**WARMINSTER**

**UNITED CHURCH**

 **(Methodist /URC)**

 **George Street BA12 8QA**

**AUTUMN 2014**

**Minister: Revd David Coppard Tel: 01373858805**

 **email: dave.coppard@yahoo.co.uk**

**www.unitedchurchwarminster.org.uk Bookings & room hire:07506065235**

**“Are you a real vicar?” came the incredulous voice of one of my fellow passengers.  To explain dressed in lycra I along with my bike had boarded the train to Oldfield Park from where I cycle up to the Bath Royal United Hospital, enroute I popped into the train toilets and got changed: obviously my transformation was a bit much for this person!**

**Are we always what we seem?  How often might we outwardly look happy or when asked, “How are you,” reply “I’m fine” when actually deep down the truth may well be anything but!**

**Back in the early 90’s as a theological student in Bristol I spent a year working in a homeless centre, one conversation continues to haunt me, a teenager kicked out by her parents and reduced to egging out an existence begging on the city’s streets succinctly said, “I do not mind people not giving me money, it is when they walk by refusing to even look at me.” Those words pound my mind every time I see someone homeless here on the streets in Warminster.  One of the greatest stories Jesus told was that of the Good Samaritan, the name has become almost a phrase to record an act of great kindness.  In the actual story a man is beaten up and left half dead.  Some while later first one and then another pass him by, they each happen to be people of significant standing in the religious world.  Then along comes a Samaritan, a member of a hated race, goes to him and shows deep compassion and care.**

**I am reminded of the famous words of former soldier who became a Quaker Stephen Grellet, “I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”**

*Rev David Coppard*

**Harvest Festival**

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**Sunday 5th October**

**Led by Rev. Ruth Whitehead**

**Moderator of the United Reformed Church**

**This will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch**

Non perishable gifts of food will be given to the Foodbank

Ruth will be being interviewed on Warminster Radio before the service

**The Foodbank in Warminster continues its operation in North Row, currently feeding around 200 folk per month, many of them being children.**

**We were able to help several homeless people last month and several very distressed clients who presented themselves at our premises.**

**On October 1st 2014 Frome is launching its own Foodbank with the support of the town council. Until then we shall continue to support needy Frome clients.**

**Warminster Foodbank has acted as a hub for Westbury and Frome receiving food from both towns. We wish them luck , and plenty of energy in the task ahead of them!!.**

**They will be independent of the Trussel Trust.**

**With the harvest ahead of us the Foodbank  would be grateful for any donated food, in particular: long life fruit juice, long life milk, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, milk puddings and sponge puddings.**

**We have a big stock of pasta, beans and tea ..**

**The Foodbank is beginning to work with the Cornerstone project in town and we have made a very useful contact with Lidls . The Warminster store has donated frozen items for our new Freezer.**

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Fund raising dates for your calendar:

 **Friday 26th September Fashion Show in M &Co**

 **Friday 7th November soup lunch   in the Athenaeum.**

 **Many thanks for your ongoing support***Jean Colgrave*

**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

**With the summer holidays upon us, it has been a joy to welcome new faces to the congregation, albeit they are only with us for a short time. Our Church has the reputation for being friendly and welcoming and so has been the case for Charles Alley, (known as Les) who lives at Woodmead. It is great to welcome him to our services but we have a dilemma; Les is unable to get to church without assistance, being in a wheelchair. Enquiries in to the cost of a taxi revealed that it was £15 per trip, which is not feasible. Do you know anyone with a wheelchair friendly car willing to bring him to church, please? When Woodmead moves to Beckford, it will be beyond our capabilities to push the wheelchair and with the onset of winter rain and cold, not practicable. However, thanks to Andy for bringing Les to the services recently.**

**Please Remember our Friends in your Prayers as they remember us;**

**Audrey and Howard ,Daphne, Ivy , Tony at home but unable to be with us.**

**Bernard in Bratton and John in Bath**

**June, not always able to come to church. Hazel, now attending with us thanks to John and Stella Case, Christina Walton coming with Susan**

