



**DOWNING PLACE  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
CAMBRIDGE**

# **PLACE MATTERS**



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## FROM THE MINISTER

Last month, P. D. James, and now Dorothy L. Sayers.

Lord Peter Wimsey, an amateur private detective, has long sought the hand of Harriet Vane, a published crime writer. She has resisted. Her past, her feelings about marriage, his eccentricity - she just can't go there.

In *Gaudy Night* (1935), after collaborating in the solving of murders at her *alma mata*, Shrewsbury College, Oxford, the pair go to a performance of a Bach classic, where they were entranced as 'two famous violinists twisted together the fine, strong strands of the Concerto in D minor.' Such is music's magic, his Lordship is inspired to ask one more time. She, somehow less resistant, says, "Tell me one thing, Peter. Will it make you desperately unhappy if I say No?". With a characteristic care for language, he replies: "Desperately?... My dear, I will not insult either you or myself with a word like that. I can only tell you that if you will marry me it will give me very great happiness."

I am grateful for that caution about the word 'desperately'. However flamboyant and archaic his conversation so often is, when it really matters Lord Peter does not want to exaggerate. With passionate precision, he knows that he will not be cast into anguish and despair by a rejection, as if life were no longer bearable. But to marry her would grant 'very great happiness'.

I am conscious of the ease with which I resort to exaggerated language. It goes through seasons, too. At the moment, I use the word 'brilliant' too frequently. In the past, I had to learn to check my overuse of 'breathhtaking'. When writing, I can control it, but when speaking spontaneously, such as in *Sharing Together*, on a Sunday morning, I find myself (not least when reviewing services on YouTube) wincing at the unnecessary use of superlatives, whether of praise or of description.

I know I am not alone. Exaggerated language is often to be heard. Advertisers use it to describe their wares. Political parties use it to make their point. Lovers use it to pledge their troth. It is common to hear things described as 'huge', or 'massive' when large would be more accurate. 'Historic' elevates a remarkable event beyond the significance it deserves. 'Incredible' and 'incredibly' get lots of mentions, too, when 'surprisingly' or 'unexpectedly' is what is meant. Incredible means 'beyond belief', and some things *are* incredible in that sense: e.g., me being sporty, either by expertise or inclination. But the inflation rate is not incredible. It's worrying, it's regrettable, but it is perfectly possible to believe, not least when the data is analysed and explained. Moreover, when something is not as we would wish it to be, such as the six months' delay to the road works on

Milton Road, are words like ‘disastrous’ and ‘catastrophic’ really appropriate?

My appreciation of Lord Peter’s refusal to over-state how he’d feel if Harriet Vane repeated her ‘No’ is not (only) because I am a pedant about language. (Though Mr Ashmore, my English master for O-level, would approve of such carefulness.) Rather, it is because I am chary about use of superlatives when the circumstances don’t warrant them because then, when they *are* warranted, what words do we have left? What can we say if we’ve made the superlative so commonplace that it is robbed of impact? I am thinking of the consequences of describing those roadworks’ impact as disastrous or catastrophic. It isn’t. It’s delaying and frustrating for drivers; it requires extra care by cyclists and pedestrians; it is not good for the businesses along Milton Road ... but it is not a catastrophe in the way that the Moroccan earthquake, Libyan floods, or child abuse are. I suppose I am challenging myself to a more thoughtful and moderate use, particularly of adjectives and adverbs, in order that I convey a better level of intensity in what I say. Something can be good, even admirable, without me saying it is ‘brilliant’. Something can be unhelpful, even concerning, without being ‘devastating’.

Let’s say what we mean, and mean what we say.

Moreover, if we use all our superlatives for the ordinary, what can we use for the genuinely exceptional? As one whose wordsmithing is so often about God, I am especially eager to preserve some language for God and God alone. God *is* brilliant: ‘that than which no greater can be conceived’, as St Anselm might put it. God as God is in Jesus Christ is unique. Even so, I find Paul’s understated description of Christ in Colossians 1.15-20 all the more impressive for his measured phrases.

There is, of course, a sense in which God *is* incredible, because God’s ways are not ours, and therefore they are more than we can comprehend. So it is that God is also impossible for us to confine to our language. In II Corinthians 9.15, Paul speaks of God’s unsurpassable grace as ‘indescribable’. And maybe that is the greatest superlative we can use.

By avoiding exaggerated language, Lord Peter Wimsey said far more to Harriet Vane, far more eloquently. I find it to be an object lesson in how I speak to you, and for my God-talk, too. Likewise, as candidates brace themselves for next year’s General Election, might a more temperate use of language make their claims and offers seem less ... incredible?

*Nigel Uden*

## LIZ BARROW – A PROFILE

I was born in Wembley in 1951, the youngest of four children. My parents were Christians and we worshipped at a Brethren chapel. It was a happy childhood, but quite strict. Sundays were spent going to church three times when we were old enough. Morning service, Sunday school and gospel service. My father taught a boys' Sunday school class and one of the boys who attended the class was John Barrow, then eight years old.



*Liz as a little girl at the front*

I enjoyed school - my favourite subjects in senior school were Domestic Science and Art. For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a nurse. So I worked with that in mind. My last two years in school I spent most of the time in the cookery room and working for my Art A-Level.

Sunday school became Bible class as we reached secondary school age, and we met in someone's house. We also had a great youth group and went out in the minibus on bank holidays and some Saturdays.

John and I obviously liked one another, and on 17th February 1970 we went on our first date, to a theatre in London. We saw a Pinero play, *The Magistrate*, with Alistair Sim in the lead role. I was 18, John 17.



*Liz and John -  
first picture together  
in Trafalgar Square*

When I was 15, I decided I'd take a Saturday job to earn some money. I worked in Marks and Spencer's. During the summer holidays of my last two years at school I worked in McVitie's biscuit factory, where my mother was manageress of the chocolate room. I worked in the managers' canteen, so I could serve my mum her lunch.

I left school in 1970 and started nursing in September at the Hammersmith hospital. In those days we had to live in the nurses' home in the hospital. It was only two bus journeys from home, so I could still see John. He was in his last year at school, working for his A-Levels. There was a small stadium behind the hospital where John often did his athletics training!

I had come to faith quite young, but reaffirmed when I was 17, and I was baptized by immersion. I joined The Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF). I learned a lot from mixing with Christians from other denominations.

During my first year of training I made my first wedding cake for my brother, icing it the nurses home. During my second year I headed up the NCF, organizing meetings and speakers. I still attended the chapel at home when I could.

In September 1971, as I started my second year, John left for Durham university to read Mathematics with Physics. We didn't have mobile phones or email, and we wrote letters. There was only one 'shared' telephone in the nurses home, and occasionally someone would knock on your door and call you to the phone! When I had a weekend off, usually after night duty, I did visit John, but only once a term. I wasn't allowed to visit during the summer term: apparently I was too big a distraction and he needed to study for the exams.

