



DOWNING PLACE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE

PLACE MATTERS



ISSUE 85
OCTOBER 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*

Photos on the front and back covers, and below taken by David Flynn



LETTER FROM A MEMBER – DAVID REYNOLDS

Editor: with Downing Place URC ‘in vacancy’, I am grateful to those church members, lay and ordained, who agreed to my request that they write something for readers in Place Matters, much as our Minister had until his retirement last year. This month it’s David.

The Editor’s summons arrived while Margaret and I were on holiday in the Lakes region of New Hampshire. We are visiting her relatives and introducing our grandchildren to the flora, fauna and history – as well as to essential life skills such as Water Frisbee.

My early morning walk often takes me up the hill and past a little cemetery in the woods. Some of the plots are marked with small U.S. flags, indicating that these are the graves of veterans of America's many conflicts, particularly the Civil War of 1861-5 between North and South, Unionists and Confederates – America’s “Great War”. I have wandered around the place many times, but this time one of the headstones caught my attention – and imagination.



Photo credit: Margaret Ray Reynolds

Young James W. Libby served in the 12th Regiment of New Hampshire volunteers. He fought in the epic three-day battle that swirled around the little college town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, at the beginning of July 1863. On the climactic final day, July 3, Libby and the New Hampshire boys were right in the middle of the Union line, defending a stone wall along Cemetery Ridge against the all-or-nothing assault of Gen. George Pickett’s North Carolina Division. It proved a suicide mission against massive Northern firepower. Only a few

Confederates even reached the wall, and they were quickly killed or captured.

Next day, the Fourth of July, the Unionists celebrated the 87th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Meanwhile, in pouring rain the Confederate army began its retreat to Virginia. The wagon train, full of wounded, stretched back some 14 miles. Never again did the South threaten Washington, DC. The Stone Wall became known as the “High-Water Mark of the Confederacy”.

But the battle had also taken its toll on the Northerners. To recover, the 12th New Hampshire Regiment was sent to do guard duty at a prisoner of war camp in Maryland. That’s where James Libby died on August 25 – either of his wounds or from the infections that were rife in such camps. He was only 20.

So James never lived to hear about the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg just a few months later, on November 19th, 1863. The featured speaker was Edward Everett, one of the most celebrated orators of the day. The President of the United States was asked to add only “a few appropriate remarks.” Everett spoke for nearly two hours. When he finished, people went off to relieve themselves or to buy refreshments from enterprising stallholders. Many therefore missed the speech by America’s 16th President – a mere 272 words, delivered in a couple of minutes. But Abraham Lincoln made each word count.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do that.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly

resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Everett had described the battle – in vivid detail – but Lincoln redefined the whole war. The conflict had begun in 1861 because the North would not allow the slave-owning South to break away and form a rival state on the American continent. But by 1863 Lincoln recognised that the issue of slavery in a land of liberty had to be squarely faced. His Emancipation Proclamation announced that black men as well as white men were included in the 1776 proposition that “all men are created equal.” This gave the war a new moral meaning.

James’ brother, Isaac, died in September 1865. So he did live to see the victory of the Union armies that spring. The remains of Isaac and James are buried together in the same New Hampshire grave. In truth, 1865, not 1776, marks the full flowering of American independence, because until then the United States, though vast, remained largely an economic colony of Britain – exporting mostly primary products and importing British manufactures. And the possibility that “The Confederate States of America” would break away to rival “The United States of America” loomed as a fatal possibility throughout the mid-19th century.

But then the victory of the Union armies in 1865 ensured that only one single state would expand across the continent., driving the railroads across the hinterland “from sea to shining sea” to create a vast, integrated single market. Soon transatlantic commentators were predicting that Europe would have to unify against “the political colossus” that had been created on the other side of the Atlantic.

In 2026 the current tenant of the Oval Office has been celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States in ways he deems appropriate, including caged wrestling on the South Lawn of the White House. An equivalent of the Gettysburg address would not be his style. But Abraham Lincoln in 1865 provides an enduring example of what true political leadership is all about. Winston Churchill did the same for Britain with his speeches of 1940-2. Not florid phrases or snappy one-liners, but the connecting together of past, present and future in a coherent and moving narrative to give people strength for current travails and hope for an uncertain future.

