



DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,
CAMBRIDGE

PLACE MATTERS



ISSUE 75
OCTOBER 2025

CONTACT DETAILS AT DOWNING PLACE URC

Address: Downing Place United Reformed Church
4 Downing Place, Cambridge, CB2 3EL
Telephone: 01223 756635
Website: www.downingplaceurc.org
Minister: Downing Place URC is In Vacancy

Audio-Visual Team: av@downingplaceurc.org

Administrative Officer & Bookkeeper: Greta Druktenyte
office@downingplaceurc.org 01223 756635

Directors of Music: Mark Dawes & Ian de Massini
mark@downingplaceurc.org 01954 212514
ian@downingplaceurc.org 07801 234343

Children's Ministry Team Co-ordinator: Elza de Bruin Lara
children@downingplaceurc.org 01223 362618

Church Secretary: Pippa Jones
secretary@downingplaceurc.org 01223 425655

Clerk to the Elders' Meeting: Augur Pearce
clerk@downingplaceurc.org 01223 279517

Facilities Officer: Matthew Barker
matt@downingplaceurc.org 07354517346

Hospital and Hospice Visitor: The Revd. Deborah McVey
hospitalvisitor@downingplaceurc.org 01223 410332

Open Table Co-ordinator: Alison Binney
opentable@downingplaceurc.org 01223 294046

Safeguarding Elder: Helen Bell

safeguarding@downingplaceurc.org

c/o 01223 756635

Church Coordinator: Jess Uden

jess@downingplaceurc.org 01223 756635

07731 883697

Treasurer: William McVey

treasurer@downingplaceurc.org 01223 410332

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



Howick Hall Gardens, taken by Jess Uden

LETTER FROM A MEMBER - SIMONE MAGHENZANI

Editor: with Downing Place URC now 'in vacancy', I am grateful to those church members, lay and ordained, who agreed to my request that they write something for readers in Place Matters, much as our Minister had until his recent retirement.

This month it's Simone.

Happy New Year! Wait a minute ... I know, it's October. But, you see, October has always been the real start of the New Year for me, probably since my days at nursery. School years, then academic years, and their relative correspondence with the church year, still shape the way in which I think about time. Whilst the end of July and August are a sort of 'suspended time', one to go around in shorts and t-shirts and live with a bit of levity and as few formal commitments as possible, September is a sort of half-way time: work starts ramping up, but maybe I can still sneak a little holiday in. But then here we are, it's October. And October for me is the beginning of one of those long underwater swims that Olympians do at the start of their race: you jump in, you don't have much time to think, you just need to push, hold your breath, rely on muscle memory, until that free afternoon around the 21st of December, when you realise: 'I may have a bit of time, I better buy some Christmas presents'. And so, as we move into autumn proper, at least for me it will be the usual: swim fast, and don't drown.

There is of course much that is usual with the season ahead: I welcome back students at work, old and new. There will be social occasions to attend, classes and papers to give, services to take. Then there are the familiar events: my birthday is this month, which will possibly bring some nice little dinner somewhere (Joan, are you reading this?!). And I love autumnal cooking, from stews to roasts, to those nice bottles of hearty red wine which one could not possibly approach in the heat of summer. So, here it is, the long push – and nobody around my house gets surprised when around mid-October I start singing advent carols whilst driving... I like to be ahead.

I do wonder what kind of time this autumn will bring for Downing Place. We are now in a full vacancy, the farewell to Nigel still ringing in our ears. How are we going to approach this? Will it be a sort of extended church August, a suspended time: keep the show on the road, not too many extras, a sort of delayed time before a long

awaited ‘new year’? Or will we collectively jump into the pool of church life holding our breath, pushing through and hoping to re-emerge at some point just able to give the baton to a new minister? Neither seem to me a good prospect. It is as if August needs a bit of October, and October needs a bit of August. Surely this is a time for all of us ordinary congregation members to step up, to lend a hand, to get involved, not to slide back, relying on the fact that the church leadership will do the job. This is a time to turn up. But surely it is also a time for elders and staff to feel that they are not alone, that they are not swimming underwater, that they can catch breath. This is not an in-between time, a sort of lull: it’s a time to be proactive, to explore, to discern. It will be a stressful and intense time for many, so busy with running the church. A word from Ephesians seems to me a good starting point to begin imagining the time ahead:

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

(Ephesians 3: 16-19).

This is not a time to keep ourselves afloat – it’s a time to still grasp the measure of the fullness of God, of his grace for us, and to discern where the Spirit is going to bring us. T.S. Eliot puts it quite helpfully in ‘Little Gidding’ (Four Quartets, 1943):

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

May this vacancy be a good, refreshing time for us all. A time in its own right, not to be wasted, for exploring anew the length, height, and depth of Christ’s love for us. A time to look at ourselves once again, and maybe arrive back to where we started when together we formed this congregation. And then, with Eliot, we will know Christ, and this (Downing) Place, once again, as if for the first time.

Simone Maghenzani

MARY JOSLIN – A CENTENARY PROFILE

Editor: Mary Joslin, the 'senior' member of Downing Place URC, will celebrate her 100th birthday on 26th October 2025. Most of what follows draws on a conversation between David and Daphne Thomas and Mary, when they visited her recently: I have added two endnotes.

