



DOWNING PLACE  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
CAMBRIDGE

# PLACE MATTERS



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*Cover photograph taken at an Open Table event by Stillvision Photography*

*Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the Elders and Members of  
Downing Place United Reformed Church*

## FROM THE MINISTER

Looking back, I realise what a significant place the Psalms have had in my life, my worship, and my spirituality.

In so many ways they have influenced my thinking. They were basic fare for a chorister, singing his way through the Psalter every month at Mattins and Evensong, as well as providing the words of so many anthems. To this day, their language appears in everyday English: ‘bite the dust (72.9); ‘apple of my eye’ (17.8); ‘at their wits’ end’ (107.27).

Moreover, they are the subject of more commentaries on my shelves than any other biblical text.

And so it is that from the Psalms, phrases without number form the essence of what I believe and trust about God:

- ‘O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. (95.6-7)
- ‘The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.’ (145.8)
- ‘Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! (27.14)
- ‘If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.’ (139.9f)
- ‘Happy are those ... [whose] delight is in the law of the Lord, ... They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.’ (1.1-3)
- ‘Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.’ (106.3)

Although they originate perhaps three millennia ago, I find them to be thoroughly relevant today, written, as one person has it, ‘using a pen filled with the ink of human experience’. Whilst located in the Old Testament, and rooted in the mindset of the Hebrews, they have long been the staple of Christian worship. After all, the Gospel writers put quotes from the Psalms into Jesus’ mouth at some crucial moments: ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ (22.1), and ‘Into your hand I commit my spirit.’ (31.5).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor, was a steadfast critic of National Socialism in Germany throughout the 1930s and the Second World War. Just weeks before the end of the war, he paid the ultimate price for his opposition to Hitler, dying in jail in the same month as Hitler's own demise. Fine academic theologian though he was, Bonhoeffer's approach to the Psalms was that of a devout believer, finding in them a rich source of inspiration and worship. He wrote about them in 1940. It is not a critical study of who crafted them; he accepts the traditional suggestion that they are by David or by those who thought like David. Rather, Bonhoeffer regards the Psalms as more like a manual, enabling a Christian to find stimulus for their faith in God, as God is in Jesus. He takes a logical approach to why these poems from Judaism long ago still work today as vehicles of Christian prayer and praise. 1. David prayed the Psalms; 2. Jesus prayed the Psalms after David; and 3. we pray the Psalms after Jesus, and with Jesus, and through Jesus. What is more, like Martin Luther, **Bonhoeffer sees the influence of the Psalms in the Lord's Prayer, illustrating how the Psalter was the bed rock of spirituality that Jesus encapsulated in his peerless pattern prayer.**

In an era when people are seeking spiritual fulfilment as much as they ever have and are looking for ways to pray that feel authentic in the ups and downs of their daily life, the Psalms have much to offer. Moreover, the witness from three millennia of aspirant believers is that they can be effective and satisfying as prayers.

The contemporary Old Testament commentator, Walter Brueggemann, is no stranger to the Downing Place Church sanctuary. Reflecting upon Bonhoeffer's devout approach to the Psalms, he highlights four themes that may assist us.<sup>1</sup> First, he recognises the Psalms' value for both public and private use. Secondly, he finds lament in many a Psalm, and as such, in a bewildering world they offer texts through which we can express our own anxiety today. Thirdly, Bonhoeffer finds the Psalms' lament is richly complemented with hope. It is hope rooted in God as the giver of abundant life – life today, and life tomorrow, for 'God is always already on the other side of death'. Witness St Paul: 'whether we live or die we belong to the Lord.' (Romans 14.8) And finally, Bonhoeffer faces head on that tricky feature of the Psalms, their writers' 'passionate hostility towards one's enemies'. As Brueggemann says, 'Bonhoeffer has no wish to soften the fierceness of these Psalms. He sees them, however, as expressions of confidence in the faithfulness of God to establish God's just rule over creation. Vengeance belongs to God, and in the power of Jesus, the thirst for vengeance is transposed to gracious forgiveness.' After a lifetime of struggling with that aspect of the Psalms, I find that helpful to ponder as a possible way to understand them.

So, looking ahead, for a vexed world, for a church in a stage of transition, and for our lives as individual disciples, I am grateful that just as the Psalms have so long been the wallpaper of the Christian's life and of The Church's, so they still have much to offer.

Psalm 90.14-16

Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honour them.  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.

*Nigel Uden*

<sup>1</sup>Bonhoeffer, Dietrich 1940 *Psalms: the prayer book of the Bible* with a new introduction by Walter Brueggemann 1974. Reprinted in 2022 by Broadleaf Books of Minneapolis

## GREETINGS FROM TIME FOR GOD VOLUNTEERS

Before Christmas, Rosemary Johnson sent greetings, on behalf of Downing Place URC, to former Time for God volunteers who have come to live and to work with us over the last twenty years. [Time for God](#)

**Rosemary has sent us this 'précis' from news and cards received in reply.**

Sarah – Thanks us for our greetings. “I always enjoy reading news of Downing Place”. She is teaching, and plans to visit us in June 2025.

Michael – is enjoying his university course and now beginning his masters. Singing in various situations!

Carina - hopes to visit in March with her parents.

Rachel – is still living in Scotland. Had twin girls this year to join her big sister.

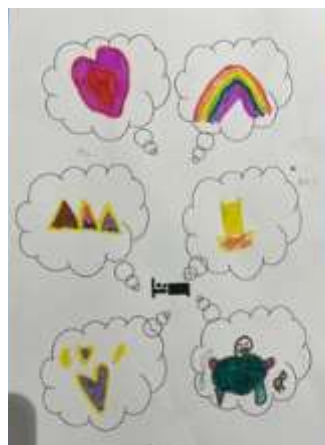
Jona – his first term at University in Mainz has gone well. Exams in February. *Jona Schmidt reviewed his year as Time for God volunteer at Downing Place in the September 2024 issue of Place Matters]*

## AN INSIGHT INTO OUR RECENT JUNIOR CHURCH SESSIONS

The last few months have been an exciting period for children of all ages at Downing Place URC, with Advent, Christmas and the start of 2025. During Advent particularly there was much coming and going as family visits took place; grandparents were visited, and we were thrilled to welcome many grandchildren to Downing Place.

