



Faith – Hope – Love –  
Since 1972

# Immanuel Weekly News

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Our Minister is Revd Robert Jordan



Swindon Old Town Ecumenical  
Partnership Established 1969

We extend a warm welcome to everyone attending worship today

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Palm Sunday.

Intercession prayers led by David Leadbeater.

Bible Reading: Matthew 21; 1-11

Theme: Cloak Sunday!

**Next Sunday – Easter Day** Please bring a flower to decorate the cross.

## Prayers for

- The Wednesday Lent Meetings
- The homeless in Swindon
- Messy Church, meeting this afternoon
- Elders' Meeting
- The Church in Europe
- Famine in Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia where over 27 million people are suffering from extreme hunger
- Those experiencing tough times

## Illustration for today:



**Thought for the week:** *“The Church is the Church only when it exists for others . . . not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell people of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.”* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April is our next collection for the **Swindon Food Collective**.

We appreciate that times are hard but there are others really struggling to even put food on the table.

Please give what you can to ease their problems in the Lords name

## Our Memorial Book

We remember **Constance Elizabeth (Betty)**

**O’Grady, Ernie Arthur, and Cynthia Mary Chun**

whose names appears in our book this week praying for them and their family and friends who mourn them.



This Week’s Flowers are dedicated: “In loving memory of my Mother Muriel Baden” by Pat White. **Last week’s flowers** went to Rosina Virgilio, Helen Hancox and Janet Leadbeater

## Maundy Thursday Communion

Join us for Holy Communion, Feet Washing and a Soup Dinner. 7pm 6<sup>th</sup> April, Bath Road Methodist Church.

Please let Robert Jordan know if you are interested and if you have and special dietary requirements.

**Holy Week:** Maundy Thursday, the Agape meal at Bath Road with Communion at 19:00hs, Good Friday the three hour service at Christ Church between 12:00-15:00 where people can enter or leave on the half hour. Easter Day, dawn service at 5:30 at Holy Rood, the Lawns

Due to the Easter festival, the **Immanuel Prayer Circle** has changed its next meeting by one week to Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>. As usual we shall be in the small lounge from 2pm for up to an hour. Please send requests for prayer via a card on the prayer tree in the chapel or by any member of the group individually, including our Minister. Or come along yourself. We are always glad to welcome others. After this date the prayer Circle will meet on alternate Thursdays at 2pm throughout the summer months.

**Thank you:** You may have noticed the protection for the lawn at the front of the church to avoid cars parking on it, destroying the surface. A very BIG thank you to Derek Walker for having done all this. It looks really elegant.



**Steve Brain:** In an email to me he sends greetings to all at Immanuel. At midday it was 30C! He is having a good time.

I cannot let last week's **Passion Sunday** service pass without a huge 'Thankyou' to the Bible Readers, the Choir and Bryan Elkington for leading the worship.

I was quite overwhelmed by the number of folk who came up to me afterwards and said how wonderful and meaningful the service was. A number even thought it was too short. It was also very uplifting to see a larger number in the congregation.

Immanuel is fortunate to still have a choir of quality - even though our numbers have reduced following Covid - so thanks also to the three folk who joined us.

The only sadness for me, and I'm sure for those who were unable to be at the service, is the very poor quality of the recording. This has gone out on our website but does not do justice to the high standard of music performed as it is so badly distorted. *Geoff*

**“Join the family”:** If you are not a member of Immanuel URC, have you ever thought you could be? Membership is a firm step taken as an expression of commitment in the journey of faith.

#### Contact us:

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

If you would like to explore the matter, pick up a short booklet in the Chapel called **Join the Family**.

Please don't discard the idea without thinking and praying about it. (Robert)

**Worship and Outreach:** We are seeking two new members, who can support this group, we don't have too many meetings, and we try to think outside the box, so it usually is quite interesting. You might be just the person we are looking for! Let Robert know if you would like to join us.

**Lent Talks: These are about to conclude.** On 5<sup>th</sup> April, at Christ Church, between 7pm and 9pm “Who is Jesus Christ today?”. There will also be a time to ask questions. Why not come along? The Lent Talks will also be available to follow on Youtube, for those who use that. The link, which you can access already: <https://youtu.be/0aG1SPQhhco>

#### **Local and National Elections - Changes to the way we vote.**

Please remember

The way that we vote is changing. From 4 May 2023, voters will need to show photo ID at polling stations. Voter ID doesn't replace the need to register to vote – you will still need to register to vote at your current address, if you haven't already.

Great news! The national Eco Church/Arocha organisation has just sent its "**Congratulations to Immanuel on your Silver Eco Church Award**", following the recent updating of our original Bronze Award application by our Mini-Eco Church Sub-committee (Liz Gleed, Martin Styles & Eddie Thomas). This was largely achieved by the establishment of the wildlife area and planting fruit trees, undertaking wildlife surveys and by confirming that Immanuel already had an existing natural wetland area below the car park fed from groundwater and surface water storm run-off.