In time I moved out of the nurses home and lived with Christian friends in an apartment not too far from home. I qualified as an SRN in January 1974. Now a Staff Nurse, I worked on an orthopaedic and plastic surgery ward. Travelling to the hospital for shifts became quite difficult relying on public transport so I bought a small motorbike, a Honda 70CC. I really enjoyed riding my bike.

John graduated in June 1974 and had a place to study Astrophysics at Oxford, Magdalen College. In October 1974 we became engaged. In January 1975 I left the Hammersmith hospital and moved to Oxford to work in an orthopaedic hospital. We attended the Brethren chapel in Oxford. I wasn't so happy at the orthopaedic hospital, and I left in August 1975 to prepare for our wedding in September. Of course, I made our wedding cake!

After we were married we lived in one of Magdalen's married graduates apartments, with the Rose Garden as our front garden and the Botanic Garden our back garden. I worked at the hospital agency but really wanted a full-time position. I worked as a Staff Nurse on a Radiotherapy and Terminal Care ward. It was a difficult but very rewarding position, and the best job I ever had. I learned so much about death and dying. I loved the caring part of this job.



*Staff Nurse East (maiden name)*

When John finished his DPhil in 1977, he was awarded a Lindemann Fellowship to study in the US for a year. He was also awarded a Junior Fellowship at Christ Church. He was given the first year off, so we left Oxford for the University of California, Berkeley, in September 1977. John settled in to the Astronomy apartment and I sorted things out. We wanted to find a church, so I went to the Christian book shop to ask. We tried a Presbyterian church but it was so big we didn't meet anyone but filled out a contact card. We later joined an international bible study group at the church. Next we were given an address of a house fellowship that had a weekly bible study. We met lots of folk there, and a young couple asked if we would like to visit their church, Berkeley Covenant church. We really liked it and it became our church. It was very different from what we were used to. The Brethren chapel was a simple building like a hall, no decoration. Berkeley Covenant was a large church building with an apse, an altar and a cross. We had a wonderful minister. Worship service was similar to Downing Place, there was a choir, it was so much more joyful. The Brethren services were much more 'serious'. Sunday morning service was just communion led by the elders.

At Berkeley Covenant we joined the adult Sunday school before the worship service. John led some studies and I joined the ladies group. For me this was perfect - we were expecting our first baby and there were lots of young couples, with several expecting their first baby. Looking back I can see God's leading. It was a great year and we made lots of special friends. They took great care of me when David was born in May 1978.

We returned to Oxford in September 1978 with baby David. We did return to the Brethren chapel but found it difficult after Berkeley Covenant. We soon settled in, with John working and writing, and I returned to nursing, working evenings or on night duty. My father passed away in the October that year, and John's father in February 1979.

In 1980 John was awarded a Miller Fellowship to go back to the US for two years. John resigned his Christ Church fellowship and we returned to Berkeley. It was lovely to go back and see everyone. We soon realised that baby number two was on its way. I was quite ill but the church took great care of me. Roger arrived in May 1981. There were not too many opportunities for John back home, but he knew that I didn't want to live in the US permanently. He applied for a lectureship at Sussex university in the Astronomy department, and we moved to Brighton in September 1981. We met everyone in the new department including Robert and Eleanor Smith. Eleanor helped me settle in with two small boys. John's first book was published, and it paid for our car!

I returned to nursing doing the occasional shift, but Roger developed asthma and eczema at the age of two. It was a really difficult time for us. Again I was looked



after, and my faith helped me. John was often away giving lectures, but someone was always there to help, and I was never alone when Roger needed hospitalization. We found ourselves in an Evangelical Free church but never became full members: something was not quite right, though I did get involved in various things at the church, and met some lovely people.

September 1983 we realised baby number three was on its way. The church prayed for me every week and all went well, with none of the problems I'd had with Roger. Louise arrived in June 1984.

I left nursing altogether when Louise was about six. John was often gone giving talks all over the world, and Roger was often in hospital. It was easier for me to be home. This was when I developed my cake decoration, making birthday cakes, wedding cakes and all types of celebration cakes.

John had become Director of the Astronomy Centre at Sussex University, and after sixteen years in Brighton he received a call from Cambridge. We left a year later in 1999 for John to direct a new joint project between the Cambridge Faculties of Mathematics and Education: the Millennium Mathematics Project. John directed the project for 21 years. We found our way to Emmanuel one Sunday morning, and we had such a warm welcome that we returned the next Sunday - and the next, and every other Sunday.

I found the change from Brighton very difficult. I didn't know anyone and I felt loneliness for the first time ever. I now had an empty nest. Paul Quilter was the minister and he really helped me. The church was planning a café and he suggested that I get involved. It was perfect for me. The café – 'Eddie's' - started, and I did the cooking for several years with others helping. I am still in contact with one of the adults from Eddie's.



*The Barrow Family*

We became members within a few months and really enjoyed our church life. I became an Elder and John became involved with Westminster College.

John knew about us joining with St. Columba's to become Downing Place, but never got to see the lovely new church. I'm very grateful for the support of the Downing Place church family during the last three years. It is a wonderful community to be part of.

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

We all enjoyed summer time away from Cambridge and it was a little quieter at Junior Church than usual, but we still would like to share some of the sessions we had.

On the Sunday when Jesus walked on water and cared for Peter, we enjoyed sea shells, memories of the seaside, including surf-boarding dogs, and acted being in a boat with a blue big cloth providing the waves. We floated 'storms' in water, decorated paper boats, sang 'Wide, wide as the ocean', and made a card for Harry, the new Solidarity Hub baby.



As we returned from holidays we remembered what we had done and where we had been. We had seen 'rocks' at the seaside or in fields. When Peter said that Jesus was the Son of God, Jesus called him a 'rock'. Like Peter we can be strong with Jesus and be strong for other people. We made 'rocks' from clay and prayed for people who might need to be supported in the coming week.

September 10<sup>th</sup>, we had a special All Age service to start the new academic year and the junior church year. The younger children enjoyed singing some familiar hymns with the congregation, and participated by building the name JESUS with lego bricks, symbolizing the building stone for our life. Two of them had the important task of bringing the offertory to the front, which they did together with great pride. All children received a book from the minister to read and enjoy at home; a big thanks!



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

## ANN PHILLIPS: 12th September 1930- 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023

On 24th August 2023, the Downing Place URC office forwarded a message from our minister, Nigel Uden. It included: “I write with the sad news that Ann Phillips died peacefully at lunchtime today in Cambridge Manor Care Home. She was 92 years old, and had been a member of Emmanuel Church since the late 1950s. Held in affection and high regard by so many of us, she will be greatly missed, and not least by her family. Her sister Jean, and brother Alan, both predeceased her in the past year or so. We think with sympathy of Clarice, Alan's widow, and her family, Chris and Sylvia, with their children, as well as of many members of the church and other friends”.



