**AUTUMN 2013**

**Dear Friends**

**Compiling these thoughts it seems hardly possible that it is a year since I moved to Wilshire. Therefore may I begin by thanking you for your kindness during these past twelve months. It is a privilege to be minister at Warminster, there is such a positive atmosphere in the building and it is a church with great potential, please may I say thank you to everyone for all that you do in the life and mission of the church.**

**One of the things that I notice each time I take a service is how welcoming people are. For me this is such an important part of being a Christian community. As I read the Gospels this was a central part of Jesus’ ministry, sometimes those he welcomes draws criticism such as when he shares fellowship with Zaccheaus, on other occasions those pushed aside, such as that famous passage where Jesus blesses children, are made to feel of value. He even speaks about welcome in some of the parables like the sheep and the goats and to my mind especially in the parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15)**

**Over the past year it has been good to welcome new people into the Church, at a recent Saturday coffee morning talking to one couple they said they joined because of the reception they received. Making people feel valued is an important ministry and is not something we do just on a Sunday, for example through our involvement with the Foodbank or the Shoebox appeal.**

**In all that we seek to do over the coming months and years may we especially continue to be a welcoming church and also each of us know the welcoming embrace of God.**

**With all best wishes**

**Rev David**

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**CHRISTIAN AID**

The total raised for the year comes to £619

**A MODERN PARABLE**

**Pastor Jeremiah Steepek transformed himself into a homeless person before going to the 10,000 member church where he was to be introduced as the new head pastor that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service, only 3 people out of the 7-10,000 people said hello to him. He asked people for change to buy food - NO ONE in the church gave him change. He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit at the back. He greeted people and was be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him.

As he sat in the back of the church, he listened to the church announcements and such. When all that was done, the elders went up and were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. "We would like to introduce to you Pastor Jeremiah Steepek." The congregation looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle. The clapping stopped with ALL eyes on him. He walked up the altar and took the microphone from the elders (who were in on this) and paused for a moment then he recited,

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

'The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

After he recited this, he looked towards the congregation and told them all what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and many heads were bowed in shame. He then said, "Today I see a gathering of people, not a church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people, but not enough disciples. When will YOU decide to become disciples?"

He then dismissed service until next week.

Being a Christian is more than something you claim. It's something you live by and share with others.**

David Coppard

*(this story has been spreading around the internet – it may or may not be true! Either way it is still food for thought! Ed.)*

**A  SEWING GROUP VISITOR
During one of our sewing afternoons a gentleman came in and asked if this was a church. We assured him it was and he asked if he could pray there. Before he went into the church he said he needed to wash his hands and we realised he was probably a Moslem. He asked if we minded if he sung a little before he prayed, but we hardly heard the singing. He needed to know east and west aspects before praying. Afterwards he told us he had come to give thanks to God as his daughter, who was on the other side of the road with his wife, had just been told by the hospital that her cancer was cured.**

 **It was good to know that people of other faiths are happy to use our church for prayer. We discovered he had come over from Kuwait, telling us the temperature there at that time was around 50c and how he loved our lovely green country. We told him why that was!!**

Pam Copland

**SUNDAY WORSHIP- all services 10.30 a.m. unless otherwise stated.**

**SEPTEMBER**

**1st: Douglas Colborne**

**8th: Rev. David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION**

**15th: Rev. Catherine Arscott**

**22nd: David Coppard HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**29th: Rev. Heather Morgan**

**29th: 4.30 p.m. Rev. David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION**

**Followed by BRING AND SHARE TEA**

**OCTOBER**

**6th: Jennie MacMeekin**

**13th: Rev. Mary Teed**

**20th: Rev. David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION**

**27th: Local arrangements ( Songs of Praise?)**

**NOVEMBER**

**3rd : Rev. David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION**

**10th: Margaret White**

**17th: Pat Clarke**

**24th: Rev. Mike Burrell**

**St Denys’ Centre**

**are holding several**

**QUIET DAYS AND STUDY DAYS in September and October.**

**See the notice in the Church Foyer for details**

**Back in February the Area held a Vision Day as we not only gave thanks for 1000 days of the United Area but also sought God’s guidance and direction for the future. Following that event an Action Plan has been developed which each church has been asked to consider.**

**FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON COURSE OF ACTION**

 **FOR THE CHURCHES TO CONSIDER**

**CHURCHES**

* We invite churches to look at their hymnology technology and whether they need power point and similar technology or the ability to play hymns etc on a sound system.
* Encourage churches to make connections across the Area where there is commonality, eg Winsley and Holt with the book swap, Calne and Devizes with Messy Church. Ministers could encourage these conversations and keep an overall view to see where connections could be made.
* Churches should be asked to have a balance between their own preachers and elsewhere for a balance of continuity and variety.

