



**DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE**

PLACE MATTERS



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*Cover photograph taken by Jess Uden at the Open Table National Gathering
which was held at Downing Place on 10 June.*

Read more about the day and see more photographs on page 20.

FROM THE MINISTER

Having recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of Downing Place United Reformed Church it is obvious that change is something we all live with throughout our lives. Although we may be resistant to change, we need look no farther than our own bodies to know that to be alive is to change. Our size and shape, our hair, our face; everything gradually alters as time passes. So, change is not a mistake, not always a sign that what was once OK is now wrong and has to be revised. It is just the way things are. Indeed, one might claim that the only thing that does not change is a dead thing.

There are, of course, changes that are far more globally significant than whether I am going grey or finding that people no longer speak as clearly as they used to. The unstable nature of peace between nations, the evolving state of Covid-19, which the World Health Organisation ceased calling a global health emergency on May 5th, and the volatility of banks as those like Credit Suisse are bought out, all witness to the irresistibility of change as part of the global reality.

Into this changing context comes AI – Artificial Intelligence. It sees computers performing tasks previously in the domain of humans, things like problem-solving and decision-making. At its best, AI can be marvellous. E-payments and ‘auto correct’ when we are typing are but two examples of useful AI. Simultaneously, though, it is causing considerable angst, too. The BBC reports, ‘Many workers worry AI is coming for their jobs.’ And even those key to AI’s development talk of its capacity for disinformation and for exercising authoritarian control.

What then are we to make of AI? And how might Christian faith influence our attitude toward it? I am not going to attempt an explanation of what AI is or how it works. You all know me quite well enough to know that is beyond my grasp. I do, though, want to offer three thoughts, which may be interesting points to ponder. The first is that Artificial Intelligence is not going away. It is making a lasting impact. This ‘machine learning’ is catching our eye and influencing our lives. We cannot ignore it because it is not ignoring us. So it is that we do well to learn about it. Just as other trends in society require people of faith to explore how their faith might shape their attitudes to them, so does AI. When divorce became acceptable in society, faith communities re-examined their approach to it ... and reached a range of differing conclusions. When slavery rose up society’s agenda, so the Church needed to delve into history and theology in order to discern whether we needed to alter our stance. And one could cite Sunday trading and sexuality, too. Just as each of those topics does not leave the Church with a single perspective, understanding or policy, so we might

well reach varying conclusions about AI. But we cannot afford to pretend it is not happening, as if our religion is irrelevant to it. God reigns over all things. Religion reflects upon God's reign over AI, and what the religious person's response should be. Religious people's range of views will probably be instructive in themselves as we learn from each other. Maybe studying a book about it is a good idea. If any readers of this article would like to suggest one they have found accessible and authoritative, I for one would be pleased to hear about it. We could publish details in the September *Place Matters*.

Secondly, I think people of faith need to explore whether AI is for the *common good*. Demonstrably, some things, like Sat Nav, are. But in order for us to discern whether AI is of universal value, it becomes necessary for there to be a careful and consistent ethical framework. So that humanity can best navigate AI's rapid and unrelenting advance, many are now asking what governance of AI is required. Indeed, in March the UK government began consulting about its latest proposals, and whilst preparing this article, I learned of the Prime Minister's visit to Washington, and of how, in *The Guardian's* words, he 'used [it] to push the UK as a global centre for *artificial intelligence regulation*.' Should there be *policies* with some wide acceptance, which set out procedural norms and mutually agreed goals for AI? Or would *laws* be better, with their capacity to mandate, proscribe and coerce? Clearly, the self-regulation that says 'trust me' is becoming increasingly inadequate, not least with some of AI's leading developers having now become cautious about what it might get up to. Christian faith is no stranger to urging the common good, but to be relevant to AI we must take the virtues we usually espouse, and interpret them insightfully for this purpose. It's all very well to plead for an ethos of fairness and responsibility, but for AI truly to be for the common good its governance needs to embody more tightly defined virtues like democracy, impartiality, accountability, justice, and equal access. There may not be Biblical material about AI, but the Gospel's commitment to the common good is as crucial for AI as for anything else. That is surely all the more so, when the so-called 'Godfather of AI', Professor Geoffrey Hinton, speaks of it posing a greater threat than climate change. Good governance of AI is about being good stewards of the creation that God has entrusted to us.

And finally, the Christian cannot regard the seemingly limitless and uncontrollable capacity of Artificial Intelligence as superior to the person and work of the Holy Spirit. She is God with us. As John Bradbury said at the fifth anniversary service of Downing Place Church: 'The Spirit, ... when she encounters us, is the one true living God encountering us.' She is the one 'mothering creation'. We can be as impressed with AI as we wish, and our lives can be influenced by it in all sorts of ways. But the Holy Spirit is the more pervasive power, which even AI cannot trounce. That is why we need a Christian

perspective on AI, so that we can bring to it the richness of our theology, which has God and nothing else as the ‘source, guide and goal of all that is’. It leaves a tantalising question: If God is God, what are we to make of AI?’

Without a doubt, Artificial Intelligence is here to stay. Let’s engage with it knowledgeably, responsibly, and theologically, so that swept along by the Spirit it is for the common good, and the glory of God.

Nigel Uden



ELLA MARGERY GARNER (née MCVEY) - A PROFILE

I grew up in Cambridge, having been born in 1987 in the Rosie Maternity Hospital when it was still quite new, the fourth child in the McVey family. With a bit of an age gap between the older three siblings and myself, I couldn’t be described as a shy child, but embraced and loved my place as the youngest, and feel incredibly lucky to be part of a large family. Attending Morley Memorial Primary, then onto Coleridge Community College and later at Hills Road Sixth Form, school was perhaps not my strength. However the many extracurricular activities including Brownies and Guides, Piano, Ballet, and Scottish dancing (at Cherry Hinton Road URC) I was privileged to enjoy made life rich and happy. There was, of course, our Church family, being introduced to Emmanuel URC at a church picnic when I was just 7 days old. As a teenager my group of peers at church was smaller than it had been, but it was no less important. I loved being part of YPSEG, the Young People’s Sunday Evening Group, having seen Jessie, Henry and Arthur go ahead of me. The leaders were willing to take us on holidays, including on a ferry all the way to Belgium, and gave a lot of their time and care to a small group; it really cemented my feeling of belonging, even when ‘church’ was becoming less common among other friends. Living in Rathmore Road sometimes felt like an extension of Emmanuel, but it was also another community of friends playing out in the road. Now living in Stapleford, I hope our boys will get to experience this as they grow up, surrounded by people who know and care for each other.

