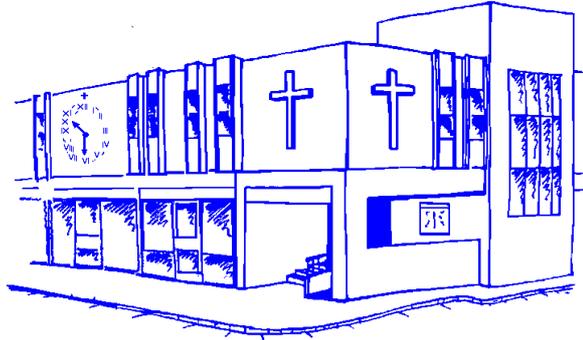


# Newsletter February 2019

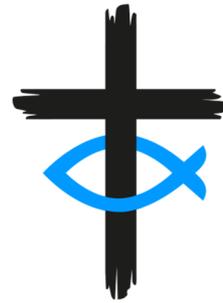
**St. Andrew's  
United Reformed  
Church**

[www.standrewsurcgx.co.uk](http://www.standrewsurcgx.co.uk)



## Preachers in February

3rd Miss Hilary McClintock  
10th Miss Hilary McClintock  
17th Miss Hilary McClintock  
24th Miss Hilary McClintock

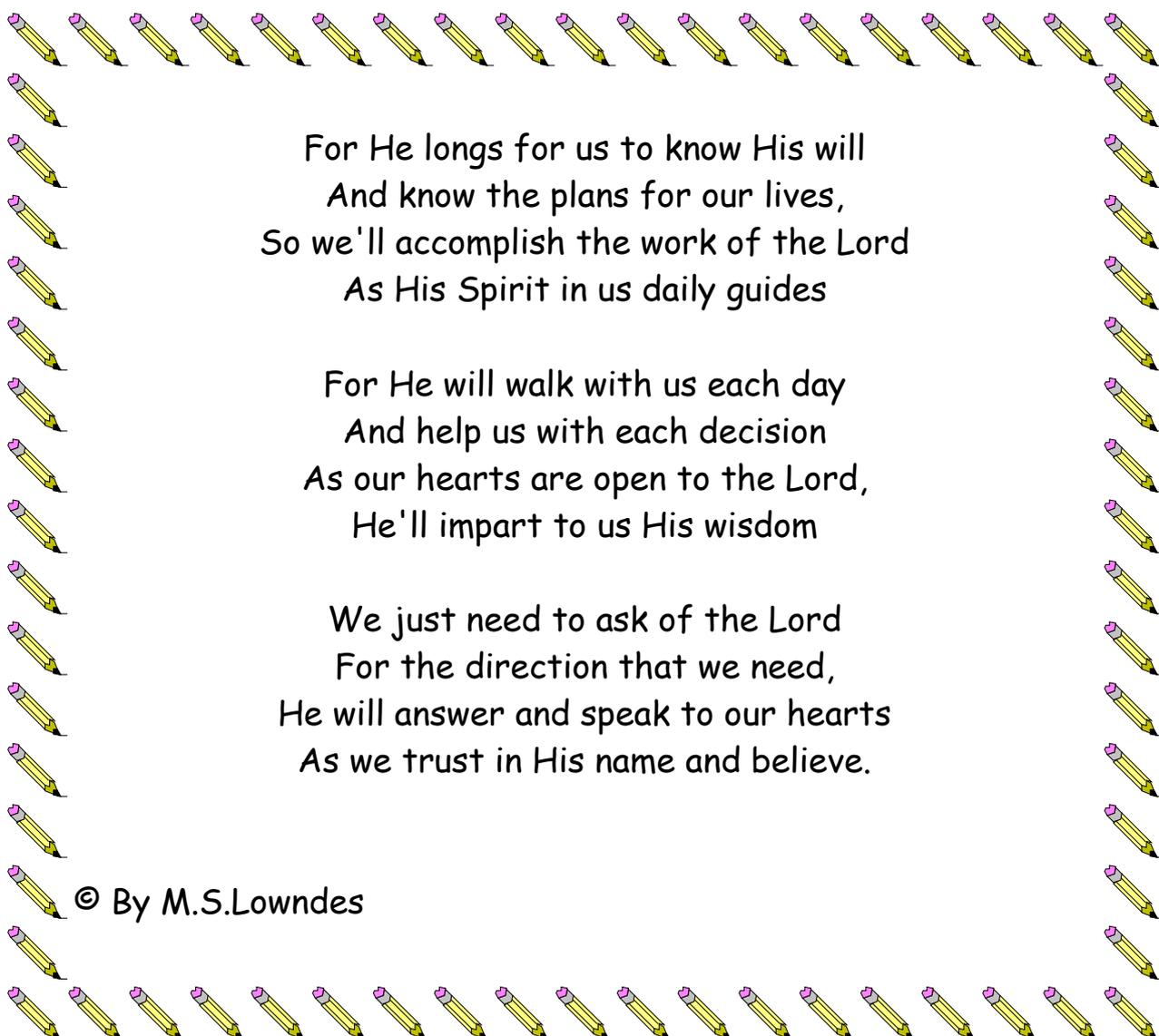


**Clear Direction**

Sometimes in life we may feel unsure  
Of what God would have us do  
What is His will for our lives right now  
When faced with two paths to choose?

We need to come before the Lord  
When we have to make a choice;  
We need to have ears that will hear  
