

Immanuel Newsletter

Sunday 16th May 2021

Website: <http://www.immanuelurc.org/>
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Thought for the week: “God has not called me to be successful. God called me to be faithful.”
(Mother Theresa)

Back to worship at Immanuel This is the day! Back again - WELCOME

Bible Reading for this Sunday: John 17; 6-19

The Honesty Box – As you have been able to see, these cover all kinds of topics, so feel free to share your ideas. Thank you.

A few weeks ago in the Reflections Robert asked us how at this ‘special time’ of opening-up, we picture ourselves connecting with all who live here in Old Walcot. In many situations Covid has brought people together as we’ve shared illness, suffering, loss, fear, isolation, grief. In return, offers of practical help and friendly chat. Barriers have been broken down; how do we make sure that it stays that way? For some, their situation and family-life will have changed for ever.

Jesus knew how to connect with people – he met them face-to-face, giving them his time and recognising their needs, - listening not judging.

So, we could make that happen by having one or two welcoming Open Days for people living in the area to come and talk to us about what it’s like living here. For example, is there much unemployment; are there many young Mums or their own all day; elderly carers needing a break; dementia sufferers? And how much help is being offered already? We could discover people’s thoughts about how Immanuel could play a part in their lives. Find out what are the barriers that put-off people who would like to come to a short service, to pray, to sing, to listen to A Thought for the Day. (Lots of discussion there).

It's not only up to us to find out what's going on. Covid has shown us over and over again that God's love is shown in wonderful ways by women, men and children who do not attend any church. There are also local parish councillors, Health visitors, Alzheimer's Society and Community Police who all have a concern about what goes on in the area.

In all our considerations and challenges may God be central in our thinking and speaking and doing.

PS: Would a Service of Thanksgiving – when time is right, for the people of Old Walcot and Lainesmead School, etc bring people together later in the year? **By Jenny Powley**

Election of Elders

The names of those people who were nominated by the congregation and who have accepted will be published in the Newsletter on 23rd and 30th May and 6th June. Election will take place at a short Church Meeting held immediately after the service on Sunday 13th June.

Christian Aid Week – this year it will be 10-16 May, and due to the restrictions over the last year, as all Charities, Christian Aid needs all the help we can give them. The Sunday we resume worship (16th May) is the last day of this Christian Aid week, so if you are coming to church, bring your donation, there will be envelopes for you. You are more than welcome to return your envelope the following week or drop it off to Lyndsey at her home. If you don't receive an

envelope you can simply make a contribution in a normal envelope and mark it 'Christian Aid'. If you are making a donation by cheque please make it payable to 'Swindon Christian Aid'.

We are also circulating envelopes, though fewer than in past years, so if you have one and won't be attending worship let us know, and we will make sure it is counted.

Many thanks for your continued support. Lindsey Miller.

Old Town Partnership of Churches. The confirmation service this year, will also be the birthday celebration of the Partnership. We will celebrate at Christ Church on Sunday 30th May at 10.00. Bishop Viv will be with us. That Sunday this will be the only service in the Partnership Churches, due to current restriction on numbers, could you ***please let me know by May 16th*** if you are considering attending this service, as we must let Christ Church know in advance. Thank you! (Robert)

Please Include in your prayers:

- Let us learn to be "we" not "them/us".
- Christian Aid Week
- Election of Elders
- Partnership Confirmation Service and Birthday Celebration
- Highworth URC
- Those who are recovering from health treatments.
- Those who are mourning the death of family or friends.
- All those we know who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances.
- The plight of the Palestinian people.
- Amnesty International and all victims of Human Rights violations
- The vaccination in the world.
- The Old Town Partnership of Churches
- The URC: nationally, the 13 Synods.
- The South Western Synod: Ruth the Moderator, Gwen the Synod Clerk, and all who work for the Synod Office, and the churches of the Synod.
- The homeless, and rough sleepers
- Courage of faith to confront injustice, discrimination, hatred, racism.
- All areas of the world living violence, hatred, war, famine...

Please remind me: Soon it will be Immanuel's turn to prepare the Daily Prayer Diary. Two people have responded to my plea from last week, so there is only one person missing. Any idea who that could be? Thanks – (Robert)

Dear Members and Friends at Immanuel, this is to offer my sincere thanks to all who have in any way contacted me, prayed for me or in any sense wished me well. Never in the field of human illness can so many of us have been so pleased that someone has contracted Glandular Fever-as have I. But the pleasure is indeed understandable and shared by Avril & I especially as it stands in happy contrast to an unpleasant form of cancer that was the early likely prognosis.

I am now in the recovery phase which might take a month or two. Both my spleen and liver have had a battering in coping with the fever. But I am on the mend and look forward to fuller strength in the fuller summer. In a way it is fortunate that due to covid, Avril & I had planned a quiet home based summer in any case. That now feels good as I rest myself right. Avril & I offer my renewed thanks to you all for you care, prayer and expressed concern. Roy (Lowes)