

IMMANUEL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

SWINDON

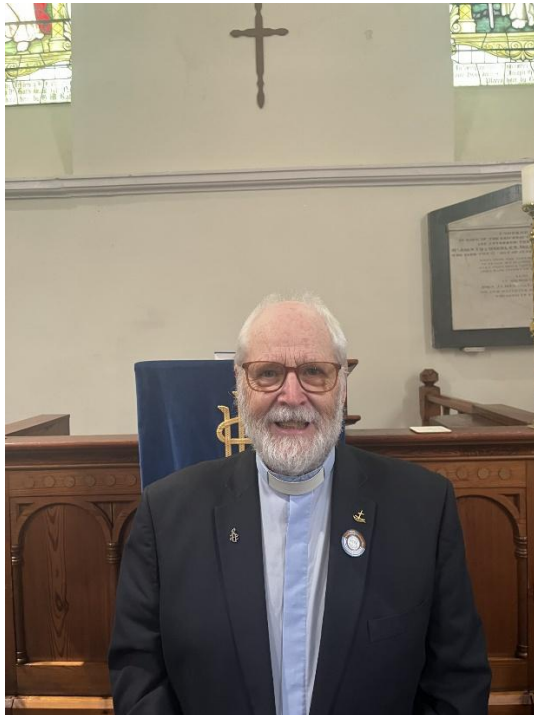
Old Town Partnership of Churches

Immanuel with Highworth United Reformed Church

Sunday 26th April 2026

Service of release of the Rev. Robert H Jordan

on his retirement.



Welcome and Announcements

Introit O praise God in His holiness. (Psalm 150)

Call to worship: *“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing...For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.”* (Psalm 100)

HYMN SP 176 Let us build a house where love can dwell (omitted v 2)

<p>Let us build a house where love can dwell And all can safely live A place where saints and children tell How hearts learn to forgive Built of hopes and dreams and visions Rock of faith and vault of grace Here the love of Christ shall end divisions</p> <p>Chorus <i>All are welcome, all are welcome All are welcome in this place</i></p> <p>Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.</p>	<p>Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face; let us bring an end to fear and danger.</p> <p>Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.</p>
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Marty Haugen

Prayer – Thanksgiving and Confession and Lord’s Prayer

HYMN: RS 548 Nothing distress you

<p>Nothing distress you, Nothing affright you, Everything passes, God will abide. Patient endeavour Accomplishes all things; Who God possesses Needs naught beside.</p>	<p>See the world’s glory! Fading its splendour, <i>Everything passes,</i> All is denied. Look ever homeward To the eternal; Faithful in promise <i>God will abide.</i></p>
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<p>Lift your mind upward, Fair are his mansions, <i>Nothing distress you,</i> Cast fear away. Follow Christ freely, His love will light you, <i>Nothing affright you,</i> In the dark way.</p>	<p>Love is due measure Measureless Goodness; <i>Patient endeavour,</i> Run to loves call! Faith burning brightly Be your soul's shelter Who hopes, believing <i>Accomplishes all.</i></p>
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Hell may assail you,
It cannot move you;
Sorrows may grieve you,
Faith may be tried.
Though you have nothing,
He is your treasure:
Who God possesses
Needs naught beside.

Nada te turbe
St Teresa of Avila

Bible Reading: John 10; 1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

ANTHEM Jubilate: O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands.

Music: Sir George Thalben-Ball

Sermon: Life in Fullness

HYMN: RS 625 God of freedom, God of Justice

<p>God Of freedom, God Of justice, God whose love is strong as death, God who saw the dark of prison, God who knew the price of faith— Touch our world of sad oppression With your Spirit's healing breath.</p>	<p>Rid the earth of torture's terror, God whose hands were nailed to wood; Hear the cries of pain and protest, God who shed the tears and blood— Move in us the power of pity Restless for the common good.</p>
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Make in us a captive conscience
 Quick to hear, to act, to Plead;
 Make us truly sisters, brothers
 Of whatever race or creed—
 Teach us to be fully human,
 Open to each other's need.

Shirley Erena Murray

Written in 1981 for Amnesty International

Offering – The Grace

Prayer: Intercession

Liturgy of release

- Words by Don Macarthur – Church Secretary
- Words by George Kennedy – Chair of the Old Town Partnership of Churches

HYMN RS 635 Put peace into each other's hands (omitted v 4)

<p>Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it; protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.</p>	<p>Put peace into each other's hands, like bread we break for sharing; look people warmly in the eye: our life is meant for caring.</p>
<p>Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation; be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation .</p>	<p>Put Christ into each other's hands, he is love's deepest measure; in love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure.</p>

Fred Kaan

- Rev. David Downing (Moderator -South Western Synod) and Rev. Gerald England (Synod Pastoral Advisor)

**A LITURGY FOR MINISTER AND CONGREGATION AT THE CONCLUSION
 OF A PASTORATE**

Gerald:

We share in this service with mixed feelings about the past and the future – feelings of thankfulness and failure, feelings of anticipation and trepidation. We bring all these thoughts and feelings to God.

- **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Robert:

Lord, for all the blessings I have received in this pastorate, for all the love and hospitality, for all the grace and forbearance, for all that I have learned, for all the hard lessons that have helped me to grow, I thank you.

David:

For all that you have been able to give, for all that you have achieved, for all the friendships made and people helped and healed in your ministry... we thank you, Lord.

- **Lord God, for all the blessings we have received during this ministry, for the love, patience and care shown to us, for the fruits of study and prayer in teaching and preaching, for new thoughts and a widening of horizons, we thank you, Lord.**

Robert:

For all I have left undone, for hurts I have caused unwittingly, for failures of ideas, projects and plans, for missed opportunities, for all I have failed to achieve through lack of inspiration or vision, for times of impatience and a lack of grace, Loving God, forgive me.

- **For what we have failed to receive, for hurts we have caused unwittingly, for missed opportunities and failure to grasp new ideas, for failures of vision, enthusiasm or energy, for moments of ungracious criticism or lack of love, Loving God, forgive us.**

David:

For these people, Lord, I pray that they may be united in faith and vision as they face a new chapter and important decisions in the life of the church. Grant them an outpouring of your Spirit as the journey continues.

- **For our departing minister, Lord, we pray for an appreciation of retirement and a sense of how his gifts may be used well in the coming days.**

Gerald:

Past put behind us, for the future take us, Lord of the years, to live for Christ alone! Amen.

Blessing



13th April 1984
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Argentina
Ordination to the ministry
With my parents: Sheila and Jock