Both our countries desperately need such leadership in this present time of troubles. It’s also what our preachers provide each week with their expositions of sacred history – repositioning our daily round, our common tasks, in a wider and deeper context. I thank James Libby for prompting me to reflect, amid a summer holiday, on the nature and cost of leadership.

PRISONS WEEK 2026



Image by Džoko Stach from Pixabay

From the World Church and Public Issues Group

Prisons Week 2026 marks more than fifty years of a quiet but significant movement within British Christianity. Its roots go back to 1975, when an ecumenical committee was formed to encourage Christians to focus their thoughts and prayers on everyone affected by the criminal justice system. What began as a small initiative has grown into a nationwide week of reflection, advocacy, and pastoral care.

At its heart, Prisons Week calls attention to the humanity of those who live and work behind bars. It invites churches to pray for **prisoners**, whose lives are often shaped by trauma, poverty, and isolation; for **families**, who carry the emotional and financial burden of separation; for **victims**, whose pain must never be forgotten; and for **staff**, who work daily in environments marked by pressure and risk. It also highlights the wider community, reminding society that rehabilitation is not a distant ideal but a shared responsibility.

Prisons Week 2026, **11-17 October**, continues this tradition with renewed urgency. Rising concerns about overcrowding, mental health, and reoffending rates make its message more relevant than ever. Churches across the UK are encouraged to hold services, discussions, and acts of outreach that confront these realities with compassion rather than judgement.

The week's enduring strength lies in its simplicity: prayer, awareness, and solidarity. By bringing together Christians from different traditions, Prisons Week

fosters a collective commitment to justice that is both humane and hopeful. It challenges communities to imagine a system where restoration is possible and dignity is upheld, even in the most difficult circumstances.

Churches Together in England

propose the following prayer diary for the week.

Day 1 – Light in the Darkness Pray for prisoners to find hope and purpose.

Day 2 – Families Torn Apart Ask for comfort and restored relationships.

Day 3 – Healing for Victims Pray for peace, justice, and safety.

Day 4 – Strength for Staff Ask for wisdom, patience, and compassion.

Day 5 – Rehabilitation Pray for effective programmes & second chances.

Day 6 – Healing Communities Ask for unity, safety, and trust.

Day 7 – Justice with Mercy Pray for fairness balanced with compassion.

Lord Jesus you know what it is to be held captive.

We pray for all those resident in prison and their families.

May they be aware of your presence with them

and may your spirit bring them peace and

the hope of new life in Jesus Christ.

May the walls of prison provide a secure place for them

to discover both their need for you and

that they are loved unconditionally by you.

We pray for all who work in prisons,

keep them safe and help them to know and demonstrate

your compassion and grace in their daily lives.

We pray for all victims of crime;

may your spirit bring them healing and peace

as they rebuild their lives.

Gracious God, whose love extends over all the Earth,

across all time and for all people, hear our prayer.

Amen

*Written for Pact by the Venerable Peter Leonard,
formerly Anglican Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight*

URC MINISTRY AND MISSION FUND: A LETTER

Pippa Jones, Downing Place URC Church Secretary, has forwarded the letter below for the information of members and friends. It comes from the Honorary Treasurers of the United Reformed Church.

N.B. Financial contributions through the Ministry & Mission Fund have enabled our shared calling across England, Scotland, and Wales. Through this Fund, we support ministers' stipends, theological training, Assembly gatherings, and the vital central services that strengthen our witness and ministry in every community that we serve.

To all members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Dear Friends,

This letter is designed to give you an indication of the denomination's central finances but is necessarily a brief over-view. Your church (or group) treasurer has a letter giving more detail which we are sure they will be delighted to share with you.

In recent years, on the Ministry and Mission (M&M) Fund, we have seen a gradual decline in church contributions and the shortfall on synod's pledges have been made up by the synods themselves.

We are hugely grateful to the synods for their generosity but recognise this is not sustainable over the long term. It is also of concern that the weakness of church contributions weakens the covenant that binds us together as a denomination, namely that those with resources contribute to supporting those who have less.

The central URC budget for expenditure (for 2026) includes a number of areas of expected costs reduction, significantly in staffing. Some very hard choices have been made and implemented. On the other hand, the URC needs to buy in expertise that we need for our world of increasing regulation and oversight, in view of the scarce resources available from volunteers. We hope that at local church level you will take a moment to reflect on the expertise (paid and unpaid) that steers the URC through all we have to do to be compliant with complex regulation. (Please pray for us!).