**Ruth and David Dodge and the Army families living in Warminster.**

 *Marion Barton*

**Congratulations to Denis and Pat Mills who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in July.**

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**Once again Heather and David Morgan’s Open Garden weekend was a great success, with many people visiting and enjoying lovely sunny days and delicious cakes in a beautiful setting. The event raised £800 which has been shared between Salisbury Hospital STARS Appeal - Redlynch Ward and Warminster and District Foodbank . Many thanks for all who supported this event**

**AREA SERVICE**

**Sunday 21st September  at 4.00pm**

**Led by A. Ward Jones, Methodist District Chairman &**

**Revd  Ruth Whitehead,  Moderator of URC South Western Synod**

**To celebrate 60 years of local preaching by Michael Currass**

**& John Greenaway, and 50 years by Grace Mortimer.**

**We also bid farewell to Roy & Christine Fowler as they move on to a new appointment.**

**(Tea and cake served from 3.00 pm with the Service starting at 4.00 pm)**

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Sunday 10 .30 a.m.**

**September**

**7th : Douglas Colbourne**

**14th: Rev Heather Morgan HOLY COMMUNION**

**21st: Local Arrangement ( see weekly notices for details)**

**28th: Rev Mary Teed**

**October**

**5th : Rev Ruth Whitehead HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**12th: Janet Ruddick**

**19th : Rev David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION**

**26th Local Arrangements ( see weekly notices)**

**November**

**2nd: Rev Mary Teed**

**9th: Peter Walker**

**16th : Rev David Coppard**

**23rd Pat Clarke**

**30th: Rev David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION**

**Mid-week service every Wednesday 10.15– 10.45 a.m.**

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU – CHARITY MEALS**

**Helen Dawson held a very successful supper in the church entrance hall in July. The 13 people who attended were treated to an extremely tasty meal. Their donations raised £165 for Toilet Twining! Which will be enough to provide 2 toilets in an area where there are none. Look out for a certificate and details of where they are which will soon be put up in our church toilet!**

**Meals like this help us to get to know others in our church family and at the same time raise money for good causes. If you would like to host a meal, of any type and invite a few people from the church have a chat with Helen. Also tell her if you would like to be a guest at such a meal.**

**If you would like to know more about the Toilet twinning project then either look at** [**www.toilettwinning.org**](http://www.toilettwinning.org) **or ask Helen**

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**

**![C:\Users\Joan and Evan\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Q8SXY1CW\MP900384851[1].jpg]()Rev David will be holding an Advent Bible Study for Steeple Ashton, Westbury and Warminster.  It will be based on the BBC documentary ‘The Nativity’ and it is expected that this will take place on each Wednesday from November 26th.  Further details to follow.**

**Letter from Rev Roy Fowler**

**It is 19 years since I first came to what was then the West Wiltshire Area as minister at Warminster and Westbury. When I left Wiltshire in 2000 for the West Midlands, I never expected to come back. I flirted with Cumbria and West London before accepting the call to Calne and its villages in 2006. When I did so, I certainly did not expect to end up back in a United Area that would eventually also include my former churches. Even less did I expect to become Area Chair at the time of the transition. Still, I am glad I came back to Wiltshire, and the last eight years have been very satisfying for me. But the time has come to move on for one last pastorate before I retire in seven years’ time. So in October I shall be inducted to a pastorate of four churches worshipping in six buildings on the Essex and Hertfordshire border, centred on the towns of Bishop’s Stortford and Saffron Walden. It will still be ecumenical as I shall be working with the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the Salvation Army, and who know the pastorate might even call a half-time minister to share the pastorate with me as is intended. In the meantime, Heather has suggested I might share some memories of my time at Warminster.**

**I begin with Wesley and Barbara Spooner because they were the first people Christine and I really got to know as Wesley was put in charge of getting the Manse in Gipsy Lane ready for us, which he was very good at. It made settling in so easy. We still visit Barbara when we are down near Milford on Sea, the last time about a month ago. One thing Wesley couldn’t do anything about was the garden – how I struggled with the mowing, the hedges and the weeding.**

**I remember a church social shortly after I arrived in which Ruth and David Dodge did a comical turn centred on the tandem they had just bought. I don’t think they rode it many times! But other socials I remember are line dancing down the slope in the church and Christmas socials for the women’s fellowship at Sonia and Peter Reed’s home in Portway. I also remember a trip to Poole and an evening by the river near Bath.**