**We send Mary greetings and congratulations on behalf of
all Place Matters readers.**



Mary Joslin was born in Helensburgh, just north-west of Glasgow, on the 26th October 1925.

Mary had a brother and sister. Her brother was killed in Flushing, during the liberation of the Netherlands in the Second World War. Her sister has four children: she lives in Scotland and is 11 years younger than Mary.

Mary first went to the PNEU [see endnote 1] school in Edinburgh, where she and her family lived for a while. When her family moved back to Helensburgh, she went to a boarding school, St Leonard's, in St Andrews. On completing her school education, Mary went to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where she trained as a Hospital Social worker.

During her younger days she was introduced to skiing. Every Easter she would go to Aviemore, and although she says she wasn't very good at it, she enjoyed being part of the Scottish ski club.

During her time of training in Glasgow, just after the War, she was able to go to Sauchiehall Street [endnote 2] to buy the trendy clothes of the time. After getting dressed up, she was able to go out dancing the night away.

She has a friend who was involved in a committee at Wimbledon, and she invited Mary along. By this time Mary had bought an A35 van, which enabled her to take her friend to Wimbledon. She remembers parking her van with the “posh people's” cars. She loved going to Wimbledon.

One day she was stopped by a policeman for speeding in her van. She argued that it was just like an A35 car: it was just a different shape. Her charm on the day won through, and he waved her off with a caution. In those days a commercial vehicle was not allowed to exceed 30 mph.

A friend of Mary's introduced her to his friend, a man called David. Mary liked David, but she was unable to pursue her interest in him at that time. But some years later, when they were both living in South London, they met up again. This time things moved on more quickly, and they soon became engaged. Mary and David Maelgwyn Joslin were married in 1969. He had been born just 11 days before Mary, and now both of them were in their 40s, with David enjoying a brilliant academic career. Having served as Senior Tutor at Pembroke College, Cambridge, he was appointed University Professor of Economic History in 1965.

Mary set aside her own career in order to be available to entertain academics and other college visitors. It was a steep learning curve to become hostess to her husband's many friends and colleagues.

They had been married for less than two years when David died. He was only 45. Mary returned to social work in local hospitals, including both the ‘old’ Addenbrookes in Trumpington Street until 1976, then at the new site on Hills Road. During her time there she worked in the transplant unit when it was in its infancy, alongside Professor Roy Calne and the team that performed several ‘first’ human organ transplants. As a clinical social worker, Mary contributed to the support of the patients and the families through very difficult times.

Throughout her life, Mary has enjoyed walking; she was one of a group of friends who travelled far and wide, enjoying each other's company. She continued to walk late into her eighties. At 90 Mary decided that it was time to give up her car, and the bicycle. For a time she had a mobility scooter but she found the pavements in Cambridge difficult to manage. She lives in her own house: her mobility now is very restricted, but she has support from a carer on weekdays. When asked about the weekends, she said she wanted the weekends for herself and without carers! Mary enjoys conversation and she reads what she receives from Downing Place URC.

Hannah Stephenson, Mary's Downing Place URC Elder, recalls that Mary – in common with Hannah - had enjoyed and had been a member of the choir Collegium Laureatum for many years. Hannah still remembers seeing Mary arriving at the Monday evening rehearsals - on her bike, come rain or shine!

We hope that you are reading this, Mary ... **Congratulations!**

We send Birthday Greetings from your friends at
Downing Place United Reformed Church!

Endnotes

1. The Parents' National Educational Union (PNEU) was founded in Bradford, Yorkshire in 1887. It provided resources and support for teachers and home schoolers in the United Kingdom in accordance with the educational ideas of its co-founder, Charlotte Mason. It emphasised respect for each child as an individual, the cultivation of good habits, and the use of rich, living ideas in every lesson. In 1890, the organisation began publishing 'The Parents' Review, "a monthly magazine of home-training and culture", under the editorial leadership of Charlotte Mason. Queen Margaret's PNEU School in Edinburgh was founded in 1918.

2. Sauchiehall Street was one of the most famous streets in Glasgow, and known internationally, due to its panoply of entertainment venues, galleries and high quality stores.



FURTHER CONGRATULATIONS GO TO...



...two couples who have celebrated
Diamond Wedding Anniversaries recently;
Tom & Monica Ogg on 20 July
Stuart & Jeannie Leslie on 21 August

INSIGHTS INTO OUR RECENT JUNIOR CHURCH SESSIONS



On 31 August, we welcomed some of the children back from their summer break and opened our time together by talking about how we were all feeling. We were amused to discover that between us we had three painful legs and a pair of crutches, although there were no serious injuries! We then looked at a set of emojis and tried to work out how the people in the pictures were feeling, and we talked about being sensitive to others who may be experiencing emotions like sadness, worry or pain. We sang 'Jesus' hands were kind hands' to remind us of how Jesus cared for people in both happy and sad situations. We acknowledged that caring for others was not always easy, especially for people we don't know very well, but trusting in Jesus would give us the confidence to do the right thing. The older children then played a game to reinforce the Bible passage from Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, while the younger ones made paper flowers to give to someone they thought might need some extra loving care.



There's something about the start of a new school year that feels both hopeful and slightly chaotic - like opening a fresh notebook and immediately smudging the first page. The following week, during the Sharing Together time, the children were given books from the church to mark the return to school. Not textbooks ready for smudging, thankfully, but something more encouraging - a reminder that they're supported as they head into the unknown territory of new teachers, new timetables, and possibly new lunchbox contents.

