

## Immanuel Newsletter

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

Website: <http://www.immanuelurc.org/>  
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**Thought for the week:** *“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave person is not the person who does not feel afraid, but the one who conquers that fear. (Nelson Mandela)*

**Bible Reading for this Sunday:** Acts 11; 1-18 Thank you Geoff for leading worship this morning.



**The Honesty Box** – As you have been able to see, these cover all kinds of topics, so feel free to share your ideas. And as you can see today, this is a two-way flow, so if you feel you would like to respond to anything in the Honesty Box, go ahead. Thank you.

**A response to last week's post in The Honesty Box:** “Just to say that I really appreciated Jenny Powley's Honesty Box reflection this week. They are exactly the sort of ideas we need that would allow us to connect better with and better serve the local community. And such ideas can be supported by and enhanced through our digital witness”. (Roy Lowes)

### **Election of Elders**

The names of those people who were nominated by the congregation and who have accepted are: Steve Brain, Mike Denton, Anne Farrow, Liz Gibney, Mike Gordon, Paddy Hayes, Eddie Thomas.

Election will take place at a short Church Meeting held immediately after the service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00. Bishop Viv will be with us.

**NEXT Sunday that will be the only service in the Partnership Churches.**

**Please Include in your prayers:**

- Let us learn to be “we” not “them/us”.
- Election of Elders
- Partnership Confirmation Service and Birthday Celebration
- Highworth URC, meets for worship today.
- Those who are recovering from health treatments.
- All those struggling with mental health difficulties.
- Young people who seeking a way forward in life.
- 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.
- For peace in Colombia.
- For the health situation in India, and so many places where there are no vaccines.
- 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...

**Your giving**

The national financial officers of the United Reformed Church have recently sent a thank you message to all local churches to acknowledge the way that congregations have continued to support the work of the church both nationally and locally. Most of you will be aware that a proportion of our giving at Immanuel goes towards paying for ministers and the mission of the church across the country, and you will be glad to hear that the national finances remain in pretty good shape despite all the challenges of the past year.

You may be interested to read a letter giving much more detail which you can find at [https://urc.org.uk/images/Finance/2021\\_Thank\\_You\\_Letter.docx](https://urc.org.uk/images/Finance/2021_Thank_You_Letter.docx) If you would like to know more about the national position or about contributing to Immanuel's finances feel free to contact our treasurer Sue Goodall or our standing order and gift aid officer Don Macarthur.

**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)