

Immanuel Newsletter

Sunday 11th July 2021

Website: <http://www.immanuelurc.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelURC>

Thought for the week: When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.
(Malala Yousafzai)

Thank you: thank you to Shelley who will be with us today and play the live music at different parts of the service.

And a thank you to Stuart Benjamin, who will be leading worship at Immanuel today, as Robert is preaching at Malmesbury and Geoff at Highworth.

Bible Readings for this Sunday. 1 Samuel 8 v4-v11 and v16-v20. Mark 3 v20-35.

Theme: The greater power!

Leaving Lockdown

In the light of the highly probable relaxation of the covid-19 restrictions from 19th July, and dependent on any advice from the URC, Our worship committee and Elders meeting propose that for the immediate future we retain the current arrangements for our worship at Immanuel. That is to say, we would ask you to use the hand sanitizer as you come into church, and as far as possible maintain a degree of distancing. In terms of face masks it would seem that from 19th July we can no longer require you to wear one in church, but we would ask all those attending to be sensitive to the needs of others. We will review the situation at the end of the month."

Prayer Group: As we are not able to meet face to face, each week a list of needs is circulated for us to remember in Prayer. If you have any need, or know of anybody who we can pray for, please contact either Anne Farrow or Helen Thomas.

Flowers: Dear Friends, on Sundays we are only doing a small arrangement on the Communion Table. However we still like to give flowers to those we feel need a little uplifting and if any of you would like to give a small donation towards the flowers I should be grateful. Either see me on Sundays or give me a ring. You can still choose your Sunday and have a dedication in Weekly News Keep well, Love Edith: 01793432195.

URC General Assembly: This began on Friday July 9th and will continue till Monday July 12. Due to Covid restriction this will be a Zoom event. Robert is one of the South-Western Synod representatives to the General Assembly.

Apologies: My apologies to you all. Last Sunday I did not make a good time of the induction of Elders. As the group is now, there are those who continue as their term has not finished (Glenys and Derek Walker, Don Macarthur) there are those who were re-elected to a second term (Paddy Hayes, Eddie Thomas, Steve Brain), and there are those who were voted in to begin a term (Mike Gordon, Mike Denton, Anne Farrow and Liz Gibney). The induction was of these last four people. We thank all who are serving Elders for their willingness to serve at this time. We thank those who have completed their term, serving in circumstances nobody could have ever imagined (Fran Strange, David Leadbeater, Tom Hartshorne, Maria Kawonga and Roy Lowes).

Book this date in your diary: 25th July to be Partnership Songs of Praise. To be organised by Christ Church and will be outdoors in the grounds of Christ Church. Time to be confirmed.

Please Include in your prayers:

- Let us learn to be “we” not “them/us”.
- The URC General Assembly.
- For Refugees, the difficulties they flee from, the hope they are looking for.
- Those who are recovering from health treatments.
- All those struggling with mental health difficulties.
- Those who are mourning the death of family or friends.
- The plight of the Palestinian people.
- The Harbour Project
- The Foyer
- Amnesty International and all victims of Human Rights violations
- The vaccination in the world.
- The Prayer Group.
- The Old Town Partnership of Churches
- The URC: nationally, the 13 Synods.
- The Southwestern Synod: Ruth the Moderator, Gwen the Synod Clerk, and all who work for the Synod, and the churches of the Synod.
- Courage of faith to confront injustice, discrimination, hatred, racism.
- All areas of the world living violence, hatred, war, famine.
- For life as the current pandemic restrictions are lifted.