



**DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE**



**ISSUE 83
JULY & AUGUST 2026**

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*Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of
the Elders and Members of Downing Place United Reformed Church*

Front cover image - Sanctuary pillar detail by StillVision Photography

Unless indicated otherwise, photos are taken by Jess Uden



LETTER FROM A MINISTER



Photo by David Iliff CC BY-SA 3.0

On Sunday 21 June, I was one of a large congregation at Ely Cathedral for the installation of the 70th Bishop of Ely, Sarah Clark. Appropriately the date was St Etheldreda's Day, commemorating the Queen, Foundress and First Abbess of Ely. We had waited around two years for this day, since the translation of Bishop Stephen to Lincoln, I was attending because of my former role in the diocesan groups to look after the links with the Nordkirche in Germany and Vellore in South India. It was a characteristically grand Anglican occasion and very hot; but the cathedral is rarely more than warm. I was reminded as we processed from the West Door just how long the nave of Ely Cathedral is. So I hope I may be forgiven if I devote this letter to our relations with fellow

Churches locally, regionally and internationally.

It is one of the faults of the English Free Churches that historically they have taken very little interest in the life of other protestant Churches in Europe and virtually no interest in Catholic or Orthodox Churches. To some extent Downing Place and the traditions from which our present congregation comes have been exceptions to this, partly because of long-standing commitment to overseas missions, our inherited partnership link with the Church of the Palatinate in Germany, and personal links with the Waldensians in Italy. We also have members or former members who have spent varying lengths of time overseas and made personal friendships with Christians abroad. But how many of us can name our local Anglican (or Catholic) parish priest? How many of us have attended an (ordinary) weekly act of worship in another church in the area where we live?

Do we have any sense of being 'one Church' with those from other traditions? Remember the words of the Apostle John, 'Whoever does not love the brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he not seen' (1 John 4.20.) I have had the feeling more or less since I came to Cambridge in 1961 that we no

longer have the sense of knowing about the lives of Christians in other parts of the world as we did when I was young. That is ironic given how much contact I have been privileged to have over the years with Churches in other places, still counting many of their members as friends, even close friends. I may also be exaggerating what I felt as a boy.

But the world has changed in many ways since then. Not all those ways have been for the better. Because of rising geographical mobility, what we used to regard as ‘other people’s problems’ increasingly intrude on our space, not least religiously. Here the Middle East remains central. Conflict between Israelis and Arabs affects the prices of the fuel we put in our cars; Israeli settlers are increasingly attacking Christian settlements on the West Bank. There are signs of internal conflicts between Israeli Jews and those who live in Europe, and even North America, hitherto the most resolute supporters of Israel - still at the stage of cross words rather than violent expression for the most part. But though apparently surrounded by so many reasons for anxiety, the word that comes to us very clearly from the New Testament is that hope must be our guide in living through these times.

Enjoy the time for a holiday and/or a rest. If you are in a new place, take the chance to visit a local community, and meet some new people. May God bless all of us, especially those we know who are facing illness or uncertainty.

David Thompson



*St Paul's Church,
Hills Road
photo by N Chadwick CC
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*St Bene't's Church,
Bene't Street
photo by Reading Tom,
CC BY-SA 2.0*



*OLEM Church,
Hills Road
photo by Verbcatcher
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TONY BOOTH: 1931-2026



In the May 2026 *Place Matters*, Pippa Jones wrote:

Members will be sad to hear of the death of Tony Booth at the age of 95, on Saturday 18th April. He died peacefully in his sleep. He will be very fondly remembered, along with his wife, Pat, who died in November 2021. Shortly after that, Tony moved to Baldock to be nearer Paul, one of his sons, and he became a member of the URC there.

Tony was born on 10th March 1931, and went to school at Epsom College before reading engineering at London University. In 1958 he married Pat, a doctor – they had two sons and a daughter. Tony's work with the electronics company Philips entailed a spell in Canada. In time he moved from engineering to sales, as he believed he was more suited to marketing. On returning to the UK in 1970, Tony worked for Pye in Cambridge. Tired of weekly business travel, he was appointed Bursar at the King's School Ely in 1973. The school had expansive plans under a new headmaster. Together they turned it around from being in debt to a thriving, successful business.