The Lord's still, quiet voice

For God will gladly show the way  
And open the doors to go through,  
With clear direction from our Lord,  
He'll show us what we should do

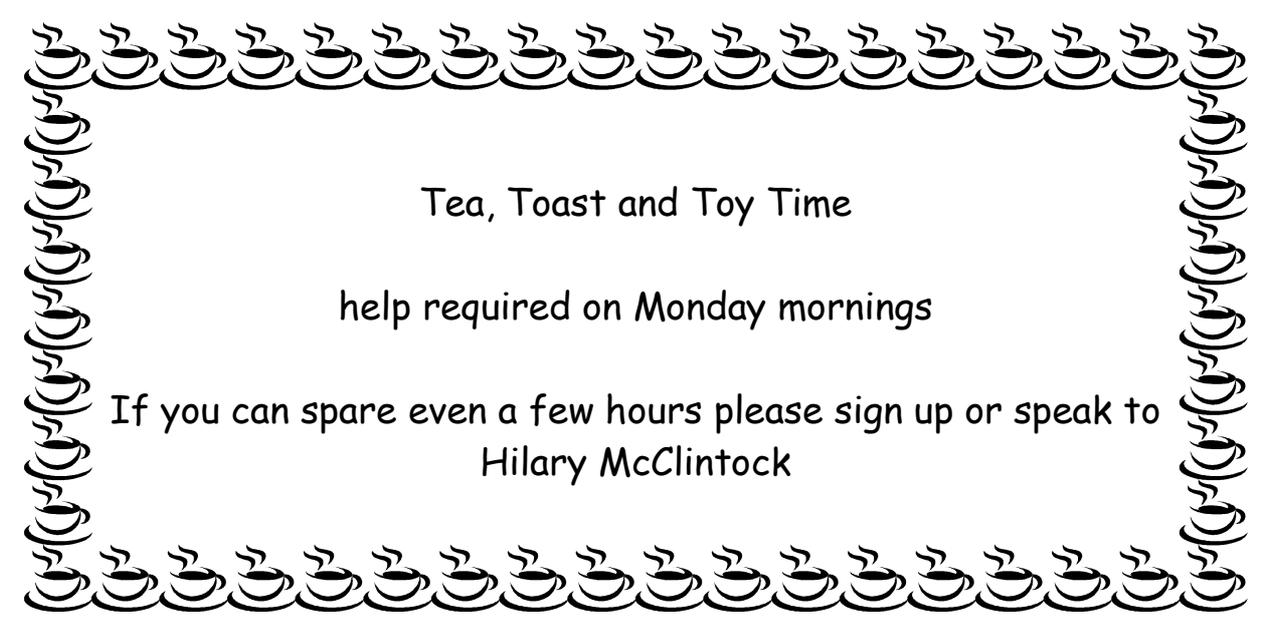


For He longs for us to know His will  
And know the plans for our lives,  
So we'll accomplish the work of the Lord  
As His Spirit in us daily guides

For He will walk with us each day  
And help us with each decision  
As our hearts are open to the Lord,  
He'll impart to us His wisdom

We just need to ask of the Lord  
For the direction that we need,  
He will answer and speak to our hearts  
As we trust in His name and believe.

