

**Swindon Old Town Partnership of Churches  
Anglican - United Reformed - Methodist - Est. 1969**

## **PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE**

**MAY 2023**

**£1.00**



**Farewell to Bishop Lee  
We wish him a happy retirement.**

**One in Christ - Together in Mission**

Bath Road Methodist Church  
celebrating Easter



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# Partnership Letter

Immanuel Manse

Greetings to you,



*“Life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance, you must keep moving.”  
(Albert Einstein)*

I have always liked this Einstein quote, it makes me smile and at the same time it reminds me how true it is. I do know how to ride a bike and I remember teaching my daughters to ride a bike...it takes it's time because there are so many factors involved and then suddenly it happens: one is cycling forward, learning how to turn and remembering that when you slow down you have to get ready to put one foot on the ground to keep it upright or else you fall.

I am writing this in the middle of the Easter weekend – we have had the Agape meal at Bath Road Methodist Church, where some even had their feet washed, then on Friday sharing the challenge of the three-hour (or one hour, whatever long) service, followed by the quiet, silent waiting of Saturday. Some of you may have been at the 5:30 am service on Sunday and the morning service at any of our Partnership Churches... Advent drifted into Easter... and then... and then?

Well, if we stop, we will lose our balance. But we can't just keep going for the sake of it; there must be a direction, a significance, a meaning to our journey. The meaning is that of the fullness of life for all people, which was the sense of the cross and the wait and the empty tomb. Not the triumph of the powers that are but the power that God made visible at Easter: the power of solidarity, of empathy, of love, of caring, or reaching out to others; the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. This is why we keep our balance and keep cycling.

We can't stop because we will fall off but we must keep the value of the meaning of all this newness we discover in the cross and the empty tomb as we connect with others and live our lives in the light of new life, new hope and new caring. ➤

We are confronted by death on all fronts. True - though if we understand our faith journey as riding the bike of life, moving to keep our balance, we will discover the importance of celebrating God's presence, who has chosen never to leave us on our own; living with respect in creation, loving and serving others, seeking justice, and resisting evil. Our commitment is to life for all, so let us keep pedalling and join the journey, Jesus is part of all this, and we are not alone.

Greetings for the way ahead,



## **How your friends may be keeping you alive**

### **Take care of your friendships and they will take care of you.**

A recent study has found that if, in later life, you enjoy your friends on a regular and frequent basis, then the joy that they bring you may even halve your risk of death within five years.

The book of Proverbs (27:9) compares the balm of ointments and perfumes to the soothing effect of a good friend and an analysis of the research would seem to confirm this. People in their later years who socialised every day were healthier than those who didn't. Even those who saw their friends only once a week were healthier than those who didn't see any friends on a regular basis.

In fact, the team reported having found a 'dose response', with the greater the frequency of socialising, the greater the likelihood of living longer. As one doctor put it: "The more frequent the social activity, the more prolonged the survival time."

It is thought that having regular contact with friends encourages healthier thinking, better personal habits, increased physical activity and reduces stress.

Yet according to Age UK more than two million older people in England live alone and more than a million older people can go for a month without speaking to anyone.

*The study was published in the Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health.*

## FAMILY EVENTS

### BAPTISMS

*We welcome into the family of the Church*

#### CHRIST CHURCH

Mar 26 Abdian Hosseinali, Atlas Henry George Mitchell,  
Tobias Edward Weir Mitchell, Bagheri Morteza  
Apr 9 Harry Davies

### DEATHS

*We extend our sympathy to the loved ones*

#### CHRIST CHURCH

Mar 31 Hazel Herbert, 86 years

### FLOODLIGHTING

March 21 For Kieran Burge - "For a beautiful free spirit. Dearly loved  
by all who knew him.  
April 26 Happy memories of dear Pat (Chant) on her birthday.  
*Frances Poel*