As a child the Christian faith had a large presence in our home, not just from Emmanuel but with Mum starting training for ministry around my 8th birthday. That gave Dad and me precious weekends together whilst Mum was away at the ministry training course. Later when Dad worked for CWM in London it showed me how working life could combine beliefs with his professional skills helping others around the world. This opened my eyes to many countries and

cultures that I wanted to explore and since then, travel has been a love of mine. The sense of adventure was instilled in me and my siblings from a young age when we were packed in the car each summer and driven around continental Europe to stay with family friends in Germany, Switzerland, France and Belgium, many of whom were met through a wider Christian community.



Childhood

When I was at secondary school, work experience also led me to the URC, when Rosemary Johnston kindly offered me the opportunity to work with her for a week in London, in the Children's ministry team at Church House. Commuting from Cambridge was an experience, but it culminated in my attending the General Assembly at St. Andrews. As a teenage girl I must admit the excitement of staying in the hall of residence of a certain Royal at the time was just as exciting, and I may have slid up and down the benches in the Dining Hall to say I had sat where he had! Prince William aside, it opened the opportunity two years later to attend FURY (Fellowship of United Reformed Youth) as the synod representative, where I enjoyed meeting other young people sharing their faith.

At 18 I had a gap year, and for part of that worked for 6 months in the Fare Shares Café that was open at Emmanuel during the week. It was a wonderful time, and I still use the cake and quiche recipes that I know by heart, thanks to the guidance of Liz Barrow and Margaret Dennison. My love of cooking started then, and has woven its way into my work now in hospitality. After travelling in Australia for 6 months I returned and studied English Literature and European Studies at the University of the West of England in Bristol. Like many adult

children I found myself returning home to Cambridge after 4 very fun years in such a vibrant city.

I work at Trinity Hall leading the Conference Team, having worked my way up from the administrator 12 years ago to become the Conference Manager. It is a full-on but hugely rewarding post, growing the College's commercial business alongside managing a brilliant team. It hasn't been without challenges during the pandemic, which saw the business profile we had built completely disappear, but thankfully events and meetings are now making a return and the college's reputation for fine dining allows me to be indulge again in my love of food and wine. If you have an occasion to plan a special party, dinner, wedding or conference do be in touch!

In Bristol I met my husband Glenn while we both worked at Bristol Rugby club. He moved to Cambridge in 2013, also working within the university. We married at Emmanuel as the last wedding to take place there in 2017 and life came the full circle with George's baptism: the first infant baptism to take place at Downing Place.



Wedding

Both of our boys were born in the Rosie three years ago (George Sebastian) and last year (Albert Benjamin), and we are now settling into the rhythm of life as a family of four. They are certainly keeping us on our toes, being described by their grandma as 'spirited'. They attend nursery 3 days a week and we are fortunate to rely on grandparent support for the other two days, as both Glenn and I work full time. We feel hugely lucky to have that support and to have both sets of

parents near enough. The boys' aunties, uncles and cousins are so important to us, and we are looking forward to being all together this month for a holiday to celebrate mum and dad's 50th wedding anniversary.

As I have dipped in and out of regularly attending church, I have realised how important that community is; but prayer, strength and faith are also found in the community of our daily lives too.



As a wider family we have been grateful for Addenbrooke's Hospital being on our doorstep. Sadly our first pregnancy was a miscarriage; in the autumn of 2019 I found myself under the doctors' care again, having collapsed due to a heterotopic pregnancy. It is such a rare condition but testament to the skill and care of surgeons, doctors, nurses that, by some miracle, our son George remained healthy whilst I was suffering the ectopic. Never more

had I drawn on the strength of my faith in God - and it made me want to support others, for this kind of experience can feel so lonely.

We have been fortunate to have a few celebrations in our household in the last month, Luton Town's promotion to the Premier League the day before Albert's baptism was - for one of us certainly - worth mentioning. I want to thank the church family for making Albert's baptism service feel so relaxed, welcoming and loving. I hope the boys grow up knowing how important family is, both biological and community. My parents are a huge influence on who I am today, and I hope that I make them proud as I could not have asked for a better upbringing. Their home



continues to be the place that we descend on as a wider family, our boys get looked after in each week and underpinning that is a sense of love and hospitality undoubtedly coming from the love of God.

“I WAS THERE” – GEORGE DEVINE REPORTS

Editor: the May 2023 issue of Place Matters informed us that Downing Place member, George Devine, had received an invitation to be at Westminster Abbey for the Coronation of the King and Queen on 6 May. George kindly responded to my request to tell us something about his experience.

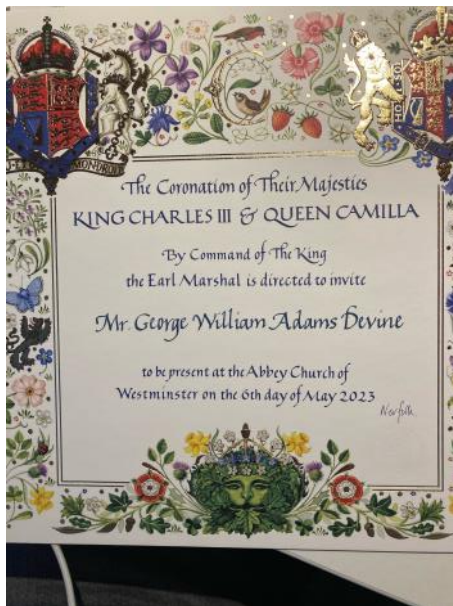
A day of celebration

It was 5am, and I was just getting myself together for what would be a fairly long day. I had travelled down to London the night before, and I was in The Premier Inn close to Kings Cross.

Thinking the traffic would have been heavy, I headed down to reception at about ten to six and asked them to order me a taxi: they did and it turned up five minutes later - it turned out the traffic was very light!! The taxi dropped me at Pimlico at 6.15, and as it was a very pleasant morning I walked along the Thames. I arrived at my allotted entrance to Westminster rather early and joined a small queue of around twenty people who had been invited to the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Like me, most of the people there were still reeling from the fact they had been invited. I was brought up on a council estate in South Edinburgh; people like me did not get invited to state occasions, but here I was, and I was determined to make as much of the day as I could. The gate opened at 7.15, we walked to security, and after a quick check we were on our way to Westminster Abbey. I was wearing my kilt and Scout uniform and managed to have a chat with a few of the Scouts and Guides who were stewards for the day, some from Scotland! They had been up since 2am!! I met Julie Spence, Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, and had a short chat with her.

I entered the Abbey through the Great West Door, my invitation was for a place in the Nave. One of the Abbey Stewards asked to see my ticket and suggested I sit wherever I liked. I did, and sat just inside the door, in the front row, by the grave of the unknown soldier.



