

The Church in Warden Hill

Letter from Iain for 11th April 2021

'How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!' (Psalm 133: 1)
The psalm set in the Revised Common Lectionary for the Sunday after Easter this year is in praise of unity. A commitment to unity between Christians is in the very DNA of the United Reformed Church. The URC was created in 1972 when the Congregational Church in England and Wales and Presbyterian Church of England set aside longstanding rivalries to unite in one denomination. In 1981 we were joined by the Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ and, in 2000, by the Congregational Union of Scotland. Furthermore, the URC has been an enthusiastic participant in Local Ecumenical Partnerships with other denominations. Locally, Cheltenham URC is in partnership with the Church of England in The Church in Warden Hill.

However, unity is not an end in itself. Jesus himself gives the rationale for unity between Christians in the new commandment he gives at John 13: 34-35 – 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.' The Basis of Union of the URC recognises the witness of the universal Church has been fundamentally undermined by the failure of Christians to put this command of Jesus into practice: 'The United Reformed Church humbly recognises that the failure and weakness of the Church have in particular been manifested in division which has made it impossible for Christians fully to know, experience and communicate the life of the one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church. The United Reformed Church has been formed in obedience to the call to repent of what has been amiss in the past and to be reconciled.' This Christian unity based on mutual love, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation is profoundly countercultural. Modern 'cancel culture' seems to prize strident assertions of 'my truth' and encourages the demonisation of anyone holding an opposing viewpoint. The starting point for conversations about Christian unity, on the other hand, is that we have all sinned and so all need to repent of the sin of disunity. This implies a readiness to compromise and a willingness to see the good in the other. Human pride makes this difficult and so Christian unity comes not through human effort alone, but is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,
Iain

Arrangements for Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Confirmation, Banns of Marriage, etc., should be made with Revd Gary Grady or Revd Iain McLaren
If you are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or in need of a pastoral visit please contact Clergy, Elders or Readers.
Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Cypher
If you have anything for the Grapevine please send it to
Edna Willox (grapevine@tcivh.org.uk Tel 510773) by midday on Wednesday.
Church website: www.tciwh.org.uk



The Church in Warden Hill
(Anglican & URC)

Welcome



THE GRAPEVINE 11th APRIL 2021 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Morning Worship will be held at St. Christopher's at 10.30am
and will be led by Revd Iain McLaren

Readings: Psalm 133 & Acts 4: 32-35

Hymns:

289 To God be the glory

90 O Lord, all the world belongs to you

565 Jesus, stand among us

453 Let us talents and tongues employ

Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. Amen

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer will resume at 9am at St. Christopher's on a Tuesday and at St. Peter's on a Thursday. It will be livestreamed each weekday via www.facebook.com/pipandjims or www.stpetersleck.org

Services for April

11th	10.30am	URC Holy Communion	Revd Iain McLaren
18th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rachel Tarling
25th	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Gary Grady

The Church in Warden Hill

WE WELCOME REVD IAIN MCLAREN

who is leading our worship today, including Holy Communion

AGM is NEXT SUNDAY at St. Christopher's following the service, or Zoom in via: <https://zoom.us/join> with meeting ID: 842 3024 0380 (there will be a waiting room, so those joining will need to use their full name to join). Nomination forms for Churchwardens and ECC Members are available in the entrance room. They can be handed in to Richard Neale or at the meeting to Revd Gary Grady. Paper copies of the reports are available at the back of church or on the church website.

APCM is postponed until July.

TRACK AND TRACE SLIPS

It is of great help if you bring in slips of paper with your name and phone number on each Sunday and place them in the box provided. There is also a QR code which you can scan, using the mobile phone app, in all of our buildings.

OPEN FOR PRAYER

St. Christopher's is open to visit for prayer on a **Wednesday** from 2-4pm. A max. of 6 persons are allowed in at any one time and there is 2m social distancing. Thank you to all who have stewarded thus far and to all who have visited since reopening.

FOODBANK

Contributions are always very welcome for those in need; the collecting box is at the back of the church.

LANTERN - APRIL ISSUE

There are printed copies of the April Lantern available at St. Christopher's. No need to try and make payment, we will collect payments later in the year.

TEAM NEWS

I wanted to let you know that for the next few months Cheltenham Network Church (CNC) and Emmanuel will be worshipping together on Sunday mornings at Emmanuel church. The leadership of both churches recently decided that this would be a good way to share resources over the coming months and to enable each congregation to support one another as each discerns their sense of calling. During this time, Revd Sarah will continue to lead CNC and I will continue to chair the PCC at Emmanuel and work with them and the wider team as we look towards advertising for a new Team Vicar in the autumn. **Revd Nick Davies.**

The Church in Warden Hill

PLEASE PRAY FOR all who are sick in body, mind or spirit, that they might know God's healing love; those who are now in God's nearer presence, and families and friends who mourn their loss.

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR our country as we continue to ease the lockdown restrictions - and for those businesses still unable to open.

GIVE THANKS FOR the signs of spring around us and look closely at the beauty of plants - even those growing in pavement cracks.

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS

11th	Farmfield Road & David French Close	15th	Dinas Close & Dinas Road
12th	Warden Hill Close & Friars Close	16th	Alma Road & Caernarvon Road
13th	Warden Hill Road & Warren Close	17th	Chelmsford & Hidcote Avenues
14th	Gwernant Road & Bala Road	18th	Davallia Drive & Crythan Walk

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES and CELEBRATIONS let's celebrate together: Janet Wilkinson has a birthday on the 11th April
Please let me know of any future birthdays that we can celebrate together.
Brian Miles.

EASTER GREETINGS are sent by 31 members and friends of Cheltenham URC through the video card put together by Sandra Jeans. The link is <https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2F5N88Y0NCeTQ&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca565f06d03e3412fb72608d8f5112905%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637528801332953025%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=fs71WZ0F3UTANQ4%2F2%2BnKdfIhvhDZ4rF%2BclLR4%2BQbH6E%3D&reserved=0>