**Easter time was also special with the early morning breakfasts organised by Helen, followed by the service and then a quick dash to Westbury for a joint service there. It prepared me well for my time in Olton and Hall Green , when I had services in both churches almost every Sunday morning. Maundy Thursday always included a shared Agape and Communion with the Baptists, held alternatively at the Baptist Church, but I seem to remember that I was always in Westbury that year. Other shared services included a service for Millennium in the main street on what must have been the coldest Pentecost Sunday ever.**

**There were several weddings during my time, but the one that stands out in my memory is that of Jo and May. You don’t often see such late flowering of love. (I saw Jo the last time I was at Trowbridge United.) There were quite a few funerals of good friends. During one of the services, the funeral director was given a parking ticket by an over-zealous traffic warden. What a difference it made when the new crematorium was opened at Semington and we no longer had to travel to either Bath or Salisbury. I was always glad that Glen at Curtis’s always picked me up for serves at the Crematoria. I still appreciate the fountain bubbling away in the garden as you come out of the chapel at Semington.**

**Heather, of course, came to Warminster for her placement when she was in training for the ministry. Then her training minister moved on and she attached herself to me for the last year of her training. Eventually, she came to Warminster to minister alongside me and is still with you. I really enjoyed sharing the ministry with Heather. I know she has made a great difference to you. Somehow, I managed then to get another trainee minister attached to me, Hazel Starritt from Frome. I even managed to end up as her tutor for a term – that was scary as her tutor group included Hazel with a PhD and a professor of statistics from Bristol University. It was a good job my theology was up to scratch. I have helped train three ministers now – two of them have managed to retire before me. Not that retirement necessarily means idleness as I have discovered living with a retired minister. I preached at Heather’s retirement service.**

**I also became Free Church Chaplain at Warminster Hospital. I spent many happy afternoons at the hospital, including the day of the almost total eclipse. One of the assistants in the day hospital was convinced that something terrible was going to happen. I also spent a day in Bournemouth with one of the day hospital groups. I am not sure that I should have been let loose with a wheelchair.**

**Beyond Warminster, I was fortunate to travel to Wisconsin on behalf of the URC Synod as a guest of the United Church of Christ. Until recently, we have still have been hosting visitors coming back this way from Wisconsin. I also spent two weeks at a Ministers’ refresher course at St. George’s House in the grounds of Windsor Castle.**

**I came back to preach during your special Anniversary year and to share your celebration concert and dinner.**

**Most of all I remember the kindness of so many of you. There were Sunday lunches and evening meals when I was living in the manse alone. You looked after me when I had an operation on my ear. Barry took me to Cricket matches at Bath and Taunton.**

**Well, the time has come to say good bye. It would be lovely to see some of you at the Area Service on 21st September at Melksham. Thank you for the memories and God bless you all. All my love,**

**I well remember my first service at United Church in January 1995. I was introduced to the congregation as a Ministerial Student by my Training Minister, Roy Fowler, and it was the first service he led at George Street at the beginning of his ministry here.**

**Roy read a lesson at my Ordination service in July 1996.**

**It was a pleasure to work with Roy and I wish him and Christine God speed as they leave the United Area.** *Heather Morgan*

**TRIO**

**I would like to thank everyone who responded to the TRIO campaign. There was a very positive response with over 30 replies. Many thanks to all who reviewed their giving, and I include those who had already increased their giving before the TRIO presentation.**

Derrik (as our Gift Aid Secretary) has requested that I remind those who Gift Aid their Offering that it is their responsibility to ensure that their Income Tax payment covers their Gift Aid claim. This is important because the Tax thresholds have increased recently. If you are unsure, either Derrik or I can give you a figure for the amount that was claimed on your behalf for the last tax year. *Hilary Reynolds Treasurer*

**“DREAMING” DURING THE SEPTEMBER COFFEE MORNING**

**Now that the Nursery has finished using the church there is a lot of space to think about.  In our Vision Days over the last four years we have been talking about making our church more user friendly for Warminster people and our community.  We also need to generate some income to help us meet our assessment - the Nursery paid us a rent which helped us enormously financially for some 20 years.  Maybe you have some ideas about what could be done.  Maybe you have come from a church or visited churches which have made radical or simple alterations and you have some ideas to share.**