If you would like to sponsor the floodlighting of Christ Church in celebration of a birthday, wedding anniversary, special occasion, to advertise your Company, or in memory of a loved one, the minimum gift per evening is **£30.00**. Please visit [www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/flood](http://www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/flood) to book and pay for floodlighting. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to 'Christ Church PCC' and post it to the PARISH OFFICE, COMMUNITY CENTRE AT CHRIST CHURCH, SWINDON, SN1 3HB at least a week before the date of the floodlighting. GIFT AID: If you are a UK taxpayer and wish Christ Church to reclaim the tax, you may Gift Aid your donation, at no cost to you, by providing your name, the first line of your address and your post code. Thank you for supporting Christ Church and its work in the community.  
email: [parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk](mailto:parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk) Tel. 522832.



## The Coronation of King Charles III Saturday 6th May 2023

Swindon Old Town Partnership of Churches

Events taking place in Christ Church  
and the Community Centre

### Friday 5th May

Partnership Service of Celebration in Christ Church,  
followed by a Cheese & Wine Reception in the Community Centre.

### Saturday 6th May - Coronation Day

We will be live streaming the BBC coverage of the Coronation Service in Christ Church from 10.00 am. We hope to provide some refreshments during this.

Then our bells will be heard as they 'Ring for the King'. This will be a full peal attempt and will begin at 1.30 pm.

### Sunday 7th May

8.00 am            1662 Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion Service  
The Prayer Book is very close to the King's heart.

**Normal Sunday services in the Partnership this morning.**

### **'THE BIG LUNCH'**

In accordance with the King's wishes, we are taking part in 'The Big Lunch' and Simon Giles will be cooking a roast chicken dinner (with vegetarian alternative) for 100 people in the Community Centre. Please bring your own bottle of soft drinks.

**Please let your ministers know ASAP if you would like to come to this.**

The party and concert from Windsor Castle will be live streamed from 7.30 pm on the big screen. This will be open to all - please bring a picnic.

## **An update from Mark Buchanan at 'We Are Fair Trade'**

We have been very busy getting everything in place ready for the official launch of 'We Are Fair Trade' and I am sending you this email to bring you up to date.

### **STAFF**

I have been absolutely stunned at the loyalty and enthusiasm of the former Traidcraft PLC staff. Many of them are so committed to the cause that they are refusing to seek other jobs until there is absolutely no chance of returning to work with us at 'We are Fair Trade'. The knowledge, experience and commitment they will bring are a huge advantage to us.

### **OUR NAME**

We chose to call ourselves 'We Are Fair Trade' to represent the fact that fighting trade poverty requires three things to work in harmony:

1. Fair trade legislation
2. Fair-minded people (like you) and
3. Fair Trade products that do not oppress the people who produce them.

### **WEBSITE**

We have been busy building a brand new website for 'We Are Fair Trade' and it is looking stunning.

### **STOCK**

We have £250,000 of Traidcraft stock being made available by a generous benefactor who took the stock as part payment against one of the loans he made to Traidcraft PLC and which we have agreed to sell on his behalf.

We have reached agreement with the administrators to purchase all remaining stock that is not being reclaimed by suppliers under their "retention of title" rights.

### **OTHER ASSETS**

I have also reached agreement with the administrators to buy all the other remaining assets of Traidcraft PLC and they are willing to allow us to occupy the former Traidcraft building for a short time whilst we seek other permanent premises. ➤



## **TRAIDCRAFT BRAND**

We had a good meeting with the Traidcraft Foundation last week and explained our reasons for wanting the Traidcraft brand name to live on, namely that it is now a recognisable name, is synonymous with the good practice we will aspire to continue and we would also like to continue to manufacture products under the Traidcraft brand name.

In turn, the Foundation explained that this is a big decision for them and not one that they can make lightly or quickly. It may well be some time, therefore, until we know if we have been successful.

We are aware, though, that it is two months since we closed the doors at Traidcraft PLC and we want to get going as soon as we can so we have been pondering the idea of going ahead without the Traidcraft brand name.