Now I thought the royal party would enter through the great North Door, but when Justin Welby appeared it was obvious I was wrong. Matt Hyde, CEO of the Scout association was the first person to stop and say hello. Justin Welby had a chat with us as he waited for the main event. I chatted with the people around me, a man from Ghana and a woman from Northern Ireland, both obviously very involved in their respective communities.

Eleven o'clock came, the heralds sounded a fanfair and it all began. The Prince and Princess of Wales came in and were followed by their two youngest, Charlotte with a firm hold of Louis hand - I think she was in control. The Queen then passed within a few feet of me and looked quite relaxed. The King passed on the other side.

We were then into the service proper, and whilst a screen had been erected I could see some of the proceedings as the Archbishop moved around the throne.

My love of pageantry and music was not disappointed, the choir were magnificent and it all seemed quite surreal. Then, of course, Zadok the Priest resounded round the whole abbey: it would have been difficult not to be moved by this beautiful piece of music, never mind the context in which it was being played. I was elated and felt exhilarated in the atmosphere of the whole event. This was what Britain did best, we had our full party frock on and we looked good!

During my life I have sometimes questioned the monarchy and its purpose, and there are a few now who would wish to see this part of our culture set aside in favour of a republic. I am not so sure. As I have travelled and experienced some of the republican leaders around the world I can't help but feel that for all its faults we may well have the best of options, a constitutional monarch who simply 'does as they are told', and puts this country in a favourable light across the world. I am not entirely sure I want yet another level of elections and I question whether we would get the same interest globally for the inauguration of a president. You may have a different view and I respect that.



Once the coronation was over, the Royal party came back through the abbey, the Queen this time looking terrified that the crown, which was sitting precariously on her head, might fall off. As the Prince and Princess of Wales passed she recognised my Scout uniform, and gave me the most endearing smile. Once they were gone I got a tap on the shoulder and a voice said, “You look resplendent in your kilt and uniform” it was Giles Brandreth, who else!!

I got back to the hotel, retrieved my bag and went to the toilet to change in a cubicle. I was aware of being alone all the time I was in there: it was just as well - when I came out I realised I had been in the ladies ... a day of many experiences and lasting memories.

George Devine



PRAISE FOR DOWNING PLACE

An extract from an Email sent to Downing Place United Reformed Church, following a visit to the church on June 13th by a former professional sound engineer and current member of *The Bach Choir* who were due to give a concert in King's College Chapel later that day:

“The refurbishment of the former St Columba’s United Reformed Church is truly magnificent. I have not worked in the construction industry for 40 years without picking up something, and I truly think the building is now a triumph. It is an oasis of calm in the City, and I cannot think of another such place outside the colleges. All the other churches are utterly hectic and annoying. This is a credit not only to the designers but also to both congregations.

And the organ! The sound is quite unlike any other electronic organ I have ever heard. It allows in space, the gaps in which the music needs to be heard. Each individual ‘stop’ on all those organs is lovingly recreated, even the ‘out of tune-ness’ of those certain French stops is there, and is perfect.

Zillions of congratulations for everyone’s persistence and skills.’

Tim Lewers

HUB FOLK - GORDON

We have been blessed over the past couple of years with friendships which have evolved with people who come into our building regularly, for a variety of reasons. We thought we would occasionally feature them in the pages of Place Matters - something about them, or their work, or something they have contributed to the Hub.

Some of you may have seen the photograph below in the window of the 'Place des Musiciens' office behind Reception, visible from the Hub. It appeared in the weeks leading up to the Coronation, provided by Hub regular Gordon, who wrote the caption below the photo.

Ann Auger



King George VI review of the fleet with the Royal Family 27 May 1947.

Photograph taken by a Hub regular who was a member of the Royal Navy and on board HMS Vengeance on the occasion of the King's visit.

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

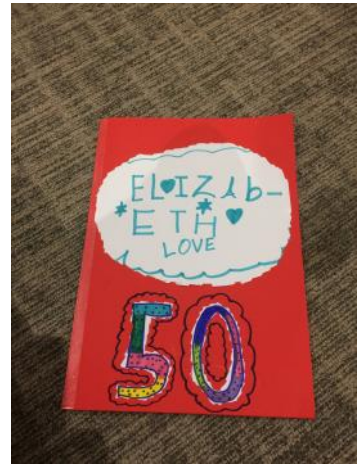
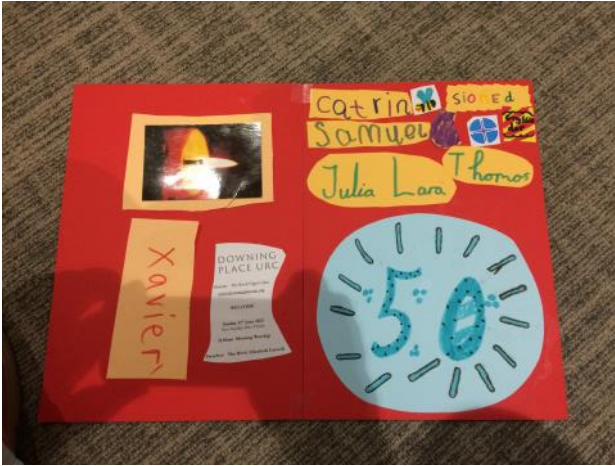
On the first Sunday of June, we discussed with the children the seasons when we remember the events of Jesus' life, from Christmas, through holy week and Easter, leading up to the last words Jesus said to his disciples before leaving them, urging them to go out and spread the good news. We talked about baptism, and remembered Albie's baptism the previous week. The younger children then drew figures on dominoes, lined them up and knocked them over whilst talking about how we can spread good news from one person to another until everyone has heard. The older children spent a little time discussing some main differences between Christianity and other faiths they had learned about in school. They then completed some word puzzles on the theme of the Trinity.



On Sunday June 11th, Elizabeth Caswell was leading worship. She reminded us how God called old people like Abraham, aged 75 like her and some of the congregation, and even older like Moses. Then also very young people like the boy Samuel. Some people are in the middle for age and they are called too.

In our group we admired the growth in the garden and noticed how different people felt called to contribute ideas and plants. In our room we thought about how Matthew was called to follow Jesus, change his life and live up to his calling. We knew Liz had followed her calling and been a minister for 50 years.

Some of us, like Liz, are rather fond of Winnie the Pooh. We remembered the story of when Pooh realised that Eeyore had no cards on his birthday and went to get him some honey. We, aged 3 - 76, made a card together for Liz and gave it to her after the service.



On the third Sunday of June, we started thinking about all the different things we might take with us on a trip. Our packing lists were quite long and comprehensive – clothes, shoes, hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, books, puzzles, water bottles, food, money, mobile phone, phone charger, maps and possibly a satnav – all fitting into a backpack or a suitcase. But we were quite surprised to hear that when Jesus instructed the disciples to go out and proclaim Jesus’ message, he asked them not to pack a lot of things, but instead to depend on the generosity of others. They must have been very brave! We realised that this approach must have been successful because Christian communities have managed to spread all over the world.