Every person somehow evokes a response from those that know them – friends, colleagues, family. They have a sense of who that person is, and why they value time spent with them. Such responses vary, but they include enjoyment of time spent with that person; they might express admiration, respect, thanks, a sense of warmth, of care; memories of a smile, of excitement; appreciation of their sense of humour; a warm and enjoyable sense of wellbeing in their presence; a sense of gratitude; recognition of love.

Ann Phillips stimulated all of these responses. I know that because many of you have written to tell me, and I know because I had the good fortune to know Ann for over forty years.

Sheila Porrer published a ‘profile’ of Ann in the April 2020 issue of *Place Matters*. I was grateful to draw on that profile for conversation with Ann when I visited her in the care home this summer. Ann grew up in Kent, and went on to study at Oxford – like her father and four of her uncles. She read English, at St. Hilda’s, because, as her aunt advised her, “it had a pretty garden and was by the river”. After Oxford, Ann went into publishing, first with Edward Arnold in central London, then with Penguin out at Harmondsworth. Life at Penguin was enjoyable but hectic, so when Ann saw an advertisement for a personal private secretary for the Principal of Newnham College, she applied, and she was duly appointed. The Principal wanted her secretary to live in College and be a member of High Table, “so I rapidly found myself in a large room with a balcony looking over lovely gardens. No shopping or cooking to do, no housework, and lively, enjoyable company”.

Following an interlude as chief sub-editor at Cambridge University Press, Ann

returned to Newnham, now as a college tutor, and co-Director of Studies in Theology, and subsequently Fellow Librarian and Archivist. She was able to spend more time writing, and Oxford University Press published her five books for young readers, the last of them written ‘in retirement’. Ann then concentrated her writing on the poetry that many of us love and admire. I was delighted to recruit her as ‘Downing Place Poet’ in the April issue of *Place Matters*, earlier this year. It’s now hard to believe how recent it was that Judy and I were welcomed to the sitting room of her house in Selwyn Road to discuss which poems to include. She offered us a selection of cakes with our tea! I still adore and wonder at the opening of the second of those poems, which somehow captured Judas Iscariot as a necessary participant in the tragedy that would allow God's plan to be fulfilled. It reads “He was my dancing-partner steady eye always set on mine as in a mirror”.

As a (somewhat mature) PhD student in the early 1990s, my mathematics-education project turned more and more towards the language used when people talk about mathematics. I had the possibility of a second supervisor, and someone suggested linguist Margaret Deuchar – a Fellow at Newnham. I spoke to Ann, and she introduced me to Margaret over lunch at Newnham. Margaret and I are still in touch, and we meet for coffee once in a while. It is both right and proper, and very good, that Newnham was represented at the thanksgiving service at Downing Place on 25<sup>th</sup> September. The College tribute to Ann can be found at [A tribute to Ann Phillips, 1930-2023 – Newnham College \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

In the September *Place Matters* I invited readers to send me brief recollections and anecdotes about Ann, to enrich this ‘thank you’ tribute to her. I was pleased to receive several: they follow below, and some of them were included in a spoken thanksgiving at the service at Downing Place URC on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023. So read on: if you knew Ann, you will nod, smile, and give thanks as you do so.

I had a lovely visit with Ann in the garden at Cambridge Manor Care Home. We were talking about gardens and she said her favourite rose was the one called “Tottering by gently”. A beautiful yellow single rose. Ann was the perfect friend to visit: glad to see you, undemanding, full of curiosity, wise, ready with a smile, a laugh and always so gentle.

I used to love sitting next to Ann in church. Several years ago, she lent me the children's novels she had written, and as I finished each one we'd have a chat about it. Ann was so unassuming. Most at Downing Place will know her writing through her hymns and poems, but her novels are just wonderful - each one taking the reader into an entirely different historical or geographical setting. Ann's warmth and sense of mischief shone through the dialogue and

characterisation, too.

Once, Ann shared her memories of her and her siblings opening their Christmas stockings. Ann's eyes lit up as she recalled the excitement of doing this, and it was clear that that sense of excitement was one she retained throughout her long life.

When I visited Ann at Cambridge Manor Care Home, I read Nigel's 'minister's letter' ready for the September *Place Matters*. It's about hymnwriters, and Ann smiled as I read her name. After some conversation, I read – with her agreement – a poem that I had written many years ago. It's only 13 lines long, in 4 stanzas, and she rewarded me with a smile at the end of each of them. She was smiling as I left about 10 mins later. I asked myself, "Was this the smile that cheered a thousand hearts ...?".

Ann used to ask for the crosses distributed at the joint LSM/ Emmanuel on Palm Sunday to be returned to her so that she could ensure that they went to the incumbent at LSM for turning into ashes for the following year's Ash Wednesday service. She used to attend one of the services on that day too.

My first real contact with Ann was back in 1996 when she was a member of the interview panel who appointed me. She sent me a lovely handwritten note after the interview welcoming me and promising me her personal support and encouragement as I took on my new responsibilities. She was, of course, true to her word. I greatly valued her wisdom and friendship; she was a very talented lady and a delightful person.

Ann was a fine Christian and a deep mind, with a wonderful feel for words. She did not open up readily, but was fascinating when she got going. Ann also had a keen, dry sense of humour. She once told a story of how a group walked into Newnham College, detached most of the washing machines, and drove off with them. No one at Newnham asked any questions, because they were men in white coats. As I recall, someone in our group said that this was shocking and that the Domestic Bursar should have been more vigilant. 'Yes', said Ann. 'I am the Domestic Bursar.'

Ann was on the Words Committee for *Rejoice and Sing*: she made innumerable small suggestions, but all of them were invaluable and were usually adopted without discussion, because no further discussion was necessary. She was, of course, utterly reliable if asked to undertake a particular revision, though she did not usually volunteer. Generally speaking in my observation Ann only spoke when she had something significant to say; so when she did speak in a meeting, one could be sure it was worth listening to.

I first met Ann when I arrived at Emmanuel URC in 1990. I soon grew to admire, respect and like her enormously, love her humour, and seek out any opportunity to talk with or listen to her. I cherish memories of sitting with her for breakfast at a church weekend at Hengrave Hall, and of having coffee in her lounge and listening while she explained some of her latest published poems.

Conversation with Ann was a wonderful experience. I was always in awe of her - I felt like a tongue-tied schoolgirl with an outstandingly clever teacher, honoured that she should converse with me at all, never mind about literature. Her references and train of thought were often lost on me, but I never felt unable to ask further questions, even though I didn't always understand the answers....

It was a very special privilege to have her contributions at the Good Friday service in 2023. She had written a piece and also read another, at my request. She was always excessively modest but seemed pleased to be asked.

My one regret is that our conversation was so often about words that I never really knew enough about the life she lived. I shall sorely miss her, but cannot feel sad because she is now, I am sure, absorbing such glories of wordsmithery, and no doubt contributing to them.

