

**Immanuel Newsletter**  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

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

**Thought for the week:** “Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else” (Margaret Mead)

**Chaplain today:** Mike Gordon

**Thank You** Geoff for leading worship today and playing the organ!

Robert will be leading worship at Highworth URC today.

**Bible Readings for this Sunday:** Genesis 17: 1-7; 15-17      Mark 8: 31-35

**Theme for today:** The Seesaw of Faith. Certainty and Doubt

**Communion will be celebrated during the service this morning.**

**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.

<p><b><u>Food-Box:</u></b> The Food Banks are in need, and we can help. The Food Box in the Chapel is now available to receive your donations. Each time the Box is full, the contents will be taken to the Swindon Food Collective.</p>
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**Immanuel webpage:** You can find the link above. Just asking – when was the last time you have looked at it? It is current, up to date with all you are looking for, and very well presented. The recording of the service of each Sunday can be found, as well as the order of service. Drop in whenever you want!

**Climate Change Conference:** I'm sure you have heard of this, better known as COP26, which will take place as from October 31<sup>st</sup> in Glasgow. This is an urgent and necessary time for concrete actions to be taken on the Environmental Crisis we are facing. Climate changes is not something happening in faraway regions: Arctic, Antarctic, Amazon...it is happening much closer to home – we saw the floods in Germany and Belgium, and the streets of London, and in the Southwest heading into this weekend. What is not tackled now, will just add to the damage happening now. So please keep this Conference in your prayers and let us urge our leaders to commit to the changes necessary. WORDS are no longer enough, we need ACTION.

**Traidcraft:** It will be available in the Atrium after the service today.

### **Ride and Stride**

Is there is anyone who would be prepared to be at Immanuel for an hour or so between 10.00am and 6.00pm on Saturday 11th September for this year's Ride and Stride. It only requires someone to be there to sign the sponsor forms of those who are taking part - just to verify that they did indeed call at Immanuel. If you can spare some time that day please can you contact Liz Gleed. Many thanks.

## **Rotas**

### **Tea and coffee.**

Now that we are returning to normality (albeit slowly) there have been quite a few requests to see a return to tea and coffee after church.

Many of you would like to be able to stay on after the morning service for a 'cuppa' and a chat with friends. The elders will be discussing this at their next meeting on 9 September. If we can manage the risks in doing so we will need volunteers to go on a rota to prepare, serve and then wash up.

**Welcoming and steward rotas.** At the moment, there is a small group that Sunday by Sunday welcome you into the church and give out service sheets etc. This low number is not really sustainable but was necessary as we developed a routine for opening up the church for services. It would be good to reduce the pressure on these folk and involve more members by drawing up a welcoming rota and a steward's rota probably starting in October.

Please can you let Anne Farrow know if you would be willing to go on any of these - the more volunteers there are, the fewer occasions your help will be needed.

### **Please Include in your prayers:**

- Haiti and the families who have lost loved ones, and families who have lost all.
- For Afghanistan in the present situation the suffering (AGAIN)
- For Highworth URC
- For victims of domestic violence.
- For the hungry, the homeless, the people who have no job.
- For the search for truth when truth may be painful but so necessary and urgent.
- All areas of the world living violence, hatred, war, famine.
- For Refugees, the difficulties they flee from, the hope they are looking for.
- For COP26, meeting in Glasgow in November – the opportunity to do something urgent on Climate change.
- Those who are recovering from medical 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
- The Swindon Food Collective
- Amnesty International and all victims of Human Rights violations
- The vaccination in the world.
- The Prayer Group.
- The Old Town Partnership of Churches: Bath Road, Christ Church with St Mary's
- 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.
- For life as the current pandemic restriction are lifted.
- For all that brings us joy and happiness.