We know you have some of these challenges at local level too. We hope that one of the outcomes of the Church Life Review and Church Life Fund going

forward will be the availability of URC resources and advice that can be accessed by local congregations. Ask your Church Secretary about these and look at this year's General Assembly decisions.

The annual audited accounts of the URC (for the year ended 31 December 2025) are now finalised and were published just before General Assembly. You can find a copy at <https://urc.org.uk/trustees-report-and-financial-statements/>

The accounts of the M&M Fund (the greater, but not only part of the URC Trust finances) show our total income £670,000 ahead of budget, but our costs were around £610,000 higher than expected. The deficit for the year on the M&M fund was around £650,000. We had hoped for much better.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2025 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Yates (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

MISSION PARTNERSHIP: AN UPDATE

Following Nigel Uden's well-earned retirement last summer, Downing Place URC has been 'in vacancy' for 14 months. Thanks to the folk regularly listed in the preface to this magazine, and to many others preaching, making pastoral visits and taking their place on a host of rotas, Downing Place maintains its Christian presence in the city centre. Many come into the church for a variety of reasons: worship or concerts, to use the building for meetings or classes, or to seek information or signposting. They receive a warm welcome from the Office staff and members of the church.

Meanwhile, within the Eastern Synod of the URC, it has been determined that Downing Place, URC, together with Fulbourn, St Luke's Cambridge and

Stetchworth & Cheveley United Reformed Churches, will form a 'Mission Partnership'. Mission Partnership in the United Reformed Church emphasises collaboration, where churches support one another through prayer, planning and joint action, sharing resources, wisdom and responsibility. Following a lengthy process, the four churches have agreed to co-operate in a Mission Partnership and to share ordained ministry, as detailed in an Agreement document signed on 3rd August, for approval by the Eastern Synod. We are grateful to Augur Pearce, Alan Rickard and Stephen Thornton for the time and expertise that they gave in collaborating with our partner URCs to compile the Agreement.

Pippa Jones writes: The Mission Partnership has been approved by the Eastern Synod, and the Partnership churches can now proceed to 'call' a minister of Word and Sacraments. The members of the Call Group from Downing Place have been confirmed. They are John Proctor, Zoe Bennett and Simone Maghenzani. The other churches will be announcing who will be joining these three from their own membership.

Editor: there can't be many contexts in which a job advert is named a 'Call': although many folk – Christians, and others – sometimes sense both a desire and an obligation to respond to an invitation, or an opportunity. Not just in employment, but in day-to-day events. The word 'call' brings to mind a poem by the great George Herbert, written four centuries ago.

The Call

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;
Such a Way as gives us breath,
Such a Truth as ends all strife,
Such a Life as killeth death.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;
Such a Joy as none can move,
Such a Love as none can part,
Such a Heart as joys in love.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;
Such a Light as shows a Feast,
Such a Feast as mends in length,
Such a Strength as makes his guest

For Ralph Vaughan Williams' musical setting,
try [audio Ralph Vaughan Williams "the Call" - Search](#)

PASTORAL NEWS

As always we have plenty of pastoral concerns coming to us through the Elders and Pastoral visitors. News of operations, procedures and treatments in Addenbrookes or Papworth. Many are living with serious conditions and we pray for them all in the Pastoral Care group meetings. Please hold all those you know who are suffering in any way in your prayers. If you wish for prayer for yourself or for someone else, do consider coming for prayer after worship at the back of the church with those who are ready to listen and pray with you, or leave a message in the prayer box in the Hub, or write in the book which is in the St Columba's Chapel. They are read and prayed for in the monthly prayer meetings.

CHURCH LUNCH



The Pastoral Care Group will be organising another simple soup, bread and cheese lunch on Sunday 11 October. Dietary requirements will be accommodated where possible.

We would welcome help from members to prepare the soup from 9.30am and to serve and clear away afterwards. Please let Pippa know if you are available to help in any way.

There is a sign up sheet in the office during the week, or on the office window sill on Sunday. Don't worry if you are unable to do this, do just come along on the day.