### **Liz Gleed from Immanuel Church writes...**

As we have discussed this option, we have been acutely aware of the tremendous loyalty you all have to Traidcraft and we don't want to jeopardise that. In fact we want to build on it and build the same loyalty with a whole new generation of advocates and fair traders.

To this end I was invited to answer a couple of questions (online) and, basically, I opted to retain the trade name Traidcraft if at all possible but not if it meant a detrimental delay in setting up the means of continuing to sell fair trade products.

I hope this makes sense. It is certainly looking promising.

Please keep everyone at 'We are Fair Trade' in your thoughts and prayers. ■

### **Traidcraft at Bath Road Methodist Church:**

Dorothy and George Kennedy are continuing with their Traidcraft Stall after the Morning Service at Bath Road.



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2023 13TH - 20TH MAY

Christian Aid Week this year focuses on Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world where inflation has risen from 12% to 26%. It is a predominantly agricultural economy and is seriously impacted by climate change with droughts and cyclones. Malawi, along with neighbouring Mozambique, has recently been hit by Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record (lasting 34 days). This cyclone is the equivalent of a full North Atlantic hurricane season.

The material for the week features Edith a widow who is part of a co-operative called Nandolo Farmers Association which deals with the growing, processing and selling of Pigeon Peas (known in the UK as yellow split peas or Toor dal). These are very well suited to the changing climate as they are drought resistant and also have deep roots which prevent them from being washed away after heavy rain. They are very versatile and nutritious and can be used to produce flour for baking as well as being eaten in other ways. They are also used for animal food.

We hope that you will be inspired to get involved in Christian Aid Week this year. This could be through "traditional" means such as house-to-house collection (in person or delivery only envelopes), e-envelopes, quizzes, coffee mornings or sponsored challenges. We also hope that you will be inspired to come up with innovative and fun ideas involving peas in some way. Start thinking! If you want to get involved or find out more do get in touch.

Two events that will be taking place are:

### **A Book Sale at Bath Road on Saturday 13th May from 9.00 am to 11.00 am**

coinciding with the monthly Community Breakfast. If you have any books to donate, please get in touch:

Tel. 772589. email: [kennedygeorge62@gmail.com](mailto:kennedygeorge62@gmail.com)

### **A Quiz at Bath Road on Saturday 20th May at 7.30 pm**

Please see the separate notice about this on page 9 for contact details.

Thank you for your support.

*George and Dorothy Kennedy*



**A fundraising quiz for  
Christian Aid**

**Saturday 20th May, 7.30 pm  
at  
Bath Road Methodist Church**



Bath Road  
Christ Church  
Immanuel

Noel and Janet Hunt  
Mike Palmer  
Lindsey Miller

Tel. 521934  
Tel. 635112  
Tel. 535855

## **If a vicar asks you for money...**

**If you are contacted by a clergyman asking you for money, beware! It is a scammer.**

Scammers have been impersonating various clergy, including even the Archbishop of York, to ask priests and other church people to buy them Amazon vouchers and online gift cards.

The scammers use either emails or texts and their message is along the lines: 'I have a request I need you to handle discreetly.' They then say: 'I am currently busy in a prayer meeting, so no calls – just reply to my email.' Then the message asks the intended victim to send them financial help, usually in the form of vouchers or gift cards.

The police reckon that the scammers have trawled church websites for the contact details of clergy and parish officials. At least one person is believed to have been fooled – and lost £1000 in a scam.

A diocesan spokesman said: "It seems this is a national trend." The police are looking into it and meanwhile advising people that: 'Clergy will never ask you to give them money, vouchers or personal banking details directly, even to help someone in need.... it is a scam.' ■



## SHAP (Swindon Humanitarian Partnership)

When the Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February last year a number of us in Swindon watched the BBC news in horror and decided that sitting on our backsides and doing nothing was not an option. Within a few weeks, the Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership (SHAP) was born and some 12 months on we have collected, sorted, boxed and delivered over 825 tonnes of aid into Eastern Ukraine where the impact of war is at its worst.