We spent some time experimenting with compasses and thinking about how they can show us the way to travel. We thought about all the places where we had been and seen churches – USA (to the west), China (to the east), Madeira and Spain (to the south). The disciples didn’t have compasses – they were shown the way to go by trusting in Jesus and his instructions. To remind us of this, we decorated some heart shaped cards, wrote “Let’s follow Jesus” on the cards, and attached the cards to our compasses.

Elza de Bruin, Lorraine Thornton and Daphne Thomas, with thanks to all the leaders for their contributions, and to Jess Uden for the photos

BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

I am writing this on the day of Pentecost, the day we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit – or the birthday of the church. One week ago a group of us returned to the forest in Trumpington Meadows (see the Editor's endnote) to wonder, play and create together at a gathering we called, 'Less Heat, More Light.' Aptly I think, this Sunday fell between Ascension, when we remember Christ's leaving, when hope has gone, and the return of the Holy Spirit in the wind and the fire. I spend much of my time in these 'in-between' spaces. Liminal spaces that can make us feel uncertain, not sure of what is to come, and yet these spaces can be full of potential and creativity.

As part of the Solidarity Hub a group of us wished to create a gathering that would be 'welcoming, inclusive and aware, for people of all ages and identities, of all faiths and none.' On this beautiful Sunday afternoon, as the sun peeked through the green canopy of trees above us, it felt like this invitation had in some part been fulfilled. A group of over 30 of us gathered, ranging in age from 1 - 60+ years and including a range of faiths - Christian, Muslim, Humanist, Atheist - and these are the ones I am aware of.

We began by singing a song set to a traditional South African tune using a slightly adapted version of John Bell's words, 'God Welcomes All.' The movement that we used to accompany each line is shown in brackets:

We welcome all (*arms outstretched*)

Strangers and friends (*hold up a forefinger in turn on each hand to represent the strangers and friends*)

This love is strong (*interlock the two fingers together and place near your chest to form a strong chain*)

And it never ends (*make a rolling action using both hands away from your body*)

I then invited each person to choose a red stone, to say their name and something that "sets their heart on fire", that makes them feel alive. As each person spoke about the many things that ignite them – running; cycling in the countryside; having their mum to stay; running barefoot – it was if the real fire with its warmth, smell and sounds, was joining in with our conversation and delighting in the discovery of new connections.

With a sense of anticipation, I opened my bag of sand and began to tell the story of the day of Pentecost, "Once there was a group of friends gathered together. Waiting for the gift that had been promised..." I used red felt flames, natural objects such as sticks, stones, a pine cone and a shell to enact out the story. I intentionally did

not use people's names such as Jesus or Peter, or actual figures, but rather left the story open, to be interpreted in whatever way the listeners on this day needed to hear it. At the start of every OutoftheBox story I begin with the phrase: "Your story, my story, our story, let's be curious about this story". This enables rich wondering and possibilities.

At the end of the story, I asked "What did you like? What didn't you like? What does the story remind you of?" Contributions included wondering what it is like to be the one in a group that speaks out; how "love is contagious" (offered by a 9-year-old) which prompted a 12-year-old to say "like Covid", which led on to an older person reflecting on the good that the pandemic brought in terms of unifying us across all languages, like the people in the story could also understand one another. A three-year-old said they liked all the people gathered together (us) and their mum said how it's like the people gathered in the story. Someone asked for two felt flames to be joined together into a heart shape (see photo). They chose one of the 'originators' of the love, and someone from the crowd.



We followed the story with an invitation to write on a piece of kindling about something they would like to let go of and then to place it in the fire. As people reflected quietly on their own or spoke with people nearby, we sang the Taize chant: "Within our darkest night you kindle a fire that never dies away." As I threw my 'kindling of self-doubt' into the fire and others joined me, the fire grew more beautiful and alive. Our worries had been transformed and I was reminded of the words from 1 John: "There is no fear in love, for perfect love drives out fear."



One parent commented: "Well that was fantastic! How wonderful it is for the children to see vulnerability, openness and connections played out in front of them! My five-year old blew me away with their chats about what they wrote on their kindling. I feel lucky to be a part of a growing and inclusive community."

So I left the forest and joined my family on our canoe. I was reminded of how God's creative spirit has been moving over the surface of the waters since the start of time. Love has always been.

I am filled with hope: I wonder where we will next experience the contagiousness of Love?

Helen Bell

Editor: *Place Matters* readers might recall Alex Clare-Young's account of an 'Out the Box' event with Helen on Good Friday, in the forest near Trumpington Meadows – see the May 2023 issue. See also Jane Bower's article 'So glad I went' in the June 2023 issue.



POETRY AT DOWNING PLACE, No. 5 – KATE GREEN

Editor: the June 2023 issue of Place Matters included a poem 'Passengers', by Downing Place member Kate Green. In May, our series featuring Poetry at Downing Place had reached Poet No.4, making Kate our de facto 5th poet. Kate graciously replied to my request for a second poem, with a brief prelude to set the poem in context. Here it is.

Kate writes -

Ever since I was a child, I have dreamed of camping on a roundabout, and on the run-up to writing the poem actually prayerfully imagined doing it and realised it was rather a good stilling exercise; remaining Christ-centred whenever I can, remaining positioned in Christ amid frantic busyness, peaceful times, joy or sadness.

Roundabout

Something I had always longed to do
But never got beyond just driving,
round and round the roundabout -
was to approach on foot,
that grass and concrete island
and sit concealed, amongst the Daffodils
and cavernous shrubs,
just to see what happens
and how still it is.

The cars keep coming
round and round
but I am on my holy isle
of silence with the birds and flowers
and I am safe and looking at the sky
and wondering if I might
take up residence
so I can smile at Moles
as they come up for air
and steer them off the tarmac
and keep the Owls preoccupied with tea.

I had a human visitor today on this highway tussock.
I watched Him climb the mound
in grubby raincoat,
as He skimmed His caring hands
across the surface of the daffodils.
He said he'd come to meet me at
this half-way point -
to chat amongst the stillness and the Moles
and as he sipped his earl grey tea
the air turned gold between us,
He gathered up our glistening words
and piled them in a cotton sack
marked 'prayers'.

I am on the look-out now,
for roundabouts at every turn,
and hope to greet Him
On every single one.
As long as I don't just keep driving,
round and round
but seek His stillness
by meeting in the middle,
on foot and hidden from the world.