Tony and Pat were very good tennis players, and they both enjoyed music. They became members of St Columba's URC, acting as covenant treasurers for some years. Tony expressed strong opinions on some topics at Church Meeting. He came well-prepared, but when he did not agree with the final decision, he graciously accepted the democratic vote.

Tony was a wonderful carer to Pat during her onset of Alzheimer's Disease, and he nursed her at home with the help of carers until her death. Friends and acquaintances were struck by his kindness and good humour. As one of them wrote, "He was a true gentleman".

Tony adapted well to life in a care home in Baldock, where he took up painting. His pictures were on display in the public areas. He enjoyed visits and phone calls from Downing Place friends in his new surroundings. He shared a birthdate with Ailsa Buchanan; shared birthday greetings had been enjoyed for decades, and now at Baldock, over the phone until his hearing deteriorated and phone conversations became impossible. He loved the church in Cambridge and every visit by his pastoral visitor, Tony Spring, comprised of sharing the latest news and how Nigel Uden was getting on. After visiting each of the local churches in Baldock he eventually found Baldock URC to which he transferred his membership, attending most weeks with a family friend, enjoying good fellowship there and ensuring that they improved their amplification system.

Tony's funeral was on May 11th, at North Herts Crematorium, in Hitchin. Let us remember Tony's family in our prayers.

With thanks to several Downing Place URC members, and to Paul Booth, for their contributions to this tribute.

Photos taken by the Booth family

PRAYER MEETING

Our next Prayer Meeting will be on Wednesday 9th July at 10.15am in the St Columba's Chapel. Do come along if you would like to.

Please note that there will be no Prayer Meeting in August.

As many of us spend more time at home, away on holiday, or enjoying a different rhythm over the summer months, we encourage everyone to continue making space for prayer. Whether it's a few quiet moments each day, praying during a walk, or gathering with family and friends, let's keep bringing our church, community, and world before God.

THE 2026 CAMBRIDGE VOLUNTEER FAIR – AT DOWNING PLACE

Chris Trevorrow writes:

On behalf of Support Cambridgeshire, I am delighted to share the success of the Cambridge Volunteer Fair held at Downing Place on Saturday 25th April – and to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Downing Place URC community for making it possible.



The event brought together 43 community organisations and 310 members of the public, all connected by a shared desire to make a difference. Throughout the day, the church building was filled with energy and conversation, with stallholders describing a “buzzing” atmosphere and praising the friendliness of the setting.

Over the course of the event, there were more than 1,000 conversations between charities and visitors. Encouragingly, 574 people expressed interest in volunteering, and 59 signed up on the day – a clear indication of both the need and the willingness within our community to get involved.

Feedback from both organisations and attendees highlighted several key strengths. Many commented on the wide variety of causes represented, the opportunity to speak directly with charities, and the positive, welcoming atmosphere. The contribution of refreshments and the comfort of the space helped make these conversations easier and more enjoyable, encouraging people to stay longer and engage more deeply.



Stallholders also valued the opportunity to connect with one another, building partnerships and sharing ideas that will strengthen the voluntary sector across Cambridge. One participant described it as “the best event for volunteers I’ve attended,” reflecting the overall high

level of satisfaction.

Importantly, the impact of the day is continuing beyond the event itself. Several organisations have already reported follow-up enquiries and new volunteers coming forward as a direct result of conversations held at the fair. **The event's success was built on partnership.** The support of your church enabled us to offer an accessible, welcoming environment where people felt comfortable exploring how they could contribute to their community.

Thank you once again for your kindness, hospitality, and commitment to the local community. We very much hope to continue to work together in the future.

This link will take you to a recording from Downing Place URC, with Fair stall holders sharing their views of the day <https://youtu.be/u3zFKYIKnRo?si=7BvWsBDYBT7Ja4NT>



Support Cambridgeshire is an infrastructure support charity formed by a recent merger between Cambridge CVS and Hunts Forum. We offer support to community groups, charities and social enterprises across the county. Our services include guidance and training around fundraising, governance and support for volunteer recruitment and management – this includes our online brokerage platform [Volunteer Cambs | VolunteerCambs!](#) – matching volunteer opportunities with the people interested in volunteering.