We are small but mighty. Our Board is made up of 3 Brits and 5 Ukrainians. We have wonderful help from local volunteers: British, Polish and of course Ukrainian. One of our great strengths is having former Directors of both Ukrainian and Polish Chambers of Commerce as Board members. We try wherever possible to deal directly with trusted charities and Foundations in Ukraine to minimise the risks associated with corruption.

In addition, we support the growing number of Ukrainian visitors to Swindon with housing, school and university places, benefit applications and generally understanding of the systems and processes in the UK.



We identify issues of concern and campaign for sensible and credible changes, e.g. rent guarantees being offered by local authorities, allowing Ukrainians (using Ukrainian driving licences) to lawfully drive manual gearbox cars (yes, really, they are only legally allowed to drive automatics).

We try to ensure the media continue to focus on the continuing Ukrainian tragedy when there are so many other domestic issues demanding their attention.

We have been fortunate to have enjoyed extensive media coverage on television and radio and also in local newspaper and online platforms. ➤

Our 'Candles for Ukraine' campaign seems to have struck a chord over the Christmas period and is now getting national media coverage but it is far from a media gimmick. It is a response to a desperate need in Ukraine where many areas only have electricity supplies for a few hours a day. It is hard to believe that it has come to this in Europe in 2023.



In recent weeks we have been fortunate to receive invitations to important meetings with a Ukrainian task force led by Lord Tony Berkeley in the House of Lords and a very special hour with General Sir Mike Jackson. General Mike has very kindly agreed to represent SHAP at high profile PR opportunities.

One such upcoming PR opportunity links to the House of Lords meeting. We have been promised dozens of single deck buses that we intend to convert into mobile field hospitals, shower blocks etc and drive to Ukraine for use by both civilian and army personnel.

The first such bus is currently being converted by volunteers in Swindon - all the seats have been removed and hospital beds and heart monitors will be installed in the coming days.

In a few weeks time the converted bus will be handed over to the Ukrainian Ambassador outside the Palace of Westminster with General Mike, Tobias Elwood, Chris Bryant and other Parliamentarians present. It should attract significant media attention.

We are also working closely with Network Rail in relation to various confidential Ukrainian aid initiatives. One I can disclose is the provision by Deutsche Bahn (free of charge) of a freight train from Swindon to Kyiv carrying aid. We are fortunate to have such high powered partners.

The one issue that holds us back and constrains our work is a lack of funding. We are not allowed to even apply for money from the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) as we are not one of "The Big Six". Today our bank balance stands at a paltry £800.

Our enthusiasm, determination and commitment is our greatest strength and we will continue our work for as long as it is needed.

*Mike Bowden*

# Christ Church with St. Mary's

## SWINDON MUSIC FESTIVAL – CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR WINS TROPHY



Here is a picture of Christ Church Choir with the Church Choir Shield they won at the Swindon Music Festival in Christ Church on Friday 17th March.

They sang “Jesu lover of my soul” to the tune Aberystwyth for their hymn and “Love Divine, all loves excelling” by Amy Summers as their anthem. (Missing from the photo are Maddy and Elena who also sang.)

Also competing were St. Sampson's Church Choir, Cricklade with the hymn “Be still for the presence of the Lord” and “Ave Maria” by Simon Lindley as their anthem.

The adjudicator was Adrian Goss, Chair of the Adjudicators' Council. He made favourable comments on all the choir performances.

**Christ Church Choir welcomes new members.** Please come along to the church on Thursday evenings at 7.00 pm or contact Tim Eyles, Director of Music on 07387 290323.