April 2021

OPEN TABLE NETWORK NATIONAL GATHERING

On Saturday the 10th of June, Downing Place Church hosted the Open Table Network National Gathering. Around 60 people attended, with opportunities for fellowship, craft, food, Bible study, appreciative enquiry, and conversation culminating in a shared service of Holy Communion. For the first time, Solidarity Hub members joined Downing Place Church members in volunteering to help the day to run smoothly, and to make everyone feel ‘more than welcome’ (Open Table Network’s Tagline) for which I am more than grateful! It was incredible to meet so many folks from all over the country together in one space, and to see diverse parts of our ‘community of communities’ here at Downing Place join together in facilitating a day of celebration and solidarity. It was also great to meet some new friends from Cambridge who joined us for the first time. Lots of people helped out but, at the risk of missing some names, it would be remiss of me to not note the wonderful contributions of: Skye, Deborah, William, Sonya, Jo, Jess, Nigel, Hannah, Chiara, Bekah, Helen, Elaine, and Pippa, without whom the day would not have been possible.



Kieran and Sarah – OTN Director and Co-Chair – introduce the day.



Jo, Bekah, Fiona, and Roo introduce the theme of ‘Equity’ using oranges.



Nigel and Alex laugh in the congregation



Alex facilitates a practical craftivism workshop, using the LGBTQ+ Solidarity Quilt.



Hannah facilitates a group conversation around welcome and inclusivity in Cambridge, with friends old and new.



Alex and Nigel sing during worship

TIME FOR GOD 2023 – BY ROSEMARY AND ALEX

Looking Forward

We look forward to welcoming Hannah, from Germany, as our new Time for God volunteer in September. We hope to share an introduction from Hannah in our September issue. Hannah will live with Liz and work primarily with Alex, supported by Jess and Rosemary. We are in a vastly different context from where we found ourselves when we welcomed previous TfG volunteers, and are looking forward to new challenges and opportunities. Hannah is particularly interested to volunteer with Hub Hospitality, Open Table and Solidarity Hub, as well as with children and young adults.

Although things are vastly different, our ethos and care carries through. These memories from former TfG volunteers remind us what they – and we – can hope to gain from our shared experiences.

Looking Back

Over the years, beginning in 2000, we have welcomed these wonderful volunteers:

Christopher, Paul, Elena, Audrey, Rachel, Melody, Maria, Katrin, Patrick, Carsten, Eva, Clémence, Maren, Johann Friedrich, Imke, Sarah, Barbara,

Michael, Carina.

Last summer we welcomed Johann Friedrich and Michael back to visit and at Easter this year Carina came. Barbara plans to visit this summer. It is always interesting to catch up with their lives. Christopher, who was with us in 2000-2001, moved in 2021 as pastor from Orchards United Methodist Church, Vancouver, USA to Mount Vernon first United Methodist Church <https://www.mvfunc.org/> He notes his time in Cambridge on the church website. Some years ago Christopher wrote:

‘Send my regards to the good people of Emmanuel, I remember many of them and often look through my photos of my time there. I am very different now, but I know that any improvements in my life have come as a result of my time at Emmanuel. [...] I understand what it means for God to be with us (Emmanuel) I pray that this truth, that God, who is always with us, will be known to Emmanuel in new and exciting ways’ [Little did he, or we, know!]

Audrey, who was with us from the USA in 2003-2004 met Chris, our first volunteer, at the United Methodist Church conference in USA in 2017! That Christmas she wrote:

‘I have incredibly positive memories of that year, and so many wonderful people!! [...] In the many years since, I have often found myself promoting fair trade, arguing for better treatment for the differently-able, remembering the value all ages of people can add to a community’.

In 2015, Rachel, who was with us from 2004-2005, wrote:

‘When I look at the years that followed, it's obvious how much the things I did and learned have influenced my choices in life. [...] My experiences there taught me never to judge what people can and can't do, and just to accept people as they are, and where they are in life. It's proved to be a hugely valuable time, as after I graduated, I went on to work for learning disability charities where I campaigned and lobbied the Department of Health and Treasury for more rights and more funding for people with learning disabilities. I worked on social care legislation that will hopefully make a fairer system for people with disabilities and also edited the first easy read newspaper for people with learning disabilities. Looking back, it seems amazing that all of that stemmed from working alongside friends and colleagues in Emmanuel's cafe.’



A group including Patrick, from Germany, who was with us from 2008-2009.



A Cream Tea in Grantchester organised by Imke, a volunteer from Germany in 2014-2015.



Carina, who came from Germany in 2018-2019 with the excellent cakes she made to sell in the Fair Shares Cafe.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 2023

Huge thanks to all those who supported Christian Aid this year and helped to raise the total of more than

£3,000

to support communities working to improve their lives in Africa and elsewhere.

These are the detailed figures to date, before Gift Aid which should raise the total still further.

£180.00 from envelope donations

£875.00 from donations to e-envelope

£454.30 from Church retiring collection

£263.55 from special Christian Aid Concert

£25.10 from sale of plants

£940.46 from collections at weekly lunchtime concerts

£350.00 donation from York St. funds

Giving a provisional total of **£3088.41** before gift aid, a very worthwhile sum.

Thanks to **Jane and Alex** for their concert

Thanks to the **WCPI group** for proposing Christian Aid as the monthly charity for May

Thanks to **all of you** who made donations and supported events – and listened to what Christian Aid is trying to do.

Christian Aid's work goes on all through the year, with campaigns announced so far to put pressure on fossil fuel companies over their excessive profits and to support the loss and damage campaign, which advocates compensation for those communities most affected by climate change.

Here in Cambridge there will be a "thank you" **tea party** to which all supporters are warmly invited. It will be held at Pamela Cressey's home in Girton on **Saturday July 1st** from 3 until 5 pm. Any further details from Sheila Porrer.

Looking further ahead, we look forward to the visit of the **CEO of Christian Aid, Patrick Watt**. Patrick is now scheduled to visit us at Downing Place on **Sunday 15th October**, in Commitment for Life month.

And it seems very strange to think of Christmas in the middle of a heatwave, but we hope to raise funds by carol singing in the Grand Arcade again, and this year's date is **Saturday 9th December, 2 till 4**. Do put it in the diary.

For any details about Christian Aid, please ask Sheila Porrer



DOWNING PLACE SPECIAL CAUSE FOR JULY 2023



Every Drop Counts - Water for Life

Amos Trust works with local partner CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua) to promote food security, women's empowerment, community leadership and climate adaptation (including water harvesting and drought tolerant new crops) in rural villages in Nicaragua's dry belt where El Nino is forecast to lead to extensive droughts in 2023.

Situation

Nicaragua is the 4th most at-risk nation in the world from climate change and 2nd poorest in the Western Hemisphere. The forecast return of El Nino in 2023 will lead to record high temperatures, long successive droughts broken up by short intense rainfall for the isolated highly impoverished rural communities in Nicaragua's dry corridor. They lack infrastructure, have no mains water or electricity and have poor literacy, poor understanding of rights and high levels of gender-based inequality.