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On the last Sunday of the church year we heard about Daniel's vision of God on a throne with wheels of fire, and Jesus being crowned King forever. We chatted about dreams and symbols, and the children successfully identified all the symbols in the Roots quiz, doing somewhat better than some of the leadership! We then thought about some ways in which God, whom we cannot see, is represented in the bible and chose some of these images to draw in dream bubbles.



Advent began on Sunday 1st December, when the first advent candle was lit in church, representing the hope that Jesus would bring to the world. This was also the first Sunday that the Junior Church candle was introduced in the service, having been placed beside the existing candle on the communion table. When the children left for their own session, they carried their candle with them as a symbol of God's presence being with those in church, and with the children as they followed their own activities in the Junior Church room. We talked about Advent being a time to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, a time to remember the promise that Jesus would one day return, and a time to look out for the signs of his coming and not be afraid. We sang the first verse of a new song written for Advent but sung to the tune of 'Give me oil in my Lamp'. We

then had a happy time making Christmas stars and wreaths to decorate the Hub.

Our service for All Ages, in the middle of December, was both joyful and full of music! The nativity scene was created as children and other members of the congregation worked together to find all the items needed for the stable scene.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December we talked about Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and how she must have felt, contrasting it with the very different story of a journey made in comfort by one of the leaders. How different the stories were! Yet it is Mary's difficult journey that has been remembered by Christians all around the world for more than 2000 years, while the more recent one is quickly forgotten. We used a story book Advent calendar to track Mary's journey to the stable in Bethlehem where Jesus was born and then made our own cardboard figures of Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the donkey.



In our sessions over the new year, after lots of fun over Christmas, we made calendars, looking forward to the year ahead, knowing that Jesus was with everyone and guiding us each day.



With January well underway, we turned our minds to the story of John baptising people in the river in anticipation of the coming of Jesus. We heard that Jesus was also baptised by John. This is when the Holy Spirit came down and settled on him like a dove, and the voice of God could be heard announcing him to be his beloved Son with whom he was very pleased. By this sign people knew he was the Messiah! Inspired by this story, the children made posters of the dove, to remind them of God's words. To conclude the session the children were fascinated to watch a short video clip of one of the leader's teenage granddaughters being baptised outside in a pool, by full immersion.

Some of the older children remembered watching the first baptism to take place in our baptistry after we moved into our newly refurbished church.





*Downing Place's first baptism in our new baptistry in September 2021, a memorable occasion for all who were there*

In our sessions on 19th January, we delved into the story of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, where he turned water into wine. We had lively discussions about the joy, excitement, and even a bit of apprehension that comes with attending parties – some of us are even looking forward to wedding celebrations later this year! We imagined how thrilled Jesus, His mother, and the disciples must have been to join the newly married couple in their celebration. The moment when the wine ran out must have been a bit embarrassing, but surely the surprise and delight that followed when Jesus provided the best wine was truly amazing. This unexpected and miraculous event showed everyone that Jesus was special and had the power to perform incredible miracles. While some of us worked away on craft activities, others continued with discussions, realising that God provides what we need, not per se what we want, and often gives beyond expectations. With this in mind, we filled jars with pieces of paper on which we had written things we would like to ask, or things we need from God, for ourselves and for the world.

*Elza de Bruin, Lorraine Thornton and Jess Uden, with thanks to all the leaders and helpers for their contributions to the work of Junior Church.*



## FROM OUR ECUMENICAL CORRESPONDENT

### V : The Baptist Churches

Historians classifying Protestantism often distinguish the ‘radical’ from the ‘magisterial’ Reformation. The latter looked to authoritative ‘masters’ but retained faith in political society and its institutions. They sought co-operation ranging from Geneva’s alliance between church officers and City Council to Cranmer’s conviction of the princely calling to govern in both ecclesiastical and temporal causes.

The ‘radicals’ were more sceptical of their allegedly Christian environment. They believed returning to apostolic practice required a more striking break with the present. Their congregations remained separate and self-governing on principle, often rejecting societal values, aiming literally to imitate scriptural lessons like the common property of Acts 4:32. Oaths, armies and courts were all suspect. And unlike the magisterial Reformers, they were not convinced by the argument that the faith of parents, or the believing community in which children would grow, justified baptising such children at a young age. Many, rejecting the effect of such baptism, admitted to their number adults baptised in infancy by baptising them again.

Public authorities saw these as seditious challenges. The ‘rebaptisers’ (Anabaptists) of Zurich found themselves in opposition to the City Council from 1525, and Felix Manz became the first executed by drowning. Though Anabaptist ideals still spread over Europe, many governments following some version of the magisterial Reformation drew the line at such ‘heresy’. Anabaptist response might go to extremes, like the 1534 coup in Münster (reversed after a lengthy siege); but generally, communities were peaceful, suffering persecution patiently as the 1527 Schleitheim Confession had encouraged. Lutheran and Reformed statements often went to great lengths to disown Anabaptist belief, as did England’s 1553 Articles of Religion.

The link to today’s Baptists is arguably through the Mennonites, who found a relatively tolerant régime in the Low Countries and gathered Anabaptists driven from other territories. Early in James I’s reign, English Independents relocating to the Netherlands came into contact with the Mennonites. Some of their number returned to England in 1611, convinced of infant baptism’s invalidity, and formed the first Baptist church in Spitalfields. In 1638, however, so-called Particular Baptists (believing Christ’s death redeemed only those destined for salvation) split from General Baptists (who acknowledged a wider effect, and whom we shall meet again in Episode VII of this series). The Particular Baptists,

ancestors of today's churches, consolidated their movement during Charles II's exile but retained the principle of self-government. They were in fact very similar to the Congregational forebears of the URC except that the latter still baptised infants.