## Old Town Partnership of Churches Birthday Service Sunday 28th May 10.30 am at Immanuel URC

While we are sad that for the first time there will not be an Old Town Partnership Confirmation this year, we are looking forward to our Old Town Partnership Birthday service which will be a Messy Pentecost Celebration on Pentecost Sunday 28th May 10.30 am at Immanuel Upham Road. This will be led by the Messy Church Core Team. There will be a welcome for those who have been confirmed the week before into our Old Town Partnership: the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. ■

## **Bishop Lee**

We have been privileged to have Bishop Lee living in our parish for the last 18 years and in that time he and Liz have become very much our friends so we will miss them when they move. Doubtless there are many parishes across the diocese where his presence, his advice, his preaching and his leadership will be missed but, in addition to that, we will miss Liz very much as she has been a part of the core team of Messy Church since it started about 10 years ago. Because of Bishop Lee's scientific and medical background and research, we knew that in Bishop Lee we had a leader who understood our weaknesses and vulnerability. This was much appreciated, especially by Simon when he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2003. Bishop Lee was one of the first to visit him and offered both spiritual support and much reassurance as a result of his medical background. This gave the family much confidence in the subsequent treatment Simon received and his eventual remission.

Bishop Lee has joined us on many occasions at Christ Church both in an official capacity and also with his support by attending when off duty, as we are his parish church.

We wish them both a happy retirement - but do be careful, Bishop, on those cycle rides!!

## **Christ Church on TV**

Work is proceeding at Christ Church to improve our video projection. The project, which has been largely funded by a generous grant from the Kingshill Trust, is looking to improve the visibility of our projected services by siting 2 monitors in the side aisles so that more people can share the beautiful orders of service created by Janet French.

In addition, we are testing the use of a camera to show live video of our services, weddings and funerals and other events. This is a complex area involving data protection and organisational change, so we are proceeding carefully so that everyone understands what we are doing. To protect the anonymity of children and those attending communion, we will not broadcast video at times when they are likely to be in view.

**Many of our services are available on our You Tube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Christchurchswindon1>

## MAY DIARY

To find out the latest information for Christ Church, please sign up for our weekly email from the Christ Church News Desk:  
[www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/blog/](http://www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/blog/)

Alternatively, check our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Christchurchswindon>

Listen to our latest service at a time to suit you from 1.00 pm each Sunday by going to our website and clicking on 'Services'

### Morning Prayer at Christ Church

9-9.30 am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in the Lady Chapel  
apart from the first Saturday when it is 7.30 am.

9-9.30 am Wednesday and Friday, virtual Morning Prayer

Telephone 0800 260 5903 to join by phone

Use this Pass code 69404 36078

Call Stephen 07885b217077 if you would like to join and need advice.

**Every Wednesday, 10.30 am-11.00 am - Christ in Quiet with Holy Communion**

- |           |            |                |            |  |
|-----------|------------|----------------|------------|--|
| 02        | Tues       | 1.30 pm        | to 3.30 pm | Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre  |
|           |            | 2.30 pm        |            | Tea & Chat at the Goddard Arms   |
|           |            | <b>7.30 pm</b> |            | <b>Partnership Council meeting</b>   |
| 03        | Wed        | 7.00 pm        |            | Christ Church Fellowship of Faith  |
| 05        | Fri        | 7.30 pm        |            | Partnership Thanksgiving Service at Christ Church<br>to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.  |
| 06        | Sat        | 7.30 am        |            | Morning Prayer followed by fellowship breakfast<br>in the Community Centre.                            |
| <b>07</b> | <b>Sun</b> | 8.00 am        |            | Christ Church, 1662 Holy Communion   |
|           |            | 9.00 am        |            | St. Mary's, Holy Communion   |
|           |            | 10.00 am       |            | Christ Church, Family Holy Communion   |
|           |            | 12.30 pm       |            | for 1.00 pm 'the Big Lunch' in the Community Centre  |
|           |            | 6.30 pm        |            | Christ Church, Live streaming of concert and party<br>at Windsor Castle. <i>Please bring a picnic.</i> |
| 08        | Mon        | 7.30 pm        |            | Christ Church Staff Team meeting in the<br>Community Centre.   |
| 09        | Tues       | 1.30 pm        | to 3.30 pm | Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre  |