When we then went out to the Junior Church rooms, we started by talking about holidays; France, Germany, Spain, Ireland - some of us had been abroad, some had stayed local, but everyone had a story. Then postcards came up; who sent one? Who got one? And how did it feel to be remembered? That opened the door to our Bible story: Paul, writing to Philemon from prison. He had no phone, no WhatsApp, no email, just papyrus, and an important message: Forgive Onesimus, your runaway slave, and welcome him back with love, because God loves everyone. Freeing Onesimus was a big ask, and we wondered - what does it cost to follow Jesus? Cue a game involving sun hats, chocolate bars, and gloves in a Junior Church pop-up shop. The children debated whether the prices were value for money – were the items worth the cost? We realised that the answer depended on what was at stake. £5 for a sun hat is a lot of money, but surely worth it if it saves you from sunburn in the desert. Before returning to the sanctuary for communion, we had a moment of quiet creativity, where we made postcards of our own - messages of God's love, ready to be sent out into the world. Just like Paul's letter, they were small, personal, and full of meaning. And like the books we'd received at the start of the service, they were a gentle nudge: as we begin this new term, we're not alone. We're remembered. We're loved. Smudges and all.



On 14 September, we started the session by hunting for some hidden sheep pictures in the Junior Church room. When placed in order, these told us that we could find the Parable of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15. We also read a version of the lost coin story and decorated a small wooden box in which to keep something precious. 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.

TIME FOR GOD VOLUNTEERS – WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



TIME FOR GOD

We will be making an application for a Time for God volunteer to come and work with the church from September 2026 for about 10 months. *If you would like to host this volunteer for a period of about three months from January 2027 onwards*, then please speak to either Stephen Thornton (sthorn100@aol.com) or Rosemary Johnston (rosemary.johnston@ntlworld.com).

Rosemary has sent us this brief update of recent activities in the lives of some former volunteers. It's now 25 years since our first TfG volunteer, Christopher, came to live and work in our community for twelve months. A very helpful introduction to (or reminder of) who-is-who is on the church website, at <https://downingplaceurc.org/time-for-god/>



So – where are they all now?

Jona (20. 2023/24) has finished first year exams in Mainz.

Carina (19. 2018/19) is volunteering in three Primary Schools in Tanzania. She has been raising funds for a water tank. <http://meseraniproject.co.uk/our-schools-in-africa/>

Michael (18. 2017/18) submits his master's thesis this term about 'large language models used as a classifier'. He continues in the university jazz choir.

Sarah (16. 2015/16) continues enjoying teaching and is starting this term in a school in Heidelberg.

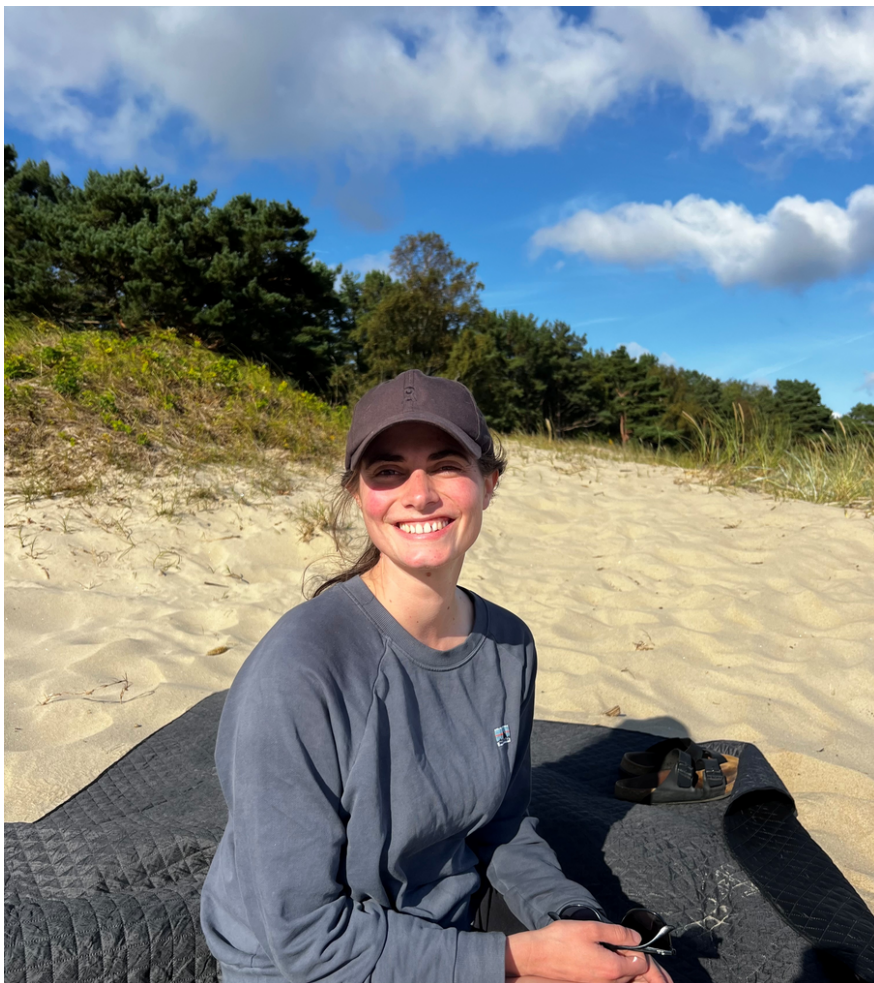
Maren (13. 2012/13) after a bachelor's degree in English and media studies decided to become a psychologist. After an MSc in Psychology she has been working in a school and council centre in the rural district of Esslingen. She and her boyfriend are renovating an old farmhouse.