The restoration of the monarchy in 1660 was bad news for Baptists, and John Bunyan of *Pilgrim's Progress* fame, perhaps England's best-known Baptist, soon found himself imprisoned. The Toleration Act made it easier for churches to connect through county Associations, but also foreshadowed divergence, as the American Revival, doubts regarding the Trinity and the practice of 'closed Communion' drew them in different directions. In 1813 many Particular Baptist churches (with a splinter group from the General Baptists) formed the 'General Union of Baptist Ministers and Churches', ancestor of today's Baptist Union and exemplar for the Congregational Union which followed eighteen years later, as a tool for increasingly necessary co-operation. Co-operation increased in modern times, and in 1916 Area Superintendents were appointed to support local endeavours (another step copied, three years on, by the Congregationalists). Even so, lacking the Presbyterian influence that made the URC what it is, Baptists remained very much a 'grass-roots' denomination.

In the 1760s two dissenters from the Church of Scotland accepted leadership of a Baptist church in Edinburgh. The 'Scotch Baptist' school that flowed from this was distinguished *inter alia* by 'a plurality of Elders or Pastors in every church' and 'breaking of bread every first day of the week': practices carried later into the Churches of Christ, whose first congregation in Nottingham was formed by expatriate Scotch Baptists in 1836. So the 1981 unification of many Churches of Christ with the URC can be portrayed as radical and magisterial strands of the Reformation twining together at last.

Meanwhile, among churches joining the new Baptist Union was a group which had been meeting in central Cambridge – appropriately enough, in a former stable – since 1721, and erected their first purpose-built chapel in 1764. The current St Andrew's Street building arose on the site in 1903. Scenes from *Pilgrim's Progress* appear in a War memorial window, and the position of its pulpit still testifies to the centrality of preaching the Word. Space at the side of the building allows worshippers to enjoy fellowship, and gives Cambridge Street Pastors a night-time base.

There is no doubt that Baptist churches belong, in the main, at the evangelical end of the Protestant spectrum. That is not where I instinctively belong. The idiom of their prayers and worship songs, the strict and sometimes literal understanding of biblical holiness, the strong emphasis on explicit evangelism, are representative of the many churches in Cambridge which I'm not otherwise

attempting to depict in this ‘column’. But it is fair to say Baptist churches vary. Their very autonomy allows a few to host same sex marriage, for example, from which others hold firmly aloof. Quite a number have formed United Free Churches with the URC: one such had as its Minister Keith Riglin, later called to St Columba’s.



*The current St Andrew's Street Baptist Church on a sunny day.  
Photo credit Eileen Hori.*

When I visited St Andrew's Street, although it is by no means a beacon of liberalism, I must say I was favourably impressed. Modern technology enabled a church member to preach (at length but powerfully) from Australia, to which her work for a global missionary organisation had taken her. The compère (for so he seemed to me, rather than 'leader') of worship was one of the deacons. A small but enthusiastic and gifted band accompanied the service. Numbers were not as large as in other evangelical congregations, but visitors were made welcome both on arrival and over coffee.

The church website highlights weekday group activities, support for refugees and homeless, and recent sermons. Whatever the contrasting worship style and history, there are clearly many ways in which our closest neighbour church resembles Downing Place.

*Augur Pearce*

## MUSIC USED IN A NON-LITURGICAL FUNCTION IN DOWNING PLACE URC

This will be the last of the monthly articles for *Place Matter* that your two Joint Directors of Music will have written concerning the provision of music in this church. This final article looks at the way that music is used outside its normal, liturgical context.

Before the membership of Downing Place URC moved back into our current premises, we had to find an organ to replace the traditional pipe-organ that had been removed from these premises. We were told that space was a premium, and therefore replacing the old pipe-organ with another pipe-organ was out of the question. We therefore elected to provide the church with a modern type of organ, one that did not require the need for any pipes. The organ that we decided to purchase was chosen purely for its use within acts of worship. As the new organ had wheels, we did decide to attach the organ to a 6-metre umbilical electrical cable, so that one could move the organ out of the church and place it in a corner of the Welcome Area, so freeing up additional seating space in the church for events that needed seating for more than 200 people. That umbilical cable proved to be prophetic, though we didn't know that at the time.

Initially, neither Mark nor I had ever contemplated using this new organ for **recitals. Indeed, before the merger of St Columba's and Emmanuel URCs**, neither of those two churches had any history of hosting regular organ recitals. Certainly, going by the number of people attending the occasional organ recital as part of EURC's **Wednesday lunchtime concert series**, organ recitals were decidedly unpopular. But, as I began to discover the true potential of our new, Digital Organ - its ability to closely mimic the sounds of orchestral instruments; its long, umbilical cable allowing the organ to be moved up onto the dais (using the newly-installed Accessibility Lift) and placed exactly where a piano would be placed for concerts; and dropping down the newly-installed projection screen in our church – it dawned on me that this new organ could be used for giving concerts. Initially, the organiser of our Wednesday lunchtime concert series was very dubious about including an organ recital, going by the poor attendance of previous organ recitals having been given in EURC. But we took the risk, and **with assistance from the church's audio-visual staff**, we put on our first organ recital in Downing Place Church, presenting a sequence of very popular classical music, much of which had been written for the orchestra and which I **re-composed for the church's Digital Organ, together with the simultaneous projection of images and videos.** That concert began with me performing Handel's coronation anthem, 'Zadok the Priest', accompanied by a video of the

late Queen Elizabeth II entering Westminster Abbey for her coronation in 1953. **The very next day, we heard the announcement of the queen's death, and I still** have people telling me that that screening of the coronation, accompanied by that coronation anthem, was a beautiful way for them to remember that beloved monarch.