- 10 Wed 6.30 pm Healing Prayer at a private address  
 11 Thurs 10th Old Town Beer & Cider Festival, continues  
 12 Fri through Friday 12th and Saturday 13th.  
 13 Sat Details on the inside front cover of this magazine.
- 14 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion  
 9.00 am St. Mary's, Holy Communion  
 10.00 am Christ Church Informal Holy Communion  
 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm Christ Church, Renewal Gospel Choir
- 18 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in Community Centre  
 19 Wed 10.30 am to 11.00 am Christ in Quiet with Holy Communion  
 7.00 pm Christ Church, Fellowship of Faith
- 20 Sat 12 noon Wedding in Christ Church  
 7.30 pm High Sheriff's Concert in Christ Church in aid of Rotary Swindon Cares. *Details on page 17.*
- 21 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion  
 9.00 am St. Mary's, Informal Holy Communion  
 10.00 am Christ Church, Family Holy Communion  
**10.30 am Swindon Deanery Confirmation Service at St. Mary's Church, Purton**  
 6.30 pm Christ Church, Evensong.
- 23 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in Christ Church Community Centre.
- 27 Sat 1.00 pm Wedding in Christ Church
- 28 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion  
 9.00 am St. Mary's, Holy Communion  
**10.30 am Partnership Birthday Service and Welcome of Confirmands at Immanuel. Led by the Messy Church Core Team. No 10.00 am services at Bath Road and Christ Church**  
 12 noon Christ Church, Holy Baptism  
 6.30 pm Christ Church, Informal Evening Worship
- 30 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre

**THURS 11<sup>TH</sup> - SUN 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY '23**

**OLD TOWN  
BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**100 Year  
Festival**

**Christ Church  
Swindon**

95+ Beers & 25+ Ciders

**THURS 11<sup>TH</sup> (7PM-11PM) - £10  
COMEDY NIGHT**

Mat Richardson (Headling) with  
support acts. Includes a 10th anniversary  
glass, first drink and festival guide.

**FRI 12<sup>TH</sup> (6PM-11PM) - £15  
BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**

Includes a 10th anniversary glass,  
initial drinks and festival guide.

**SAT 13<sup>TH</sup> (2NOON-10PM) - £15  
BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**

Includes a 10th anniversary glass,  
initial drinks and festival guide.

**SAT 13<sup>TH</sup> (5PM-10PM) - £5  
LIVE MUSIC**

Includes a 10th anniversary glass,  
festival guide and live music from  
local bands.

**SUN 14<sup>TH</sup> (6PM-9PM) - £10  
RENEWAL GOSPEL CHOIR**

All drinks and snacks throughout the  
evening included.

**100 Year  
Festival  
10<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE  
ON FRI 12<sup>TH</sup> & SAT 13<sup>TH</sup>

**100 Year  
Festival  
10<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary**

**Tickets available from  
1st March**

Online or from various locations in Old Town including:  
The Hop Inn, Magnum Wineshop, The Beehive and  
The Community Centre & Christchurch.

**www.oldtownbeerfestival.com**  
01793 617237

# The High Sheriff of Wiltshire

Presents

## A Charity Concert for Rotary Swindon Cares

Featuring Ten In A Bar with The JTPT Trust Concert Choir and Soloists



On Saturday 20th May 2023 at 7.30pm

At Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 3HB

Tickets £20 per person including a Reception after the concert  
or £10 for Concert only.

Available from Christ Church parish Office / [rotarynicky@nickyalberry.co.uk](mailto:rotarynicky@nickyalberry.co.uk)



# Immanuel

Services every Sunday at 10.30 am with  
Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month.

7th May	Rev'd. Geoff Glead
14th May	John Cheek from Lawn Community Church
21st May	Rev'd. David Pattie
28th May	Rev'd. Mark Barrett

Old Town Partnership of Churches Birthday Service  
Sunday 28th May 10.30 am at Immanuel URC

## TEA SERVICES

After many months of waiting, the Tea Services are returning to Immanuel.

Please book the following: **Sunday May 21st at 4.00pm.**

A good time, singing well known hymns, having a great tea and a time to meet other people. Come along and bring a friend.