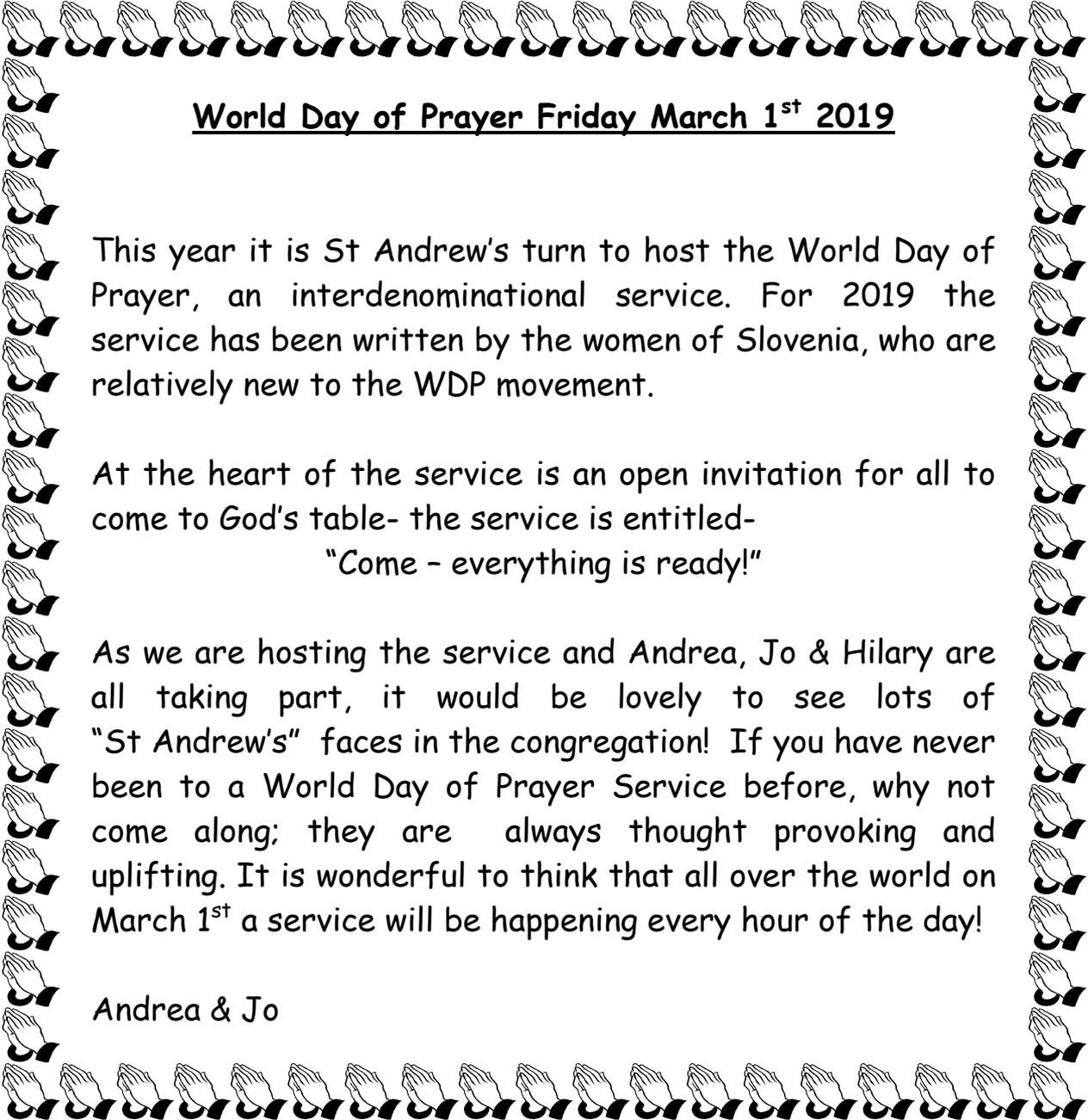
© By M.S.Lowndes



Tea, Toast and Toy Time

help required on Monday mornings

If you can spare even a few hours please sign up or speak to  
Hilary McClintock



World Day of Prayer Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019

This year it is St Andrew's turn to host the World Day of Prayer, an interdenominational service. For 2019 the service has been written by the women of Slovenia, who are relatively new to the WDP movement.

