



Faith – Hope – Love –
Since 1972

Immanuel Weekly News

Sunday 5th February 2023

Our Minister is Revd Robert Jordan



Swindon Old Town Ecumenical
Partnership Established 1969

We extend a warm welcome to everyone attending worship today

Sunday 5th February: 10.30am

Our minister is conducting this morning's worship

Bible Readings: Isaiah 58; 1-12 Matthew 5; 12-20

Theme: God's ways – our ways?

Chaplain: Paddy Hayes

Sunday 12th February

The minister will be leading our worship

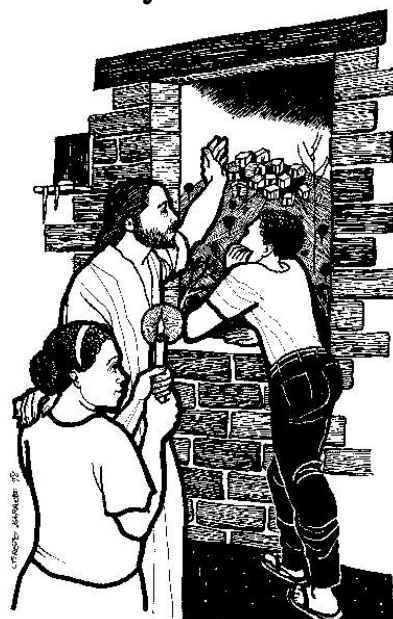
Chaplain: Anne Farrow

Messy Church: Meets today (Sunday) at Bath Road Methodist Church

Prayers for

- Messy Church
- Peace and justice for all people
- The Mission and Ministry of the church
- Those experiencing tough times
- The Old Town Partnership of Churches

Illustration for today: God's ways



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

Family News:

Barbara Furguson now rests in peace. She died last Wednesday afternoon, at home. Please hold the family in your prayers.

The service of thanksgiving for the life of **Dot Waddington** will be held at Immanuel on 17th February at 12:00, followed by a short service at Kingsdown Crematorium at 1:30 pm

This week's flowers went to **Shirley Cawte and Andrea Phillips**



Our Memorial Book

There are no names recorded in our book for this week but we do remember those who have died recently, praying for them and their families and friends who mourn their passing.

Our Prayer for Growth

God of mission, who alone brings growth to your church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you
And in service to our Swindon Community.
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Swindon Food Collective

Donations for The above will be gratefully received on Sunday 5th Feb. We know times are difficult but any donations will be joyfully accepted and distributed to those less fortunate than ourselves. Just a reminder to check the use by dates on goods. Thank you in anticipation.

Band Concert

Those of you who didn't manage to get to the concert last Saturday missed a simply outstanding evening's entertainment. The Aldbourne Band have been coming to Immanuel on the last Saturday of January for the past 55 years: this year they promised us a "Night at the Movies" They took us through a dozen or more pieces from film soundtracks from the 1940s to some more recent blockbuster films, proving that they fully deserve the accolades heaped



upon them. It really was band music at its best no wonder they are ranked at number 11 in the world!!!

Sadly I have just heard that **Traidcraft** is going into Administration and, at this moment, I can no longer buy anything from them. The charity wing is still very much in operation so I will still do what I can to raise funds to support this but, once I have sold the stock I currently have, I'm afraid that will probably be it. It's all very sad, we have been supporting Traidcraft for many, many years - originally thanks to Jenny Powley I believe. I will report when there is any further news.

Liz Glead.

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.

More on the Eco Church Project

In order for Immanuel to qualify for the Silver Award in the Eco Church Project, several criteria need to be met. One of these is to show that we survey or monitor wildlife on our property. With this in mind, last weekend we took part in the **RSPB's "Big Garden Bird Watch"**. We patiently watched the back garden here at Immanuel and noted what type and how many birds landed in an hour. We were not totally surprised to spot very few: a couple of magpies, two woodpigeons, two robins and a jackdaw! Hopefully, if we count them again next year we might see more as we are planning on planting a few more small trees and possibly some shrubs. Of course, if we put up and maintained some feeders we might attract even more. But that would take someone to fill and clean out the feeders on a regular basis... As you may already know, we have an area of wild flowers, specially planted at the far end of the garden, to attract insects. We also have a few bird boxes. It would be nice to have our garden being more eco-friendly: alive with birdsong and the hum of insects. Maybe we are heading that way, slowly?

If you are interested in being more involved in making our garden more "alive", talk to Eddie Thomas.

Liz Gibney

Lent Talks: As from Wednesday 1st and on till 5th April, every Wednesday, at Christ Church, between 7-9pm a different speaker will be sharing their thoughts on "Who is Jesus Christ today?". There will also be a time to ask questions. Why not come along? There will be fliers with information on the speakers in the chapel.