DOWNING PLACE 'HOUSE GROUPS', AUTUMN 2026

The Lord's Prayer



Graphic from www.clipart-library.com Used by permission.

Exploring words we know well, to help us know God better

Two slots to choose from:

Monday evenings at 7.30 - online link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84805390611?pwd=iiMNH4TABZWFiwvISo5nLCjGEEn2rMa.1>

Thursday afternoons at 2.30 at the church

Six meetings, in the weeks beginning

October 5, 12 and 19,
and November 2, 9 and 16

Led by Janet Bottoms and John Proctor.

Come along. You will be very welcome.

If you've not been before, why not try coming?

This is a good way to deepen our faith, and broaden our friendships.

No special knowledge is needed. There's no pressure on anyone to speak.

If you have a Bible handy, bring it – but there are extra copies at church.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE



Image by reenablack from Pixabay

Saturday 17 October: 12.00 to 12.45 by Zoom

All of us must feel deeply concerned by the current international scene, with conflict, brutality and threats to peace wherever we look. So often the greatest sufferers are women and children caught up accidentally in the confrontations. As a further opportunity for Downing Place members and friends to gather as a praying community, the World Church & Public Issues Group is again organising a series of Prayer Vigils for Peace and Justice.

The first of these will take place on Saturday 17th October from 12 noon to 12.45 via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86700689097?pwd=EYbLa6fcFFyAdbE89KEcmbboGdwvcn.1> , led by Chris Wright, Margaret Thompson and David Reynolds. We shall also remember the issues and the people brought to our prayerful attention by Prisons Week, which draws to its conclusion on that day – see details on **page 7**.

Further online vigils will be held in 2027 on Saturday 20th March and Saturday 16th October. The Zoom codes for all of these will be given in Weekly Notices.

An in-person Vigil is planned for Thursday June 17th, 2027, to be held in the Sanctuary at Downing Place. Each section of the morning will include silence interspersed with words and quiet music. You are invited to attend for as long or short a time as you wish. The usual Thursday Service will be incorporated into the Vigil.

Please take note of these dates. If you're unable to attend, it is hoped that you will join the Church community in supporting prayers at these times.

*David Reynolds and Chris Wright,
for the World Church & Public Issues Group*

MONTHLY SPECIAL CAUSE FOR OCTOBER 2026

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE



Commitment for Life is the URC's global justice programme, with a brief to support prayer, advocacy and action for the most vulnerable people in the world. It works through Christian Aid (www.christianaid.org.uk) and Global

Justice Now (www.globaljustice.org.uk), supporting various parts of the world, among which Downing Place has chosen to focus on Bangladesh. You will find an update report from that country later in the following pages.

We are invited to support the programme in various ways, including prayer for Bangladesh and arguing in support of global justice wherever we can. As part of our support we are encouraged to consider committing 1% of our income to the programme, showing the government there is still public support for raising our overseas aid budget to that level in spite of the massive cuts made recently in this country and the US. 75% of the funds raised go to Christian Aid, 5% to Global Justice Now, with the remainder used for publicity, education, grants within the UK, and administration.



More information is available at <https://urc.org.uk/cfl>, but you may also like to look at <https://downingplaceurc.org/commitment-for-life>, where you can use a 'Donate' button to set up regular donations to the appeal or make a one-off payment (remembering to Gift Aid your contribution either way!). There will be a retiring collection at the service on 18th October, and you can also make donations directly to the church's bank account, marking them SPECIAL CAUSE.

For those who'd prefer it, some gift envelopes will be available in the Welcome Area of the church before services, and a few copies of this year's Commitment for Life magazine (also available at https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/CFL-Summer-Magazine-2026-27_compressed.pdf)

Owen Saxton



Photo by Christian Aid

Prayer for Bangladesh

Loving God,
We pray for the Manta
community in Barisal:
for children learning in
safety, for families
building secure
livelihoods, and for all
who are gaining dignity
and recognition.

Bless the work of AVAS,
and all who seek justice
and inclusion. Open our
hearts to respond with
compassion and
generosity.

Amen.

From invisible to included

Transforming life for Manta families

For generations, the Manta community in Barisal, Bangladesh, have lived on water—floating from place to place, unseen and often forgotten.