**Over the three years since we moved back into these refurbished premises, I've** discovered more and more things that our Digital Organ can do that no pipe-organ in the world can do. We now put on regular organ recitals, on Wednesdays, and on Mondays, and every three months on a Sunday morning, straight after our morning act of worship. Now, our organ recitals attract the largest audiences, **sometime to full capacity of the church.** **The organ's versatility has also drawn** conductors, orchestras, and choirs to our church in order to use our organ as the soloist for **Organ Concertos (Poulenc's), Organ Symphonies (Saint-Saëns'), and large-scale works for choir and organ (Fauré's Requiem, and Duruflé's Requiem).** **All these events bring in valuable income to the church.** Our church's audio-visual team have now trained me so that I can operate the projection of images and videos onto the drop-down big screen whilst playing the organ at the same time, a skill that I never thought possible! Organ recitals are also a regular part of the outreach that this church offers to those suffering from macular degeneration.

The organ is also used for informing and entertaining children. DPURC often hosts groups of school-children who are coming into Cambridge to visit one of the many museums that are close to this church but who need somewhere to have their packed lunch. Whenever possible, I offer the children and their teachers a short explanation and demonstration of the organ and, under supervision, allow them to play the instrument and change the sounds that the organ makes. **Invariably I will then play them Widor's Toccata and, nearly every** time, the children all get up and dance to the music! It is a wonderful sight to see thirty children spontaneously smiling and dancing in our church as they experience our amazing, hi-tech organ!

**I've also realised that our organ can be used pedagogically.** Our organ possesses the sounds of the finest pipe-organs to be found in Germany, France, England, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, and Austria. Some of those instruments date from **Bach's time, whilst others would have been played by Widor.** We also have modern organs from the late 20<sup>th</sup>-century and early 21<sup>st</sup>-century. This allows organ scholars from the many college chapels, here in Cambridge, to come to our church and experience playing a German Baroque organ, or a French Romantic instrument, or an English cathedral organ, without ever having to leave Cambridge. In days of yore, organ-scholars would have to fly to foreign climes

and sit in a cold church, late at night, in order to experience a similar thing. I also offer organ-lessons, and masterclasses on how to fully exploit the use of a Digital Organ, and all the income from these pedagogic activities goes straight to the coffers of Downing Place Church.



I have lots of plans for future ‘outreach’ activities featuring our church organ, including inviting state schools that might not have a chapel or an organ to come here and experience a half-day of musically-themed activities (drawing, poetry, dance, and listening), led by members of the church. My collaborative performances with Jane Bower of *Peter and the Wolf*, and the *Carnival of the Animals*, have already proved very popular with children, and we plan to build on this success in the future. I would also like to screen, in our church, the black-and-white film version of *The Phantom of the Opera*, whilst I play Andrew Lloyd-Webber’s music on the organ. Similarly, I’m currently arranging all of Tchaikovsky’s ballet music (*Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Nutcracker*) so that the ballet-dancing can be shown on the projection screen whilst I play the music on the organ. After that, I want to present the three great ballet-scores of Stravinsky (*The Firebird*, *Petroushka*, and *The Rite of Spring*), as I know that our organ is fully capable of re-creating Stravinsky’s ravishingly virtuosic sound-world. My current project is to complete my new arrangement of Tchaikovsky’s *1812 Overture* for our church organ, which will be premiered as part of the Wednesday lunchtime concert in our church on March 26<sup>th</sup>. All of these exciting ventures not only bring people, both young and old, into our church who might not otherwise venture inside a church, but also generate considerable financial income for our church. I just hope I live long enough to complete all these projects!

*Ian de Massini*

## SOLIDARITY HUB NEWS

*Alex Clare-Young writes:*

Solidarity Hub members hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas. I would like to share a bit about what we have been up to over the festive period. As well as our regular meetings, Solidarity Hub folks and several friends took part in a digital advent calendar, posting pictures on a theme related to the Christmas story each day. This was a great way to do some light-touch evangelism whilst sharing what is going on for each of us during the month. Here are my images. The one for 'Together', was taken at a Solidarity Hub event. 'Worthy' comes from the Open Table carol service and 'Dream' is from our Blue Christmas service. 'Bless' was a card from one of our partners, Connected Lives.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of January, we met together at 2pm, from age two to age 60, for our worship and social time. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of January, we will meet at 7pm to pray together and to wonder about what the future of our wonderful little community might be. In February, when this will be published, and as our conversations continue, we hope that you will pray for and with us.



### LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH SERVICE 2025

The theme for LGBT+ History Month this year is 'social change' and, so, we have decided to change how we facilitate the morning LGBT+ History Month service. The service this year will be at 11am on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

- We won't have communion, but we will have the Sing Out! Choir joining us.
- We won't have a visiting preacher, but we will have members of the Open Table Community speaking about why Open Table matters.
- We won't be sitting in our normal rows but we will be sitting in the round, in four or five concentric circles.
- We will ensure that there is an area that is 'off camera'. Sitting in circles will enable us to worship in the same way that our Open Table Community regularly does and, perhaps, to see and experience things from a slightly different angle.

We look forward to welcoming you.

*Alex Clare-Young*





Begin



Bless



Courage



Possibility



Remember



Marvel



Go



Together



Embrace



Journey



Peacemaker



Connection



Enough



Goodness



Worthy



Repair



Magnify



Mercy



Dream



Hope



Risk



Grace



Joy



Love



Amazement

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF GIBSON LUNCH - A GREAT SUCCESS!