Solution

Amos works with our partner, CEPAD, on a 5-year programme to build community sustainability. They identify clusters of suitable communities, equip them with the skills and resources needed. These include women's empowerment, food security, educating on the importance of clean water. Also with drought forecast, the importance of water capturing systems, training in sustainable agricultural techniques, new drought tolerant cropping and how to prevent flash flooding from intense post drought rainfall.

Changing climates

Since 2020, Nicaragua has been experiencing La Niña, the colder and wetter part of the El Niño climate pattern. This has resulted in higher rainfall for Nicaragua's dry belt, and three devastating hurricanes — made more severe by climate

change.

However, La Niña is now moving into a neutral stage and probably into El Niño later this year.

The impact of El Niño is felt severely in communities like those CEPAD works with in Teustepe, in Nicaragua's dry belt. It means extreme heat and long periods of drought, followed by short periods of intense rain.

Climate change now makes it impossible to predict when the rain will come, and what little rain there is comes at the wrong times of year for farming. Being able to conserve water has become critical for these communities to survive.

Amos partner [CEPAD](#) has selected seven priority communities that they are supporting for an intervention cycle of five years. This intervention is shaped around each community's specific needs but includes developing local leadership, supporting farmers to adapt to climate change, psycho-social support for young people, and two women's empowerment programmes.

Amos is raising funds to provide 56 micro dams (8 per community) and to train and equip 35 farmers and 35 women with small gardens in new farming techniques (10 people per community).

To support this Cause please either donate to the Retiring Collection after the service on 16th July or go to: [Water for Life appeal \(donorfy.com\)](https://donorfy.com)



DOWNING PLACE SPECIAL CAUSE FOR AUGUST 2023 THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, MULTAN, PAKISTAN

The Downing Place URC Special Cause for August 2023 will be for the Women's Christian Hospital in Multan, Pakistan. Robert Smith's daughter Rachel has worked there since 2006 and she gave a report to the church on World Church Sunday last January.

Rachel writes: "WCH Multan was founded in 1899 with the aim of serving women who were unable to access health care due to the restrictions of purdah. Women were not allowed to be seen by men who were not part of their family and so did not access health care by male doctors. Over the years, the hospital has developed a reputation for good care, for being kind and for telling the truth (not always the case in other local hospitals).

“The hospital is still run by a predominantly female staff and provides high-standard care at low cost for women from all over the area. The outpatient department building is at least 100 years old and has high ceilings and thick walls to keep the heat out, but sadly the foundations are now unstable and the building needs to be replaced. It welcome an average of 800 women and 50 babies per week in a variety of clinics, and patient fees cover our day-to-day running costs but not the larger projects. We would like to build a new outpatient department that is as environmentally passive as possible, but funding for such projects needs to come from outside donations in order to keep our patient fees as low as possible. The hospital is very grateful to Downing Place URC for their willingness to partner with us in this project.”



Envelopes will be available throughout the month in Church, and there will be a special retiring collection on Sunday 20th August, when card payments will be available.



SPECIAL CAUSES FOR 2024

Over the summer the World Church and Public Issues Group (WC&PI) will be considering proposals for Monthly Special Causes during 2024. These will be submitted for approval by the Elders and Church Meeting in the autumn.

The congregation is now asked for their suggestions. Please send these to David Reynolds (WC&PI Convenor), with a short explanation of the case, by 31 August djr17@cam.ac.uk

WC&PI seeks proposals that fall into one or more of three broad areas: Inclusivity; Sustainability; Wellbeing. As a reminder, the monthly causes approved for this year (2023) are:

Lyn's House, Cambridge (Home & network for disabled students)

Christian Blind Mission (Restoration of sight)

The Kite Trust (Support to the LGBTQ+ community)

Motivation (Wheelchairs & aids for use in developing countries)

Christian Aid (Support during Christian Aid Week)

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (Work on racial justice)

Amos Trust/CEPAD (Climate mitigation in Nicaragua)

Women's Christian Hospital, Multan, Pakistan (New outpatient department)

Shelterbox (Supporting communities after disaster & in conflict)

Commitment for Life (Supporting Bangladesh via Christian Aid)

Centre 33 (Supporting mental health for young people in Cambridge)

Through the Roof (Transforming lives of Disabled People)

City to Sea (Small Bristol-based NGO fighting single-use plastics) – January 2024

Note: Downing Place also provides without charge: NightLite accommodation on Saturday nights; Group Therapy Centre accommodation; Rooms and other meeting space for Cambridge4Ukraine and Connected Lives; Kitchen use by StreetBite; and several Anonymous groups and charity meetings.

David Reynolds, for WC&PI Group

A GOOD NEWS STORY FROM NICARAGUA

We thought you might like to read a good news story from Maura, a mother and grandmother who previously took part in CEPAD's Family Gardening Program to transform her land. (see p.25, Amos Trust - July Special Cause)



“I have a small piece of land that I work, but before that, I used to assist my husband as a labour worker planting corn, beans, and sorghum. We used to plant in the traditional way, burning to clear the land and using pesticides with harmful chemicals. We did not know the damage we were doing to our soil and our crops. Now that CEPAD is working with us, I have been able to attend 3 workshops on planning crop planting, diversifying my crops, and how to produce my own seeds. Even more, CEPAD taught me how to make my own insecticides and compost using what resources I already have.”

Maura collected local materials like stones, sand, clay, and stakes to build a micro reservoir on her land. Her family helped her purchase 6 yards of black tarp to create a micro dam to hold the water. Maura was able to collect 220 litres of water. After some time, Maura and her husband decided to invest and build a concrete water tank that can hold 3,750 litres of water. Now Maura and her family are able to collect rainwater to use during the dry season. She used to have to walk down to the local river with 20 litre buckets in order to water her crops, but now she has the water located on her own land. Now, Maura has a flourishing garden to feed her family and sell the excess to generate income.

“My greatest satisfaction is the diversity of crops. I now have tomatoes, green peppers, hot chilli peppers, papayas, and different kinds of squash. I was able to do this with my family's support, CEPAD's training, and our new water harvesting techniques. Due to climate change, we are in a drought in spite of it being rainy season. However, I am still able to produce tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash, which allows us to eat healthily without worrying about harmful chemicals.” Maura plans to continue using what she's learned from CEPAD as she helps feed and provide for her four children and three grandchildren.

“Through all of these shared experiences, I feel joyful and hopeful that all of the women in my community can apply the same techniques they are seeing in my own garden. I am thankful for being part of this program and how it has helped improve my family's nutrition and strengthening our family structure.”