At the heart of the service is an open invitation for all to come to God's table- the service is entitled-  
"Come - everything is ready!"

As we are hosting the service and Andrea, Jo & Hilary are all taking part, it would be lovely to see lots of "St Andrew's" faces in the congregation! If you have never been to a World Day of Prayer Service before, why not come along; they are always thought provoking and uplifting. It is wonderful to think that all over the world on March 1<sup>st</sup> a service will be happening every hour of the day!

Andrea & Jo



Date for your Diary

The Annual Church Meeting will take place on  
Sunday 28th April following the service.

Any items of AOB in advance to the Secretary.

Please make every effort to attend.



## Outreach to Adults

The elders have been considering what we might do as a church to reach out to our community, especially older people. A discussion was held thinking about the three questions below.

Please pray about this and if anything in Section B - "What could St Andrew's do for older people in the Gerrards Cross area?" - strikes you as being important, please speak to Hilary, Antony or any of the other elders. Also, if you would want to help if one of these ideas is progressed, please let an elder know.

### *Why would St Andrew's do something for older people in the Gerrards Cross area?*

Four BIG reasons:

#### **Lot of older people in the area**

##### **Welcoming Church**

Our music may suit some older people

We are inclusive and non-ageist

We want to attract people to the church

Parking available on Sundays

Existing "activities" e.g. bible study and Sunday worship

##### **Community Support**

Want to reach out to community and foster community spirit

Potential source of advice given no doctor's surgery

Other churches do meals, but not so much practical help

Provide sound information (help with grief, for example)

Needs not met elsewhere

Fulfil instruction to love our neighbour

Want to help if can

##### **Help combat loneliness**

### *What could St Andrew's do for older people in the Gerrards Cross area?*

#### **Advice service and practical help**

Breakdown advice (e.g. problem with something in the home)

Food shopping

Communications (do not know who to speak to about something)

Provide leaflets/information  
Monthly listening ear resource  
Biblical helping with grief course

### **Socialising**

Entertainments e.g. concerts, memory lane  
Monthly friendship club (speakers, board games, music appreciation)  
Bingo night  
Wine/evening social  
Provide company  
Special events at times in year  
Not duplicating what is offered by others  
Encourage socialising in homes (e.g. reason to bake, reason to cut flowers, reason to...)

### **Transport**

Christian dial-a-ride  
"Taxi" service to church

### **Dementia-related**

Drop-in once a quarter with NHS nurses or Pilgrim's Friend to offer support to carers  
Regular choir focussed on music for Alzheimer's sufferers.  
Book club focussed on resources for dementia sufferers

### **Meals**

Lunch club, Christmas lunch, Sunday lunch

### **Care homes and individual's homes**

Links to local care homes  
Bible studies in care homes  
Pastoral visiting to individuals and care homes  
Listening ear bookable sessions with a volunteer listener in home  
Reading service e.g. blind

### **Organise activities**

Film club  
Organise holidays

### **Expand existing**

Fliers in doctor's surgeries, library etc. advertising the services  
Publicise bible study

*What would St Andrew's need in order to have regular activities for older people (practical and entertainment) in St Andrew's?*