Clémence (12. 2011/12) now works for EPP Rechtsanwälte, in Project Management and coordination. <https://rechtsanwalt.fr/en/team/clemence-haacke/>

Eva (11. 2010/11) after a time in Gröningen, now has a permanent position in Berlin working in the Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur. She plans to run 10k in Prague.

Carsten (10. 2009/10) with a PhD, continues to work for Zeiss as Product Manager in Sports Optics.

Christopher (1. 2000/01) continues as minister at Mount Vernon First United Methodist Church <https://www.mvfumc.org/> and writes a blog at <https://deeplyplaid.com/about/>



Maren - 2012/13

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Over £500 was raised at our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 26th September. We are very grateful to everyone who came along, ate cake and donated. A big thank must also go to Liz Barrow and Lorraine Thornton; Liz was the mastermind behind the event and spent many hours baking, while Lorraine made a delicious apple cake and helped serve us on the day.



Olly Larkin, Macmillan Cancer Support's Relationship Fundraising Manager for East of England, popped in to thank us for holding the event.

CONCERT RAISES FUNDS FOR SALLYMAY INTERNATIONAL PRESCHOOL

The retiring collection at Ian de Massini's organ recital on Sunday 28th September was in aid of Sallymay International Preschool in Sierra Leone. The audience gave generously and we collected £328, which will go to Sierra Leone alongside the money raised by Knit One Give One at their *Knitted & Bric-a-Brac to school sale* in August. The funds will go towards helping the team at the school to fix wide spread water damage resulting from a heavy rain storm.



MONTHLY SPECIAL CAUSE FOR OCTOBER 2025

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE



Commitment for Life is the 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 (www.christianaid.org.uk) and Global Justice Now (www.globaljustice.org.uk), supporting various parts of the world, among which Downing Place has chosen to focus on Bangladesh. You will find a recent report from that country on nearby pages.

We are invited to support the programme in various ways, including prayer for Bangladesh and arguing in support of global justice wherever we can. As part of our support we are encouraged to consider committing as much as 1% of our income to the programme, showing the government there is still some public support for raising our overseas aid budget to that level in spite of the massive cuts made recently in this country and the US. 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 is available at <https://urc.org.uk/cfl>, but you may also like to look at <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 (remembering to Gift Aid your contribution either way)! There will be a retiring collection at the service on 19th October, and you can also make donations directly to the church's bank account, marking them SPECIAL CAUSE.

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 (also available at <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Magazaine-WEb.pdf>).

Owen Saxton

Seeds of change: How Hamida transformed her family's future



Hamida feeds the cattle, practising her new livestock management skills.

Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. It can often be difficult to believe things can change, but we must hope and have faith. For Hamida (52) and her family of five from Baishpara village, in Kurigram district in Bangladesh, this was their story – having to believe against all odds.

Hamida's family relied solely on her husband Abdul Goni's unreliable income as a day laborer. 'We never knew if we would have enough to eat the next day,' she recalls. 'My husband worked so hard, but the money was never enough.'

Despite the uncertainty surrounding her family's livelihood, Hamida was hopeful and gave herself to community work. Hamida was elected as the president of Shapla

Mohila Somity, a local women's group, and as part of this work she was invited to join the Gender Transformative Climate Resilient Microfinance project's training sessions. Hamida learned livestock management, poultry raising and agricultural techniques. Small seeds of hope were planted, and she kept her faith, believing that things would change for her and her family. The project did more than provide knowledge. It opened financial doors normally closed to women like Hamida who were expected only to look after homesteads.

With support from Christian Aid partner Gana Unnayan Kendrks (GUK) and the implementing organisation, Hamida secured a loan of 100,000 BDT (approximately £730) from National Bank. Taking a bold step of faith, she also sold her two local cows for another 100,000 BDT

(£730), giving her a total capital of 200,000 BDT (£1,460).

‘I was nervous about investing so much money,’ Hamida admits. ‘But I trusted the training I had received.’

Hamida invested her capital in a high-yielding crossbreed cow with a calf. ‘That first cow changed my perception,’ she says. The cow produced 20 litres of milk daily during lactation, generating approximately 10,000 BDT (£73) monthly after expenses – a substantial sum in her village economy. She could see a light at the end of the tunnel, a means for regular income.

Hamida’s journey wasn’t without challenges. Three months after purchasing her first cow, it developed a serious infection that threatened her entire investment. ‘I nearly lost everything when my first cow fell ill,’ she shares. ‘The local treatment wasn’t working, and I was afraid I would lose my investment.’

Drawing on her training, Hamida contacted the Department of Livestock Services she had met during the workshops. Using her emergency savings of 3,500 BDT (£25), she purchased the recommended medications and followed strict treatment as suggested by the veterinary surgeon. The cow recovered fully within two weeks.