A MINISTRY AMONG REFUGEES

Revd Norman Setchell

After serving as Minister at Victoria Road URC, I applied for a job with the British Sailors' Society in the Port of Antwerp in Belgium.

For just under five years I was Port Chaplain among other Christian Chaplains from Holland, Germany, Sweden and Norway. Barbara and I lived in a flat in Antwerp and I was provided with a minibus to collect seafarers from any number of cargo and containers ships docking in the large port. We welcomed them at the Mission and even ran football matches between crews of so many nationalities.

Barbara and I worshipped at an American/British church in a school building near the port. During the trips visiting crews on board, I found the living conditions very dire in many cases.

Some of the crews from African vessels were committed Christians. One vessel from Nigeria was in dry dock for three weeks, and I got to know all the crew really well. This crew were committed in their faith and held Bible studies at sea, whatever the weather conditions! One Sunday I met the crew and as they came ashore I noticed all had broken or damaged sandals or flip flops, but each man had a well read Bible in their hand. The ship revisited a month later and the ship's cook- Bobby, a Muslim - asked to be baptised as a Christian, and what followed is unforgettable, especially as Bobby asked to be renamed Paul.

As the months went by I became aware of the mafia working in many ships, but despite that we managed to welcome several men who came ashore pleading for help and asylum. These were the first refugees I met and worked with providing help and shelter and legal help. A particular crew from Algeria were desperate to leave the company as their conditions were very bad. This was in 1996. In 1997 we returned to the UK and I was inducted as minister of St. Columba URC in Dover, as part-time Port Chaplain. That was the time of the Kosovan crisis and many refugees arrived. This was also the time of the 9/11 US disaster of the Twin Towers catastrophe. Many asylum seekers came to ask for help and I asked the Elders if we could open a welcoming centre at the church, and we began to

welcome large numbers of men, women and children from many nationalities. We provided legal help, advice, clothes and food and English teaching. A support group was established and we received help from all denominations in Dover and other volunteers, including a wonderful group of nuns from the convent who were so compassionate and caring.

There was so much to do and I didn't want to leave but I was invited to be a Hospital Chaplain in Margate from 2003. But the work went on, and even in Margate I met new families from Burundi and Afghanistan who became close friends and gained British Citizenship.

Looking at the refugee situation that we are all aware of today it is too easy to get caught up in the impulse that leads to rejection. If I have learned anything from my experiences in Antwerp and Dover, it is that people all have stories to tell and special needs. It is almost impossible to work with everyone and hope to cope well as a Christian. I found the best way to cope as carer, friend and helper is to work with one family or up to three at most and really get to know them and see them as people, rather than a racial problem. Our churches still sadly reflect negative views to people of colour and this is not as it should be. As one body of Christ we must look at our own weaknesses as well as strengths and thank Almighty God through His Son Jesus Christ for forgiving us and inspiring us so we can welcome all strangers.

In my recent work among Companions at Emmaus I find the same problems when someone cries for a new start, and to feel accepted, especially in church.



AN INSIGHT INTO OUR RECENT JUNIOR CHURCH SESSIONS

During Sharing Together on Trinity Sunday, we were offered several examples to help us understand the meaning of ‘God in three persons’. The same water flowing from its source to the sea can take the form of a stream, a waterfall or a wide river. Looking at a bicycle wheel, God could be viewed as the hub, Jesus as the spokes reaching from the hub out into the world and back again, and the Holy Spirit as the air in the tyre: unseen, yet holding the wheel together. In Junior Church, we looked at Matthew 28:16–20, which encourages us to play a part in spreading the good news of Jesus far and wide. We reflected on how the Holy Spirit gives us the courage to be bold and brave. To demonstrate the effect of passing on a message, we dropped pebbles into a container of water and watched the ripples spread. We also built a domino run, observing how each tile knocked over the next. As craft activities, we plaited Trinity bracelets using three different colours of wool and used paint to reveal an ‘invisible message’, reminding us that although Jesus is unseen, he is always with us through the Holy Spirit. After looking at the same passage from Matthew, the older group reflected on Jesus’ instructions to the disciples. We linked these to the Five Marks of Mission (Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure) and discussed how we see them in action both locally and around the world.