## FAREWELL AND HELLO



At our recent Synod meeting we said farewell to Ruth Whitehead, our Moderator since 2013. She has served us with dedication, insight, care and courage, leading us through such times of change.

We wish her every blessing as she takes up her new pastorate in Wales. As we shared the day together there was some looking back and reflection, alongside encouragement to notice the green shoots of growth.

This was wonderfully evident for us as we welcomed the Bristol Korean Church, who wish to become a local URC, a request that was welcomed by the Synod and will be taken to General Assembly later in the year.

# CASH FOR CANS

Nearly £4000 raised for Cancer Research since 2015.

Congratulations to Wally Knight who has been named the 'Pioneer of the Year' 2023 by the Flame of Hope Charity, an award to celebrate a volunteer or a group of volunteers who have been innovative in their contribution to the Charity.

**Wally writes...**

I first started collecting aluminium cans for cash for charity during my time at Commonweal School. I continued this at New College, with bins around the college just for cans. This raised money for various charities.

Then I heard that Tesco gave you Clubcard points for cans and that went well until they abandoned the scheme. Later, I decided to take the cans to Thamesdown Recycling and would at times receive £25 for a car full. All was well until Covid struck and the price for aluminium went down from £1000 to £100 a tonne. The Recycling Centre then stopped taking cans from the public so I found an alternative, European Metal Recycling in Gipsy Lane, Swindon.

Since then, 2020, I take cans each week to be recycled. We have many friends who collect the cans and we are now near to £4000 raised for Cancer Research since 2015.

I would especially like to thank all my friends at Church and my late cousin, Ray, for all their great help in collecting the cans and in general fundraising for Cancer Research UK. Thank you all!

Wally Knight, (wknight5219@gmail.com)





## Geoff's Jottings

Just a few facts and thoughts for you to ponder:

**Christians awake:** 51 is the average age of Christians in England and Wales.

**Education:** 90% of Head Teachers in England and Wales say they will run out of money within the year.

**Let us Pray:** 56% of 18-34 year olds admit that they have prayed at some time compared to 41% of over 50s.

### A great model for us all:

Let's learn from the example and actions of 9 year old Ewan who is spending his pocket money buying bouquets of flowers to give to people passing by in the streets of his town because he says he "wants to try and make people smile and spread some kindness."

### And finally:

My prayer to our King:  
Jesus Christ, our Servant King,  
Rule our lives in everything.  
Show us how to speak and live,  
Less of TAKE and more of GIVE.

Jesus Christ who came to serve  
May we follow, showing love.  
Teach us all to learn and grow,  
Saying YES, instead of NO

Jesus Christ, your Kingdom come,  
So this world might all be one.  
Turn our darkness into light,  
That wars will end, we cease to fight.

Jesus Christ, hear this our prayer,  
Who for us the cross did bear,  
All our lives to you we bring,  
For you are the Servant King.

*Geoff Glead*

# Bath Road

**All services start at 10am  
apart from the 28th May**

07	May	Michelle Pickering
14	May	Barbara Aftelak, Christian Aid Week Service
21	May	Rev'd. Rach Collins and The Rev'd David Gray,
28	May	<b>United Pentecost Service at Immanuel at 10.30 am</b>

The livestreams of our services are now on YouTube instead of Facebook.  
You'll be able to watch them at  
[www.youtube.com/@bathroadmethodistchurch](http://www.youtube.com/@bathroadmethodistchurch),  
where the livestreams will start at 10am.

**Open House - Mondays 10.30 am to 12 noon**

Please feel free to come along.

**Bath Road Church Community Breakfast**  
**9.00 am to 11.00 am**  
**13th May**  
**£1.00 for a bacon roll with tea or coffee**  
**All are welcome.**



**MOPS**  
**(MOPS stands for Mix Of People)**  
**6th and 20th April**

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 2.30pm to 3.30 pm  
in the Crossland Room at Bath Road Methodist Church.

The usual format is to spend the first half hour chatting and the second half  
hour listening to a speaker or doing an activity.