*Tim Rowland*



## **THE NHS AT 75: A POSTSCRIPT**

Reading the reference in last month's *Place Matters* to this year being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS made me reflect on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1998 and on what has happened in the intervening 25 years.

Back then, I was the Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation, a body funded by hospitals and health authorities to enable them to be represented at national level and to have some influence on the direction of health policy. It fell to the Confederation to organise the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, held at Earl's Court in July 1998 and attended by over 2,000 delegates from across the UK. The highlight of the event for me was the attendance of recently-elected Prime Minister, Tony Blair. Well known for his captivating oratory, he held the largely supportive audience in awe as he spoke movingly about how the NHS had saved his father's life. Wracked with nerves, never having spoken in front of so many people, my own speech, though politely received, was not a patch on that.

With today's NHS struggling under the triple whammy of covid, Brexit and a decade of austerity, it is easy to feel downcast about the future, compared with the excitement and optimism in the room in 1998. But before we sink into gloom and doom scenarios, let's just reflect on what has been achieved in the last 25 years. Back then robotic and microsurgery techniques were in their infancy; many more people were dying from the effects of smoking than today; we had not even heard of AI, let alone realised how it could dramatically improve diagnosis; the genome had not been sequenced and 'personalised treatment' was but a dream. Cancer survival rates have improved over this period such that for some cancers it can be said to be a 'long term condition', not a death sentence. In mental health services, there were still some large intimidating Victorian institutions housing men and women who should never have been incarcerated, and treatment in the community for the seriously ill was rare. I could go on, but I think you get my point. The overall quality of management of the service has also improved dramatically, with financial and human resources used much more efficiently and effectively, and patient safety now something that is no longer an afterthought.

All this said and done, new concerns have arisen. With so many people living longer than before we face an epidemic of dementia, with the NHS having virtually washed its hands of any responsibility for caring for those suffering the indignities of this condition. Instead, responsibility has been shunted to underfunded, poorly staffed, social care. How we have come to a situation where cancer sufferers receive exemplary care, free at the point of use, yet those with dementia get only social care for which very many have to pay by selling their homes, remains a mystery to me. Meanwhile, waiting times for treatment are at a record high and GP surgeries are buckling under the strain of ever higher demand.

So, in summary, the NHS at 75 is a very different beast from what it was at 50. The collective effort of hundreds of thousands of staff over that period has led to dramatic improvements in the quality, quantity and effectiveness of treatment and care. Yet it now faces one of the most testing periods in its history. Will our politicians continue their support for it? Will the population at large be prepared to see their taxes rise to pay for the ever-increasing demand for health and social care? Will the NHS survive to its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday? Who knows!

*Stephen Thornton*  
*Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation, 1997- 2002*



## CAMBRIDGE SOLIDARITY HUB

*Alex Clare-Young writes:*

As we begin a new academic year, it seems like a good time to reflect a little on some of the questions I have been asked about Solidarity Hub, and about my ministry more widely. Before looking forward, it's often helpful to look back. My role as pioneer minister in the city centre began in April 2022, a little under eighteen months ago. I spent the first few months in pubs, bars, cafes and shops; in activism groups and in meetings, listening with colleagues. I wanted to understand who is spending time in Cambridge City Centre, what perceptions of 'church' are floating around, and what people's concerns and dreams are.

As most readers will know, Cambridge is a city quite unlike any other. The layout of the city, the fast turnover of residents, and the age profile (predominantly young adults) are just a few of the ways in which Cambridge is unique. In a recent Purple Flag Meeting - the meeting which supports the nighttime economy - it was noted that security, policing and emergency healthcare procedures and policies that have worked elsewhere have not worked in Cambridge, whereas novel alternatives have.

It would have been useless to attempt to copy another pioneer ministry in this context. Rather, it is important to pay attention to what is going on here and now, and to continue to think afresh about what authentic discipleship and mission might look like in this place, at this time, amongst the people I have met and grown relationships with. That is why, around 12 months ago, a small group started Cambridge Solidarity Hub; the fourth Sunday of September 2023 was our first birthday.

There are four questions that I am still asked regularly about this ministry and about Solidarity Hub - they go like this:

*Why aren't you starting a youth group or a uniformed organisation?*

There are lots of reasons for this one. The primary one is that Youth for Christ is starting a new drop-in project for young people just down the road at no. 40 Regent Street. I have been in close communication with them throughout the past year and would not wish to duplicate their efforts but, rather, to complement them. The city centre of Cambridge is not somewhere that is easy for the majority of children and young people to get to, and the model of travelling to youth groups and uniformed groups is no longer thriving anywhere - many such groups struggle to continue, although of course there are exceptions. It is also important to add that I am not a youth leader, so I leave youth work to those for whom that is their area of expertise.

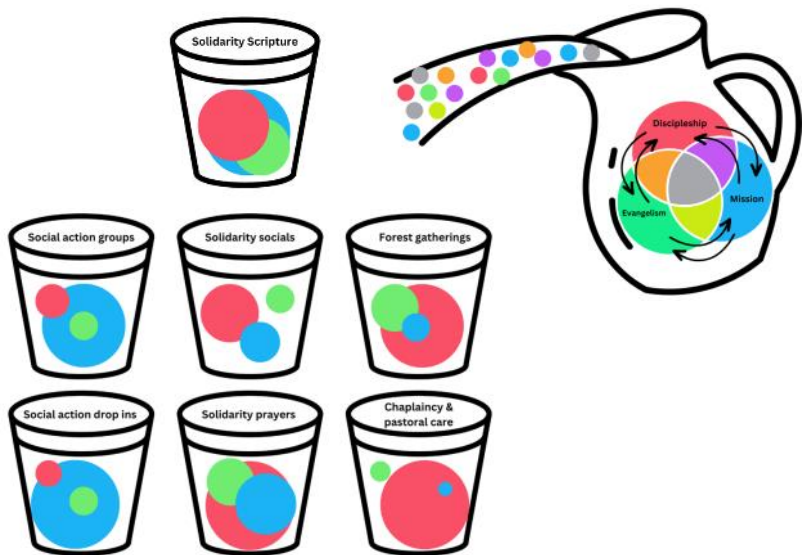


*Why aren't you starting a church in a pub, bar or club?*

Like much of Cambridge, our pubs, clubs and bars are not like anywhere else. For the first months of my role, I worked hard to attend the same venues regularly. What I learnt is that there are not many regulars in our pubs, clubs and bars. Rather, people tend to travel quite some way for a night out, often to celebrate special occasions. There is not a 'captive audience' of regulars waiting to be shaped into a community. Instead, work in these venues comes much more into the realm of chaplaincy, which I still undertake and which is just as worthwhile. It is also worth noting something here about age profiles. I noticed very quickly that most people attending bars and pubs in Cambridge city centre are not young adults; most are aged 30+. This correlates with the national pattern, where younger adults increasingly cannot afford a night out, and are more inclined to stay home. Further, in Cambridge, transport into the city centre is just too much of a barrier for many.