The following week, after hearing the story of Jesus calling Matthew to be his disciple, we thought about the hopes Matthew might have had as he began this new journey. We then shared our own hopes for the term ahead and for the summer. The next part of Matthew’s Gospel told us about other people who turned to Jesus in hope. Inspired by these stories, we made ‘hope boxes’, decorating them and filling them with items that reminded us of the hope we have in Jesus. Each box included a small figure carrying the message, ‘Jesus loves you’. We may even have hidden a few around the church building for people to discover.

In the middle of June, we began by discussing the items we might take with us on a journey. We then read Matthew 9, where Jesus sends out the disciples to share the good news. He instructs them not to take a travel bag, money, a walking stick or a spare shirt, but instead to rely on the kindness and hospitality of others. The disciples were certainly being asked to step outside their comfort zones, which

led us to talk about times when we had done something difficult for the first time. To conclude, each child designed a heraldic shield bearing the words 'God is with me'. They decorated it with animals representing something important to them, reminding us that God accompanies us wherever we go.

Elza de Bruin, Lorraine Thornton and Jess Uden, with thanks to all the leaders and helpers for their contributions to the work of Junior Church.

CHRISTIAN AID SUPPORTERS TEA



Our annual tea for Christian Aid supporters in and around Cambridge is coming up.

When: Saturday 18th July, 3 till 5

Where: St. Luke's church, Victoria Road (parking available in the Church car park, Church is also near the number 8 bus stop!)

Why?: to meet other Christian Aid Supporters, to find out how Christian Aid Week 2026 went, to enjoy a chat over tea and cake

Please put it in the diary, and come along on 18th, July. All welcome!



Photo by Yaruslav Shumakov on Pexels

DOWNING PLACE URC SPECIAL CAUSE

JULY 2026: HOPE FOR JUSTICE



Hope for Justice is an international charity founded in 2008, now working across five continents. Its mission is to **bring an end to modern slavery and human trafficking** and to protect the human rights of victims and survivors. It not only helps victims and survivors directly, but works with governments, law enforcement agencies and the general public to bring about change.

Hope for Justice's approach to ending slavery is:

- **Identifying victims.** Investigators and outreach teams work closely with law enforcement and other agencies to identify victims and build bridges of trust and get them out.
- **Supporting survivors.** We provide world class survivor aftercare, meeting needs and giving the best chance for justice to be done.
- **Preventing exploitation.** Through education and community empowerment, we help families and vulnerable people to protect themselves from traffickers.
- **Making an impact.** We train others on the front line, police, health care workers, charity workers and many more to spot the signs of modern slavery and to respond effectively. We work with government agencies to create change.

155,137 children and adults were reached by the work of Hope for Justice last year and their recent projects such as:

- A community prevention project running in **Uganda** has helped free siblings from forced child labour

- Several projects in the **USA** are freeing women from co-dependency on sex work traffickers. It is estimated that 6.3. million people are forced into commercial sexual exploitation across the world.
- The Canaan lighthouse project has rescued children in **Ethiopia** from being trafficked into forced labour and drug abuse.

WAYS OF GIVING TO OUR SPECIAL CAUSE

- ◆ Special Collection at worship on Sunday 19th July 2026 (cash, cheque or card)
- ◆ Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts (cash or card)
- ◆ Direct to the church bank account (reference SPECIAL CAUSE)
- ◆ Via [Home - Downing Place URC](#) - the '**Donate**' button is on the homepage. Select **Special Donations** as the fund
- ◆ Directly to Hope for Justice via their website [Hope for Justice | Bringing freedom from modern slavery](#)

"Without Hope for Justice I don't know what would have happened to me or where I would be. If you didn't help me, maybe I wouldn't be alive. I want to say a big thank you to everyone who supports Hope for Justice. In fact, 'Thank you' is not enough to express my gratitude for what you have done and for all your help."

