



Faith – Hope – Love –  
Since 1972

# Immanuel Weekly News

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022



Swindon Old Town  
Ecumenical  
Partnership  
Established 1969

**Our minister is Revd Robert Jordan**

**We extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this morning's service**

## **Today's Service**

**Our worship will be led by Stuart Benjamin**

Chaplain: Helen Marson

Readings:

Psalm 138

Luke 11 vv1 - 13

We are delighted to welcome Geoff back to the organ. We have missed you and Liz!

## **Next Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

**Our worship will be led by Revd Robert Jordan**

Chaplain: Mike Gordon

Tea and coffee will be served after next week's service. We hope you will be able to stay and enjoy chatting to friends. The volunteers are Helen Thomas and Paddy Hayes with Anne Farrow.

Last Sunday's flowers were given to Andrea Phillips and Paddy Hayes.



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 Memorial Book in the Chapel we pray for the families and friends of John Hartshorn, Sally Pearce, John Partridge and Neil Ferguson whose anniversaries fall this week.

## **Family News**

We are saddened to report that Jackie Birt passed away last week. The funeral will be held at the North Wilts Crematorium on Tuesday 2nd August at 10.00 am. All friends welcome.

We have also heard of the sudden passing of Brian Stanbury.

Our love and sympathy go out to Jackie's and Brian's families and friends.

## **We pray for**

- families who are struggling to cope with life-threatening illnesses
- those facing severe drought as world temperatures rise
- families who continue to grieve for those lost through Covid
- families from Ukraine who are trying to make a new life in the UK, and all those who are supporting them
- those in Government facing tough decisions

### **Immanuel election candidate**

Whatever our politics, we can surely take pleasure in the news that the new Labour party candidate for the South Swindon parliamentary constituency is Heidi Alexander, who grew up in Parklands Road and was a regular member of our Junior Church in the 1980s. And a little bird tells us that Steve Brain later taught Heidi at New College! We wish her well. We shall hopefully be pleased to welcome her back to Immanuel in her professional capacity one day, maybe during hustings for the next general election.

### **Tea and Chat**

Last Tuesday a very pleasant time was had by a good number of folk who enjoyed a surprise cream tea!



### **Church finances**

We have received an interesting report from the national treasurer of the URC. This sets out an encouraging picture, despite the dramatic impact of the pandemic on church finances nationally and locally, and includes thanks to members and friends across the country for their continued generosity. If you would like a copy of the report please ask Sue Goodall.

It seems that congregational giving nationally in 2021 was about 20% down

on pre-pandemic levels. We at Immanuel suffered a drop of only 9% by comparison. And we have again been able to make the expected contribution to the national Ministry and Mission fund, and to pay an extra £2,000 to help fill the gap left by local churches in much less fortunate financial circumstances than ourselves. We are enormously grateful to everyone at Immanuel for the way that you have continued to support the church through the pandemic, maybe by switching to standing order or by regular online giving.

### **Reminder/ Advance notice**

As the logo at the top of the newsletter tells us, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the URC. There will be a national celebration in London in October, but we will be holding our own service here at Immanuel on Saturday 24th September. All the local United Reformed Churches have been invited to join us, as well as our friends in the partnership. The preacher will be the Moderator of the SW Synod, Revd Ruth Whitehead. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Hall, and we hope that we will be able to spill out and enjoy the lawn and gardens. Do make a note of the date. Further details to follow.

### **From August 1st: access to the Church**

Please note that our diligent Buildings & Grounds members are having the Hall redecorated in the week beginning 1st August, so access will be restricted.

In addition the Borough Council has indicated that there will be road works on Upham Road from August 1st for five days and access to Immanuel will be restricted.

**Thought for the week:** "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness" Bishop Desmond Tutu

### **Contact us:**

- via our website at [www.immanuelurc.org](http://www.immanuelurc.org)
- on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ImmanuelURC](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelURC)

If you are new to Immanuel and would like to receive this newsletter by email each week, please email [immanuelweeklynews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:immanuelweeklynews@yahoo.co.uk) and I will add you to the mailing list. Thanks, Ceri.