*Doesn't a 'new Christian community' need to talk about Jesus and the Bible, not just social and eco justice?*

Yes - and we do! Whilst our headline is social and eco justice, that is something like a container - a jug say - within which lots of different elements of discipleship, mission and evangelism, are mixed and poured out. Have a look at the images shown below to reflect more. I haven't explained the images too much as I would rather find out what they communicate to you. The bottom line is that Solidarity Hub is all about discipleship, all about living more like Jesus and having deep conversations about how we might do that.



*Doesn't it bother you that it is so small?*

No! It did at first - let's be honest, we all hope that lots of people show up to the events that we facilitate but, over the last year, Solidarity Hub has proved the popular saying that 'small is beautiful'. By not pushing our advertising but, instead, growing together as an intentionally small core group, we have been able to develop relationships that are deep and strong. We have been able to talk about really complex and troubling topics and to support each-other in times of personal crisis. That is a lot more difficult to do in a big group. By developing our discipleship as a small group we are enabled to develop discipleship more widely amongst our communities and networks.

This year, we are focussing on developing stability by hosting the same events week in week out, month in month out, so that we can gradually, slowly grow. That means continuing to run things even when no-one shows up, or when there are just one or two of us. It has been proven time and time again that the way to grow an event is to run it repeatedly, regardless of take-up, enabling those who are watching from a distance to see if they can trust us. I want to emphasise the *gradual* bit, though. We don't want to be a big community, at least not any time soon. We want to stay relatively small so that we can keep it real. This might, over time, mean developing several smaller communities, but it certainly won't mean developing one big one.

This is not to say that the questions or the points made within them do not matter - they do, that is why I have been thinking and praying carefully about them, and why I want to answer them in a way that is transparent and open to everyone to engage with and come back to me on. So please do!

Here are some of the Solidarity Hub events that you might find interesting in a bit more detail:

*Solidarity Scripture: 4th Sundays, 7.30pm, after half an hour of prayers from 6.30pm*

Sun 24th September: Activism: Should we be political?

Sun 22nd October: Nationalism and Localism: Should we be divided?

Sun 26th November: Interfaith: Should we be involved?

Sun 28th January: Texts of Terror: Should we be afraid?

Sun 25th February: Land: Should we be roaming?

Sun 24th March: Government: Should we be voting?

Sun 28th April: Bodies: Should we be neutral?

Sun 26th May: Eco: Should we be warriors?

Sun 23rd June: Angels and Demons: Should we be concerned?

*Solidarity Social Action Group: 2nd Sundays, 7.30pm, after half an hour of prayers from 6.30pm*

Sun 8th October: Politics and Activism

Sun 12th November: Congestion Charge: is it coming back?

Sun 10th December: The Occupation

Sun 14th January: Mental Health

Sun 11th February: Land Justice

Sun 10th March: Voting and ID

Sun 14th April: Ableism

Sun 12th May: Climate Change

Sun 9th June: Mental Health

*Forest Gatherings: 4th Saturdays at 4pm at the Forest Clearing near Byron's Pool NCP Car Park*

Sat 23rd September: Autumn

Sat 28th October: All Hallows

Sat 25 November: Peace

Sat 23 December: Christmas



## **CAMBRIDGE CARBON FOOTPRINT**



Volunteers will be handing out Thermal Imaging Cameras every week from November to March to people who have had the (online) training and who want to see where their house is leaking heat. They also plan to help people analyse their photos, and set out examples of leakage that has been corrected, with before and after images.

Last year around 400 people enrolled in training and they lent out cameras to 200+ households, clearly a popular and efficient way to see how your house is losing energy needlessly.

They currently lend cameras to those living in Cambridge City and South Cambs but they want to expand to more areas.

You can contact Cambridge Carbon Footprint by email to [ticamera@CambridgeCarbonFootprint.org](mailto:ticamera@CambridgeCarbonFootprint.org) or speak with Margaret Reynolds if you are interested.

## DOWNING PLACE SPECIAL CAUSE FOR OCTOBER 2023

### COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

[Commitment for Life](#) is URC's global justice programme, with a brief to support prayer, advocacy and action for the most vulnerable people in the world. It works through Christian Aid and Global Justice Now, supporting activities focused on three particular parts of the world, among which Downing Place has chosen to focus on Bangladesh. You will find a recent report from that country on the next page.

We are invited to support the programme in various ways, including prayer for Bangladesh and arguing in support of global justice wherever we can. We are also encouraged to consider committing as much as 1% of our income to support the programme – which originated some fifty years ago in the URC's 1% Appeal, made at harvest with the additional aim of showing the government there is serious public support for raising our overseas aid budget to that level. 75% of the funds raised go to Christian Aid, 5% to Global Justice Now, with the remainder used for publicity, education, grants within the UK, and administration.

More information about the national programme is available at <https://urc.org.uk/cfl>, but you may prefer our own <https://downingplaceurc.org/commitment-for-life>, where you can use a 'Donate' button to set up regular donations to the appeal or make a one-off payment if you prefer (remembering to Gift Aid your contribution either way!). There will also be a retiring collection in our usual form at the service on 15<sup>th</sup> October, when we shall be able to hear from Patrick Watt, Christian Aid's Chief Executive.

For those who'd prefer it, some gift envelopes will be available in the Welcome Area of the church before services, and a few copies of this year's Commitment for Life magazine *Love in Action* (also available at <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/J372736-Commitment-for-Life-Magazine-AW-WEB.pdf>)

*Owen Saxton*

Commitment  
for **Life**

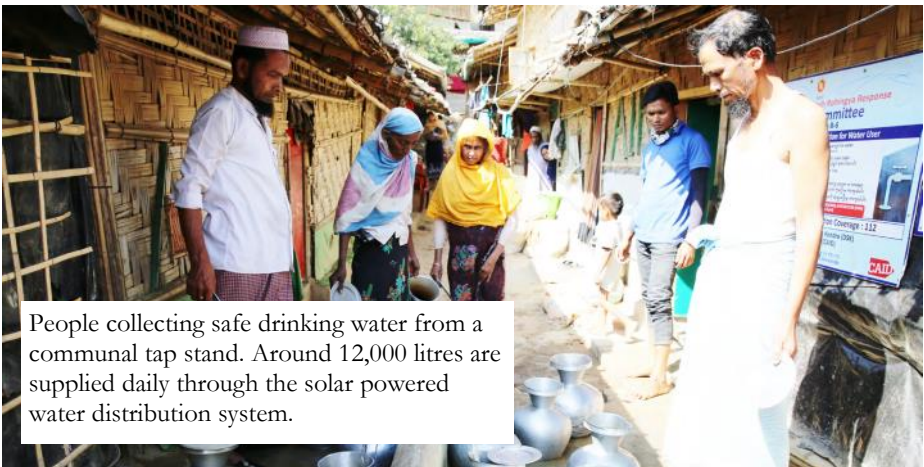
Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

### Transforming lives with sanitation solutions

Since 2017, nearly a million Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution in Myanmar have moved to Cox's Bazaar and the surrounding area, creating the largest refugee camp in the world.