Life on the river has meant more than movement. It has meant exclusion. Children grew up on boats without access to education, often tied with ropes to keep them safe from falling into the water. Families depended entirely on unpredictable fishing incomes, vulnerable to storms, climate shocks, and seasonal bans. Without official identity documents, many were unable to access even the most basic public services. For many, it felt like their lives did not matter.

But change is happening. With support from Commitment for Life, working alongside local partner AVAS, 200 Manta families have begun a powerful journey—from isolation to inclusion.



Photo by Christian Aid

cont... At the same time, new opportunities are opening up. Through skills training and small business support, families are no longer reliant on fishing alone. Women and men are learning net weaving, small trade, and other income-generating activities—giving them stability even when fishing is not possible. “Before, we only knew fishing,” one community member explains. “Now we can run our families in different ways. We feel capable.”

Perhaps most transformative of all, families are gaining official recognition. With support to access national ID cards and birth registrations, many Manta people are, for the first time, recognised as citizens. This simple but powerful shift opens the door to education, healthcare, and government support—restoring not just access, but dignity.

As one elder reflects: “Our lives had no value; people used to drive us away. But today, our grandchildren go to school with bags on their shoulders. We have been given not just opportunities, but dignity.”

Safe spaces for children have been created—places where they can learn, play, and simply be children. For the first time, many are holding pencils, writing their names, and discovering a world beyond the river.

“Before, I couldn’t do anything except say my name,” shares one young girl.

“Now I can write it. I can read books. I am no longer tied to the boat.”

Families are also safer. With life jackets, solar lights, and training in disaster preparedness, daily life on the water is no longer defined by constant fear...

“Before, I couldn’t do anything except say my name...”

“Now I can write it. I can read books. I am no longer tied to the boat.”

This is the impact of Commitment for Life in support of Christian Aid. We work with communities to address not just immediate needs, but the deeper causes of poverty and exclusion: from safety to education; from livelihoods to identity, and from invisibility to inclusion.

But there are many more families still waiting for this chance.

You can help make it possible

Your support can help extend this life-changing work, ensuring that more children can learn, more families can earn, and more communities can claim their place in society.

Together, we can help turn the tide. Thank you for your continued support of our valuable Commitment for Life partners.

Orchestra and choir taster morning



Downing Place URC church invites you to join our choir and orchestra for our welcome morning service for newcomers and students.

Anyone wishing to try out a friendly music opportunity, inclusive church environment, or just a one off chance to play or sing are all very welcome!



SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2026

9:30AM

Downing Place URC, CB2 3EL



Please email Tanya to sign up or for further details:
tanya.kundu@hotmail.co.uk

**STAY FOR
FREE
WELCOME
LUNCH**



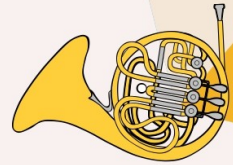
About the Orchestra:

Downing Place Orchestra meets to play once a month, with a relaxed 40min rehearsal before the Sunday morning service. We accompany the hymns, as well as playing some arrangements of classical pieces during reflective moments of the service. The standard is roughly Grade 5 plus, but all are welcome - we can adapt things to be easier (or more complicated!) as need be.



About the Choir:

Downing Place Choir is a 4-part choir that rehearses each Sunday at 10am. We generally sing an anthem on alternate Sundays, with repertoire that stretches from traditional choral music (from the renaissance through to the 21st century) through arrangements of spirituals to more modern idioms. All are welcome, regardless of experience or voice.



Please email Tanya to sign up or for further details:
tanya.kundu@hotmail.co.uk

The Joint Public Issues Team JPIT is a partnership between the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, which helps the Churches work together for peace and justice by listening, learning, praying, speaking and acting on public issues. The **Public Issues Calendar** collects together observances in the year when Christians and those across wider society might focus their attention on certain movements towards peace and justice. Not all of these occasions are necessarily marked by **JPIT** or our associated churches: their inclusion is not an indication of endorsement.