As many readers will know, Downing Place URC hosts monthly ‘Gibson’ lunches on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of most months of the year. Church members take it in turn to cook for around 30 diners each month, leading to a varied and interesting menu! Our cooks are all careful to cater for all dietary needs, and, for a change, on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 diners shared a ‘community meal’, designed especially for this occasion by Alan Rickard and Ian de Massini, both members of the church. The menu was purely plant-based, and dairy-free, as well as being gluten-free, so that everyone could eat ‘from the same bowl’, so to speak, including those allergic to dairy products, those allergic to wheat, those unable to eat tomatoes, or strong spices, and those who would prefer not to eat meat at all. Neither Alan or Ian had cooked such a meal before, and it was a revelation. In the end, they cooked enough main-course food to feed over 40 people, and yet the whole cost of the ingredients came to well under £100. Diners were invited to offer some feedback after the meal, and here are some of their comments:

*A lovely lunch, with a wonderful combination and variety of ingredients – very plentiful, full of aroma, and tasty. Enjoyed having the menu with ingredients on the table to read. A thoughtful meal which could be eaten by all.*

*Very interesting, tasty. Good combinations of textures, too. Good to know ingredients, and to have a complete menu that caters for so many dietary requirements – no-one made to feel ‘odd’ – ‘different’.*

*It was very tasty, with interesting flavours. It feels like I have had a healthy meal.*

*I had never eaten a plant-based meal, so this was an education – it was delicious, with a splendid mix of flavours.*

This was the menu:

### MAIN COURSE

Hot Pot: celery, gherkins, dates, onions, green lentils, black-eyed peas, red kidney beans, borlotti beans, chickpeas, black beans, black and green olives, mushrooms, dried bay leaves, cumin, sage, coriander, garlic, Henderson’s relish, with non-alcoholic red wine, topped with plant-based mincemeat and chopped spring onions.

Roasted vegetables: parsnips, carrots, and onions roasted in sesame oil, and glazed with maple syrup: roast potatoes to be served separately.

Winter cabbage: red cabbage, onions, garlic, ginger, sable grapes, apple, beetroot, slow-cooked with cinnamon, nutmeg, and brown sugar.

## DESSERT

Fruit Salad: apples, bananas, kiwi fruit, seedless grapes, raisins, and strawberries, served with plant-based plain yoghurt sweetened with maple syrup.

Coffee, tea, and fruit juice.

*Ian de Massini*

## NOTICES

### PRAYER MEETINGS

You may have seen the Prayer Meeting in the weekly notices, but not be aware of exactly what happens.

On the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10.15am, a small group meets in the **St Columba's chapel to pray**. It is set at this time so that we can join in with Midweek Worship. We collect requests from the box in the Hub and also **read those written in the book in the St Columba's Chapel**. We continue to pray for members and friends who are having health issues, or needs of any kind.

If you are coming to Midweek Communion, why not consider joining in with these prayers?

## VISITING KIELDER - A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Sometimes, something I encounter in my job sparks an interest, or offers a new perspective - I am truly grateful for these enriching opportunities which have come along during my years of working for this Church. Last year, much to my surprise, I developed a lively instrument in astronomy - me, an English graduate with a postgraduate qualification in Local History, and very rusty on the sciences front to say the least!

Not one but two Downing Place events were responsible for this - firstly, Ian de Massini's fine arrangement of Holst's 'Planets' suite for organ, accompanied by a breathtaking 'flyby' slideshow of all seven planets. This was closely followed by Robert Smith's item in May's *Place Matters* on the total solar eclipse enjoyed by the US last spring. Discussing suitable photographs to accompany the eclipse item, Robert commented that all the images on NASA's website were free to use. I happily fell down the NASA rabbit-hole, and started exploring.



It was like donning a pair of wide-angle spectacles which expanded my suburban horizons - when you have lived in a built up environment for many years, your access to the night sky is very limited - although the Editor takes some fine moon photographs from his vantage point beyond Castle Hill! I on the other hand had become dulled by the orange glow of Arbury Road.

I have always loved the sense of the changing seasons, and the way the liturgical year is reflected in colour and music in church services. I'm also something of a weather geek, checking in several times a day and fascinated by weather maps - and maps in general. Now I had a new perspective as I tried to wrap my mind around the celestial dance of our solar system and our place in it.



*Moon over Halifax Road  
Photograph by Tim Rowland*

Soon, I was keen to move away from my laptop and experience more of the wonder of the night sky at first hand, beyond what is visible in the well-lit

environs of Cambridge. Luckily, as many of you know, I come from the North-East of England, home to ‘the second-largest area of protected night sky in Europe’. Always delighted to have any excuse to visit the north, I began to plan a visit to the Kielder Observatory, in a remote area of north-west Northumberland very close to the border with Scotland.

For various reasons our holiday was delayed until early December, so it was truly dark as I made my way from our holiday cottage in Bellingham up to the Observatory for my visit. I had that thrill of excitement which accompanies stepping outside your normal world - into the darkness, off track (the Observatory is a couple of miles up a winding path through the forest). It started to snow. Luckily, there a signposts along the side of the trail with pictures of planets on them to encourage you that you are still on the right track. The anticipation builds until you find yourself in a clearing and the outline of a strange wooden building can be dimly perceived.



*The Kielder Observatory*

‘Stay with your car’ you are advised, until a member of staff appears to guide you to the building. A succession of headlights appears and then they are abruptly extinguished. I open the car door and peer out into the cold darkness - the snowflakes are whirling but yes, I can see a carpet of stars up there! Then we are summoned, and I’m glad I brought a torch as the entrances to the building are lit only by red lights, and it is icy underfoot.

The Observatory run around a dozen sessions a week all year round, on a wide variety of themes and topics, and I had booked an 8pm ‘Aurora Night’ (timed to hopefully enable me to see Saturn and Jupiter through a telescope, which I really

wanted to do!). The topic of the evening occupies about the first forty minutes or so, and we were treated to a very informative and well-illustrated session on the 'Northern Lights' and how to find out when they might be making an appearance!

You are then split into three groups, and the rest of the evening is split into three sessions - time spent in the telescope room observing the night sky through their powerful telescopes; time outside observing the night sky; and time to warm up with a hot drink and a space-themed chocolate bar (Mars, Milky Way, Galaxy, - you get the picture...), ask any questions and browse their small gift shop.