Facilitating water, sanitation, and hygiene services in the refugee camps is a core focus of Christian Aid's humanitarian response. In Camp 15, the largest and most densely populated camp in Cox's Bazaar, the organisation has installed a sewage treatment plant, repaired and installed latrines, wash cubicles, solar-run water points, and provided solid waste management, impacting the lives of nearly 71,360 people. Being a hilly and densely populated area, Camp 15's demand for water is high. Christian Aid provides the water supply to four blocks through which around 9500 people access water. Every day, around 12000 -14000 litres of treated drinking water is supplied through the solar-run water system to residents.

To manage this water distribution, Christian Aid follows a 'Community-based distribution approach' to create ownership among the refugees. In each sub-block, user committees are formed comprising 5 members (all are women) to manage the water collection points. These committees manage the water distribution schedule, maintain the tap stands and spread awareness messages on waterborne diseases to the community. During COVID-19, these committees played a crucial role in managing the water networks and maintaining social distancing while collecting water.



People collecting safe drinking water from a communal tap stand. Around 12,000 litres are supplied daily through the solar powered water distribution system.

Alongside the demand for water is the challenge of dealing with waste. The refugee crisis has led to a significant increase in the amount of solid waste generated in the camps which, without proper management, can cause environmental pollution and health hazards.

I learned so much here, and I can utilize my own money to purchase food and necessary medications

To address this issue, Christian Aid established a solid waste management plant just in front of Camp 15. The plant is designed to handle up to 400 tons of waste per day and is equipped with modern technology for waste segregation, treatment, and disposal. The waste is first segregated into different categories: Organic waste is composted; recyclables are sold to local scrap dealers for cash by work volunteers; and non-recyclables are sent to a landfill site. The money generated from the recyclables is used by the volunteers to arrange awareness sessions with the community.

The plant employs 8 local Rohingya refugees including 4 women and 2 persons with disabilities who are trained in waste management techniques, providing them with a source of income and livelihood. Hasina Begum (pseudonym) is a widow with mobility impairment working as a cash-for-work volunteer in the waste management plant. Hasina says:

“I am a widow who has trouble getting around and has no other family members to take care of me. I wanted to work despite constraints so that I could properly take care of my necessities. I’m grateful that DSK (a local partner of Christian Aid) allowed me to work here. I learned so much here, and I can utilize my own money to purchase food and necessary medications.”

Around 1270 kg of compost fertilizer was manufactured from the collected waste and distributed for use in homestead gardening. Participants planted three gardening demonstration plots using the fertilizer, where they raised vegetables and sold them to nearby markets. This plant’s goal is to become self-sustaining, and the community group will take charge of the plant.

The success of the waste management plant can serve as an example for other camps, demonstrating that sustainable waste management practices not only help to keep the environment clean but also provides economic opportunities for the local community.



Women working at a Solid Waste Management Plant in Camp 15.

# MINISTRY AND MISSION FUND - ANNUAL LETTER TO LOCAL CHURCHES

**From: URC Finance Department**

To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Dear Friends,

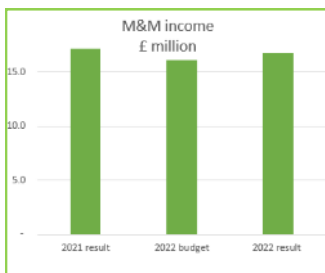
When will normal service be resumed?

As we are writing this letter and closing off the URC's accounts for 2022, the country is still torn with industrial disputes, mostly notably with Health Service workers, rail industry workers, teachers etc. etc. Whatever your view as to the wisdom or justice of such action, we suspect all of us are affected by the disruption to some degree.

In church life too, are we back to "normal life"? Some churches no doubt have returned to something like their pre-Covid level of activity and attendance numbers. Quite a few have recommenced their activity but find their numbers have reduced. Some churches have found re-opening too difficult and have decided to close.

Whatever the "new normal" was to be, we suggest its arrival has (like many trains) been disrupted, delayed, or cancelled all together.

The URC's finance officers had concerns that the late arrival of the return to normality would impact very significantly on the giving to the M&M Fund in 2022. However, the churches responded magnificently and the giving to M&M was £600,000 ahead of budget. It was also only 2.5% down on 2021's result.



So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2022 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.



With normal service not yet resumed, 2023 is not going to be an easy year either. We now have the added disruption of high inflation, pushing up wages and overhead costs. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

*Ian Hardie* (Immediate Past Treasurer)

*Vaughan Griffiths* (Deputy Treasurer)

### LAST MONTH'S SPECIAL CAUSE

August's Special Cause, for Multan Women's Hospital in Pakistan, raised the magnificent sum of £3,058.34, which has now been sent to them.

The Lunchtime Concerts raised £1,528.67; the Retiring Collection plus other donations totalled £596; £583.67 was reclaimed in Gift Aid and our York Street Fund provided a further £350.

Thank you all so much for your generosity.



*Multan Hospital*



## CAMBRIDGE MACULAR SUPPORT GROUP –

### OUR SUMMER OUTING

The Cambridge Macular Support Group meets each month, on the third Monday of the month at 12 noon, at Chesterton Methodist Church. There are about 25 members, and we have a varied programme of talks, mainly eye-related.

Once a year we have a summer outing and on 21<sup>st</sup> August this year we were delighted to come to Downing Place URC, which was an ideal, safe, all-weather setting for those with limited vision – our members have age-related macular degeneration. Downing Place Church is central for travel, with car parking nearby, and Dial-a-Ride are very helpful for those who need it.

Key to the very successful afternoon was the Downing Place team who made it all possible: especially Ian de Massini, who prepared a wonderful illustrated organ recital on our beautiful organ. He spared no effort in setting out the chairs in café style in the sanctuary, and bringing the organ to life on the dais, with photos of the organs he used to illustrate the beauty of their construction. His programme was very varied, and included a special song by Herbert Howells, in which Nigel Uden accompanied him. Thank you too, Nigel, for your very welcome contribution and presence.



*Ian at the organ*

We served strawberries and cream (apparently a tradition in the Group), and Margaret Dennison, Lorraine Thornton and I made cakes. Three kind WI friends came to serve the tea for us.

There were many expressions of appreciation by Group members; one of our members wrote “What a delightful occasion! A splendid venue, an inspired programme and a delicious strawberry tea. The music was lovely – so varied and so brilliantly introduced and played by Ian”.

Thank you Elaine, Jess, Stephen and Nigel and of course Ian, for making the afternoon memorable.

