

The Church in Warden Hill

A MESSAGE FROM REVD. IAIN MCLAREN

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for your warm welcome to Cheltenham. My dining room table is currently laden with cards from well-wishers. Thank you too to all who attended my virtual induction service via Zoom. I apologise that current circumstances mean I am not able to see more of you in person, but that time will come. In the meantime, I am getting to know my way around my immediate neighborhood in Up Hatherley and Warden Hill. I look forward to getting to know the rest of Cheltenham in due course.

My previous pastorate, where I served for over ten years, was a trinity of churches in south London. In some ways it was similar to Cheltenham URC: a larger URC, a smaller URC and a Local Ecumenical Partnership with the Church of England. The context however was very different. From the upper story of my manse in East Dulwich I could see the top of The Shard. From the upper floor of my manse here I can see open countryside. I look forward to learning more about the similarities and differences between the two pastorates during my time with you.

A shared experience for Christians throughout the UK this past year has been worship during lockdown. It has been unsettling for many people to be barred from attending worship in their familiar places of worship. However, this is not unprecedented. One of my London churches was struck by a bomb in 1940 and rendered unusable for the remainder of the war. However, the congregation was able to continue worshipping thanks to the hospitality offered by a nearby Church of Scotland. Whenever anyone from that church expressed the fear that a large repair bill might force the church to close, I would remind them of that story.

Lockdown has taught us that churches are first and foremost communities of people, and only secondly buildings. I would like to congratulate you all on keeping church life going during the pandemic. We have relearned the importance of good pastoral care. We have found ways to show love for our neighbors through practical actions to help people in need.

At the end of the Book of Genesis, Joseph says to his brothers: "Even though you intended to harm me, God intended it for good" (Genesis 50: 20). Christians are people of hope and so my prayer is that, as we come out of lockdown and enter the 'new normal', we might discern how God can yet bring good out of the harm of the past year.

Yours in Christ,

Iain

21 January 2021

Arrangements for Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Confirmation, Banns of Marriage, etc., should be made with Revd Gary Grady.

If you are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or in need of a pastoral visit please contact Clergy, Elders or Readers.

If you have anything for the Grapevine please send it to: grapevine@tcihw.org.uk by midday on Wednesday or call Brian Miles on 01242 862142.

Website: www.tciwh.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Cypher



The Church in Warden Hill
(Anglican & URC)

Welcome



THE GRAPEVINE 31st JANUARY 2021 CANDLEMAS

The Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

This Sunday

10am Holy Communion Live Stream from St Stephen's, Tivoli.
The president and preacher will be Revd Peter Quinnell.

This will be Fr Peter's last service before he retires.

You can join the live stream here:

www.facebook.com/pipandjims or www.stpetersleck.org

Readings: Hebrews 2.14-18 and Luke 2.22-40

Daily Devotional Readings

Morning Prayer will continue to be live-streamed at 9am during the week from:

www.facebook.com/pipandjims or www.stpetersleck.org

Monday

Psalm 1

Hosea 9

1 Corinthians 12.12–end

Wednesday

Psalm 119.1–32

Hosea 11.1–11

1 Corinthians 14.1–19

Friday

Psalm 19

Hosea 13.1–14

1 Corinthians 16.1–9

Tuesday

Psalm 5

Hosea 10

1 Corinthians 13

Thursday

Psalm 15

Hosea 11.12—end of 12

1 Corinthians 14.20–end

Saturday

Psalms 23

Hosea 14

1 Corinthians 16.10–end

The Church in Warden Hill

OPEN ECC MEETING—Wed 5th Feb at 7.30pm

You are invited to join the above meeting via Zoom. For security reasons, there will be an on-line waiting room, so join in good time and ensure you use a familiar name, else you may not be admitted: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81133834063> (the meeting ID is 811 3383 4063).

LIVE STREAMING

The following services will be live-streamed from one of our church buildings over the coming weeks:

31 st Jan – 10am	Holy Communion	St. Stephen's	Revd Peter
7th Feb – 10am	Holy Communion	St. Peter's	Bishop Robert
14th Feb – 10am	Holy Communion	St. Christopher's	Revd Nick
17th Feb – 10.30am	Ash Wed Communion	St. Peter's	Revd Gary
21st Feb – 10am	Holy Communion	St. Peter's	Revd John
28th Feb – 8am	BCP Holy Communion	St. Peter's	Revd Gary
28th Feb—10am	Morning Worship	Emmanuel	Revd Nick

ALL SERVICES/SERVICE SHEETS are available via www.stpetersleck.org or www.pipandjims.org.uk/online.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

The readings for Morning Prayer, and other resources, are available as a hard copy, download or as an app from: www.chpublishing.co.uk.

LENT COURSE

The South Cheltenham Team will be running a 5 week Lent course on the 'Message of the Parables' based on Paula Gooder's book 'The Parables' (no need to buy the book) beginning on Wed 24th Feb via Zoom at 7.30pm. Please email info@pipandjims.org.uk if you intend to attend, although not essential.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

It is the time of year when we empty the collecting boxes for the Children's Society and send the money to them to carry on with their amazing work for the children at risk in the UK. Would box holders please empty and count the contents of their box, bag it and either bring it to me at 8 Lincoln Avenue or take it to church on a Wednesday afternoon between 3 and 4 pm when I will pick it up. Many thanks. Margaret.

The Church in Warden Hill

PLEASE PRAY FOR all who are sick in body, mind or spirit: those who have recently died, and those who mourn their loss.

ALSO PRAY FOR wisdom for our leaders at this difficult time and patience as we continue with the restrictions of lockdown.

GIVE THANKS FOR the roll-out of the vaccine jabs and for the beginnings of spring: snowdrops in flower and emerging plants - signs of hope.

R.I.P. Geraldine Westerman, wife of Duncan our organist, died on 13th January.

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS

31st	Homeless & Unemployed	4th	Canterbury Walk & Norwich Drive
1st	Salisbury Avenue & Katharine Court	5th	Oxford Way & St. David's Close
2nd	Woodlands Road & Silverthorne Close	6th	St. Michael's Road & Wells Close
3rd	Winchester Way & Hazlewood Close	7th	Lincoln Avenue & Durham Close

LANTERN The joint February / March issue has been sent out by email to subscribers who have sent an e address to Alison. If you have not had a copy please contact lantern@tcivh.org.uk

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES and CELEBRATIONS let's celebrate together:

If you have a birthday this week—have a happy day.

Gary Grady and John Hutton both have a birthday on 1st February, Ann Johns has one on 5th and Margaret Jones on 7th. Have a happy day all four of you.

Please let me know of any future birthdays that we can celebrate together.

Brian Miles.

INDUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS if anyone managed to capture any photos of Iain's induction and are willing to share them, I would appreciate receiving them by email. Thank you

Brian Miles