



Immanuel Weekly News
Sunday 15th May 2022

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

Christian Aid Week

Thought for the week: "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." (C.S. Lewis)

Service - we will celebrate communion today

Bible Reading: Revelation 22; 1-5

Theme: Hope in times of crisis

Prayers of Intercession – prepared by Roy Lowes

Chaplain on today: Eddie Thomas.

Chaplain next Sunday: Mike Denton

Please include in your prayers:

- Peace and Justice for the people of Ukraine and all places where there is war.
- For those living with neurological diseases, for those who know, love and care for them
- Christian Aid week -begins 16th May.
- The decisions taken at the Annual Church meeting last Thursday

Quiz night at Bath Road Methodist Church Bath Road Methodist Church are holding a Christian Aid Quiz night at 7pm on Saturday 21st May. Tickets £5 inc. drink and cake.(please book in advance).

Teams of up to 6 people or join a team on the night

Tickets from :Lindsey Miller 535855

Christian Aid Week- 15th- 21st May

Envelopes for Christian Aid Week will be available on the 15th and 22nd May in church and you are more than welcome to return your envelope to the church or drop it off to me at my address 11, Burford Avenue. If you forget to pick up an envelope you can simply make a contribution in a normal envelope and mark it '**Christian Aid**'. If you are making a donation by cheque please make it payable to '**Swindon Christian Aid**'. Many thanks for your continued support. Lindsey Miller.

Condolences: Our condolences to Simon Stevenette and all the family on the death of his father, John Stevenette, which happened on Saturday 7th May. Our prayers for them at this time.

From the **Memorial Book** in the Chapel – we pray for the families of **Edward Henry (Ted) Webb, Edith Amy Woolford, Roger Phillips, Marjorie (Madge) Sutton, and Mabel Goodall.**

Last Sunday's flowers were given to Win Dean, Veronica Tooth and Cath Thomson

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

From the Church Annual General Meeting

Two important votes were taken at the Church AGM held this week:

1) By a unanimous decision (with several letters of support from members unable to attend) the meeting voted to support the application of our minister to extend his ministry within the URC beyond the standard retirement age. This means that if the application is accepted by the SW Synod and the Ministries Committee of the URC, Robert will continue as our minister for a further three years from January 2023.

2) All three nominees for the position of elder within Immanuel church were duly elected to serve for a period of three years. Maria Kawonga, Don Macarthur and Helen Marson will be inducted at a service in the near future. The thanks of the meeting were extended to Glenys and Derek Walker who have stood down after their years of service.

In addition the meeting confirmed for a further year Steve Brain and Sue Goodall in the roles of Secretary and Treasurer, and reports were received from Secretary and Minister.

Keeping in touch There are times when it would be really useful to contact a lot of Immanuel all at the same time - not for a chat, but to sort out some problem or to ask an opinion. A few weeks back, due to several key people being sick or absent, we found that we were missing something vital for the Sunday service the very next day. The problem was solved after a great many phone calls. If we had a church Whatsapp group (a facility available to smart phone users) we would have been able to put out one message asking for help and we may well have been able to resolve our problem more quickly.

So, if you have a smart phone, would you consider joining this group? Never used WhatsApp before? It is relatively simple to use and if you have no one to help you get started with it, Ceri Bevan or David Leadbeater would be happy to give you a hand. Then all you have to do is give your mobile number to Steve or Robert and they will put you into our group...and Bob's your uncle... you're part of the team! Give it some thought...

Out of the Ashes: On Sunday 15th May, 6.00 for 6.30 pm, the Christian band -Out of the Ashes has been booked to perform at Christ Church. The band is "Jazz, Blues and Rhythm & Blues with Gospel Roots". This will be the close out of the 9th Old Town Beer Festival and the £10 tickets will include beer, cider, and snacks. The booking details can be found on the poster in the Atrium.

Anybody up for a cuppa and chat? It was clear last Sunday how people enjoyed sitting down after the service for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat, so what about meeting up quite informally on **Wednesday 25th May, at 2:30 in the Hall**. We will provide teas and coffees, and all are invited to turn up; if you'd like to bring along some biscuits to share, that will liven up the afternoon no doubt. If this takes off we might try to do something on a regular basis - lets see what happens. See you then!

Robert

Desai School Project: Last year the Old Town Partnership of Churches came together to raise funds for the Desai School. It was a great effort, and it went very well, and together with the participation of Rotary International who helped with the funds, we can be pleased that the school received £ 39.000. Well done!

Dates for your diary: There are several activities which will be happening over the next few months which you might want to keep in your diary to join in... here go the first two:

- 5th June: Partnership Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service, at Christ Church, at 6:30. Before the service there will be a Garden Party at 4:00.
- Saturday 24th September at 2:30, at Immanuel there will be a celebration for the 50 years of the United Reformed Church with the participation of the churches in the area, the Synod Moderator has agreed to preach at this service. It will be followed by a times to meet and chat other people over a cup of tea or coffee and cake.

Old Town Community Craft Fayre: on Saturday 11th June from 9:00 – 12:00 at Bath Road Methodist Church. If you have a craft you would like to show and sell or if you would like to see what other people are doing, and buy, this is your opportunity. Tables are free. Contact Sharon. Details on the poster you can find in the Church Porch.

Old Town Partnership of Churches – Secretary/Administrator – We are seeking to cover the position. The details will go out with the Weekly News and can also be found posted on the notice board in the Atrium. Please take a look and if you are interested reach out and let us know about it. Thank you