4th May: Eddie Thomas, Pakistan: Then and Now  
18th May: Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III.  
Please bring any memorabilia you would like to share with us.

ORGANISERS: Brenda Hewitt, Tel. 683926 and Janet Hunt, Tel. 521934



## **Lunch Club: 5 Stars**

On Tuesday March 14th we had an unexpected visit from Swindon Borough Council to see whether we were maintaining the standard expected in order to retain our 'Five Stars', first awarded in 2007.

Thanks to the excellent records kept each week by those who undertake the cooking, the fact that all the volunteer helpers maintain the high standards of hygiene in vegetable preparation, laying tables etc., plus the excellent way the Property Committee and those who use the kitchen look after it, we were all delighted at the end of the visit to learn we had kept our 'Five Star Award' (As a result of the visit and update of records, we let Rach know she is 'The Proprietor of Bath Road Lunch Club'!!)

*Gwen Knight*

## **AGCM—Sunday 4th June**

The Annual General Church Meeting will take place during All-age Worship on Sunday 4th June, starting from 10.00 a.m.

## **The late Matthew Cammish's sermons**

### **Martin Robins writes...**

We have published three booklets of his sermons to date and are now embarking on the fourth. These booklets have proved very popular - both here and overseas. There is a constant request for more.

2023 is a significant year in Filey Methodist history- being the year that one John Oxtoby arrived in a very godless Filey to commence what would become the Filey Revival. This gripping story is told in Alan Botterill's book called 'When Heaven Touched Filey'. This book has been reissued for the anniversary - the exact date is the 23 March.

Readers can email myself for the fourth copy of Matthew's sermons.  
martinrobins@btinternet.com



## Reflecting faith – The Lectern

Have you ever considered the furniture that we have in our churches?

Close your eyes and think what your own sitting room looks like and the furniture you have chosen to go in there. Most of us will have chairs, a sofa, one or more tables of different sizes, a fireplace and a television. Which way are the chairs facing? What's the focal point?

Churches are no different in that they have most fixtures and fittings in common and in set places.

In an Anglican church the focal item is the altar at the centre, with the lectern – from where the Bible is read out loud during services - on the right side as you look at it and a pulpit on the left-hand side.

In a Methodist church the pulpit is often behind but built higher than the altar and probably with a mobile lectern to be placed as chosen.

This demonstrates a key difference between the two denominations. The former holds the bread and wine in greater importance whilst the latter gives that status to the preaching and the Word of God.

Such variations reveal the way in which we 'reflect our faith' through our buildings.

The word 'lectern' derives from 'to collect, gather' and 'to speak', so together it means 'to gather words, to pick out words.'

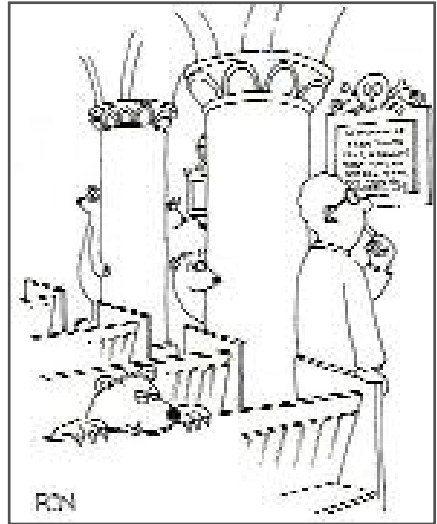
The words in church which we read from the lectern have been carefully chosen and then written down. There have been centuries, indeed millennia of time, thought, prayer and energy going into preparing the Bibles that we read today!

It is a privilege to be asked to read from the Bible during a service as that will form the basis for the sermon, the hymns and indeed the whole theme for that day or even that week.

Have a look at the lectern in your place of worship or the place from which the Bible readings are given. What material is it made from? What shape is it? Does it have any distinctive features? Then consider how that passage or those passages are continued and expanded through the different elements of the service. ■



The twins had been doing Messy Church at home.



Dennis spent a long time in church looking for his forbears

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