**Research**

What topics

Timing Day of week

Time of day

Various times to maximise outreach

6pm to 8pm might be good to allow professionals to help

**People to lead and help**

**Older people wanting to take part**

**Resources**

Speakers

Entertainers

Funding e.g. funds for speaker fee and transport costs, so free to participants

**Trust by people receiving help**

**Support from elders and church meeting**

**Content**

Practical advice e.g. home repairs

Health, nutrition and other needs advice

Varied

Cross Roads

A Quiet Day for Lent

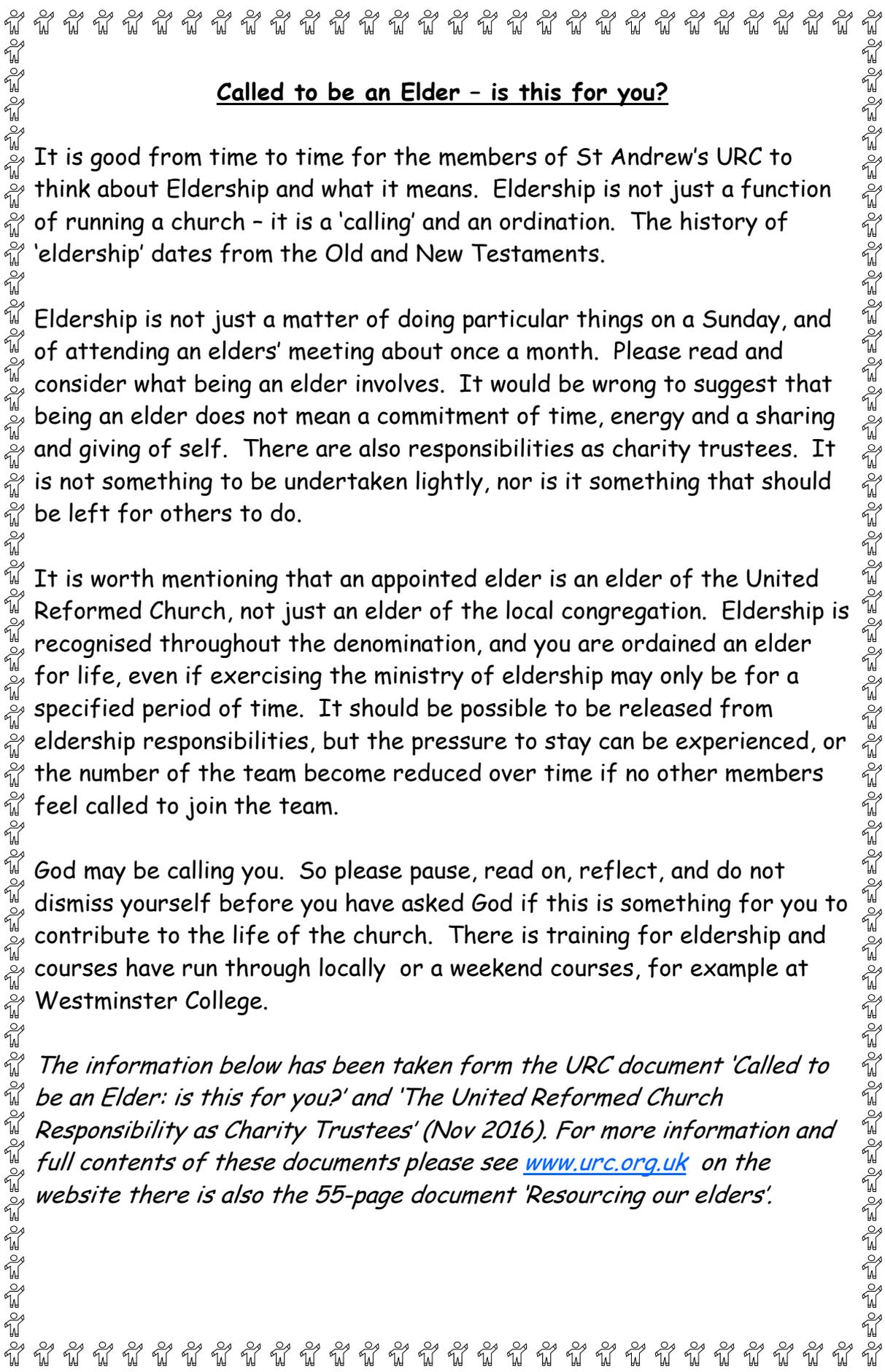
Led by Rev Ian Green  
(Amersham Free Church)

Saturday 30th March 2019

10am to 4pm

At Cores End United Reformed Church

Please see the notice in the church room for more details about how to book your place.