The Preachers/Worship Leaders meeting have considered different forms of worship, different times, joining with other churches for services and also sector services.

* All ministers, senior stewards/church secretaries to meet, on 3rd November at Market Lavington , to produce a chart of what is happening in the churches, giving examples of commonality and connections. Then to consider how we can improve upon this and how we can resources this. (*Note:* we have chosen a date in November which will give churches good time to reflect on the issues we have raised and will be raising during the course of the next several months. It will also enable the new ministers joining us to share in the discussion which will affect the church in coming years. It would be helpful for individual churches to produce the list of their key areas of church life where they see possible growth and development).

**MEDAIR** 

**The United Area are this year supporting the international Organisation MEDAIR as their Overseas Aid project.**

 **At a recent meeting the World Church Group recommended that the Area**

**support Medair as the Area Project from Sept 2013 to April 2015. This was accepted by the Area Meeting. After consultation with Medair UK director,**

**Alex Day, it was recommended that we supported the “Emergency Response”**

**team and a project in one of the neediest and most desolate areas of the world –South Sudan**

**Medair helps people who are suffering in remote and devastated communities around the world survive crisis, recover with dignity, and develop skills to build a better future.**

 See their website [www.relief.medair.org](http://www.relief.medair.org) also [http://www.wiltsunitedchurches.org.uk](http://www.wiltsunitedchurches.org.uk/)

 Wiltshire Churches Together is a partnership between the major Christian denominations and churches in Wiltshire which enables and encourages ecumenical activity in the local church from congregational to county level.

They want to encourage new and exciting events and projects across Wiltshire and have access to funds which could help get a project started - maximum £500 for each project.

The projects will be evaluated on their effectiveness for Mission and Evangelism using the Five Marks of Mission which are:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers.

To respond to human need by loving service.

To seek to transform unjust structures of society.

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

For an application form please email the Secretary on liz.overthrow@btinternet.com

**WILTSHIRE CHURCHES TOGETHER AUTUMN FORUM**

**Saturday 19 October 2013**

**9.30 am – 3.00 pm (Lunch provided)**

St John’s Upper Studley Church Hall, Trowbridge

**COME TO BE INSPIRED, EXCITED AND ENCOURAGED BY HOW CHRISTIANS WORK TOGETHER IN AND FOR OUR COMMUNITIES**

**Contact Liz Overthrow**

 **email as above or 19 Bratton Ave, Devizes, SN10 5BA**

**Home Start Kennett**

We all lead such busy lives! Yet Home-Start Kennet is asking if anyone, experienced from raising their own or foster children, can find a couple of hours a week to visit and support local families who are struggling. Your two hours could make the difference between just about coping and discovering the joys of parenting. You'll get training, and the chance of national accreditation. Please contact www.homestartkennet.co.uk or 01672 569457

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**The Foodbank continues, in ever increasing numbers to serve Warminster and District clients in need - 177 in July 2013.**

**Our links with Westbury and Frome are now well established, and of course both towns collect for us. Sainsbury’s in Frome and the Co-op in Westbury. Many churches also collect.**

**Harvest approaches, and this has become a major source of food for us.**

**The United church are holding their service on the 23rd of September, and hopefully food donated on this occasion will "head our way".**

**If church members wish to donate then the following items are often in short supply. Long life milk, long life fruit juice, tins of fish and vegetables and sponge puddings. No perishable foods thank you.**

**The volunteer staff and committee thank you all for you continued support and prayers.**

**Jean Colgrave**.

**MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS**

**February         Warminster & District Food Bank                           £150**

**March            Alzheimer Support              £ 235**

**May Christian Aid £125**

**June               People against Poverty(Romania)         £210**

**July Action for Children £160**

**August         Forever Friends Appeal RUH Cancer Unit      £180**

**September  14th Warminster Community Radio**

**October 12th Zimbabwe Victim Support**

**November 9th Wessex Heartbeat**

**December 14th Rwanda Education Project**

**Thank you all for your support in the past – please continue to come along and support the future charity coffee mornings.**