‘The training taught me not just how to care for healthy animals, but also how to respond when problems arise,’ Hamida explains. ‘That knowledge saved my business.’

After successfully repaying her first loan, Hamida secured a second loan of 100,000 BDT (£730). She purchased another crossbreed cow with a calf. Within 11 months, her careful management allowed her to purchase a third cow, and eventually a fourth. With two lactating cows, her dairy now produces 40 litres of milk daily.

As the business grew, Abdul began helping, particularly with selling milk at local markets. Their partnership represents a significant shift in their relationship. Abdul says: ‘Before, I thought I must carry all the burden alone. Now I see how much stronger we are working together.’

Today, Hamida’s dairy business generates approximately 18,000 BDT (£130) monthly, creating an annual income of about 216,000 BDT (£1,560) – a remarkable achievement for a woman who once struggled to feed her family.

Not long after the government recognized Hamida’s extraordinary journey by awarding her the prestigious Joyeeta Award for economic success. ‘The award is nice, but what matters most is what happens in my home. My children now see their mother as a businesswoman, as someone with valuable knowledge. This project gave me the tools, but I had to find the courage to use them,’ Hamida shared.



Hamida and Abdul proudly hold the Joyeeta Award from the Government of Bangladesh.

Hamida’s transformation extends beyond financial gains. She has gained respect in her community, transformed her family’s dynamics and become a model for other women. Her story demonstrates how appropriate financial services, combined with practical training and gender-sensitive approaches, can create pathways to economic independence and dignity for women in rural communities.

CHRISTIAN AID



This month we in Downing Place reaffirm our support for Commitment for Life, the URC's own vehicle for support for Christian Aid and Global Justice Now, and October's monthly cause. Owen has written about Commitment for Life elsewhere in this issue.

Meanwhile, Christian Aid's eightieth birthday year draws to a close, but the vital work goes on. There is a new issue of the Christian Aid magazine – if you don't receive a paper copy you can read it online on the Christian Aid website. You'll find an impressive summary of what has been achieved during the last 80 years, and more about the ongoing Restore campaign, which aims to put pressure on governments to push for debt reduction in affected countries, and to seek to make polluters pay for environmental damage they cause. Plus articles about supporters and those helped by Christian Aid.

Here in Cambridge we are hoping to have a Christian Aid carol singing event again this year, in a new (indoors!) venue. We are still negotiating the details, but please do keep the morning of Saturday 6th December free so that you can support us if this works out.

Questions to Sheila Porrer sheila.porrer@virginmedia.com





PRAYERS & SONGS
OF LAMENT & HOPE

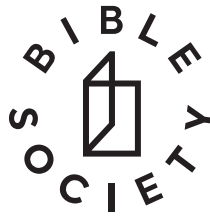
A SERVICE FOR
CREATIONTIDE

PREACHER:
BROTHER SAM SSF

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER
AT 3.00PM

LITTLE ST MARY'S
CAMBRIDGE

CENTRAL CAMBRIDGE
ECUMENICAL NETWORK
ALL WELCOME



Cambridge
Action Group

Autumn Supper and Talk



THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND FAITH

Speaker: Dr Denis
Alexander



**Friday 10 October at 6.30 pm for supper. Talk at 7.45 pm.
Queen Edith Chapel, Wulfstan Way, Cambridge CB1 8QN**

Supper £10.00 (cash on the door), Soup, bread, cheese and an autumnal dessert

Please email penny.f.flynn@gmail.com to reserve a supper place or for the live-stream link.

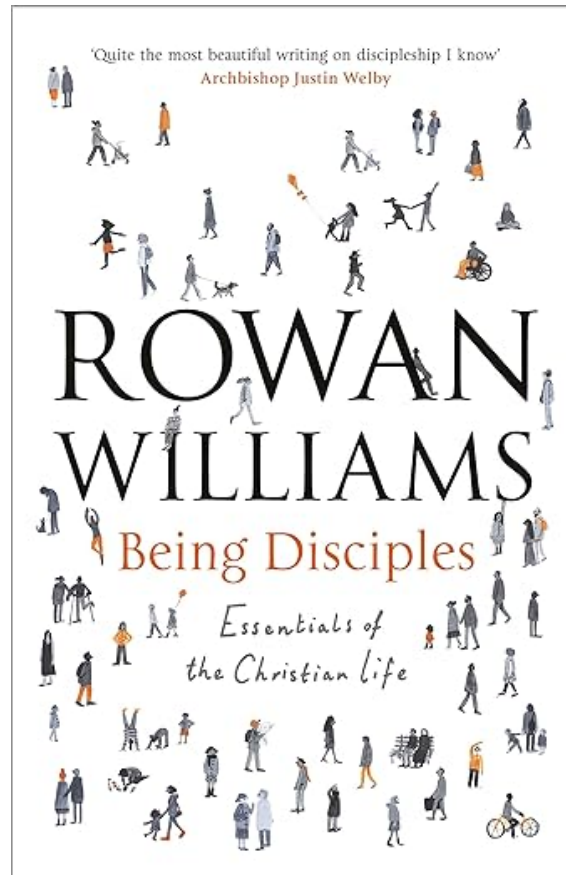
- parking available

Dr Denis Alexander is the co-Founding Director [Emeritus] of The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge, where he is Emeritus Fellow of St. Edmund's College. He is a past chair of the Molecular Immunology Programme and Head of the Laboratory of Lymphocyte Signalling and Development at The Babraham Institute, Cambridge. He previously spent 15 years in the Middle East.

biblesociety.org.uk | Registered charity 232759 | Photos credit: Chris Liu, Unsplash

AUTUMN HOUSE GROUPS

Studying Rowan Williams's book
'Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life'



There will be two opportunities each week to participate:

Tuesday afternoons 2.00-3.30pm at the church

- October 14th & 21st; November 4th, 11th & 18th.

