAVE YOU HEARD?

A time of listening on Good Friday, April 7th 1.00-2.00

Downing Place URC

Poems, prose, hymns, silence

Music on piano, organ, cello and clarsach harp

Includes pieces written by members of the church

Led by Jane Bower and Ian de Massini

All welcome

Saturday 8th April, 4pm

Downing Place United Reformed
Church, Cambridge CB2 3EL

Free admission



Holy Week Concert



MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

2 April	Liz Caswell Penny Flynn Janet Tollington	Bassingbourn Fulbourn Bishop's Stortford
6 April (Maundy Thursday)	Deborah McVey Janet Tollington	Primrose Croft Care Home (11am) Fulbourn (7.30pm) Bar Hill (7.30pm)
7 April (Good Friday)	Janet Bottoms	Fulbourn
9 April	Chris Baker Janet Tollington	Stetchworth & Cheveley Saffron Walden
15 April	David Cornick (URC 50th Anniversary Celebration)	Methodist Central Hall
16 April	Liz Caswell Janet Tollington	Melbourn St Neots
23 April	Penny Flynn Deborah McVey Janet Tollington	Melbourn St Luke's LEP, Cambridge Stetchworth & Cheveley
30 April	Chris Baker Liz Caswell David Cornick John Proctor Janet Tollington	Burwell Stetchworth & Cheveley Bury St Edmunds Hythe, Southampton (remotely) Buntingford

Dear Cambridge Area Partnership friends

A date for your diary: our next AP meeting will be at Sawston Free Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 June. We expect also to offer an option to join online (details to follow). In addition to our usual catch-up with one another, Nicola Grieves will be speaking. Do let any others who might be interested in your church community know so they can reserve the date if they'd like to.

Looking forward to seeing you then.

With best wishes

Richard Lenney Area Partnership Pastoral Advocate

DIARY

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sat	01-Apr-23	Nightlite	10:00pm - 4:00am	Emmanuel Room
Sun	02-Apr-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	02-Apr-23	Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Chris Baker	11:00am	Church
Sun	02-Apr-23	Open Table Social Gathering	7:00pm	The Hub
Mon	03-Apr-23	'Anointed': A Holy Week reflection led by the Revd Dr David Cornick will be available on our Youtube channel from early morning		
Mon	03-Apr-23	Officers' Meeting	4:00pm	
Tue	04-Apr-23	'Lifted Up': A Holy Week reflection led by the Revd Dr David Cornick will be available on our Youtube channel from early morning		
Tue	04-Apr-23	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St. Athanasios Church
Wed	05-Apr-23	'Betrayed' A Holy Week reflection led by the Revd Dr David Cornick will be available on our Youtube channel from early morning		
Wed	05-Apr-23	Dementia Compass Exercise Group	11:00am	Gibson Hall
Wed	05-Apr-23	Lunchtime Concert - Eduard Sanchez (flute)	1:00pm	Church
Thu	06-Apr-23	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	06-Apr-23	Maundy Thursday Communion Service led by Revd. David Tatem	7:30pm	Church
Fri	07-Apr-23	Free Churches' Good Friday Worship	10:00am	Wesley Church
Fri	07-Apr-23	'Have you Heard?' A reflective service led by Jane Bower & Ian de Massini (<i>see p.37</i>)	1:00pm	Church