**![C:\Users\Joan and Evan\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Q8SXY1CW\MC900441880[1].wmf]()Please use our September Coffee Morning to walk round the back rooms of the church and to ‘dream’ about the changes we could make. Talk to people about your ideas or better still show us a photo or drawing of your plan.  We will be talking together as a church over the next few months to plan our next stages of making our church a big part of the Warminster Community As we look to the future use of our premises, now that they have been vacated by the Nursery School, we look forward to hearing your ideas for improving our facilities and our outreach to the town.**

 We are fortunate in having a substantial sum of money in a Trust Fund that can be used for this work – with the approval of the United Reformed Church who administer the fund. It is money from the sale of the old URC building when the churches combined. It cannot be used for day to day running cost .

**Rotas for Church**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Oct | Vestry (V)/ Opening(O) | Books/Welcome | Coffee | Flowers |
| 5 | Hilary V/O | Dennis and Pat Mills | Brenda and Ron |  |
| 12 | Joan Stephens OMargaret McDonald V | Margaret Edwards and Joan Stephens | Pam and Derrick Copeland |  |
| 19 | Diana OKaren V | Penelope and Jack Harrison | Diana and Wendy |  |
| 26 | Barry V/O | John and Stella Case | Mary and Barry  |  |
| Nov |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Joan Jones OHilda V | Karen Woollard and Mike Evans | Joan and Evan Jones |  |
| 9 | Marion V/O | Hilary Reynolds and Nelda Spooner | Brenda and Ron |  |
| 16 | Helen V/O | Kevin Dawson and Andy Simmons  | Debbie and Dennis Major |  |
| 23 | Karen V/O | Jenny Sanderson and Joan Agnew | Pam and Derrick  |  |
| 30 | Hilary V/O | Dennis and Pat Mills | Yvonne and David Syrett |  |
| Dec |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | Barry V/O | Karen Woollard and Mike Evans | Mary and Barry |  |
| 14 | Diana OKaren V | Debbie and Dennis Major | Diana and Wendy |  |
| 21 | Joan Stephens OKaren V | John and Stella Case | Joan Stephens and Marion Barton |  |
| 28 | Joan Jones OHilda V | Jenny Sanderson and Margaret Edwards | Joan and Evan Jones |  |

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 **QUIET GARDEN DAY**

 **Saturday 11 October 2014**

  **9.30 am - 3.00 pm**

 Great Chalfield Manor, nr Melksham

 **Speaker: The Revd. John Walker**

 Retired Methodist Minister and Chair of District

**Bring your own lunch – drinks provided**

 Donations to Great Chalfied Church

 Please book through Liz Overthrow liz.overthrow@btinternet.com

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**Karen Woollard is liasing with other churches in Warminster to see how we can best get involved in the “Open the Book” scheme and when training will be available locally.**

**Small groups of people go into local schools and give a 10 minute dramatic presentation of Bible stories to the children during an assembly.**

**Please speak to Karen if you feel you would like to be involved with this.**

**COFFEE/TEA BAR**

**While trying to ensure that the coffee bar supplies are maintained, I am regularly faced with a problem.  On several occasions in recent months I have found new bags of tea, coffee and sugar have been opened when sufficient supplies were available in the labelled containers.  This is both wasteful and unhygienic with opened bags left unsealed.**

**Please would all volunteer refreshment makers look at containers/packets before opening new ones!**

**Mary - Coffee Bar Replenishment Manager (self appointed!!)**

**2014 COFFEE MORNINGS**

 **10a.m. to noon. Thank You for your support**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  **January 11th** | **MEDAIR** | **£96** |
|  **February 8th** | **Foodbank** | **£150** |
|  **March 8th** | **People Against Poverty** | **£200** |
|  **April 12th** | **Alzheimer’s Society** | **£165** |
|  **May 10th** | **Christian Aid** | **£111** |
|  **June 14th** | **Freedom charity** | **£131** |
|  **July 12th** | **Brain tumour research** | **£655** |
|  **August 9th** | **Action for children** | **£131** |
|  **SEPTEMBER 13TH** | **RWANDA EDUCATION PROJECT** |  |
|  **OCTOBER 11TH** | **ZWSF** |  |
|  **NOVEMBER 8TH** | **SHOEBOXES** |  |
|  **December 13th** | **Wessex Heartbeat** |  |



