



Faith – Hope – Love –
Since 1972

Immanuel Weekly News

Sunday 4th December 2022

Our Minister is Revd Robert Jordan



Swindon Old Town Ecumenical
Partnership Established 1969

We extend a warm welcome to everyone attending worship today

Today's Morning Service : 2nd Sunday in Advent

10.30am

Led by the Minister

Theme: How, rather than what

Readings: Isaiah 11, Vs1-10 and Luke 3, Vs 1-12

Chaplain: Eddie Thomas

Intercession prayers lead by John Blakesley.

Our monthly Church meeting will be held at the close of this morning's service

Next Sunday December 11th

10.30 am - Morning worship conducted by the Minister]

Chaplain: Maria Kawonga

There will be tea and coffee after this service.

Sunday 18th December

Our morning service will be Lessons and Carols. Do come along and enjoy the service and the hot drinks and mince pies afterwards.

Thought for the week: *"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter"* (Martin Luther King Jr)

Illustration for today:



Family News: The funeral Service for Cath Thomson will be held here at Immanuel on Monday 19th December at 10.00 am

Our prayers for

- Those who have lost loved ones
- The work of Amnesty International
- Peace on earth, goodwill to all people
- Stability in our country on the way ahead
- doctors, nurses at our hospital and hospice
- the homeless, refugees, asylum seekers
- Hope, Faith, Love

Our Memorial Book

Names in our book this week: **Stanley Whiteman, Kath Hemming, Mary Hamilton, Margery Smith, Charles Worthington and Nathan Phillips** we remember them and pray for them and their families and friends who mourn their passing.



Food Collective Donations

Our next collection will be this Sunday 4th December. This will be the last collection of the year and will of course cover Christmas. We realise how difficult things are at the moment but do ask if you are able please be generous at this time. Thank you in anticipation

Advent Sunday Evening

For those unable to attend last Sunday evening's Partnership Service here at Immanuel, it was a remarkable service with some beautiful music from the joint choir. With Rach Collins (Bath Road) preaching, a well-attended congregation had a very fresh insight into the figure of Mary.

A recording of the service is available if you would like to hear it.

Offertory envelopes

The envelopes for 2023 are now available in the chapel.

As more people have switched to standing orders, we have managed to save money by only buying 25 envelope books this year. This means that those of you who have had numbers 26 to 50 up to now will find you have a new number for 2023, although feel free to use either old or new number when using white appeal envelopes or making online payments.

Please contact Don Macarthur if you have any queries about envelopes or gift aid or standing orders.

Volunteer wanted

Our last church meeting heard that Sam Chandler-Benjamin has resigned as Pulpit Supply Secretary. We are grateful for all that Sam has done over many years to ensure that worship has continued week after week, but we do need to find a replacement for her fairly swiftly. If you feel you might be able to help or want to know more, please have a word with Steve or any of the elders.

The traditional **Christmas Card** board is now available for you to send one card to all of the congregation. Please take a look and add your own message if you wish.

Amnesty International: This Sunday we present to you a new case for your prayers and your commitment to write. This time it is Call on Iranian authorities to immediately halt the sickening execution of **Ahmadreza Djalali**: a Swedish-Iranian medical doctor and academic, was on a business trip to Iran when he was arrested on 26 April 2016. He is being held in the notorious Evin prison.

House Communion

If you would like Communion at home, because you can't get to church, please let either your elder or the minister know, so we can arrange a time for this.

Contact us:

- via our website at www.immanuelurc.org
- on Facebook at 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 and I will add you to the mailing list. Thanks, Ceri.

Swindon Food Collective: We have received a very big Thank You from the Swindon Food Collective, and a certificate you can see on the notice board in the Atrium for the donation during Harvest 2022. Thank each and all of you for your contributions.

Volunteer needed – Old Town Partnership of Churches.

Do you have a passion for Ecumenism, a commitment to our rich heritage in Old Town of belonging to the oldest Partnership of Churches in the Country, and a couple of hours a month to spare? Immanuel needs a representative on the Old Town Partnership Focus Group. It meets monthly – although there was some talk about meeting bi-monthly before COVID struck and it doesn't usually meet in July and August. There are also the Full Partnership Council meetings – 2/3 a year – which take place in the evenings. The meeting is made up of the Clergy of our Churches and one lay person from each Church, plus the officeholders: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Your role would be to engage with the discussions, bring any ideas/projects etc back to Immanuel and to take any comments/ideas from Immanuel to the Focus Group.

Do please give this some thought – it's an important role and not a particularly onerous one if you enjoy interacting with people and have a bit of time to spare. Please speak to Anne Farrow or Robert if you would like to know more.

Save your used postage stamps

Please save your used postage stamps. We use them to support CLIC Sargent which is a worthwhile charity who help children with cancer.

If stamps can be trimmed with at least 1/4 inch margin around them and put in the box in the Chapel. Of course, stamps are not just for Christmas but collected throughout the year.