Anna*, forced to work in a factory for six months without pay, living in horrendous conditions. Today, she is happily married and working, and her traffickers are in prison. (name changed to protect the survivor's identity)

"Operation Fort was the largest prosecution of its type in the UK. We were able to dismantle a large criminal network and prevent the exploitation of hundreds of victims. Without the tireless and dedicated work of Hope for Justice, we quite simply would not have been able to... achieve the result we did."

DCI Nick Dale, senior investigating officer on Operation Fort for West Midlands Police, speaking after eight members of a trafficking gang were sentenced to 55 years in jail

DOWNING PLACE URC SPECIAL CAUSE

Ebola Emergency Appeal

AUGUST 2026: CHRISTIAN AID EBOLA APPEAL

August's Special Cause is always decided at the last minute to enable us to respond to any unforeseen emergencies.

This year one emergency stands out among the many in need of help.

The **Ebola outbreak** in the Democratic Republic of Congo is deeply troubling. There is as yet no treatment or vaccine to protect against the highly infectious Bundibugyo strain of Ebola. Cases are rising fast. The only way of combatting it is by preventing its spread - strict isolation of cases and of the remains of victims, which are still dangerous.

This work is especially difficult in the DRC. Its society has been weakened by conflict for decades, there is poverty, hunger, and a huge number of displaced people. Clean water and adequate sanitation are scarce. Now the Ebola outbreak comes to deepen this humanitarian crisis.

The DRC borders nine countries: these borders are porous, and the Ebola virus has already spread to Uganda. Help is urgently needed to prevent a wider disaster. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared a public health emergency of international concern.

So in August you are invited to support the **Christian Aid Appeal** for the Ebola crisis in the DRC.

Christian Aid is working with Church based partners who led the response to the 2019 Ebola outbreak and the 2025 Mpox crisis. They know the communities, the trusted messengers and the channels that stop transmission.

Trusted pastors and priests are amplifying health messages and challenging misinformation. Community health workers are reaching churches, schools and markets with information and equipment that helps families stay safe.

This is a moment that calls for both urgency and generosity. Please support this

Appeal and pray for the victims, the health workers, and the Churches who support them.

WAYS OF GIVING TO OUR SPECIAL CAUSE

- ◆ Special Collection at worship on Sunday 21st August 2026 (cash, cheque or card)
- ◆ Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts (cash or card)
- ◆ Direct to the church bank account (reference SPECIAL CAUSE)
- ◆ Via [Home - Downing Place URC](#) - the 'Donate' button is on the homepage. Select **Special Donations** as the fund
- ◆ Directly to Christian Aid via the website:
[Donate to the Ebola outbreak 2026: Emergency Appeal - Christian Aid](#)



Loving God, you see us and know us.

You are present with us in times of suffering.

We pray to you for all people affected by the Ebola outbreak.

Comfort those who are ill, Sustain those who grieve,

Watch over those who deliver care.

We pray for the safety and health of our partners and medical staff as they treat those affected.

We pray for strength for communities and families in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda.

We pray that breakthroughs will come swiftly as new vaccines and treatments are developed. We pray that the world would unite to take action and to support our global neighbours.

Loving God, we ask this in Jesus' name

Amen

Copyright - Christian Aid

www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ebola-emergency-appeal

RELAXED SUMMER HOUSE GROUPS



<https://www.magnific.com/photos/creative-community/11>

By popular demand, these will follow the ideas and pattern of last year, with informal conversation around the following themes.

Participation is optional - being present and listening is fine - this is a further opportunity to get to know one another better.

Theme: Encouragement and Nourishment: People, Places and Things.

Week one - a person who has encouraged, inspired or helped us

Week two - a place which has nourished us

Week three - an object we can bring along and share how it has been significant in our lives and offered us encouragement

Week 4 - food to share to nourish each other - and sharing of what nourishes us in our faith journey.

4 Tuesday afternoons, 2.30-4pm, in the Macalister Room, in the Group Therapy Centre at Downing Place URC, enabled by Zoe Bennett & Deborah McVey.

21st and 28th July; 4th and 11th August

A lift can be offered - don't be afraid to ask.

Penny Flynn

Voices of Hope and Compassion

A free concert in support of refugees



Sunday 28 June, 4pm to 5.30pm
Cambridge Corn Exchange

All welcome,
free and
unticketed
event!



