

Immanuel Weekly News

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

Sunday 12th December 2021

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

ADVENT III Bible Reading: Luke 3; 7-18 We will be celebrating Communion today,

In our prayers and thoughts: From the Memorial Book in the Chapel, this week we remember: Derek Robert Sutton

Last Sunday's flowers were given to Karen, Barbara Grants daughter

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 boxer shorts, would be most welcome,

Currently they DO NOT need clothes.

Thought for the week: *"Without poverty of Spirit, there can be no abundance of God"*

(Archbishop Oscar Romero)

Please include in your prayers:

- Refugees and Asylum seekers – that they may experience love and acceptance
- Street Pastors
- Our families and loved ones, near or far.
- Fair distribution of vaccines to all people in all countries.

Advent Candles 2021: The lighting of the Advent Candles this year, follows the sequence: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. And the texts come from the Joint Public Issues Team, of which the URC is member,

Christmas Cards

Christmas is coming and the large notice board is in place in the chapel for Christmas cards. If you would like to bring or post a card to greet all your friends in the church then please make use of this board. Stickers to use to put cards are on the table in front of the board and we will display any received in the post from anyone unable to do their own. The colourful board makes a bright welcome into the church for everyone coming in to our Christmas services during the next weeks so make use of it if you wish. Any donations instead of postage costs can be added to the offertory plate as desired.

The Immanuel Prayer Circle will meet next Wednesday, December 15th at 2.15pm in the chapel. Everyone is welcome to join us and /or to pass on requests to Anne Farrow, Helen Thomas or Jenny Powley beforehand.

Dates for prayer meetings in the New Year will be on alternate Wednesdays at 2.15pm from January 5th onwards. Please join us if you are interested.

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 12th December*	4.00 pm	Lessons and Carols (am service = communion)	Sunday
19th December*	10.30	Carols by Daylight (mince pie Sunday!)	
Friday 24th December	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion	
Saturday 25th December	10.30	Family Worship	
Sunday 26th December		No services at Immanuel	

* These are slightly shorter services than usual

Carols on the carpet. Given the recent COVID developments, we have felt it would not be appropriate to hold Carols on the carpet on Monday 20th. So it has been **CANCELLED**

Mince Pie Sunday 19th December

After the morning service, there will be tea, coffee and mince pies served in the hall. Donations of mince pies would be gratefully received (it would be useful if you could let me know how many you will bring so I have an idea of how many I need to buy). Please bring them to the kitchen before the service. Also I would be grateful if anyone could help either in setting up, serving the drinks and/or mince pies and clearing up afterwards. Anne Farrow, Tel: 490672 email: farrow 684@btinternet.com

The Traidcraft stall will be available after both services this week, (December 12th) and that there will be tea and coffee (and mince pies!) after the 4pm Lesson and Carols by Candlelight service.

Those of you who receive the newsletter by email may have received a separate email last week notifying you at very short notice of the chance to make a donation to the Traidcraft Charity, Traidcraft Exchange, and to have your amount doubled if received by midnight that day. I am happy to say that the target figure of £20,000.00 was reached and Traidcraft therefore benefited from the full £40,000.00, a fantastic result.

As many of you are aware, I donate 20% from the sales of Flamingo cards, sold alongside the Traidcraft goods at Immanuel, Wanborough Farmers Market and the Christchurch Charity Bazaar. Along with the profits from recent Traidcraft sales I was able to make a donation of £150.00 which was then, of course, doubled to £300.00.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Traidcraft Stall, the sale of cards and for your personal donations. Traidcraft doesn't just offer financial aid but endeavours to help people work their own way out of poverty and, with the ever increasing effects of climate change, this has never been more needed. Liz Gleed.