OCTOBER

Black History Month

28 Sept - 4 Oct Good Money Week

1 International Day of Older Persons **2** International Day of Non-Violence

4 Good Money Sunday Homelessness Sunday

5 World Teachers' Day

5–11 Challenge Poverty Week (Scotland)

10 World Homeless Day World Mental Health Day

11 Prisons Sunday **11–17** Prisons Week (England & Wales)

12–18 Challenge Poverty Week (England & Wales)

11–18 Week of Prayer for World Peace

17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

18 Anti-Slavery Day Church Action on Poverty Sunday

Freedom Sunday (EU Anti-Trafficking Day)



Sunday 4 October at 4pm
Great St Mary's, Cambridge

LIVING WATER

An ecumenical Choral Evensong
for the Season of Creation

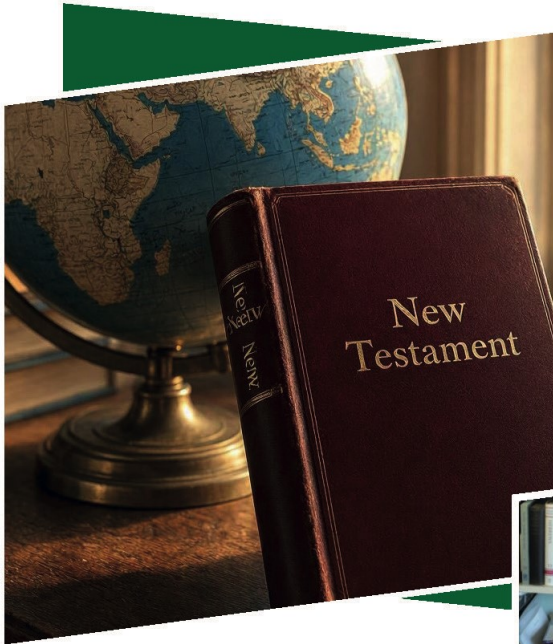
- Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Janet Tollington
- The Choir of Great St Mary's Church

CENTRAL
CAMBRIDGE
ECUMENICAL
NETWORK



Cambridge
Action Group

Autumn Supper and Talk



LETTERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND ITS WORLD



Speaker:
Judith Lieu

**Friday 16 October at 6.30 pm for supper. Talk at 7.45 pm.
Queen Edith Chapel, Wulfstan Way, Cambridge CB1 8QN**

Supper £10.00 (cash on the door), Soup, bread, cheese and an autumnal dessert

Judith Lieu has studied, taught in universities, and written about the New Testament and early church throughout her adult life. After stints in London and Sydney, she was Professor at Cambridge until 2018. In retirement she continues to write, lecture and lead Bible Studies. She is a Methodist Local Preacher and has contributed to local and national Church life in a number of roles.

**Please email penny.f.flynn@gmail.com
to reserve a supper place or for the
live-stream link.**

- bus 2 stops almost outside the chapel
- buses 1 and 3 stop at either end of Wulfstan Way
- parking available on site

OCTOBER DIARY

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Thu	01-Oct-26	University of Cambridge Michaelmas Full Term begins	All Day	-
Thu	01-Oct-26	Midweek Worship led by Dr Augur Pearce	11:00am	Main Church
Sun	04-Oct-26	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Main Church
Sun	04-Oct-26	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion, led by the Reverend Chris Baker	11:00am	Main Church
Sun	04-Oct-26	Ecumenical Evensong for Creationtide - Central Cambridge Ecumenical Network	4:00pm	Great St Mary's Church
Mon	05-Oct-26	Officers' Meeting	10:15am	Room 3
Mon	05-Oct-26	Autumn House Group - The Lord's Prayer	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	06-Oct-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2.30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	07-Oct-26	Lunchtime Concert - Minori Nakaune (violin) + Mamoru Yabuki (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church
Thu	08-Oct-26	Prayer Meeting	10:15am	St Columba's Chapel
Thu	08-Oct-26	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion, led by the Reverend Professor David Thompson	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	08-Oct-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	08-Oct-26	Autumn House Group - The Lord's Prayer	2.30pm	Rooms 1 & 2
Thu	08-Oct-26	Property Group Meeting	7:00pm	Zoom
Thu	08-Oct-26	Finance Group	7:00pm	Room 3
Sun	11-Oct-26	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Main Church
Sun	11-Oct-26	Sunday Worship, led by Mrs Penny Flynn	11:00am	Main Church