Hosted by Michael Rosen performing on stage alongside choirs, poets, musicians, and drama and dance groups from Cambridge schools.

Voluntary donations welcomed at the event to support Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum's Refugee Hardship Fund and Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group.



Refugee Week



'Having beaten my typewriter into a ploughshare,
I shall never be able to face going back to town life.'

Call me John



Enid Barraud went from capital to
cornfield, living with war, disability,
and as a man.

**Words, sounds and images from
the life of a WWII Land Army girl.
Devised, written and performed
by Jane Bower**

Comments on Jane Bower's previous productions:

*Congratulations on a mammoth effort – your
technique is excellent, the line between reading
and telling is often impossible to discern.*

— Alan Bennett, after *A Letter from Paul*

*...masterly. I should have known from the
quality of your writing that your acting would
be as good. Bravo.*

— Maureen Lipman, after *My Name with Yours*

*The concept and delivery is masterful.
Integrity, talent and love run through it
like Blackpool rock.*

— Diane Sammons, after *Daddy's Diaries*



DOWNING
PLACE URC

THURS 9 JULY 2026, 7.30 PM

DOWNING PLACE CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 3EL

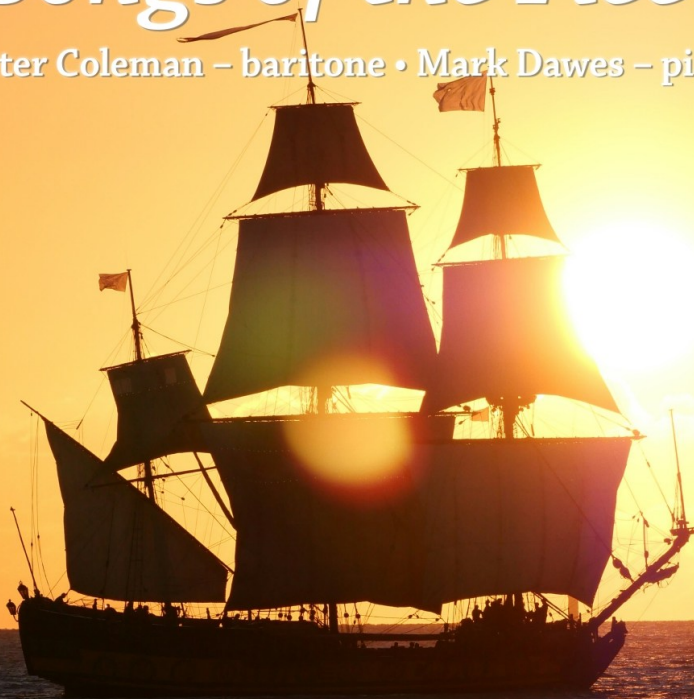
TICKETS: £12 (PROFITS TO DOWNING PLACE CHURCH)

<https://downingplaceurc.churchsuite.com/events/2fd6ohnc>

The Cantilena **CS** Singers

Stanford
Songs of the Fleet

Peter Coleman – baritone • Mark Dawes – piano



Saturday 11 July 4pm
Downing Place URC
Cambridge CB2 3EL

Admission £10 on the door • under 18s free

www.cantilenasingers.org.uk

Bread not Bombs

Bread Making-Workshop

by Petra Tucker

18 July 12pm to 3pm

St. Laurence Parish Rooms

91 Milton Rd.



Bread from Palestine - Sudan and Ukraine.

Participation £15 per person.

The workshop is followed by a meal of bread and appropriate dips.

