

Immanuel Weekly News

<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelURC>

Sunday 21st November 2021

Website: <http://www.immanuelurc.org/>

Bible Readings for this Sunday: Matthew 22:23-40

Theme: Law or Love?

Pulpit Exchange: Today is the OTPC pulpit exchange, and we will celebrate communion at Immanuel. Mark Barrett will lead worship here, Simon Stevenette at Bath Road and Geoff Glead at Christ Church.

Please include in your prayers:

- Are we a welcoming church? How can we be more welcoming?
- The Old Town Partnership of Churches: Bath Road, Christ Church with St Mary's and Immanuel
- For the Desai School
- For those who sleep rough
- The NHS and all carers.

In our prayers and thoughts:

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death at home recently of **Barbara Grant**; a service of thanksgiving for her life will be held at Immanuel at 2.45 on December 6th.

We are also deeply saddened to announce that **Bernard Philips** has passed away at home; many of you will be aware that he had been ill for some time. Our love and prayers go out to Andrea and the family at this difficult time.

From the Memorial Book that is now found in the Chapel, this week we remember: Frederick R Carrier and Yolande Christine Cullingford

Last Sunday's flowers were given to Andrea, Kirsty and David Phillips.

If you know of anybody who might welcome some flowers as a reminder that we're thinking of them, please let us know.

The Harbour Project: This is the other organization we are helping this Christmas (Swindon Food Collective being the other one). At Harbour they will be giving out a Christmas present to each person they are working with on **Monday 13th December**, so we are aiming for this date. I asked them to be honest and clear of what they need and what they don't need, so that the donations are useful for the families they are working with.

Suggested gifts, **up to £5**, toiletries such as shower gel, deodorant for men, and Dove gift set for women. Please not more than £5. Wrapped would help, and indication of men or woman on the outside. They are aiming for 20 for women and 20 for men.

Backpacks are extremely looked for, at any time of the year. New men's boxer shorts, would be most welcome,

Currently they DO NOT need clothes.

Thought for the week: To the whole world you might be just one person, but to one person you might just be the whole world. (Pablo Casals)

Offering: as from this Sunday, the offering will be collected as it used to be – the plate going to you where you sit, and then brought forward for dedication.

MASK WEARING

Please remember, we ask all users of the premises to wear masks in the back corridor and atrium to help prevent infection. Several of the groups who meet in the building during the week have told us how grateful they are that we are taking such precautions, so it will be good if everyone can continue to do likewise, please. In view of the dramatic rise in infection rates in Swindon, wearing a face mask for a week or two during worship is an option people may wish to consider until such time as the rates drop.

Diary Dates:

Sunday 28th November:	6.30pm Advent Partnership Service at Christ Church <i>conclusion of Partnership Project (Desai School)</i>
Sunday 12th December	4.00 pm Lessons and Carols (am service = communion)
Sunday 19th December	10.30 Carols by Daylight (mince pie Sunday!)
Monday 20th December	6.00pm Carols on the Carpet
Friday 24th December	11.30 pm Midnight Communion
Saturday 25th December	10.30 Family Worship
Sunday 26th December	No services at Immanuel

Harvest appeal for the Desai School

We're delighted to report that the total donations from Immanuel for this year's appeal were an impressive £3,217. But this is not of course the end of the story, as the contributions from Christ Church and St Mary's and Bath Road will be added to our giving before the total Partnership contribution is added up and passed over to Mike Welsh at the Partnership Advent Service at Christ Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 28th November. Many of you will remember Mike from his heart-breaking accounts of the Desai children and their families, and we will all wish him well as he travels back to Kenya the day after the service to ensure that our combined donations are used in the best possible way to maintain and improve the school facilities.

Many thanks as always to everyone at Immanuel for your continued generous giving to our work both locally and overseas.

Offertory Envelopes

I shall be placing the 2022 offertory envelopes in the chapel later in November. However I'm conscious that many members have "converted" to online payments or standing orders over the past 18 months, and no longer use envelopes. If you no longer need envelopes please have a word with me and we can together save a little bit of unnecessary paper, Thanks, Don Macarthur.

Remembering Our Loved Ones



Last Sunday in a very poignant service, a well-attended congregation watched as more than fifty candles were lit in memory of those who had died in the past two years and whose funerals had been conducted by either Robert or Geoff.