Did I mention it was snowing ...? While we learned about the aurora, the snow clouds drifted over and by the time my group reached the telescope room (which was awe-inspiring with a huge telescope and sliding roof which opens as well as a floor which rotates) there was thick cloud cover. Luckily, the staff are well-prepared for cloudy nights, running sessions as they do throughout the year, and they had slides which they could fit into their telescopes so you could peer through and see Jupiter as it would appear for real. (Which is hazier than the images we normally see, because those are taken either by space telescopes or spacecraft from the blackness of space whereas we have to look through the earth's atmosphere - so again, I learnt something I didn't know).



*The Milky Way as seen above the Kielder Observatory*

*Photographs of the Observatory by kind permission of Kielder Observatory*

My next session featured hot chocolate, but my anxious attention was focussed on a screen in the break-out room with constantly refreshed with detailed weather information, which read 'Cloudy' throughout. We went out for the final session on 'Observing the Night Sky' but it was fairly clear there was nothing to observe right now, so the staff treated us to a slideshow about constellations and meteorites including producing a selection of meteorites for us to handle - and even stand on, in the case of a chunk identified as having originated on Mars, so you could say you had 'stood on Mars'!

It is always inspiring to spend time with people who are passionate about what they do, and at Kielder they say ‘..... we want everyone to experience moments of inspiration, wonder and hope through observing the cosmos. A clear sky at Kielder is truly special: the air is crisp, the silence is bewitching, the stars are mesmerising. It is a reminder how lucky we are to be alive on this tiny little planet near one of the billions of stars in one of the billions of galaxies that exist in the known universe. That’s the Kielder moment, and it can transform people.’

I found myself reflecting on the transformative effect an increased awareness of our immediate and more distant surroundings has. To slow down and walk with my bicycle for a while so I can hear the birds sing and notice the small things I normally miss as I ‘whizz’ past on my way to work. To look up, not always down. To seek opportunities to connect with the natural world. To be humbled yet exalted by the magnificence of the night sky. As Kielder say:

‘Though science offers us fundamental answers to questions about the stars and shows beauty in the theories and methods it employs, it has a less tenuous hold on how the universe makes us feel.’

Beyond science, Psalm 8 keeps reverberating in my mind

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are humans that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?

*(New Revised Standard Version)*

Yet while we reflect on our tininess and insignificance, the psalmist immediately answers his own question with

Yet you have made them a little lower than God  
and crowned them with glory and honour.

With such great honour comes great responsibility - a key aspect of Kielder’s mission is to ‘consistently inspire more people of all backgrounds and abilities to reflect upon their place in the universe and the fragility of the Earth, and catalyse individual and collective action in response to the need to protect our dark skies, and wider natural heritage.’

Individual and collective responses, from people of all backgrounds and abilities. The essence of inclusivity, enabling people to live their best and most authentic lives, which in turn protect our fragile world and inspire those around us. I will hopefully return to Kielder later this year to continue a journey of discovery that I have barely begun.

*Ann Auger*

## NIGHTLITE TO OPEN EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT FROM FEBRUARY



After a few years of only opening on two Saturdays per month, the Trustees are delighted to announce they will be opening NightLite every Saturday night from February 1st. This will provide the extra support required for Street Pastor patrol, venues in the city centre and people from our Streetlife community who need a hot cuppa and some company for an hour or two.

Although it is a positive step it does mean we require additional volunteers in NightLite. If you know anyone who would be willing to serve once every 6 weeks from 9.30pm to 3am on a Saturday night, please ask them to email Neat Pellatt, [Cambridge@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:Cambridge@streetpastors.org.uk) and she will be happy to chat to them about the role. Please note, applicants do NOT have to be a church member to volunteer in NightLite, and training will be provided.





## MONTHLY SPECIAL CAUSE FOR FEBRUARY



CAMFED International, the CAMPAIGN for Female Education, was founded in Cambridge in 1993 and has grown rapidly over the past 20-30 years, supporting girls' education in rural Africa, where as few in one in twenty girls complete secondary education.

It aims to cover girls' material, financial and social needs as well as their school fees, and arranges mentoring to prevent drop-out. It works through partner schools and local authorities in Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, which identify those needing support and coordinate its provision, providing opportunities for girls to go to school to learn, to thrive there and then to lead change

The Camfed Association of nearly 280,000 young women leaders educated through the programme – teachers, lawyers, nurses, doctors, agriculturists and entrepreneurs – support it directly and work to improve the opportunities in their countries for the next generation.

Among other benefits, investing in girls' education and women's leadership is one of the most powerful ways of tackling the climate emergency.



### WAYS OF GIVING TO OUR SPECIAL CAUSE

- Monthly Retiring Collection on Sunday 16 February (cash, cheque or card)
- Monday and Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts (cash or card)
- Direct to the church bank account (reference SPECIAL CAUSE)
- Via our website - the **'Donate'** button is on the homepage under the large photo of the congregation. Select Special Donations as the fund
- In many cases, by direct donation to the charity via their own website

## PREVIOUS SPECIAL CAUSES AND DONATIONS

### *October's Special Cause - Commitment for Life*

Last year's **Commitment for Life** contributions came to a total of £11,462.92, as follows:

October Special Cause donations	£5,429.67
Regular donations received throughout the year	£2,534.42
Gift Aid	£1,718.22
Lunchtime Concerts	£959.61
Frugal Lunch	£455.50
Retiring Collection	£365.50

### *November's Special Cause - Menscraft*

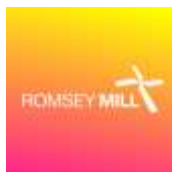
**November's Special Cause** contributions to **Menscraft**, an East Anglian charity supporting the wellbeing of men, came to a total of £1,457.31, as follows:

Lunchtime Concerts	£764.43
Retiring Collection	£431.00
York Street Contribution	£250.00
Gift Aid	£11.88

### *December's Special Cause - Saltsellers*

**December's Special Cause** contributions to **Saltsellers**, a charity advertising the Christian faith in mainstream media, came to £1,395.88, as follows:

Lunchtime Concerts	£692.13
Retiring Collection	£419.92
York Street Contribution	£250.00
Other Donations	£25.46
Gift Aid	£8.37



*Romsey Mill*, our September Special Cause, wrote to us in **November** saying "...thank you and everyone at Downing Place United Reform [sic] Church for your recent, very generous gift of £2,614.73, Please pass on our thanks to Nigel, the other church leaders and the congregation.