*Pamela Cressey*

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### **LECTIO DIVINA - AUTUMN 2023**

Deborah & William McVey are holding a series of four zoom meetings for Lectio Divina (led by Deborah) on Fridays 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th October 2023, from 8.30-9.30 each morning.

Lectio Divina will last until 9.10am, after which an **optional** and **informal** time of sharing will continue until 9.30am

If you are interested in participating, or would like to know more about Lectio Divina, do contact Deborah McVey .

If you know of anyone else who might be interested, do share with them your experience or suggest that they contact Deborah.

## AUTUMN HOUSE GROUP SERIES 2023

In our upcoming Autumn House Group meetings, Rend Alex Clare-Young hopes to offer opportunities to learn and talk about trans identities, as we consider their book one section at a time. 'Transgender. Christian. Human.' will be broken into sections thus:

*2nd October:* Beginnings, reading up to page 54. This session will also include an introductory understanding of trans identities.

*9th October:* Transforming, reading up to page 86. *16th October:* Transformative, reading to the end.

We will then have a break for one week, followed by three further sessions, which won't be specific to the book.

*30th October:* Trans Theology and Biblical Studies: an opportunity to discuss biblical texts which are sometimes related to trans identities and to explore our own theological understandings around trans people.

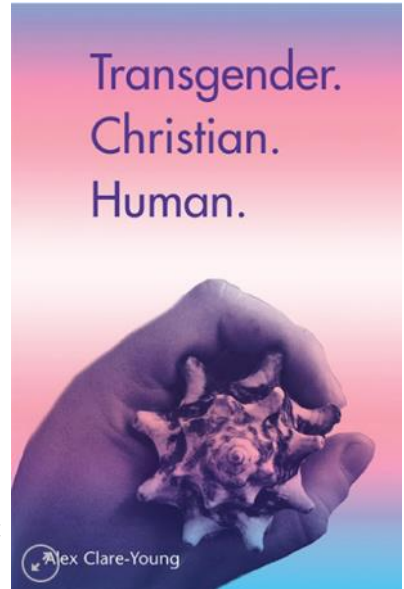
*6th November:* Trans Women in the Church: an opportunity to meet a trans woman and to consider her story.

*13th November:* Pastoral Care for Trans People in the Church: an opportunity to engage with the work of Chrissie Chevasutt, a trans community worker working out of St. Columba's URC in Oxford, and to consider how we might offer a pastoral response to trans people.

The meetings will be held on Monday afternoons from 2pm-3.30pm at the home of Elizabeth Whitehorn, and on Monday evenings from 7.30pm-9pm on Zoom. The meetings will be co-facilitated with at least one other person, to ensure that there is space for open and honest conversation. You are invited to pick the best time for you, but to assist with planning, please let Penny Flynn know which you choose. You may mix-and-match to suit your own calendar.

Further information can be found in the September issue of Place Matters.

*Penny Flynn House Group coordinator*



World Premiere of Ian de Massini's arrangement for solo Organ  
of Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*:

1.00pm - 2.00pm, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Downing Place United Reformed Church, Cambridge  
accompanied by images of Viktor Hartmann's inspirational paintings.



The Great Gate of Kiev



Ballet of the unhatched chicks



The Catacombs



Baba Yaga (the hut on hen's legs)

*Ian de Massini writes:*

Maurice Ravel transformed Mussorgsky's somewhat two-dimensional cycle of piano solo pieces into an orchestral masterpiece. For this concert, I've transferred all of Ravel's orchestration, and his additional orchestral 'special effects', onto our church's astoundingly versatile *Hauptwerk* Digital Organ, something never done before, whilst Hartmann's paintings will be projected above the organ.



Cambridge  
Action Group



Guest speaker:  
Dr Onesimus Ngundu  
Research Assistant  
responsible for the  
Bible Society's  
collection of books at  
Cambridge University  
Library

# Autumn Supper and Talk

THE BIBLE SOCIETY COLLECTION IN CAMBRIDGE:  
A LIBRARY, A LEGACY, A LIVING TESTIMONY

**Friday 13 October 2023**

**6.30 pm**

**Queen Edith Chapel,  
Wulfstan Way,  
Cambridge CB1 8QN**

The talk will be live-streamed  
at 7.45pm

Supper £7.00 cash on the door.

No tickets required.

Please email:  
[penny.flynn@gmail.com](mailto:penny.flynn@gmail.com) to  
reserve a supper place  
(to gauge numbers) or for the  
live-stream link.



## Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>

We look forward to the visit of **Patrick Watt, the CEO of Christian Aid in England** to Downing Place on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**.

Our monthly cause for October is of course **Commitment for Life**, the URC's own giving scheme, with most of the funds raised going to Christian Aid and its partners in the field, so it is very appropriate that Patrick should be talking to us about his experience with Christian Aid just at this time.

Patrick will be preaching at our morning service, and there will be a **bring and share lunch** in the Hub afterwards which will give us the chance to talk informally to Patrick about his experience working for Christian Aid.

Do stay if you can for lunch. Contributions of food – salads, quiches, etc. - are very welcome – mainly, but not exclusively, vegetarian. There will be a sheet in the office from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September for you to sign up for the lunch and say whether you can bring some food. We should also be grateful for offers to set up beforehand and clear up afterwards.

Thank you for your support.

Any questions to Sheila Porrer

### 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!

4 October	Ian de Massini (organ)
11 October	Jazz from Scotland: Ian Millar (saxophone) & Dominic Spencer (piano)
18 October	Timothy Peake (piano)
25 October	Erina Ishiyama (piano)





**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**A CELEBRATION  
OF BLACK AND  
WOMANIST  
THEOLOGIANs**

**AT THE CAMBRIDGE  
THEOLOGICAL FEDERATION**

Keynote Speaker:  
Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE  
Saturday 21st October 2023  
10am - 4pm

<https://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/celebration-of-black-and-womanist-theologians>



## **NEWCOMERS' LUNCH NOVEMBER 5TH**

The Pastoral Care Group will be hosting a Newcomers' lunch after worship on November 5th. It will probably start around 1pm after coffee.

If you are new, attending DP in the last 12 months, we would like to get to know you a bit better, so do come along. No need to sign up, but perhaps you could let Pippa Jones or Hazel Sanderson know please. If you forget to do this, just come along on the day.

It will be a light lunch of vegetable soup, bread (gluten-free available) and cheese.

Members who would like to come to swell the group would also be very welcome, but please sign up on the sheet in the office by October 29th.

## **A DOWNING PLACE PRAYER GROUP**

The Pastoral care group are aware that many would appreciate starting a prayer group up again. We had one in the time when our two churches were uniting, but this ceased because of Covid, amongst other reasons.

So, a 30-minute meeting on the second Thursday of the month, at 10.15am will start in October. This would enable those coming to the mid-week Communion service at 11am to attend.

It will be a time of spoken and silent prayer. I would be grateful for offers from people who would occasionally be happy to start and close the prayer-time. If you felt able to do this once or twice in the year, we could set up a list of people's names against each month. Occasionally we might have a short time on a Sunday after worship, when an urgent need or needs arise.