**Limited places available, tickets from
Arn Dekker,
tel 01223 861772
zarndekker@gmail.com**



Organised by:
Justice and Peace Group
Pax Christi, Cambridge



JULY & AUGUST DIARY

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Wed	01-July-26	No Lunchtime Concert	-	-
Wed	01-July-26	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	4:00pm	The Hub
Thu	02-July-26	Midweek Worship led by the Reverend David Tatem	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	02-July-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Fri	03-July-26	General Assembly of the United Reformed Church begins (runs until 6 July)	-	The Hayes Conference Centre
Sun	05-July-26	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Main Church
Sun	05-July-26	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion, led by The Reverend Chris Baker	11:00am	Main Church
Tue	07-July-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2.30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	08-July-26	Lunchtime Concert - Yixiang Chen (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church
Wed	08-July-26	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	4:00pm	The Hub
Thu	09-July-26	Prayer Meeting	10:15am	St Columba's Chapel
Thu	09-July-26	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion, led by the Reverend Professor David Thompson	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	09-July-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	09-July-26	Call Me John - a play by Jane Bower	7:30pm	Main Church
Sat	11-July-26	The Cantilena Singers concert. All proceeds for the benefit of Downing Place URC	4pm	Main Church
Sun	12-July-26	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Main Church
Sun	12-July-26	Sunday Worship, led by The Reverend Professor David Thompson	11:00am	Main Church

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Tue	14-July-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2.30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	15-July-26	Lunchtime Concert - Ruihan Wu (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church
Wed	15-July-26	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	4:00pm	The Hub
Thu	16-July-26	Midweek Worship led by the Reverend Dr David Cornick	11am	Main Church
Thu	16-July-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	16-July-26	Elder's Meeting	7.30pm	The Thornton's Home
Sun	19-July-26	Choir Rehearsal	10.00am	Main Church
Sun	19-July-26	Sunday Worship, led by The Reverend David Tatem	11am	Main Church
Sun	19-July-26	Retiring Collection for Monthly Cause	12.00pm	Main Church
Sun	19-July-26	Church Meeting	12.30pm	Main Church
Sun	19-July-26	Open Table Service	6pm for 6:30pm	Main Church
Tue	21-July-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2.30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Tue	21-July-26	Summer House Groups	2.30pm	Macalister Room
Wed	22-July-26	No Lunchtime Concert	-	-
Wed	22-July-26	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	4:00pm	The Hub
Thu	23-July-26	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion, led by the Reverend Dr Janet Tollington	11am	Main Church
Thu	23-July-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	26-July-26	No Choir Rehearsal	-	-
Sun	26-July-26	Sunday Worship, led by The Reverend Dr David Cornick	11am	Main Church
Sun	26-July-26	Solidarity Hub	6pm	The Hub
Tue	28-July-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2.30pm	St Athanasios' Church

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Tue	28-July-26	Summer House Groups	2:30pm	Macalister Room
Wed	29-July-26	Lunchtime Concert - Erina Ishiyama (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church
Wed	29-July-26	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	4:00pm	The Hub
Thu	30-July-26	Midweek Worship led by Dr Alan Rickard	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	30-July-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	2-Aug-26	No Choir Rehearsal	-	-
Sun	2-Aug-26	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion, led by The Reverend Dr Janet Tollington	11:00am	Main Church
Mon	3-Aug-26	Officers Meeting	10.15am	Room 3
Tue	4-Aug-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Tue	4-Aug-26	Summer House Groups	2:30pm	Macalister Room
Wed	5-Aug-26	Lunchtime Concert - Lucrezia Merolla (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church
Wed	5-Aug-26	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	4:00pm	The Hub
Thu	6-Aug-26	Midweek Worship led by the Reverend Deborah McVey	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	6-Aug-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	9-Aug-26	No Choir Rehearsal	-	-
Sun	9-Aug-26	Sunday Worship, led by Dr Janet Bottoms	11:00am	Main Church
Tue	11-Aug-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Tue	11-Aug-26	Summer House Groups	2:30pm	Macalister Room
Wed	12-Aug-26	Lunchtime Concert - Hazel Keelan (violin) & Flora Tzanetaki (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Thu	13-Aug-26	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion, led by the Reverend Professor David Thompson	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	13-Aug-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	16-Aug-26	No Choir Rehearsal	-	-
Sun	16-Aug-26	Sunday Worship, led by The Reverend Deborah McVey	11:00am	Main Church
Sun	16-Aug-26	Retiring Collection for Monthly Cause	12.00pm	Main Church
Sun	16-Aug-26	Open Table Service	6pm for 6:30pm	Main Church
Tue	18-Aug-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	19-Aug-26	Lunchtime Concert - Peter Mallinson and Matthias Wiesner (violas)	1:00pm	Main Church
Wed	19-Aug-26	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	4:00pm	The Hub
Thu	20-Aug-26	Midweek Worship led by Penny Flynn	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	20-Aug-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	23-Aug-26	No Choir Rehearsal	-	-
Sun	23-Aug-26	Sunday Worship, led by The Reverend Professor David Thompson	11:00am	Main Church
Sun	23-Aug-26	Solidarity Hub	6pm	The Hub
Tue	24-Aug-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	25-Aug-26	Knit One Give One - Bric-A-Brac to School Sale	10:30am	The Hub
Wed	25-Aug-26	Lunchtime Concert - Alice Bishop (soprano) and Timothy Peake (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church
Wed	25-Aug-26	Concrete Rose Care Leavers Hub	4:00pm	The Hub
Thu	26-Aug-26	Knit One Give One - Bric-A-Brac to School Sale	10:30am	The Hub