**Marion Barton and Kevin Dawson are taking part in this challenge by walking 25k from Cookham to Henley on 14th September. They are both raising money for Cancer Charities. Please let them know if you would like to sponsor them.**

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**Warminster Community Radio (WCR) Survey –**WCR **broadcasts to the town and surrounding area and aims to provide a service that supports the local community, keeps people informed and entertained and gives the area a voice.  Whether you are a listener or not please take a few moments to give some feedback to the organisation by completing one of the yellow forms available in the church foyer.  It may also be downloaded at [http://www.wcrfm.org.uk](http://www.wcrfm.org.uk/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).  The form may be returned to John Alpin, the Civic Centre, The Library and The Warminster Lions bookshop.  It can also be e-mailed to survey@wcrfm.org.uk.**

**STOP THE MYTH – Bristol VSO Event 16 August**

**At the hugely popular @Bristol Millennium Square volunteers and staff from two international charities, Restless Development and Voluntary Service Overseas, had parked 4 rickshaws. The rickshaw drivers were stretching their muscles ready for a long day, 10 – 4, driving passengers around the dock area for 5-10 minute rides so that Storytellers from VSO could share the news that anti-poverty charities are really changing lives.**

**Sometimes when a TV ad tells a heart breaking story about a child’s life in rural Africa do you think, “Not again, when will this hardship and suffering stop?” Sometimes we think that world poverty is a bottomless pit and nothing is getting any better.**

**On Saturday, 16th August, I joined the volunteers to share the statistics gathered by the United Nations, the Gates Foundation and other international bodies, which show that, as a result of generous charitable giving nations like Peru are no longer receiving aid but are now giving aid to other countries. In Rwanda, in the last ten years, there has been a 70% drop in child mortality. Around the world 6 million more girls are receiving education. Life-saving sanitation, toilets and clean water are now in place in more homes and communities than ever before. Poverty is being defeated, slowly but surely.**

**STOP THE MYTH. “IT WILL NEVER CHANGE” IS A MYTH. WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**

**Here is a true story of change.**

**Marie-Claire was studying at Secondary School to be a teacher. She had not told anyone that she could no longer read the blackboard at the front of the room, or that she couldn’t recognise her friends a short distance away. She was frightened that she was going blind.**

**I was teaching her class “Philosophy and Practice of Inclusive Education”. When I taught the session about supporting partially sighted and blind children Marie-Claire realised that she wasn’t going blind at all. She was probably myopic.**

**Shyly she came to talk to me about her problem and what she should do about it. I asked her if she could go to an optician. She did and he gave her a prescription and with £20 Marie-Claire was able to buy some glasses from the market and have them re-ground to her prescription. She said, “This has changed my life, I never knew I would be able to overcome this problem. I was so worried about my future. I now know I should look out for this kind of problem in my own classes.”**

**The glasses had been donated via the Lions who collect old prescription glasses and pass them on to countries that are setting up ophthalmic services.**

**Marie-Claire has been able to get a job as a teacher and support her own family. Did you donate your old glasses? Thank you for being part of the change.**

*Karen Woollard*

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**CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES**

**This year we will again be packing Shoeboxes with small gifts for children in Bulgaria. These will be sent via the Trussell Trust.**

**Suitable items to go in boxes are: Toiletries - soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, facecloth, sponge, wet wipes, deodorant (roll-on only), comb, brush, hair accessories New clothes - gloves, scarf, hat, underwear, socks, baby-grows. *Stationery - pens, pencils, notepads, erasers, colouring books,* Toys - teddies, jigsaws, balls, dolls, small cars etc...Make up (new only), sewing kits, ( suitable teenage girls) Sweets**

**Watch the weekly notice sheets for when to bring in items, but please start saving empty shoeboxes NOW!**

**LIGHT UP A LIFE IN WARMINSTER**



**For many years, each December, Dorothy House Hospice has held services around the area to remember loved ones.  The Service consists of readings and carols.   It is an opportunity for people to come together to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones, not least through the lighting of candles. It represents a time to be comforted and to share hope with others.**

 **The Service is open to the whole community, not just those who have experienced hospice care.**

**LIGHT UP A LIFE IS COMING TO WARMINSTER AND THE SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT THE UNITED CHURCH ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 4TH AT 6PM**