Thursday evenings 7.30-9.00pm on Zoom

- October 16th & 23rd; November 6th, 13th & 20th.

The leader will be Janet Bottoms

Copies of the book are available from Penny Flynn. The cost is likely to be around £2.75 per copy, dependent on numbers involved. Donations will be invited to cover this cost.

Please tell Penny or Janet if you hope to attend and/or if you'd like the book - it will be pretty essential reading in order to make the most of the discussions.

penny.f.flynn@gmail.com



Calling all Singers!

Cambridge Voices

request the pleasure of your company,
to come and sing with us . . .

An Open Rehearsal

from 7:00pm - 9:00pm

on Thursday October 16th 2025

at Downing Place United Reformed Church,

You're also welcome to join us for a (free!) meal
from 6:00pm, immediately before the rehearsal.

R.S.V.P. by scanning the QR Code, or e-mailing:

cambridgevoices@gmail.com





All of us must be very concerned and worried by the current world scene, with violent conflict and threats to peace in so many places. There is a sense of despair. Is there anything that we can do? As people of faith, Yes! There is! We have the power of Prayer at our disposal. We are likely to be praying for peace in our personal times of prayer: and each Service, when we are gathered as a community of God's people, includes corporate prayers of intercession.

As further opportunities to gather as a praying community, the Downing Place URC World Church & Public Issues Group has organised a series of Prayer Vigils for World Peace during 2025. The first two took place in April and June.

There will be a further Zoom vigil on **Saturday 18 October from 12.00 to 12.45**. A good midpoint in a busy Saturday, after the shopping, the laundry or tinkering with the car and before some autumn gardening, watching Manchester City v Everton at 3pm, or just having a quiet snooze. Join us to ask God's blessing on this troubled, tangled world and his strength for us as fragile disciples.

The Zoom code – which will also appear in the Weekly Notices – is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89403891531?pwd=QjD5EoADcOytmcaFboYQuAliV6KkZt.1>

Meeting ID: 894 0389 1531

Passcode: 787711

Chris Wright and David Reynolds, for World Church & Public Issues Group



THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE, AND OTHER ORCHESTRAL FIREWORKS!

Ian de Massini will give a free performance of The Sorcerer's Apprentice, with live poetry and film animation, in Downing Place URC on **Saturday, October 25th, from 1.00 till 2.00pm**, alongside orchestral masterpieces from Holst, Fauré, Bach, Tchaikovsky, and Saint-Saëns.

Admission is free – children are warmly invited to attend - and afterwards there'll be a retiring collection, in aid of the **Music Therapy Charity** (MTC), a national charity established over 50 years ago, funding over 100 projects. It focuses upon funding research, to further knowledge and understanding of music therapy, and supports student bursaries for trainee music therapists in UK universities, providing registered Master's level training.

Helen Odell-Miller, OBE, (awarded for services to music therapy), a long-time member of Cambridge Voices, is Chair of the Music Therapy Charity, and lives locally in Cambridge. She is also Emeritus Professor and Founding Director of the Cambridge Institute for Music Therapy Research at Anglia Ruskin University; also a co-founder of the Master's in Music Therapy there, established 30 years ago.

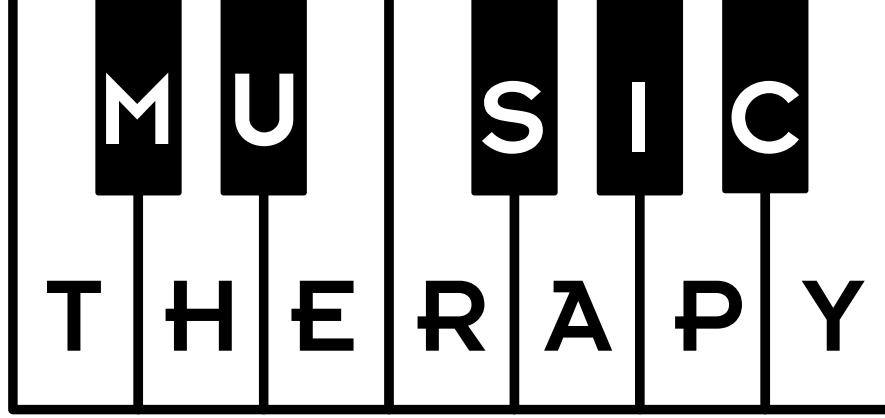
One of the first research studies in the early 1980s, funded by The Music Therapy Charity, showed through analysis of video recordings of sessions with children with special needs, that music therapy increased significant interactions for the children, in turn transforming knowledge and evidence used over the years, to widen access to music therapy as well as making a difference to their lives.