( On the 2nd Saturday each month)

Church Rota for Sept, Oct and November

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sept | Open/Vestry | Books/Welcome | Coffee | Flowers |
| 1st | Karen O/V | Dianna B/Wendy W | Karen Woollard and Mike Evans | Jenny Sanderson |
| 8th | Marion O/V | Hilda Hanks and Jenny Sanderson  | Kevin and Helen Dawson | Betty Fielding |
| 15th | Brenda OMarion V | Pam and Derrik Copeland | Brenda and Ron | Wendy Wormesley |
| 22nd | Karen O/V | Stella and John Case | Yvonne and David Syrett | HARVEST |
| 29th | Barry O/V | Andy Simmons and Dennis Mills | Debbie and Denis Major | Pat Mills |
| Oct |  |  |  |  |
| 6th | Marion O/V | Marion and John Hornby | Mary and Barry Treadwell | Margaret Edwards |
| 13th | Joan Stephens OMargaret E. V | Dianna B and Wendy Wormesley | Hilda Hanks and Jenny Sanderson | Jenny Sanderson |
| 20th | Joan Jones OMargaret Mac- Donald V | Karen Woollard and Mike Evans | Joan and Evan | Hilda Hanks |
| 27th | Karen V/O | Margaret and Gordon MacDonald | Brenda and Ron | Margaret MacDonald |
| Nov |  |  |  |  |
| 3rd | Hilda O/V | Andy Simmons and Dennis Mills | Debbie and Denis Major | Mary Treadwell |
| 10th | Helen O/V | Marion and John Hornby  | Mary and Barry Treadwell | Marion Hornby |
| 17th | Hilary O/V | Stella and John Case | Pam and Derrik Copeland | Pam Copeland |
| 24th | Barry O/V | Hilary Reynolds and Margaret Edwards | Yvonne and David Syrett | Jenny Sanderson |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**PASTORAL MATTERS**

**'Your kindness has brought me many hours of peace and happiness'**

(from The Perfect Gift of Quiet Celebration by Daisy Seal.

**The work of the Pastoral Carers goes on throughout the year, with members of the congregation offering their companionship and support to each other.**

**Having shared with you the role of the Pastoral Carers, I would now like to thank all the members of the Church who offer their friendship and support by visiting. I should like to thank all the Pastoral Carers for the quiet, continuous friendship and care they offer throughout the year; each one bringing their own distinct qualities. A special thank you to David Dodge and Margaret Edwards who stepped down after many years of caring for members of the Church.**

**It is not always an easy thing to do, especially when life is not treating you kindly, but I know how appreciated those visits are and how members who are unable to attend the Church services rely on the news being brought to them. In return their thoughts and prayers are with us as we go about our Christian lives. It is by sharing and showing our love and care that we become stronger members of God’s family**.

**As you are aware I am still fairly new to this role and hope that all of you will accept my lack of awareness if I fail to undertake a duty; Ruth is a hard act to follow! Should you be interested or wish to know a little more about the role of a Pastoral Carer, please speak to me.**

**Please remember Gladys, Howard and Audrey, John, Chris and Derrick, Margaret and Tony as they plan to move, Hazel, June, Pat, Carol, Thelma and Augustine, in love and laughter and pray for them. We thank God for bringing David safely through his operation and for the care given to him.**

**We have new visitors to welcome to our Church family including Nelda Spooner, Joan Agnew and Sheena Shepherd from Imber Court, and hope that they will continue to celebrate with us each Sunday as we hear God’s word.**

Marion Barton

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 **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

 **22nd September**

 **MORNING WORSHIP**

 **at 10.30 a.m.**

 **FOLLOWED BY LUNCH**

 **( look out for more information on weekly notice sheets)**

**![C:\Users\Joan and Evan\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\13WQ6GW3\MC900038626[1].wmf]()**

**Tinned and packet foods brought to the service will be given to Warminster & District Foodbank**

**There will also be a monetary collection for MedAir**

**ROY ROSSITER**

**Roy was born in Peasedown-St-John on 18th March 1930 and lived there until 1954 when he married Jean and moved to Warminster. Roy joined the local church youth club where he enjoyed playing snooker. He attended Bath Technical College until National Service took him to Germany. After the army he joined the GPO as a telephone engineer. Jean was a telephonist and they met at a GPO dance. When they married they settled in Woodland Rd, Warminster where daughters Susan and Carol were born. He was keen on gardening and DIY. When his daughters were in their teens and the family felt the need for a bigger house, he bought a building plot in Downlands and built a family home doing much of the work himself.**