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sun	11-Oct-26	Church Lunch	12:30pm	Gibson Hall
Mon	12-Oct-26	Autumn House Group - The Lord's Prayer	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	13-Oct-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2.30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	14-Oct-26	Lunchtime Concert - Christian Dawson (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church
Wed	14-Oct-26	Elders' Meeting	10.00am	Main Church
Thu	15-Oct-26	Midweek Worship led by Jane Bower	11am	Main Church
Thu	15-Oct-26	Gibson Lunch	12.00pm	Gibson Hall
Thu	15-Oct-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	15-Oct-26	Autumn House Group - The Lord's Prayer	2.30pm	Room 1 & 2
Sat	17-Oct-26	Prayer Vigil	12.00pm	Zoom
Sun	18-Oct-26	Choir Rehearsal	10.00am	Main Church
Sun	18-Oct-26	Sunday Worship, led by Dr Augur Pearce	11am	Main Church
Sun	18-Oct-26	Retiring Collection for Monthly Cause	1:30pm	Main Church
Sun	18-Oct-26	Open Table Service	6 for 6.30pm	Main Church
Mon	19-Oct-26	Autumn House Group - The Lord's Prayer	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	20-Oct-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2.30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	21-Oct-26	Lunchtime Concert - Fiammetta Tarli & Ivo Varbanov (piano duo)	1:00pm	Main Church
Thu	22-Oct-26	Midweek Worship with Holy Communion, led by the Reverend Dr David Cornick	11am	Main Church
Thu	22-Oct-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	22-Oct-26	Autumn House Group - The Lord's Prayer	2.30pm	Room 1 & 2

	Date	Name	Time	Location
Sun	25-Oct-26	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Main Church
Sun	25-Oct-26	Sunday Worship, led by the Reverend John Proctor	11:00am	Main Church
Sun	25-Oct-26	Solidarity Hub	6:00pm	The Hub
Tue	27-Oct-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2.30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Wed	28-Oct-26	Lunchtime Concert - Paul Taylor (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church
Thu	29-Oct-26	Midweek Worship led by Penny Flynn	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	29-Oct-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Sun	01-Nov-26	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Main Church
Sun	01-Nov-26	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion, led by the Reverend Elizabeth Caswell	11:00am	Main Church
Mon	02-Nov-26	Autumn House Group - The Lord's Prayer	7:30pm	Zoom
Tue	03-Nov-26	Cherry Hinton Road Tuesday Fellowship	2.30pm	St Athanasios' Church
Tue	03-Nov-26	Worship, Discipleship & Spirituality Group Meeting	7:30pm	Zoom
Wed	04-Nov-26	Lunchtime Concert - Neil Crossland (piano)	1:00pm	Main Church
Thu	05-Nov-26	Midweek Worship led by the Reverend John Proctor	11:00am	Main Church
Thu	05-Nov-26	Knit One Give One	1:30pm	The Hub
Thu	05-Nov-26	Autumn House Group - The Lord's Prayer	2:30pm	Rooms 1 & 2
Sun	08-Nov-26	Remembrance Sunday	All Day	-
Sun	08-Nov-26	Choir Rehearsal	10:00am	Main Church
Sun	08-Nov-26	Remembrance Sunday Worship, led by the Reverend Elizabeth Caswell	10:50am	Main Church

MEMBERS PREACHING ELSEWHERE IN OCTOBER



Photograph by StillVision Photography

4 October

Janet Tollington - Great St Mary's Church, Ecumenical evensong (4pm)
David Tatem - Bassingbourn URC (9.30am) and Melbourn URC (11am)

11 October

Janet Tollington – Fenstanton URC

18 October

Janet Tollington - Whiting St URC, Bury St Edmund's
Chris Baker - Haddenham Methodist Church
Penny Flynn – Fulbourn URC

25 October

Janet Tollington – Fulbourn URC
Chris Baker - Fenstanton URC
Deborah McVey – St Luke's Church

1 November

Janet Tollington - Abbey Lane URC, Saffron Walden
David Cornick - Bassingbourn URC

LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER

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.

4 October

(Trinity 18)

Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20

Psalms 19

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

18 October

(Trinity 20)

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalms 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

11 October

(Trinity 19)

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalms 106:1-6,19-23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

25 October

(Trinity 21)

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalms 90:1-6,13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

1 November

(4th before Advent)

Micah 3:5-12

Psalms 43

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12



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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 November edition
no later than **18th October 2026**