OTHER RECENT DONATIONS



We sent £210 to the Alzheimer's Society which was raised at the retiring collection at the funeral of Nancy Sempers. They wrote in response:

'Thank you for thinking of us here at Alzheimer's Society. We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to you for your recent donation of £210.00.

Every penny you donate means we can be there to support those affected by dementia.'

You can read more about how the donations are used here:'

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/how-your-money-helps>



ar.u. | Anglia Ruskin
University

In addition, thanks from beneficiaries of our York Street donations continue to roll in - Anglia Ruskin University write:

'Thank you to everyone at Downing Place URC for your generous donation to the ARU Foundation for the Cambridge Institute of Music Therapy Research (CIMTR).

We gratefully received your £2,000 donation to the ARU Foundation account via bank transfer on 02/05/2023.

We will keep you updated with news from CIMTR and the difference your support is making.'

They provided us with a link so we can read more about the projects currently being undertaken in the Music Therapy department.

<https://www.aru.ac.uk/cambridge-institute-for-music-therapy-research/news>

Projects include work with children with brain injuries and with adults in care homes.

Ann Auger



VOLUNTEER SUPPORT SESSION

Welcoming, Compassionate, Aware

Sunday 9th July, 2 - 5pm in the Gibson Hall

This is an opportunity for anyone who volunteers or works at Downing Place URC, whether you are an elder, a pastoral visitor, a Hub Hospitality volunteer, a worship leader or any of the countless other people who help us to be the community and space that we are.

Our aim is to meet together for facilitated input, led by Solidarity Hub members, to explore what it means to be welcoming, compassionate, and aware in our rapidly changing and increasingly challenging city centre context. We will also work together to continue to develop and practice the skills that enable us to volunteer in ways that create safer spaces for ourselves and for the people we meet.

The session will be in three parts, with ample breaks and opportunities for activity and conversation. You are very welcome to bring a packed lunch to eat together in the Hub between church and the start of the session.

**Please sign up in the Office by
Monday 3rd July so that we know how many
people to expect.**



Eastern Synod Youth Event



The Playground Saturday 15th July 2023 2.30pm – 4.30pm

1km long, 30 obstacle outdoor assault course
Tonnes of fun whilst challenging too.

The Playground
Haysborder Road, Barrow, Suffolk, IP29 5BE

JULY DIARY

| | Date | Name | Time | Location |
|-----|-----------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Sat | 01-Jul-23 | Nightlite | 10:00pm - 4:00am | Emmanuel Room |
| Sun | 02-Jul-23 | Choir Rehearsal | 10:00am | Church |
| Sun | 02-Jul-23 | Sunday Worship with Communion led by the Revd Professor David Thompson | 11:00am | Church |
| Sun | 02-Jul-23 | Open Table Social Gathering | 7:00pm | The Hub |
| Tue | 04-Jul-23 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St. Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 05-Jul-23 | Lunchtime Concert - Joanna Lam (piano) | 1:00pm | Church |
| Thu | 06-Jul-23 | Solidarity Hub - Craft and Chat | 10:00am | The Hub |
| Thu | 06-Jul-23 | Midweek Worship led by Dr Janet Bottoms | 11:00am | Church |
| Thu | 06-Jul-23 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Fri | 07-Jul-23 | Lectio Divina | 8:30am | Zoom |
| Sun | 09-Jul-23 | Choir Rehearsal | 10:00am | Church |
| Sun | 09-Jul-23 | Sunday Worship led by the Revd Dr Alex Clare-Young | 11:00am | Church |
| Sun | 09-Jul-23 | Support Session for Church-related volunteers (see p.31) | 2:00pm | Gibson Hall |
| Tue | 11-Jul-23 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St. Athanasios Church |
| Tue | 11-Jul-23 | Elders Meeting | 7:30pm | Rooms 1 and 2 |
| Wed | 12-Jul-23 | Officers Meeting | 10:00am | |
| Wed | 12-Jul-23 | Lunchtime Concert - Juan Pablo Hinojosa & Irena Radic (piano duet) | 1:00pm | Church |
| Thu | 13-Jul-23 | Solidarity Hub - Craft and Chat | 10:00am | The Hub |

| | Date | Name | Time | Location |
|-----|-----------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Thu | 13-Jul-23 | Midweek Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Nigel Uden | 11:00am | Church |
| Thu | 13-Jul-23 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Sun | 16-Jul-23 | Choir Rehearsal | 10:00am | Church |
| Sun | 16-Jul-23 | Sunday Worship led by the Revd Nigel Uden | 11:00am | Church |
| Sun | 16-Jul-23 | Church Meeting | 12:30pm | Church |
| Sun | 16-Jul-23 | Open Table Communion Service | 7:00pm | Church |
| Tue | 18-Jul-23 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St. Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 19-Jul-23 | Lunchtime Concert - Carolee Fairbanks (soprano) & Lucy Morrell (piano/organ) | 1:00pm | Church |
| Thu | 20-Jul-23 | Solidarity Hub - Craft and Chat | 10:00am | The Hub |
| Thu | 20-Jul-23 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Thu | 20-Jul-23 | Midweek Worship led by the Revd Dr Alex Clare-Young | 6:00pm | St Columba's Chapel |
| Sat | 22-Jul-23 | Nightlite | 10:00pm - 4:00am | Emmanuel Room |
| Sun | 23-Jul-23 | Sunday Worship led by the Revd Nigel Uden | 11:00am | Church |
| Tue | 25-Jul-23 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St. Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 26-Jul-23 | Lunchtime Concert - Christian Dawson (piano) | 1:00pm | Church |
| Thu | 27-Jul-23 | Solidarity Hub - Craft and Chat | 10:00am | The Hub |
| Thu | 27-Jul-23 | Midweek Worship with Communion led by the Revd Professor David Thompson | 1:00pm | Church |
| Thu | 27-Jul-23 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |

| | Date | Name | Time | Location |
|-----|-----------|---|---------------------|---------------|
| Sat | 29-Jul-23 | Cambridge Early Music - Henry Purcell's <i>King Arthur</i> | 6.30pm | Church |
| Sat | 29-Jul-23 | Nightlite | 10:00pm - 4:00am | Emmanuel Room |
| Sun | 30-Jul-23 | Sunday Worship led by members of the Evangelism and Service Group | 11:00am | Church |