## Called to be an Elder - is this for you?

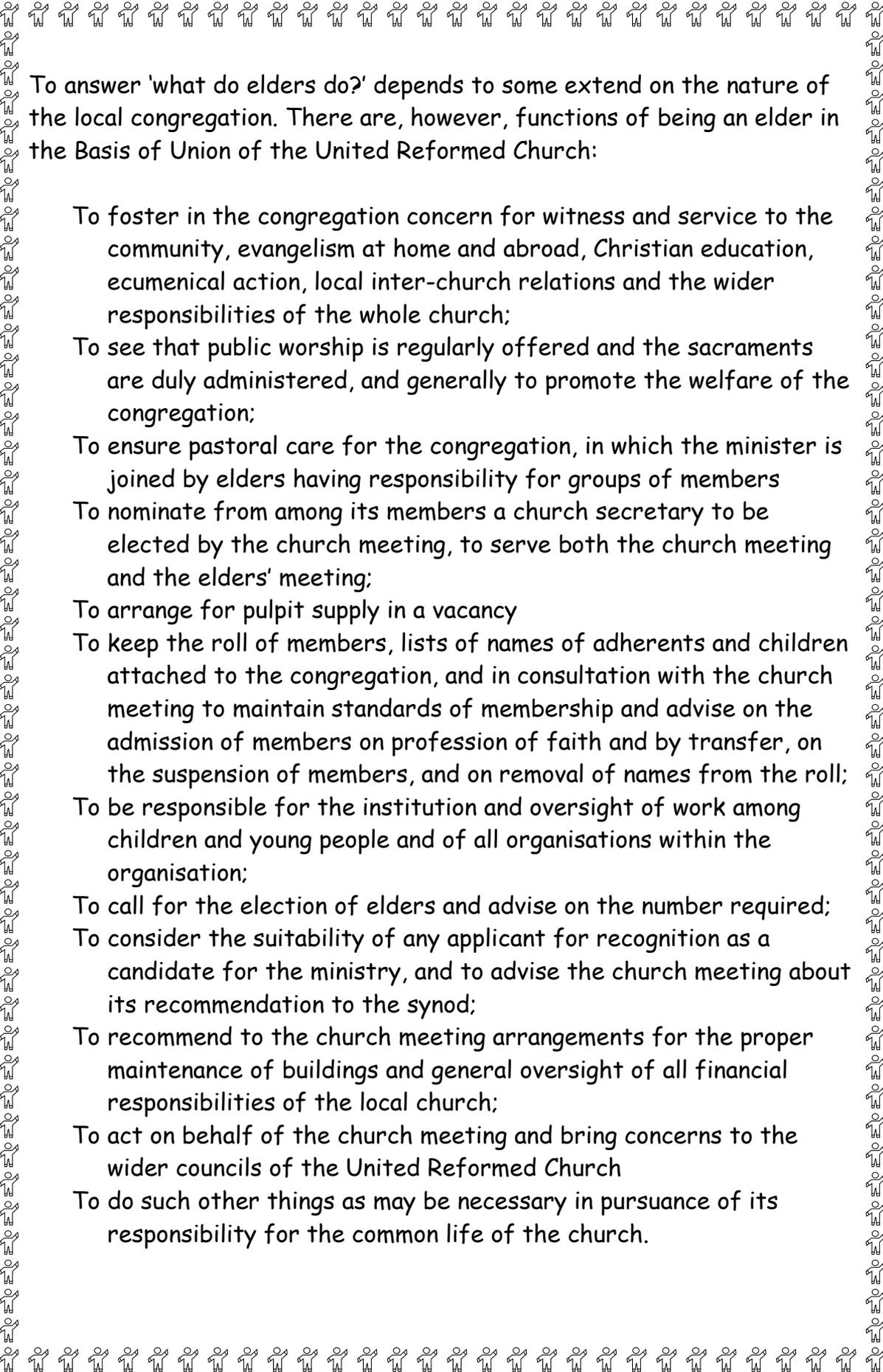
It is good from time to time for the members of St Andrew's URC to think about Eldership and what it means. Eldership is not just a function of running a church - it is a 'calling' and an ordination. The history of 'eldership' dates from the Old and New Testaments.

Eldership is not just a matter of doing particular things on a Sunday, and of attending an elders' meeting about once a month. Please read and consider what being an elder involves. It would be wrong to suggest that being an elder does not mean a commitment of time, energy and a sharing and giving of self. There are also responsibilities as charity trustees. It is not something to be undertaken lightly, nor is it something that should be left for others to do.

It is worth mentioning that an appointed elder is an elder of the United Reformed Church, not just an elder of the local congregation. Eldership is recognised throughout the denomination, and you are ordained an elder for life, even if exercising the ministry of eldership may only be for a specified period of time. It should be possible to be released from eldership responsibilities, but the pressure to stay can be experienced, or the number of the team become reduced over time if no other members feel called to join the team.

