

Immanuel Weekly News

Sunday 5th December 2021

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

ADVENT II

Please include in your prayers:

- The challenge to each of us to live the teachings of Jesus about the Kingdom of God,
- Health, specially for those most vulnerable,
- Those who live in fear and have little hope for the future,
- Our families and loved ones, near or far.

In our prayers and thoughts: From the Memorial Book that is now found in the Chapel, this week we remember: Margery Smith, Charles Worthington, Nathan John Phillips, Joy Watts, Hilda Mary Russell (nee Barnes)

The flowers in church today are given by Shelley Morgan in loving memory of her parents, Margery and Ashley Smith, who were parted on 6th December 2019 and reunited on 11th April 2020.

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

Andrea Philips would like to give a huge thanks to everyone who helped organise Bernard's funeral. She would especially like to thanks Geoff and Robert, for the wonderful service and those who helped to set up the hospitality afterwards including Martin Styles, Jean Batten, Eddie and Helen Thomas. She would also like to thanks Liz Gleed, Norman Goodall and Steve Brain, and hopes she hasn't forgotten anyone. Her family, Kristy, David and Colin also send their thanks. The service is still available on the internet if anyone is interested.

Remember: After the service today, we meet for a Church Meeting. Please stay on.

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.

Service of Thanksgiving: The service for Barbara Grant will be held at Immanuel on Monday 6th December at 2:45, with the committal at North Wiltshire Crematorium at 2.00. There will be a wake in the church hall after the service.

Thought for the week: “Do not ask who the messenger is – it is you.” (Joseph T Nolan)

Bible Reading: Luke 1, 67-79

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.

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,

Diary Dates:

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| 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 |

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.