A box will be available in the Hub, where requests for prayer could be left. I could be emailed too.

This is for anyone and everyone. No previous experience necessary!

The first meeting will be on October 12th at 10.15, then November 9th and December 14th.

Just to be clear, this is not the individual, accompanied private prayer that has been proposed, to take place after worship. Information about this will come at a later date.

*Pippa Jones*

# *Sing for Joy!*

Revd Nigel Uden and Organist Ian de Massini  
invite you to attend a celebration of hymns and associated organ music

Everyone will be invited to sing six of their favourite hymns, interleaved with Nigel Uden's reflections upon the lives of the poets, weaved together with Chorale Preludes upon each of the hymns, including music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Edward Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Carlos Simon, and Egil Hovland, together with a specially commissioned composition for the concert, played on the church's world-leading Digital Organ by Ian de Massini

4.00pm - 5.00pm, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November (Remembrance Day)  
Downing Place United Reformed Church, Cambridge

Free admission



## OCTOBER DIARY

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sun	01-Oct-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	01-Oct-23	Sunday Worship with Communion led by the Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Church
Sun	01-Oct-23	Solidarity Hub/Open Table Social Gathering	7:00pm	The Hub
Mon	02-Oct-23	Officers' Meeting	10:15am	Minister's room
Tue	03-Oct-23	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St. Athanasios Church
Wed	04-Oct-23	Lunchtime Concert - Ian de Massini (organ)	1:00pm	Church
Wed	04-Oct-23	Solidarity Hub Social Action Drop In	7:30pm	The Hub
Thu	05-Oct-23	Midweek Worship led by Dr Janet Bottoms	11:00am	Church
Thu	05-Oct-23	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Fri	06-Oct-23	Lectio Divina (see p.27)	8:30am	Zoom
Sat	07-Oct-23	Nightlite	10:00pm	Emmanuel Room
Sun	08-Oct-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	08-Oct-23	Sunday Worship led by members of the Worship, Discipleship & Spirituality Group	11:00am	Church
Sun	08-Oct-23	Solidarity Social Action Group	7:30pm	The Hub
Tue	10-Oct-23	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St. Athanasios Church
Wed	11-Oct-23	Lunchtime Concert - Jazz from Scotland: Ian Millar (saxophone) & Dominic Spencer (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Wed	11-Oct-23	Elders' Meeting	7:30pm	Rooms 1 & 2

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Thu	12-Oct-23	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Church
Thu	12-Oct-23	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Fri	13-Oct-23	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Sun	15-Oct-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	15-Oct-23	Sunday Worship led by the Revd Nigel Uden followed by a Retiring Collection for our Monthly Special Cause (see p.20)	11:00am	Church
Sun	15-Oct-23	Christian Aid Lunch (see p.31)	12:30pm	Hub
Sun	15-Oct-23	Wintercomfort Fundraising Event	2:15pm	Church
Sun	15-Oct-23	Solidarity Social Drop In	6:30pm	The Hub
Sun	15-Oct-23	Open Table Communion Service	7:00pm	Church
Mon	16-Oct-23	DEADLINE for signing up for the Gibson Lunch		
Tue	17-Oct-23	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St. Athanasios Church
Wed	18-Oct-23	DEADLINE for submitting items for Place Matters		
Wed	18-Oct-23	Lunchtime Concert - Timothy Peake (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Wed	18-Oct-23	Solidarity Hub Social Action Drop In	7:30pm	The Hub
Thu	19-Oct-23	Gibson Lunch	12:30pm	Gibson Hall
Thu	19-Oct-23	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	19-Oct-23	Midweek Worship led by the Revd Dr Alex Clare-Young	6:00pm	St Columba's Chapel
Fri	20-Oct-23	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sat	21-Oct-23	Nightlite	10:00pm	Emmanuel Room
Sun	22-Oct-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	22-Oct-23	Sunday Worship led by the Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Church
Sun	22-Oct-23	Solidarity Scripture	7:30pm	Hub
Mon	23-Oct-23	Transition Cambridge	7:15pm	Hub
Tue	24-Oct-23	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St. Athanasios Church
Wed	25-Oct-23	Lunchtime Concert - Erina Ishiyama (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Thu	26-Oct-23	Midweek Worship with Communion led by the Revd Liz Caswell	1:00pm	Church
Thu	26-Oct-23	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Fri	27-Oct-23	Lectio Divina	8:30am	Zoom
Sat	28-Oct-23	Nightlite	10:00pm	Emmanuel Room
Sun	29-Oct-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	29-Oct-23	Sunday Worship led by the Revd Alex Clare-Young	11:00am	Church
Tue	31-Oct-23	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St. Athanasios Church
Wed	01-Nov-23	Lunchtime Concert - Titika Maragoula (soprano) & Hara Kostogianni (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Wed	01-Nov-23	Solidarity Hub Social Action Drop In	7:30pm	Hub
Thu	02-Nov-23	Midweek Worship led by Penny Flynn	11:00am	Church
Thu	02-Nov-23	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sat	04-Nov-23	Nightlite	10:00pm	Emmanuel Room
Sun	05-Nov-23	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	05-Nov-23	Sunday Worship with Communion led by the Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Church
Sun	05-Nov-23	Open Table/Solidarity Hub Social Gathering	7:00pm	The Hub

**SAVE THE DATE!** Downing Place Christmas Fair 2023 will take place on Saturday 9 December. More details to come.

## MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

1 October	Chris Baker Simone Maghenzani	Wicken Methodist Turin (via Zoom)
8 October	Chris Baker David Cornick William & Deborah McVey Janet Tollington Nigel Uden	Stetchworth & Cheveley Clare Trinity, Burwell Saffron Walden Fulbourn
15 October	Chris Baker Liz Caswell Alex Clare-Young Penny Flynn Janet Tollington	Ely Methodist Fulbourn Hadleigh Melbourn Bassingbourn
19 October	Liz Caswell	St James, Lode
22 October	Augur Pearce David Thompson Janet Tollington Nigel Uden	Melbourn St Luke's Stowmarket Fulbourn (pm)
29 October	Chris Baker David Cornick Penny Flynn Janet Tollington Nigel Uden	Melbourn Saffron Walden Fulbourn Trinity, Burwell Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford

## LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER

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.

*1 October (Trinity 17)*

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

Psalm 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

*8 October (Trinity 18)*

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

*15 October (Trinity 19)*

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

*22 October (Trinity 20)*

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9,(10-13)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

*29 October (Trinity 21)*

Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

Psalm 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

*5 November (4th before Advent)*

Micah 3:5-12

Psalm 43

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12





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([ann@downingplaceurc.org](mailto:ann@downingplaceurc.org))

WEB EDITOR:                              Jess Uden

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

The November edition will be available from **Sunday 29 October**.