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sat	08-Apr-23	'Buried': A Holy Week reflection led by the Revd Dr David Cornick will be available on our Youtube channel from early morning		
Sat	08-Apr-23	Music for Holy Week - Cambridge Voices (<i>see p.37</i>)	4:00pm	Church
Sun	09-Apr-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	09-Apr-23	Easter Sunday Worship with Communion led by the Revd Liz Caswell	11:00am	Church
Tue	11-Apr-23	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St. Athanasios Church
Wed	12-Apr-23	Dementia Compass Exercise Group	11:00am	Gibson Hall
Wed	12-Apr-23	Lunchtime Concert - Jessica Lawrence-Hares (soprano) & Olga Elbourn (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Thu	13-Apr-23	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Church
Thu	13-Apr-23	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sat	15-Apr-23	Nightlite	10:00pm - 4:00am	Emmanuel Room
Sun	16-Apr-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	16-Apr-23	Sunday Worship led by the Revd Deborah McVey Preacher: The Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Church
Sun	16-Apr-23	Open Table Communion Service	7:00pm	Church
Mon	17-Apr-23	CLOSING DATE for signing in to the Gibson Lunch on Thursday 20th		Telephone or ask at Reception
Mon	17-Apr-23	Transition Cambridge Energy Group	8:00pm	The Hub
Tue	18-Apr-23	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St. Athanasios Church

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Wed	19-Apr-23	CLOSING DATE for submitting articles for May's <i>Place Matters</i>		
Wed	19-Apr-23	Dementia Compass Exercise Group	11:00am	Gibson Hall
Wed	19-Apr-23	Lunchtime Concert - James Williams (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Wed	19-Apr-23	Finance Committee Meeting	7:00pm	Emmanuel Room
Thu	20-Apr-23	Gibson Lunch	12:30pm	Gibson Hall
Thu	20-Apr-23	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	20-Apr-23	Midweek Worship led by Dr Alan Rickard	6:00pm	St Columba's Chapel
Fri	21-Apr-23	Cambridge Early Music - Palisander Recorders	7:30pm	Church
Sat	22-Apr-23	Nightlite	10:00pm - 4:00am	Emmanuel Room
Sun	23-Apr-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	23-Apr-23	Sunday Worship led by the Revd Nigel Uden followed by a Retiring Collection for <i>Motivation</i> (see p28)	11:00am	Church
Mon	24-Apr-23	Officers' Meeting	4:00pm	
Tue	25-Apr-23	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St. Athanasios Church
Wed	26-Apr-23	Dementia Compass Exercise Group	11:00am	Gibson Hall
Wed	26-Apr-23	Lunchtime Concert - Nigel Blomley (cello) & Richard Shaw (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Wed	26-Apr-23	Pioneer Minister Management Meeting	4:00pm	Rooms 1 & 2
Wed	26-Apr-23	Additional Elders' Meeting		
Thu	27-Apr-23	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Thu	27-Apr-23	Midweek Worship with Communion led by the Revd Dr David Cornick	1:00pm	Church
Sat	29-Apr-23	Nightlite	10:00pm - 4:00am	Emmanuel Room
Sun	30-Apr-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	30-Apr-23	Sunday Worship led by Dr Janet Bottoms	11:00am	Church
Sun	30-Apr-23	Cambridge Philharmonic Concert	7:00pm	Church
Tue	02-May-23	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St. Athanasios Church
Wed	03-May-23	Dementia Compass Exercise Group	11:00am	Gibson Hall
Wed	03-May-23	Lunchtime Concert - Roland Robertson (organ)	1:00pm	Church
Thu	04-May-23	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	04-May-23	Midweek Worship led by Penny Flynn	11:00am	Church
Sat	06-May-23	Nightlite	All day	Emmanuel Room
Sun	07-May-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Downing Place URC
Sun	07-May-23	Sunday Service with Communion led by Revd Nigel Uden with Ordination/Induction of Elders	11:00am	Church
Sun	07-May-23	Open Table Social Gathering	7:00pm	The Hub



LECTIONARY FOR APRIL 2023

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

2 April Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

Philippians 2:5-11

9 April Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 *or* Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 *or*

Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 *or*

Matthew 28:1-10

16 April Easter 2

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

23 April Easter 3

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

30 April Easter 4

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

7 May Easter 5

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14





A riot of pink and yellow blooms in our courtyard, March 2023

Photograph by Ann Auger

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 May edition to both Tim and Ann by the cut off date of **Wednesday 19 April**.

The April edition will be available from **Sunday 30 April**.