AUGUST DIARY

| | Date | Name | Time | Location |
|-----|-----------|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Tue | 01-Aug-23 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St. Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 02-Aug-23 | Lunchtime Concert - Alice Bishop (soprano) & David Elwin (piano) | 1:00pm | Church |
| Thu | 03-Aug-23 | Solidarity Hub - Craft and Chat | 10:00am | The Hub |
| Thu | 03-Aug-23 | Midweek Worship led by the Revd Dr Janet Tollington | 11:00am | Church |
| Thu | 03-Aug-23 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Sun | 06-Aug-23 | Sunday Worship with Communion led by the Revd Chris Baker | 11:00am | Church |
| Sun | 06-Aug-23 | Open Table Social Gathering | 7:00pm | The Hub |
| Tue | 08-Aug-23 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St. Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 09-Aug-23 | Lunchtime Concert - Christine Stevenson (piano) | 1:00pm | Downing Place URC |
| Thu | 10-Aug-23 | Solidarity Hub - Craft and Chat | 10:00am | The Hub |
| Thu | 10-Aug-23 | Midweek Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Deborah McVey | 11:00am | Church |
| Thu | 10-Aug-23 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Sat | 12-Aug-23 | Nightlite | 10:00pm - 4:00am | Emmanuel Room |

| | Date | Name | Time | Location |
|-----|-----------|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| Sun | 13-Aug-23 | Sunday Worship led by members of the Sustainability Group | 11:00am | Church |
| Tue | 15-Aug-23 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St. Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 16-Aug-23 | DEADLINE for submitting articles for 'Place Matters' | | |
| Wed | 16-Aug-23 | Lunchtime Concert - Olive Murray (soprano) & Christopher Foreman (piano) | 1:00pm | Downing Place URC |
| Thu | 17-Aug-23 | Solidarity Hub - Craft and Chat | 10:00am | The Hub |
| Thu | 17-Aug-23 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Thu | 17-Aug-23 | Midweek Worship led by Dr Augur Pearce | 6:00pm | St Columba's Chapel |
| Sat | 19-Aug-23 | Nightlite | 10:00pm - 4:00am | Emmanuel Room |
| Sun | 20-Aug-23 | Sunday Worship led by the Revd Peter Ball | 11:00am | Church |
| Sun | 20-Aug-23 | Open Table Communion Service | 7:00pm | Church |
| Tue | 22-Aug-23 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St. Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 23-Aug-23 | Lunchtime Concert - Adam Repa (piano) | 1:00pm | Church |
| Thu | 24-Aug-23 | Solidarity Hub - Craft and Chat | 10:00am | The Hub |
| Thu | 24-Aug-23 | Midweek Worship with Communion led by the Revd Dr Janet Tollington | 1:00pm | Church |
| Thu | 24-Aug-23 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Sat | 26-Aug-23 | Nightlite | 10:00pm - 4:00am | Emmanuel Room |
| Sun | 27-Aug-23 | Sunday Worship led by the Revd Nigel Uden | 11:00am | Church |

| | Date | Name | Time | Location |
|-----|-----------|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| Tue | 29-Aug-23 | Officers Meeting | 10:00am | |
| Tue | 29-Aug-23 | Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship | 2:30pm | St. Athanasios Church |
| Wed | 30-Aug-23 | Lunchtime Concert - Joe Chu-Yu Yang (violin) & Irene Loh (piano) | 1:00pm | Downing Place URC |
| Thu | 31-Aug-23 | Solidarity Hub - Craft and Chat | 10:00am | The Hub |
| Thu | 31-Aug-23 | Midweek Worship led by Dr Janet Bottoms | 11:00am | Church |
| Thu | 31-Aug-23 | Knit One Give One | 1:30pm | The Hub |
| Sat | 02-Sep-23 | Nightlite | 10:00pm - 4:00am | Emmanuel Room |
| Sun | 03-Sep-23 | Choir Rehearsals Resume | 10:00am | Church |
| Sun | 03-Sep-23 | Sunday Worship with Communion led by the Revd Nigel Uden | 11:00am | Church |
| Sun | 03-Sep-23 | Open Table Social Gathering | 7:00pm | The Hub |

NEWS

On June 4th, Downing Place celebrated its 5th Anniversary in a service of Holy Communion. The service was led by Rev Nigel Uden and Rev Dr John Bradbury, who preached. John is a former Minister of Emmanuel and Downing Place and now the General Secretary of the URC. It was a joyful and memorable occasion and we enjoyed delicious cake with our coffee, made by Liz Barrow.

MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 2 July | Liz Caswell Penny Flynn | Buntingford Fulbourn |
| 9 July | Chris Baker Deborah McVey Janet Tollington Nigel Uden | Littleport Methodist Trinity, Burwell Melbourn Fulbourn |
| 16 July | Janet Bottoms David Tatem Janet Tollington | Fowlmere Buntingford Bassingbourn |
| 23 July | Janet Tollington Nigel Uden | St Andrew's Peterborough Fulbourn (pm) |
| 30 July | Chris Baker Janet Tollington Nigel Uden | Trinity, Burwell Buntingford Fulbourn (pm) |
| 6 August | Janet Tollington | Chappel (6.30pm) |
| 13 August | Liz Caswell Penny Flynn Janet Tollington | Stetchworth & Cheveley St Ives Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden |
| 20 August | Chris Baker Liz Caswell Penny Flynn Janet Tollington | Stetchworth & Cheveley Melbourn Fulbourn Whiting Street, Bury St Edmunds |
| 27 August | Janet Bottoms Janet Tollington | Fulbourn Trinity, Burwell |



LECTIONARY FOR JULY & AUGUST 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 July Trinity 4

*(readings as per preacher's wish,
not the Lectionary)*

Genesis 22:1-14

(Psalm 13)

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

9 July Trinity 5

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19,25-30

16 July Trinity 6

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:(1-8),9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

23 July Trinity 7

Wisdom 12:13,16-19 or

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

30 July Trinity 8

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

6 August Trinity 9

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm 145:8-9,14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

13 August Trinity 10

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

20 August Trinity 11

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a,29-32

Matthew 15:(10-20),21-28

27 August Trinity 12

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

3 September Trinity 13

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS - WEDNESDAYS AT 1PM

Free Lunchtime Concerts with a retiring collection for our monthly Special Cause. Booking is not necessary. Refreshments available before and after the concert. Come and bring friends!

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 5 July | Joanna Lam (piano) |
| 12 July | Juan Pablo Hinojosa & Irena Radic (piano duet) |
| 19 July | Carolee Fairbanks (soprano) & Lucy Morrell (piano/organ) |
| 26 July | Christian Dawson (piano) |
| 2 August | Alice Bishop (soprano) & David Elwin (piano) |
| 9 August | Christine Stevenson (piano) |
| 16 August | Olive Murray (soprano) & Christopher Foreman (piano) |
| 23 August | Adam Repa (piano) |
| 30 August | Joe Chu-Yu Yang (violin) & Irene Loh (piano) |

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

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 September edition to both Tim and Ann by the cut off date of **Wednesday 16 August**.

The September edition will be available from **Sunday 27 August**.