**WARMINSTER**

**SUMMER**

**2014**

 **UNITED CHURCH**

**(Methodist/URC)**

**George Street BA12 8QA**

**Minister Tel : 01373 858805**

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 **Bookings/room hire :** **07900661789**

As a keen gardener, I am kept well occupied when at my bungalow in Somerset. Matthew’s Gospel records an intriguing phrase of Jesus, “By their fruits you will know them” (Ch7v20). This is explained in more detail in John 15v8, “My true disciples will produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my father.” This is a strong calling for Christian living. The metaphor of bearing fruit is quite often used in the Bible. In the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4v1-9, 13-20), Jesus spoke of seed that falls on different types of ground, representing different reactions to the truth of the gospel message. The final category he mentions was good ground: "But other people are like the seeds sown in good soil. They hear the message, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred.” In other words, those who have spiritual longevity are those who embrace this truth and produce fruit. St Paul in Galatians 5:22 says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control . . . " . A Christian's life should be characterized by these things.

I wonder if we ever dare to ask of ourselves, “How am I known to others?” Saint Augustine is reported as having once directed followers, “Tell others about Jesus and, if you need to, speak.” Some of the strongest of Christ’s disciples I meet do not need to speak. Their every action, attitude, it seems, is Spirit-permeated. In truth, we should be asking of ourselves: “How does God know me to be? AND How does God want me to be?

I find great store in words by the late Caryl Micklem a United Reformed Minister (RS 497)

**Give to me Lord, a thankful heart When, in the rush of days, my will**

**And a discerning mind; Is habit-bound and slow,**

**Give, as I play the Christian’s part , Help me to keep in vision, still,**

**The strength to finish what I start What love and power and peace can fill**

**And act on what I find. A life that trusts in you...**

All around us we see the development of the natural harvest, which hopefully will continue throughout these long summer days. May what we see around us, also remind us of our personal spiritual calling to continue in our faith development, producing rich and plentiful spiritual fruits that radiate Christ in our lives and thus bring glory to God.

I wish you a happy summer. *Rev David Coppard*

**New Mid-Week Worship**

**Starting June 4th**

Rev David Coppard will lead a regular time of worship on Wednesday mornings.

The half hour services will start at 10.15.

**Warminster Pre-School Playgroup at the United Church**

After many years of sharing our premise and after many happy children have passed through her hands, Alice’s playgroup will finish on 21st July. We would like to say thank you to Alice for all the extra learning and play she has shared with the children and to wish her a happy and well-earned retirement. Rev. David will lead a service for the children on 14 July and any members of the church who would like to come along to support that last day are welcome at the service.

**Sharing our Christian Life with Children**

David Coppard shared with the Church Meeting his own involvement with the Bible Society’s ‘Open the Book’ school assemblies activity. ![C:\Users\Joan and Evan\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\ALO714NA\MC900134551[1].wmf]()This was discussed at the church meeting and was enthusiastically appreciated by the members who joined in an enactment of ‘The Fiery Furnace’ story from the Old Testament. Members who are interested in sharing our faith with youngsters in Warminster can find out more about ‘Open the Book’ through the Bible Society’s website (biblesociety.org.uk). We will be planning how to get involved over the next few months.



Well done to the door to door collectors this year and to everyone who attended the Christian Aid Coffee Morning and to anyone who baked cakes and took them to work to sell for Christian Aid. We raised £404.71 this year from our own church efforts.

Worship Leaders Course Thursdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th June & 3rd July 7.30 – 9 p.m. at our church

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**New Hymn Book – Singing the Faith.**

 Pam is ordering copies of this for our church to replace Hymns and Psalms which have seen better days, but have served us well for many years. We are looking forward to learning some new praise and worship songs.



 **EXHIBITION OF CHRISTIANITY IN WARMINSTER**

The Churches Today and their History

Warminster Library

June 9th to 21st

From our Pastoral Secretary

Our family news depends much upon what is happening within the congregation; however the Pastoral Carers respect the confidence of those whom they visit and do not automatically share what they are told, so if you would like to share concerns or good news with the church family, please let me know. A note could be left in church that you wish certain news to be circulated amongst all or you could just tell your visitor that you would like us to know your news! I would appreciate it as, unlike David and Ruth, I struggle to put together this piece.

The loss of Derick Walton in April leaves Christina at home and she remains in our prayers; I’m sure that she would welcome a visitor or two occasionally.

 Our thoughts remain with Tony Read whom we saw on the 23rd May when we celebrated Margaret’s life. We also remember in our prayers Audrey and Howard, Bernard, Daphne and Ivy at home knowing that we remain in their prayers too. We pray for John Hewitt, now that he is in Bath and think of Susan as she visits him. Zenobia continues her studies whilst Augustine looks after the children who grow apace!