We are very thankful for your support, and the many ways in which you encourage and choose to partner with us, not only financially. I know that Neil Perry, our CEO was delighted to be able to visit and talk about Romsey Mill at a **service in September.**"

## OTHER DONATIONS

There were a number of other donations in the latter part of last year.

Our Knit One Give One group, who meet every Thursday afternoon in the Hub, organised a tabletop sale in November, with funds divided between the Sallymay International Preschool in Sierra Leone, the East Anglia Children's Hospices and Church funds. £128.60 was sent to the hospice and to church funds, and £200 to Sallymay including a further contribution from the knitting group. The East Anglia Children's Hospice wrote to us

Dear Mrs Auger

Thank you so much for your kind donation of £128.60 in support of East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH). With your support, we can continue to provide vital care and support services to children, young people and their families across Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. Families such as David's who used our bereavement support services after experiencing the unimaginable loss of a child. Our bereavement service is available for the whole family for as long as it is needed.

"People don't realise or appreciate just how much EACH supports people like ourselves. We've had lots of counselling and attended monthly groups for bereaved parents, in addition to sibling events for Ethan. The counsellors always go the extra mile and never judge, because they know everyone deals with grief differently." David, Jude's dad

We honestly cannot thank you enough for your kindness. If you would like any further information on the difference your support makes, please do contact us on the details below.

Our World Church and Public Issues Group arranged a number of donations from the York Street Fund emergencies reserve:

DEC Middle East Emergency Appeal	£1,250.00
Peace Now	£250.00
Médecins sans Frontières	£1,500.00
Jimmy's	£250.00

Médecins sans Frontières wrote "Thank you for your kind donation of £1,500 to Médecins sans Frontières (MSF). Your support is hugely appreciated and helps our teams provide medical care to those who need it most."



Finally, our Christmas collection for Christian Aid totalled £539.00.

# HOUSE GROUPS FOR LENT A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Gospel of John – a study in six parts, by Professor David Ford

1. Why John? Who Jesus is
2. The Spirit given without measure for the Ongoing Drama of loving
3. Why John? God and All People, All Creation
4. Why John Now? Jesus Now
5. Why John Now? The Church Now
6. Why John Now? The World Now

David Ford

David Ford OBE is an Anglican public theologian. He was the Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, beginning in 1991. He is now an Emeritus Regius Professor of Divinity. His research interests include political theology, ecumenical theology, Christian theologians and theologies, theology and poetry, the shaping of universities and of the field of theology and religious studies within universities, hermeneutics, and interfaith theology and relations. He is the founding director of the Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme and a co-founder of the Society for Scriptural Reasoning.

This material comes from ‘Home Groups’, a project of [SPCK](#), ‘equipping you with Bible studies and discussion guides from [SPCK](#), [IVP](#) and other publishers and [partners](#).’ Supported by [Allchurches Trust](#) and [The Jerusalem Trust](#).

The weekly material can be found here:

<https://homegroups.org.uk/series/gospel-of-john-study-guide/>

This includes a short video of David Ford talking, which you may choose to watch before each week’s meeting. Excerpts may also be included in the weekly meetings.

Meetings will be held on Zoom on Thursday evenings, starting at 7.30pm:

Introduction and session 1: February 27<sup>th</sup>, then a short break before 5 consecutive weeks: March 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>.

These will be led by Kurt Roeloffs\*. Kurt will provide the Zoom invitation nearer the time. You will be able to request it from him :

[kurt.roeloffs@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.roeloffs@gmail.com)

Also, a daytime group in the Hub on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm:

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. These will be guided by Penny Flynn. Just turn up.

Material can be printed and made available for those who need it.

\* We are very pleased to have our Associate Member, Kurt Roeloffs, to lead the evening sessions. Kurt introduces himself here - New Year Greetings, Downing Place! I am Kurt Roeloffs, an American, and very excited to be leading our **Lenten** study of **John's Gospel**. While I am a relatively new associate member of the congregation, I have attended services as and when I could since my family and I moved to Cambridge several years ago in order for me to prepare for ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA) through Cambridge University and Westminster College. As coincidence would have it, my ministerial studies included a lot of translation of, and exegetical papers on, The Gospel of John. So, I am hoping to put those studies to good use as a modest augment to our use of **Professor David Ford's** very comprehensive, thematic study.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
A world wide wave of prayer  
*'I made you wonderful'*

Downing Place  
United Reformed Church

Friday 7th March, 10.30am

All are welcome!

Refreshments available afterwards

[worlddayofprayer.net/cook-islands-2025](http://worlddayofprayer.net/cook-islands-2025) ✚

The poster features a vibrant tropical scene on the left side, including pink lotus flowers, white hibiscus, green palm leaves, and a beach with people. The text is set against a light pink background.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS  
MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS AT 1PM

Free Lunchtime Concerts with a retiring collection shared between Church funds and our monthly Special Cause. Booking is not necessary.

Refreshments are available before and after each concert.

