

Immanuel Newsletter
Sunday 29th August 2021

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

Thought for the week: “Truth is above harmony. Those who fear disorder more than injustice invariably produce more of both” (William Sloane Coffin)

Chaplain today: Liz Gibney

Thank You – Rev. Tony Barnes will be leading worship this morning. Thank you very much Tony!

Bible Readings for this Sunday: Exodus 4:27-5:1 Luke 13:10-21

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.

Food-Box: 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.

Room bookings

With the elders' agreement, we are reopening all of the premises for bookings from 1st September. If you haven't yet arranged your groups' bookings please contact Sam Roylance ASAP to confirm the dates and times. Most of the groups who were hiring rooms 17 months ago have arranged to return, although a few are understandably waiting a little longer until we can all be more confident about the reduced health risks to vulnerable people especially.

With that in mind there will be a few restrictions in place for the foreseeable future, which must apply please to everyone using the premises. Please use the sanitiser provided, and always wear masks in the back corridor and atrium. In the meeting rooms groups can make their own decisions about mask wearing, although we are asking people to open windows to help ventilation, ensuring that all windows are closed and locked when they leave.

We are also limiting the numbers allowed in our smaller rooms especially, to reduce infection risks, with a maximum at any one time of 20 people in the parlour or choir room, 8 in the lounge and 3 in the kitchen.

We are also asking anyone using or visiting the premises who has a positive COVID test within the following week to let us know, so that we can advise other people where appropriate. Could you please let Steve Brain know straight away if and when this applies to you.

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 31st 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.

Bath Road Breakfast is back.... The second Saturday of each month (beginning 11th September) between 9-11. A bacon roll (a veggie option is available) a tea/coffee £1. All are welcome.

Please Include in your prayers:

- Haiti and the families who have lost loved ones, and families who have lost all.
- For Afghanistan in the current situation they are 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 all that brings us joy and happiness.