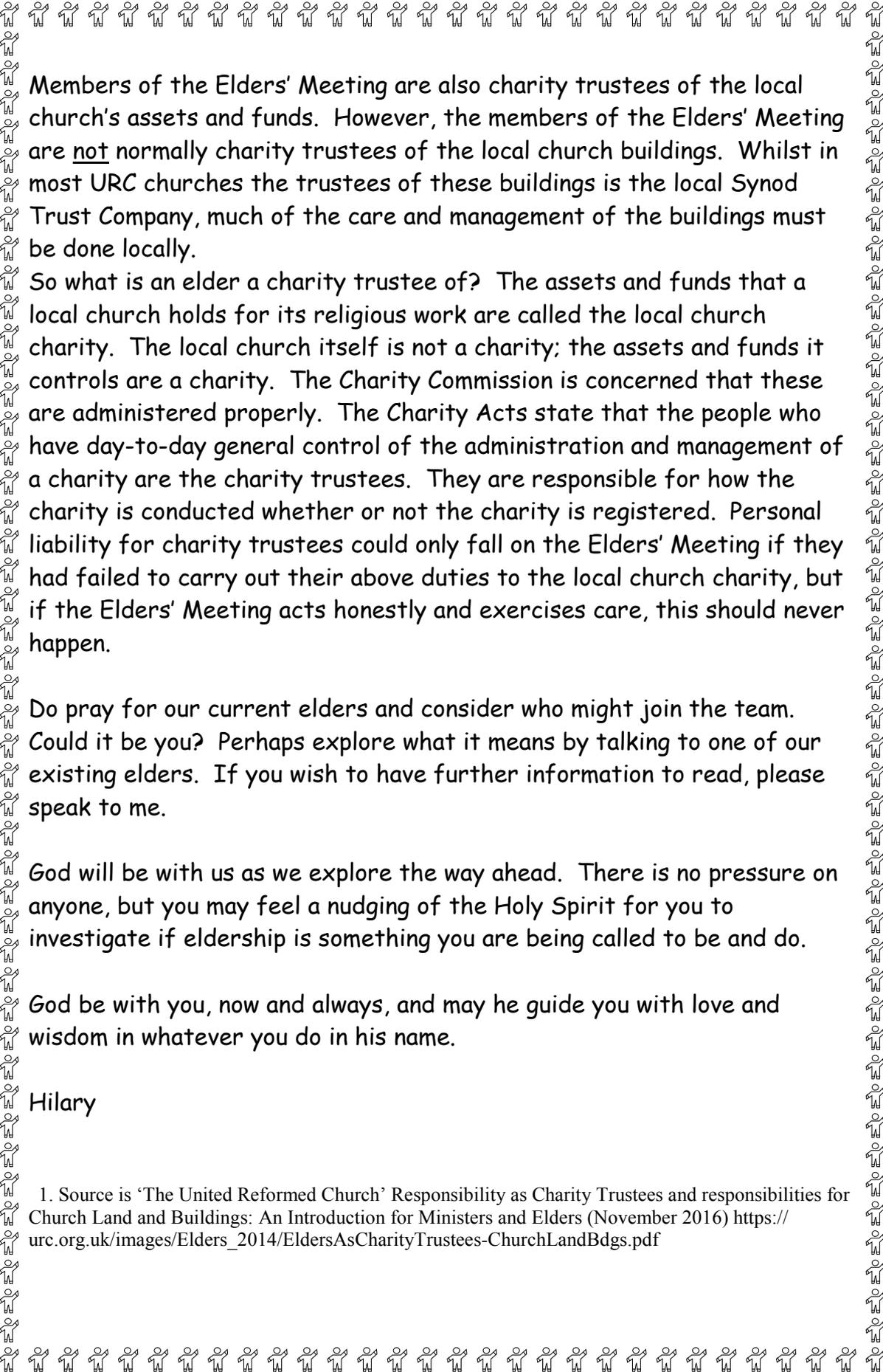
God may be calling you. So please pause, read on, reflect, and do not dismiss yourself before you have asked God if this is something for you to contribute to the life of the church. There is training for eldership and courses have run through locally or a weekend courses, for example at Westminster College.