A more recent large MTC funded study by Dr Ori McDermott, developed the first singing manual CHORD, for people living with dementia, improving communication with loved ones, when conversation is more challenging. In a music and brain study, neuroscientists Prof. Jörg Fachner, Dr Clemens Maidhof and colleagues, showed synchrony between the brains of the music therapist and patients, through analysis of EEG measures during music therapy.

Music therapy focuses on communication and human relationships. The support of a music therapist can mean so much to a person and their family, from early infants in neo- natal care, through the life span, to end of life care. With your help, The Music Therapy Charity will fund further research in these areas to enable more people to benefit.



Image by Ian de Massini



Orchestral Fireworks!

with animated film & poetry

Dazzling excerpts from 9
orchestral classics, including

The Sorcerer's Apprentice (complete)

arranged for solo Ogan, film-projection,
& narrator by **Ian de Massini**

Saturday 25th October, 1 - 2pm

Downing Place URC, Cambridge, CB2 3EL

Free admission with
retiring collection for



**The Music
Therapy Charity**

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Wed 1 Oct	Lunchtime Concert - Hazel. Keelan, Katie Birkwood, Lucy Prichard (strings) & Peter Britton (piano)	13:00	Main Church
Wed 1 Oct	Property Group Meeting	19:00	Online
Thu 2 Oct	Midweek Worship led by the Reverend Liz Caswell	11:00	Main Church
Thu 2 Oct	Knit One Give One	13:30	The Hub
Thu 2 Oct	Finance Group	19:00	Room 3
Sun 5 Oct	Choir Rehearsal	10:00	Main Church
Sun 5 Oct	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Professor David Thompson	11:00	Main Church
Mon 6 Oct	Officers' Meeting	10:15	Room 3
Mon 6 Oct	Monday Lunchtime Concert - Flora Tzanetaki & Kristin Samadi (piano)	13:00	Main Church
Tues 7 Oct	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	14:30	St Athanasios' Church
Wed 8 Oct	Wednesday Lunchtime Concert - Dominika Rosiek (violin) and Miho Sanou (piano)	13:00	Main Church
Wed 8 Oct	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	16:00	Hub & Rooms 1&2
Thu 9 Oct	Prayer Meeting	10:15	St Columba's Chapel
Thu 9 Oct	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Professor David Thompson	11:00	Main Church
Thu 9 Oct	Knit One Give One	13:30	The Hub
Sat 11 Oct	Meeting of Eastern Synod	All Day	Christ Church, Chelmsford
Sun 12 Oct	Choir Rehearsal	10:00	Main Church
Sun 12 Oct	Sunday Worship led by Dr Janet Bottoms	11:00	Main Church
Sun 12 Oct	Solidarity Hub	14:00	TBC
Mon 13 Oct	Monday Lunchtime Concert - Paul Taylor (piano)	13:00	Main Church

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Tues 14 Oct	Autumn House Group	14:00	Rooms 1&2
Tues 14 Oct	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	14:30	St Athanasios' Church
Wed 15 Oct	Wednesday Lunchtime Concert - John Richens (piano) & Ros Hart (violin)	13:00	Main Church
Wed 15 Oct	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	16:00	Hub & Rooms 1&2
Wed 15 Oct	Elders' Meeting	19.30	Online
Thu 16 Oct	Midweek Worship led by Dr Alan Rickard	11.00	Main Church
Thu 16 Oct	Gibson Lunch	12.30	Gibson Hall & Kitchen
Thu 16 Oct	Knit One Give One	13:30	The Hub
Thu 16 Oct	Autumn House Group	19:30	Online
Sun 19 Oct	Choir Rehearsal	10:00	Main Church
Sun 19 Oct	Sunday Worship led by the Revd Lythan Nevard	11:00	Main Church
Sun 19 Oct	Retiring collection for our monthly Special Cause	12:00	Main Church
Sun 19 Oct	Music Support Liaison Group	12:30	Room 3
Sun 19 Oct	Open Table Cambridge Service	19:00	Main Church
Mon 20 Oct	Monday Lunchtime Concert - Fiammetta Tarli & Ivo Varbanov (piano)	13:00	Main Church
Tues 21 Oct	Autumn House Group	14:00	Rooms 1&2
Tues 21 Oct	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	14:30	St Athanasios' Church
Wed 22 Oct	Wednesday Lunchtime Concert - Timothy Peake (piano)	13:00	Main Church
Wed 22 Oct	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	16:00	Hub & Rooms 1&2
Thu 23 Oct	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Dr David Cornick	11:00	Main Church
Thu 23 Oct	Knit One Give One	13:30	The Hub
Thu 23 Oct	Autumn House Group	19:30	Online
Sat 25 Oct	Concert for Music Therapy Charity	13:00	Main Church
Sun 26 Oct	Choir Rehearsal	10:00	Main Church