Thank you to those who have supported Kevin and me in our bid to raise funds for research into cancer. Both of us are training for the event, discovering new and different parts of our corner of Wiltshire.

***Marion Barton***

 Our Minister has also led Services of Thanksgiving for Pat Ford and Joan Pratt who have been unable to attended worship with us for some time but are well remembered .  We give thanks to God for their lives and their involvement in the life of this church and we continue to hold their loved ones in our prayers.

**Margaret Reade**

who died in March, was an active member of our church from 1967 when she , Tony and their two children , Andrew and Alison, moved to Warminster.

We gave thanks for her life at a service a Celebration on 23rd May, which would have been her 90th Birthday.

She and Tony met , by chance, in a Bristol Coffee Shop in November 1944. After a Whirlwind romance they were married on 22nd September 1945.

Many of our present congregation remember her as being in charge of Flowers, enjoying arranging them and organising the flower rota, but this was only a part of her 47 years at our church and she was involved in many aspects of the life of the church over the years.

As well as her involvement with our church she belonged to the Athenaeum Singers for many years and also enjoyed amateur dramatics .She was involved with several local charities.

She and Tony also enjoyed travelling and visited many parts of Europe, Australia, U.S.A and Canada after their children had grown.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Tony as he adjusts to life without his companion of nearly 70 years.

**AREA MEETING**,

Wednesday 11th June 7.30pm (7.00pm for tea/coffee).

at Calne Methodist Church

Open to anyone but if there is a need to take a vote only the churches’ actual delegates can vote.



  **Cabaret Dinner**

 **June 6th**

**7 p.m. at the Civic Centre**

**Gulliver Ralston does Noel Coward**

**Tickets £15**

**See poster in Church for more details**

**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** |  |
|  **JULY 12TH** | **BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH\*** |  |
|  **AUGUST 9TH** | **ACTION FOR CHILDREN** |  |
|  **September 13th** | **Rwanda Education Project** |  |
|  **October 11th** | **ZWSF** |  |
|  **November 8th** | **Shoeboxes** |  |
|  **December 13th** | **Wessex Heartbeat** |  |

**\*  Jack & Penelope will be hosting this coffee morning in aid of Neuroscience Research (Brain Tumour  research) in memory of their daughter Emma who sadly died in 2010 from a brain Tumour. They ask you to please come along and support this worthy cause.  Thank you**

**“COME AND SING” WORKSHOP**

**at Westbury Methodist Church**

**led by Grenville Jones.**

**Saturday June 14th**

**Workshop 2 p.m. concert 7.30p.m to include Bath Male Voice Choir**

**£8 for workshop & concert. £5 concert only.**

**See poster in Church foyer for more details**

On my recent trip to Romania as well as meeting some of the lovely people I have met on previous trips , including the children that I and others in our church sponsor, I saw the improvements that have been possible thanks to the support of People Against Poverty and the money and expertise they have been able to send from this country. In partnership with the dedicated and hard working team of Romanians in Iasi exciting things are happening.

The Shanty settlement on the edge of Iasi city ( known as Dallas!) which last time I went consisted of shacks built of old wood, mud and corrugated iron now has several sturdy wooden cabins, supplied by a company in Bath and constructed by English students. Although to our eyes these are very basic, with only one room and no plumbing, they are insulated therefore warm and weatherproof. The people are also being encouraged to start to grow food and keep chicken. Several new wells have been provided too. I could see the difference this has made to the people living there , not only material difference but more self respect and sense of community .

The canteen project at Way of Joy continues to feed local children, although Health and safety has caught up with them and the premises are deemed not to be up to standard to serve cooked meals (although the same officials do not seem to worry about the conditions the children actually live in!) because of this they are now providing food for the families that can be taken home with them, in one way an improvement as more are fed.

There has long been work going on in the town of Negresti and villages nearby. A canteen is also being run in another village ,Uncesti, and here a piece of land has been bought and an agricultural project is being started to grow food for the village and also in time to run educational sessions so that more people can learn to grow food and keep livestock.

 We visited a village that has just come into the scheme, Ursita. This is reached up a long , very muddy, very hilly track – impossible for a car and difficult for our mini-bus ( we had to walk on the way out as it had been raining!) A wonderful couple living there, who have very little themselves, felt that God wanted them to do something to help their neighbours. Way of Joy and People Against Poverty have helped them set up a canteen ( in their house – H&S hasn’t troubled them yet!).