**Both daughters married and gave him 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. His grandchildren have happy memories of trips to the pantomime which he arranged . He took a great interest in all the family and helped and supported them all in many ways.**

**Roy moved into East End Avenue in 1983 renovating the property and turning the overgrown garden into his sanctuary, becoming virtually self sufficient in fruit .He moved to Imber Court 2 years ago and enjoyed the company and support of new friends there. He attended the United Church where he made more new friends. He died on 12th July and will be remembered as a quiet and gentle man who will be missed by all who knew him.**

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

**The “Getting to Know You” meals have been happening and enjoyed by those hosting and attending. It is so nice to spend time with our church friends in a relaxed atmosphere and share in fellowship and food together .**

**How lovely too that an enjoyable social occasion can benefit other people; guests are asked to make a monetary contribution which goes to the charity chosen by the host.**

**Please don’t feel restricted to providing an evening meal. Perhaps you would be able to invite people to share in tea/coffee and cake? Maybe a film with finger food would be something you would enjoy organising? A brain teasing afternoon/evening with a board game may appeal? The choice is entirely yours and I would encourage you to give it a try. Please come and have a chat with me if you would like to know more. Helen Dawson**

Ed. I have enjoyed several of these meals – please remember guests are needed as well as hosts , so if you would like to meet others like this socially but don’t feel able to host then please still have a chat with Helen

**ONE YEAR ON Was it really last August when we took the bull by the horns and got started on the task of improving the look and feel of the Foyer? So much has happened in that time and yet it seemed at times to take an age to get anything completed – there’s always one more thing to do.**

**When a few gallant helpers removed the old carpet, we could see by the efflorescence on the old thermoplastic floor tiles that we were being attacked by moisture ingress and retention from all sides. There was nothing for it but to dig a couple of sample holes to ascertain exactly what had to be dealt with. We found the damp-proof course in the 1976 extension to be in poor condition and that no membrane existed between the arches and the glass doors across the full width, from the multi-use toilet to the stairs. At this point we felt very like a “Time Team” project but unfortunately we found no treasure.**

**The area was excavated and the appropriate materials used to bring the floor levels back up. The damp-proof membrane was installed horizontally and vertically around the perimeter and the stone pillars.**

**A professional company were employed to take off the rotten plaster, treat the walls and the wall-to-floor joint, apply an additive-included render, finished with a cementitious renovating plaster & skim. The foyer floor was also cleaned back, removing the old tiles and adhesive. A liquid vapour barrier was applied and a final screed laid, giving a suitable surface for the carpet. Whew !! I’m exhausted just writing about it !**

**Our new refreshment area came along rather suddenly as I was offered a package of units which necessitated a re-think of the design. Although the actual “footprint” hasn’t changed, I feel this arrangement gives us maximum storage and a much easier, safer layout.**

**There are still things to address : not least the lighting and insulation values. These will need to be thought through very carefully. A more secure cupboard for the sound system equipment is being considered, and hopefully this will include a permanent home for the small folding tables which are so popular with the groups using the foyer.**

**The renovations and improvements to the rear kitchen and toilets will be “on hold” for a while as we want to safeguard finances to cope with winter heating costs.**

**As most of you know Alice Hearley has decided to retire in July 2014 and has given notice that the Nursery School will close at the end of that school term. We would like to use this opportunity to change the facilities at the rear of the building and achieve a brighter, efficient set of rooms that would be a joy to use.**

**It may be a long journey, a big task, and the aim is to have a place worthy of spreading the love and fellowship which this Church generates. Personally I am encouraged by the positivity that abounds in our congregation and feel sure that, with God’s hand to guide us, we can make the place fit for the purpose it was intended - I quote from David Dodge’s “BRIEF HISTORY” :**

**..........*That resolve continues in the present day as we look forward into the 21st Century....***

**.**

 ***...But we must always bear in mind that it is the Community of the Faithful who meet, who are the Church of Christ, and it is through that community, and not through any building large or small, that His will is done and His kingdom will come.***

**My sincere thanks for your support and contributions**

**Pauline Howell**

Items for next Newsletter to editor by November 24th please. Joan Jones iantojo@virginmedia.com