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Thu	26-Aug-26	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion, led by the Reverend Dr Janet Tollington	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	26-Aug-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	30-Aug-26	No Choir Rehearsal	-	-
Sun	30-Aug-26	Sunday Worship, led by The Reverend Dr David Cornick	11:00am	Main Church
Mon	31-Aug-26	Bank Holiday - Downing Place URC Building Closed	All Day	-
Tue	1-Sept-26	Officers' Meeting	10.15am	Room 3
Tue	1-Sept-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2:30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Tue	1-Sept-26	Worship, Discipleship & Spirituality Group Meeting	7:30pm	Online
Wed	2-Sept-26	Lunchtime Concert - Mihaly Gyorfi (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church
Thu	3-Sept-26	Midweek Worship led by Dr Janet Bottoms	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	3-Sept-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub



MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE IN JULY & AUGUST



Photo taken by StillVision Photography

5 July

Penny Flynn - Melbourn URC
David Thompson – Fulbourn URC

12 July

Janet Tollington – Buntingford URC

19 July

Janet Tollington – Thaxted URC
Elizabeth Caswell - Fulbourn URC
Chris Baker – Stetchworth & Cheveley URC

26 July

Deborah McVey – St Luke’s Church
Janet Tollington – Chappell URC (PM)
Elisabeth Caswell – Stetchworth & Cheveley URC

2 August

Penny Flynn – Melbourn URC
Chris Baker – St Ives URC

9 August

Janet Tollington – Saffron Walden URC
Penny Flynn – St Ives URC

16 August

David Thompson – Fulbourn URC
Janet Tollington – Bassingbourn URC

23 August

Janet Tollington – Water Lane URC, Bishop Stortford
Janet Bottoms – Fulbourn URC
Elisabeth Caswell – Melbourn URC
Chris Baker – Christchurch, Newmarket

30 August

Janet Tollington – Fulbourn URC
Chris Baker – St Ives



St Ives URC, photo taken by David Bartlett CC BY-SA 2.0

LECTIONARY FOR JULY

These are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary, as in ROOTS, the material used by our Children's Ministry team.

They may be altered if that is the preacher's wish.



5 July

(Trinity 5)

Genesis 24:34-38,
42-49,58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 or
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19,25-30

19 July

(Trinity 7)

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12,23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

12 July

(Trinity 6)

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

26 July

(Trinity 8)

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11,45b or
Psalm 128
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST

These are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary, as in
ROOTS, the material used by our Children's Ministry team.

They may be altered if that is the preacher's wish.

2 August

(Trinity 9)

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

16 August

(Trinity 11)

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm 133

Romans 11:1-2a,29-32

Matthew 15:(10-20),21-28

9 August

(Trinity 10)

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45b

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

23 August

(Trinity 12)

Exodus 1:8–2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

30 August

(Trinity 13)

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6,

23-26, 45b

Romans 12:9-21



The Cam, from the Fort St George Bridge

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ITEMS FOR MAGAZINE:

Please send items to the Editor and Jess Uden

- preferably by email (see above)

WEB EDITOR: Jess Uden jess@downingplaceurc.org

Please send items to be included in the September edition
no later than **18th August 2026**