 **Sponsors are being sort for some of the delightful children there – ask me for details if you might be interested in helping in this or any other way.**

Much is being accomplished . There is still much that needs doing! Thank you all for the support you give. The £200 raised at our coffee morning was used to buy food which was given to some of the families we visited Joan Jones

**Services for June, July and August 10.30 a.m.**

**JUNE**

**1st Rev Mike Burrell**

**8th Rev David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION**

**15th LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS**

**22nd Isabel Smears**

**28th Rev David Coppard**

**JULY**

**6th  Clive Illman**

**13th Rev David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION**

**20th Pat Clarke**

**27th John Saunders**

**AUGUST**

**3rd Rev Mike Burrell**

**10th Rev David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION**

**17th LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS**

**24th Rev Mary Teed**

**31st Rev David Coppard ALL AGE WORSHIP**

**Rotas for Church**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **June/****Sept** | Vestry (V)/ Opening(O) | Books/Welcome | Coffee | Flowers  |
| 1st  June | Hilda O/V | Pam and Derrick Copeland | David and Yvonne Syrett | Joan Agnew |
| 8th | Helen O/V | Marion and John Hornby | Mary and BarryTreadwell | Wendy Womersley |
| 15th | Hilary O/V | John and Stella Case | Pam and Derrick Copeland | Pam Copeland |
| 22nd | Barry O/V | Penelope and Jack Harrison | Diana and Wendy | Helen Mills |
| 29th | Diana OKaren V | Sandra Matthews/ Margaret Edwards | Jenny Sanderson/ Hilda Hanks | Kate Skillman |
| 6thJuly | Marion O/V | John and Stella Case | Debra and Dennis Major | Jenny Sanderson |
| 13th | Brenda OMargaret V | Andy Simmons/ Karen Woollard | Brenda and Ron | Sandra Matthews |
| 20th | Karen O/V | Margaret Edwards and Joan Stevens | Helen and Kevin Dawson | Mary Treadwell |
| 27th | Helen O/V | Nelda Spooner and Jenny Sanderson | Diana and Wendy | Susan Hewitt |
| 3rd Aug | Joan Stephens OMargaret V | Marion and John Hornby | David and Yvonne Syrett | Hilda Hanks |
| 10th | Joan Jones OHilda V | John and Stella Case | Joan & Evan | Jean Colgrave |
| 17th | Hilary O/V | Penelope and Jack Harrison | Brenda and Ron | Betty Fielding |
| 24th | Barry O/V | Diana and Wendy | Mary and Barry  | Jenny Sanderson |
| 31st | Diana OKaren | Pam and Derrick Copeland | Jenny Sanderson and Hilda Hanks | Joan Jones |
| 7thSept | Marion O/V | Karen W and Mike Evans | Karen W and Mike Evans | Pauline Howell |
| 14th | Brenda OMargaret V | Marion and John Hornby | Brenda & Ron | Margaret MacDonald |
| 21st | Karen O/V | Helen and Kevin Dawson | Debra and Dennis Major | Stella Case |
| 28th | Helen O/V | Margaret Edwards and Joan Stevens | Joan & Evan  | Margaret Edwards |

In the TRIO presentation on May 25th John Hornby bought a message from the Church Forum about the need for us to all review our voluntary giving to the church. An information pack is being given to everyone summarising this.

*St Paul tells us that the church is the body of Christ.*

*St Teresa of Avila helps us to understand what it means to be the body of Christ in her prayer*:

**Christ has no body on earth but ours**

**No hands but ours**

**No feet but ours**

**Ours are the eyes through which Christ looks out compassion to the world**

**Ours are the fee with which He is to go about doing good**

**Ours are the hands with which He is to bless men now**

*To that prayer we could add:*

**He has no purse but ours**

**Ours is the money that enable good works to happen!**

Please return your response forms to Hilary, our treasurer. They will be treated in confidence.



The Foodbank continues to be in big demand. This is the time of the year when stocks tend to run low - we have used up the generous donations received around Christmas and it is still 3 or 4 months until we get the Harvest Festival donations. If you are able to buy an item of two for us when you do your weekly shop it would be much appreciated. You can pop it in the box at Morrison's or in our church. **The things we most need at the moment are tinned meat, tinned**f**ish , long life orange juice and long life milk**, but any basic food items would be gratefully received ( we do have plenty of baked beans and soup though!)

We fed 2,859 folk last year (1015 being children)  Collection boxes have been put into Budgens in Codford, One Stop in Imber Road and the CO-OP in Westbury.  Please look out for the elderly in our community for We think many folk in this age group don’t know about the help we can offer in a crisis

 Jean Colgrave

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**And a discerning mind;**

**Give, as I play the Christian’s part ,**

**The strength to finish what I start**

**And act on what I find**

**When, in the rush of days, my will**

**Is habit-bound and slow,**

**Help me to keep in vision, still,**

**What love and power and peace can fill.**

**A life that trusts in you...**

 by the late Caryl Micklem - a United Reformed Minister

( See Rev David’s letter on page 1)