Monday 3 February  
Andy Mellor (clarinet) & Angela Novy (piano)

Wednesday 5 February  
Ely Music Collective

Monday 10 February  
Flora Clapham (violin & Isaac Chan (piano)

Wednesday 12 February  
Richard Carr (piano) & the aLUMNI Chamber Orchestra

Monday 17 February  
Philippa Jones (cello), Peter Britton (piano) & Jane Bower (spoken word)

Wednesday 19 February  
Yoko Sakakura (piano)

Monday 24 February  
Felicity Hamilton (soprano) & Charlie Penn (piano)

Wednesday 26 February  
Simon Watterton (piano)

Full information about each concert including the programme is available  
on our website

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

# THE BIG TEA PARTY

*Celebrating two decades  
of Knit One Give One*

Saturday 8th February, 2.30pm  
Gibson Hall, Downing Place URC

Afternoon tea, a table top sale  
& musical entertainment,  
with all profits going to  
Sallymay Preschool,  
Sierra Leone

**£5 per ticket**

To sign up  
please speak to  
Anne Disney  
or the

Downing Place URC  
Office







**TALLIS**

40-part motet: *Spem in alium*

**JOSQUIN**

24-part motet: *Qui habitavit*

**GABRIELI**

15-part motet: *In ecclesiis*

**PRAETORIUS**

17-part motet: *Jubilieret fröhlich*

**Music performed 'in the round'**

**with 40 singers and instrumentalists  
directed by Peter Britton**

**Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4.30pm  
Downing Place United Reformed Church**

**Free admission:  
retiring collection in aid of *Cambridge Refugees***



Cambridge  
Action Group

# Spring Supper and Talk



## 'The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God'

Friday 21 March 2025  
6.30 pm for supper (£10.00)  
7.45 pm for talk

Queen Edith Chapel,  
Wulfstan Way, Cambridge  
CB1 8QN

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



Speaker:  
Justin Brierley

Justin has hosted a radio discussion show for 18 years, focusing on serious topics of faith – God and atheism, belief and doubt, scepticism and commitment. Over this period he has noticed a changing mood in our society. Many secular thinkers are speaking more positively about faith, and there have been some surprising and high-profile converts to Christianity. New atheism is growing old. More people are taking God more seriously than before. Justin will explore this change, and help us to think about what is happening and why.

## MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

2 February	Penny Flynn John Proctor	Bassingbourn Melbourn
9 February	Chris Baker Liz Caswell Janet Tollington Nigel Uden	Melbourn Stetchworth & Cheveley Bassingbourn Fulbourn (am) Sidney Sussex College (pm)
16 February	Janet Tollington	St Neots
23 February	Chris Baker Penny Flynn Deborah McVey Augur Pearce John Proctor Janet Tollington Nigel Uden	Ely Methodist Thaxted St Luke's LEP Melbourn Saffron Walden Trinity, Burwell Fulbourn (pm)



## FEBRUARY DIARY

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sun	02-Feb-25	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	02-Feb-25	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Church
Sun	02-Feb-25	Open Table Social	7:00pm	Zoom
Mon	03-Feb-25	Officers' Meeting	10:15am	Minister's Office
Mon	03-Feb-25	Monday Lunchtime Concert - Andy Mellor (clarinet) & Angela Novy (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Tue	04-Feb-25	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	05-Feb-25	Wednesday Lunchtime Concert - Ely Music Collective	1:00pm	Church
Thu	06-Feb-25	Midweek Worship led by Dr Augur Pearce	11:00am	Church
Thu	06-Feb-25	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sat	08-Feb-25	The Big Tea Party - Knit One Give One fundraiser for the Sallymay International Preschool (see p.32)	2:30pm	Gibson Hall
Sun	09-Feb-25	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	09-Feb-25	Sunday Worship led by the Revd Deborah McVey	11:00am	Church
Sun	09-Feb-25	Solidarity Hub	2:00pm	The Hub
Mon	10-Feb-25	Monday Lunchtime Concert - Flora Clapham (violin) & Isaac Chan (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Tue	11-Feb-25	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios' Church

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Tue	11-Feb-25	Elders' Meeting	7:30pm	Emmanuel Room
Wed	12-Feb-25	Wednesday Lunchtime Concert - Richard Carr (piano) with the aLUMNI Chamber Orchestra	1:00pm	Church
Thu	13-Feb-25	Prayer Meeting	10:15am	St Columba's Chapel
Thu	13-Feb-25	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Church
Thu	13-Feb-25	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	16-Feb-25	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	16-Feb-25	Sunday Worship led by the Revd Nigel Uden followed by a retiring collection for our monthly Special Cause	11:00am	Church
Sun	16-Feb-25	Open Table Communion Service	7:00pm	Church
Mon	17-Feb-25	Monday Lunchtime Concert - Philippa Jones (cello), Peter Britton (piano) & Jane Bower (spoken word)	1:00pm	Church
Tue	18-Feb-25	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	19-Feb-25	Wednesday Lunchtime Concert - Yoko Sakakura (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Thu	20-Feb-25	Midweek Worship led by Dr Alan Rickard	11:00am	Church
Thu	20-Feb-25	Gibson Lunch	12:30pm	Gibson Hall
Thu	20-Feb-25	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	23-Feb-25	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sun	23-Feb-25	Sunday Worship led by the Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Church
Sun	23-Feb-25	A Concert of Polychoral Music (see p.33)	4.30pm	Church
Sun	23-Feb-25	Solidarity Hub	7:00pm	Contact Alex Clare-Young
Mon	24-Feb-25	Monday Lunchtime Concert - Felicity Hamilton (soprano) and Charlie Penn (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Tue	25-Feb-25	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	26-Feb-25	Wednesday Lunchtime Concert - Simon Watterton (piano)	1:00pm	Church
Thu	27-Feb-25	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd David Tatem	11:00am	Church
Thu	27-Feb-25	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	02-Mar-25	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Church
Sun	02-Mar-25	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Nigel Uden	11:00am	Church
Sun	02-Mar-25	Open Table Social	7:00pm	The Hub



We are pleased to say that that Andrii Smytsniuk from Cambridge4Ukraine has agreed to come to our service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February to speak about Ukraine, as the anniversary of the war approaches the following week.

## LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

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 February (Epiphany 4 - Candlemas)*

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

*9 February (Epiphany 5)*

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

*16 February (Epiphany 6)*

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalms 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

*23 February (Epiphany 7)*

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

*2 March (Transfiguration)*

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)



*Photograph by Stillvision photography*



*Photograph taken at an Open Table event by Stillvision Photography*

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Tim Rowland

ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

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

WEB EDITOR: Jess Uden

Please send all items to be included in the March edition to both Tim and Ann by the cut off date of Wednesday 19 February.

The March edition will be available from Sunday 2 March