



Faith – Hope – Love –  
Since 1972

# Immanuel Weekly News

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April



Swindon Old Town Ecumenical  
Partnership Established 1969

Our Minister is Revd Robert Jordan

We extend a warm welcome to everyone attending worship today

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Easter Sunday**  
**Please bring a flower to decorate the cross**

Service led by Robert

Bible Reading: Matthew 28; 1-10

Theme: And he sat on it!

Chaplain: Paddy

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Communion**

Service led by Robert

Chaplain: Mike

## Our Memorial Book

We remember **Gordon John Burchell, Ashley John Smith, Roger Blake Farmer, David Kingsley Rebbeck, and Peter Donald Wallington** whose names appear in our book this week, we pray for them and their family and friends who mourn them.



## Prayers for

- The homeless in Swindon
- The Church in Africa
- Famine in Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia where over 27 million people are suffering from extreme hunger
- Refugees and homeless women, men and children
- Those experiencing tough times
- Those from whom we are estranged

## Illustration for today:



Cerezo Barredo

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

**Tea and chat:** Don't forget, next Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a good chat. See you then!

The flowers this week are given by Glenys and Derek Walker. **Last week's flowers** went to Shirley Cawte and Andrea Phillips

## 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.

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.

The **Church Meeting AGM** will be held on Thursday 27th April at 7.30pm at which the election of Elders will take place. Please make every effort to attend as, although only members can vote, everyone is able to participate in any discussions. We will also receive the annual reports from the minister and the elders.

**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.



**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.

**“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. 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)

**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.

**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.

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.

To get this "Silver" Award we had to reach at least the "Silver" standard in all five award "Categories." In fact, we have been told that we have already exceeded this in two of the Categories, as follows:

- Category 1:Worship & Teaching-Gold already.
- Category 2:Buildings-Silver.
- Category 3:Land-Gold already.
- Category 4:Community & Global Engagement-Silver.
- Category 5:Lifestyle-Silver.

Looking ahead to eventually "going for the Gold Award," we are under no illusion that this step will be very challenging to achieve. Especially in Category 2: Buildings because, for example, we cannot immediately justify replacing our existing relatively new gas boilers with a fully electrical (eco-neutral) system. However, all is not lost! At present we are investigating a range of other ways of improving our future environmental credentials on the Buildings, so if you have any ideas please let Liz, Martin or Eddie know.