

Thought for the week: “the primary problems of the planet arise not from the poor, for who education is the answer; they arise from the well-educated for whom self-interest is the problem” (Wm. Sloane Coffin)

Chaplain today: Don Macarthur

Bible Readings for this Sunday: Matthew 25; 31-40



The Traidcraft stall will be available after the service this Sunday. The new (Christmas) brochures should be available.

Old Town Partnership of Churches Project: Welcome Mike Walsh to our service today. Mike will talk to us about the Desai school in Africa, which was approved as the OTPC project last year and was put on hold due to COVID. The Partnership of Churches will be sharing the effort to help the school. The aim is to reach £6000 between all the churches between now and end of November, closing the project on the joint service for the first Sunday of Advent. It would be great to reach and surpass this aim.

Family News: We are sure you all miss knowing more about the church family happenings, and there is a reason for that -given GDPR (=Data Protection Regulation), unless we have permission to print information on people's wellbeing, we are not allowed to publish, particularly when this involved health. So this is the reason, because the Weekly News is distributed extensively. (Robert)

Welcome Service: Next Wednesday at 7:00 pm, a service will take place at Central Church, to welcome Revd Jonathan Edwards as Transitional Minister. Robert will be leading the service, Mark Barrett will lead the intercession prayers, Rev. Alisdair Longwill will both preach and lead the induction.

Update

Following government and United Reformed Church guidelines, at Elders' meeting on Thursday, the following guidelines were approved:

Please continue to sanitise your hands on entering.

The security tape has been removed from the pews, though it is still important to respect those people who want to keep a distance from others.

While face coverings are no longer required by law, please continue to wear them if this helps you feel secure, and you are requested to wear them in certain areas of the church, such as the Atrium, corridors, toilets...

All toilets are now in use.

If you do not feel well, please stay at home, and if any COVID symptoms are manifest, please let Steve Brain know.

Elders will continue to monitor the situation and these guidelines will be reviewed according to the development of the situation.

2021 Harvest Festival

Our Harvest festival Service this year will be held on Sunday 3rd October @ 10.30am

This year donations will be taken to the SWINDON FOOD COLLECTIVE therefore can we ask that you do not bring perishable produce but items such as tins/packages/ jars/bottle etc.(please remember to check the USE BY dates).

To ensure everybody's safety would you please place your donations in the boxes provided in the Chapel as you arrive so as to avoid crowding at the front of the church.

We will continue to empty the collections box on the 1st Sunday of each month as we have in the past.

Some people have asked if they can donate money on a regular basis rather than goods. This can be done by setting up a Standing Order through your bank. Further details on how to do this please speak to David Leadbeater.

On behalf of the SWINDON FOOD COLLECTIVE a very big thank you for all your donations Past, Present and in the Future.

Another Rota needing **your HELP**.

Yes, we need **HELP** in the counting room on Sunday morning to count the Offertory and bank it. Training can be given to you if needed, 2 people per Sunday. The more help the less week you will be needed. Please think hard is this job for you, it's open to people of all ages, sex and personality we do not discriminate. Contact Sue Goodall at immtreasurerswindon@gmail.com

Afghanistan, Rose Earle and the Harbour Project

Some of you might have received a letter from Rose Earle from the newsagent's shop in Newport Street, appealing for children's colouring books and pencils etc. and donations for the refugee children arriving here from Afghanistan. Rose was in contact with the volunteers who run The Harbour Project behind St. Luke's church and we intended putting this appeal into this magazine; however at this moment, before going to print, Rose has phoned to say she has been overwhelmed by the response by her customers and she has asked us to "Hold back on the gifts for the moment" The Harbour Project has not enough storage space to cope with a load more at this time; but nearer Christmas there might be a need for more. However gifts of money need little storage and would be most welcome! Rose would be happy to receive monetary gifts to help these people and is willing to pass them on to The Harbour Project for these refugees, most of whom have had to leave all their possessions (including any savings in the bank) well and truly behind.

Thank you Rose for doing this on behalf of us all in Old Town.

Climate Change Conference: I'm sure you have heard of this, better known as COP (Conference of Parties)26, 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.

Please Include in your prayers:

- The Harvest Appeal 2021 in aid of Desai School, as part of the Old Town Partnership of Churches project.
- For Afghanistan in the current situation.
- For Highworth URC
- For victims of domestic violence.
- Those who are recovering from medical treatments.
- All those struggling with mental health difficulties.
- Those who are mourning the death of family or friends.
- 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 with 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.
- 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, sexism.
- For all that brings us joy and happiness.