*The information below has been taken form the URC document 'Called to be an Elder: is this for you?' and 'The United Reformed Church Responsibility as Charity Trustees' (Nov 2016). For more information and full contents of these documents please see [www.urch.org.uk](http://www.urch.org.uk) on the website there is also the 55-page document 'Resourcing our elders'.*



To answer 'what do elders do?' depends to some extent on the nature of the local congregation. There are, however, functions of being an elder in the Basis of Union of the United Reformed Church:

- To foster in the congregation concern for witness and service to the community, evangelism at home and abroad, Christian education, ecumenical action, local inter-church relations and the wider responsibilities of the whole church;
- To see that public worship is regularly offered and the sacraments are duly administered, and generally to promote the welfare of the congregation;
- To ensure pastoral care for the congregation, in which the minister is joined by elders having responsibility for groups of members
- To nominate from among its members a church secretary to be elected by the church meeting, to serve both the church meeting and the elders' meeting;
- To arrange for pulpit supply in a vacancy
- To keep the roll of members, lists of names of adherents and children attached to the congregation, and in consultation with the church meeting to maintain standards of membership and advise on the admission of members on profession of faith and by transfer, on the suspension of members, and on removal of names from the roll;
- To be responsible for the institution and oversight of work among children and young people and of all organisations within the organisation;
- To call for the election of elders and advise on the number required;
- To consider the suitability of any applicant for recognition as a candidate for the ministry, and to advise the church meeting about its recommendation to the synod;
- To recommend to the church meeting arrangements for the proper maintenance of buildings and general oversight of all financial responsibilities of the local church;
- To act on behalf of the church meeting and bring concerns to the wider councils of the United Reformed Church
- To do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the church.



Members of the Elders' Meeting are also charity trustees of the local church's assets and funds. However, the members of the Elders' Meeting are not normally charity trustees of the local church buildings. Whilst in most URC churches the trustees of these buildings is the local Synod Trust Company, much of the care and management of the buildings must be done locally.

So what is an elder a charity trustee of? The assets and funds that a local church holds for its religious work are called the local church charity. The local church itself is not a charity; the assets and funds it controls are a charity. The Charity Commission is concerned that these are administered properly. The Charity Acts state that the people who have day-to-day general control of the administration and management of a charity are the charity trustees. They are responsible for how the charity is conducted whether or not the charity is registered. Personal liability for charity trustees could only fall on the Elders' Meeting if they had failed to carry out their above duties to the local church charity, but if the Elders' Meeting acts honestly and exercises care, this should never happen.

Do pray for our current elders and consider who might join the team. Could it be you? Perhaps explore what it means by talking to one of our existing elders. If you wish to have further information to read, please speak to me.

God will be with us as we explore the way ahead. There is no pressure on anyone, but you may feel a nudging of the Holy Spirit for you to investigate if eldership is something you are being called to be and do.

God be with you, now and always, and may he guide you with love and wisdom in whatever you do in his name.

Hilary

1. Source is 'The United Reformed Church' Responsibility as Charity Trustees and responsibilities for Church Land and Buildings: An Introduction for Ministers and Elders (November 2016) [https://urc.org.uk/images/Elders\\_2014/EldersAsCharityTrustees-ChurchLandBdgs.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/Elders_2014/EldersAsCharityTrustees-ChurchLandBdgs.pdf)

## What are you doing in February?

<u>Date</u>	<u>Duty Elder</u>	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Reader</u>
3rd	A. Elliott	J. Pinchess, M. Holloway	J. Pinchess
10th	P. Gorton	H. McMullan, A. Vanner	A. Vanner
17th	W. McCartney	H. McMullan, M. Holloway	S. Vaughan
24th	D. McMullan	J. Pinchess, D. Gorton	P. Gorton

Serving Elders: A. Elliott

Communion Table: J. Pinchess

### Flowers

3rd	A. Vanner
10th	A. Vanner
17th	A. Vanner
24th	H. McMullan

### Thinking about becoming an Elder or already an Elder ?

Westminster College Cambridge is running a course

Supporting Elders Leadership and Spirituality

from 5th July to 7th July, 2019

For more details see

<https://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/rcl/church-events>

The March Newsletter is due to be distributed on Sunday 24th February 2019. Any items for inclusion should be with Peggy Gorton on or before Thursday 21st February please.  
[peggy@officeit.co.uk](mailto:peggy@officeit.co.uk)