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sun 26 Oct	Sunday Worship led by the Revd Dr. Janet Tollington	11:00	Main Church
Sun 26 Oct	Solidarity Hub	19:00	Hub
Mon 27 Oct	Monday Lunchtime Concert - James Kirby (piano)	13:00	Main Church
Tues 28 Oct	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	14:30	St Athanasios' Church
Wed 29 Oct	Wednesday Lunchtime Concert - Sally Quantrill (flute) and Lydia Bosworth (piano)	13:00	Main Church
Wed 29 Oct	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	16:00	Hub & Rooms 1&2
Thu 30 Oct	Midweek Worship led by Penny Flynn	11:00	Main Church
Thu 30 Oct	Knit One Give One	13:30	The Hub
Sun 2 Nov	Choir Rehearsal	10:00	Main Church
Sun 2 Nov	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd Deborah McVey	11:00	Main Church
Mon 3 Nov	Monday Lunchtime Concert - T.B.C.	13:00	Main Church
Tue 4 Nov	Autumn House Group	14:00	Rooms 1 & 2
Tue 4 Nov	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	14:30	St Athanasios' Church
Tue 4 Nov	Finance Group	19:00	Room 3
Tue 4 Nov	Worship, Discipleship & Spirituality Group Meeting	19:30	Online
Wed 5 Nov	Wednesday Lunchtime Concert - Ian de Massini (organ) & Jane Bower (live illustration and narration)	13:00	Main Church
Wed 5 Nov	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	16:00	Hub & Rooms 1&2
Thu 6 Nov	Midweek Worship led by Dr Janet Bottoms	11:00	Main Church
Thu 6 Nov	Knit One Give One	13:30	The Hub
Thu 6 Nov	Autumn House Group	19:30	Online
Sun 9 Nov	Choir Rehearsal	10:00	Main Church
Sun 9 Nov	Sunday Worship led by the Dr Simone Maghenzani	11:00	Main Church
Sun 9 Nov	Solidarity Hub	14:00	T.B.C.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS IN OCTOBER



Image by StillVision Photography

Wednesday 1 October

Hazel Keelan (violin) and Lucy Prichard (viola)

Monday 6 October

Flora Tzanetaki & Kristin Samadi (piano)

Wednesday 8 October

Dominika Rosiek (violin) and Miho Sanou (piano)

Monday 13 October

Paul Taylor (piano)

Wednesday 15 October

John Richens (piano) & Ros Hart (violin)

Monday 20 October

Fiammetta Tarli & Ivo Varbanov (piano)

Wednesday 22 October

Timothy Peake (piano)

Monday 27 October

James Kirby (piano)

Wednesday 29 October

Sally Quantrill (flute) and Lydia Bosworth (piano)

MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE

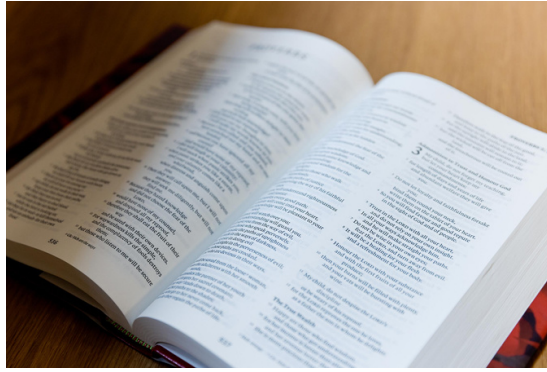


Image by StillVision Photography

5th October	David Tatem	Bassingbourn URC
	Chris Baker	Mebourn URC
12th October	Lis Caswell	Fulbourn URC
	Janet Tollington	Stetchworth and Cheveley URC
19th October	Penny Flynn	Bassingbourn URC
	David Thompson	Braunstone, Leicester
	Janet Tollington	Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford
26th October	Augur Pearce	Melbourn URC
	Penny Flynn	St Ives URC
	Liz Caswell	Stetchworth and Cheveley URC

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.

October 5th 2025
Trinity XVI/16

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 19th 2025
Trinity XVIII/18

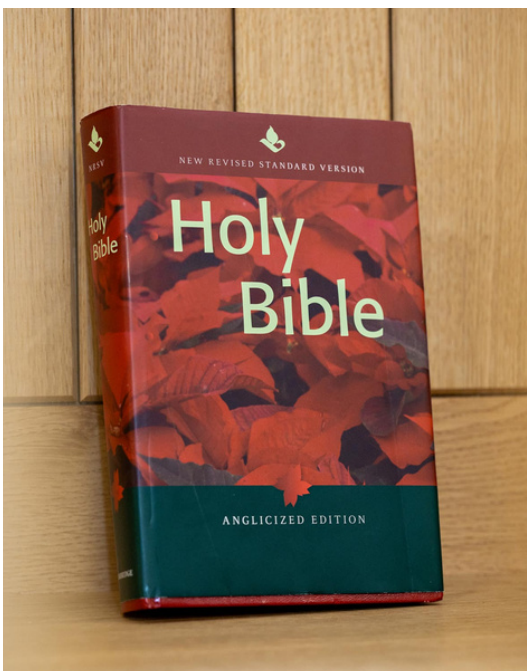
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 12th 2025
Trinity XVII/17

2 Kings 5:1-3,7-15b
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 26th 2025
Last Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 14:7-10,19-22
or Sirach 35:12-17
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18
Luke 18:9-14



November 2nd 2025
Fourth Sunday before Advent

Isaiah 1:10-18
Psalm 32:1-7
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,(5-10),11-12
Luke 19:1-10



Image by Jess Uden

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Tim Rowland

tr202@cam.ac.uk

c/o 01223 356635

ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

Please send items to the Editor and Jess Uden - preferably by email (see above)

WEB EDITOR: Jess Uden jess@downingplaceurc.org

Please send items to be included in the November edition to Tim no later than Friday 17 October.

