**March - May 2015**

**WARMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

**(Methodist/URC)**

**George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA**

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**Dear Friends**

**Compiling these thoughts on St Valentine’s Day it seems quite remarkable that this present copy of our Church Magazine will cover the period until the end of May. February 14th focuses on the image of love, how that resonates with Christianity. My favourite Biblical verse is found in 1 John 4 and 5, just three words, “God is love.” For me that says everything.**

**In the Christian calendar these coming weeks and months demonstrate something of the depth of God’s love as we are challenged not only to remember Jesus’ wilderness experience but encouraged to journey with him both there and onwards to the cross. The Lenten journey can make us feel less than comfortable as we reflect on all that Jesus faced in the wilderness, but it also reminds us of divine love, as indeed does Good Friday. In a former church one person would always say to me on Palm Sunday, “Won’t see you until next Sunday.” She told me how it was simply too painful for her to come to Church on either Maundy Thursday or Good Friday and remember the brutality that accompanies the death of Jesus. Such sentiments are very understandable but without allowing Christ to die there can be no resurrection. It is through Easter that we experience so clearly God’s love.**

**It is not enough simply to experience, we ourselves and our church needs to demonstrate this tremendous love has for humankind. We have a calling to fulfil - as a modern hymn puts it “Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.” (Singing the Faith 409)**

**With all best wishes**

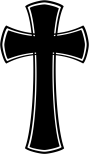
**Rev David**

** Minister on the Run!**

**Sunday March 15th plans to be a somewhat different day for our minister as he has entered the Longleat Half Marathon, which is being organised by the British Heart Foundation. The race commences at 8.45am and the course includes both the Longleat estate, including the animal park(!) and surrounding lanes and roads. Rather than asking for sponsorship it is suggested that if you wish to make a donation to BHF these can be left in the “Race Pack Box” which is in the Vestibule, if you wish to Gift Aid your donation please add your details to the sheet.**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** ( April 2nd)

**We will be joining with our friends at the Baptist Church**



**GOOD FRIDAY** ( April 3rd)

**10.30 a.m. in Three Horseshoes Mall**

**45 minutes of ecumenical worship and prayer led**

**by the Foundation Christian Fellowship**



**EASTER SUNDAY 5th April**

**Bring and Share Breakfast** at 9.15a.m

**Worship** at 10.30 a.m.

Please look out for more information, about all Easter arrangements, on our weekly notice sheets.

**Rev David Coppard is leading a Lent course at Steeple Ashton, please contact him for details if you would like to attend.**

**A pleasant Summer evening walk?**

In Dorset, David had a walking group within one of his churches, they used the Dorset Pub Walks book and went for a gentle evening ramble followed by an optional meal in a pub.  A great idea I think!

Would anyone be interested in taking part in something similar here? If so let us know and we will try to make it happen

Joan Jones

**SUNDAY SERVICES 10.30 a.m.**

**MARCH**

1st : Local arrangements

8th : Peter Walker

15th : Local arrangements

22nd : Rev David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION

29th : Janet Ruddick

**APRIL**

5th : Jacky Williams

12th : Rev David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION

19th : Local Arrangements

26th : Rev David Coppard

**MAY**

3rd : Rev Mary Teed

10th : John Williams

17th : Rev David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION

24th : Local arrangements

31st : Derek Gard

**Tea and coffee and biscuits are served after the service when people can enjoy a time of informal fellowship and get to know one another better.**

A contribution of 50p is asked towards the cost of providing refreshments.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING SERVICES**

**A 30 minute service is held every Wednesday at 10.15 a.m.**

**A Quiet Day at St George’s Harnham, Salisbury**

**Friday 13 March 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**“Something Understood – An approach to Lent with George Herbert “**

**Leader: The Revd Canon Jeremy Davies.**

**Enjoy the peace of this ancient church, close to the river and water meadows**

**Bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Contact Liz Overthrown 01380 722404 lizoverthrow@btinternet.com**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER**

**A final update on the TRIO Campaign.**

Having assessed our giving over the last 4 months I am pleased to report that our average monthly giving works out at about £ 1,750 per month. This is an increase of approximately £273 per month compared to the same 4 months the previous year. This, with the Gift Aid rebate, will cover our Assessment payment to the Area, although we still have other expenditure to cover.

I have decided to put a small piece in the newsletter every quarter with the amounts of our monthly Offerings, so that everyone receives the information. Therefore, the Offerings for the work of God in our Church, Area and throughout the World are as follows:

October £1756.90

November £1814.45

December £1703.20

January £1798.35

I would like to thank everyone for your support and especially for your contributions to the success of the TRIO Campaign.

*Hilary Reynolds*

The communal Christmas card raised £152 for ‘Shelter’, and a total of £448 was raised for Crisis at Christmas ;  the Advent Concert raising £235 and the Carol Service £213.

Many thanks to everyone for their generosity to these Charities helping those in need at Christmas.

**David Dodge would like to say a big “Thank you” to everyone who has been giving him a lift to Salisbury hospital to visit Ruth. This is a great help to him. Although it is hoped that Ruth will be transferred somewhere nearer home before long, for the time being David still has need of these kind lifts and it is good to know that so many people are willing to help in this way.**

**Charity Coffee Mornings 2015** 10a.m to 12 noon

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| **January 10th 2015** | **Medicins Sans Frontieres** | **£175** |
| **February 7th** | **People Against Poverty** | **£163** |
| **March 14th** | **Foodbank** |  |
| **April 11th** | **MEDAIR** |  |
| **May 9th** | **Tools for Self Reliance** |  |
| **June 13th** | **The Hope Centre** |  |
| **July 11th** | **Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund** |  |
| **August 8th** | **Action for Children** |  |
| **September 12th** | **Rwanda Education** |  |
| **October 10th** | **Wessex Heartbeat** |  |
| **November 14th** | **Shoeboxes** |  |
| **December 12th** | **Beach within Reach** |  |

December 2014 coffee morning for Wessex Heartbeat  raised  £ 152.10

**DEVELOPMENT OF CHURCH PREMISES**

On 18th January a small group met to discuss forming a Working Group to oversee the refurbishment and redevelopment of the Schoolroom.

**At the Church Meeting on 1st February it was agreed that this group be supported in prayer by the church and be encouraged to go forward with fund raising, planning and executing the necessary refurbishments for the School Room.**

It was decided to concentrate on making this room, leading off the church, safe, attractive and usable before embarking on further development of the other rooms at the rear of the church.

**Next Church meeting will be 3rd May from 12 until 1 p.m.**

**These meetings are a chance to hear and discuss future plans and arrangements for the life of the church. Please try to attend if possible.**

**NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION**

HOLT U.R.C.

**PONTYPRIDD MALE VOICE CHOIR**

Tickets £10

Saturday 18th April 2015

7.30pm

Tickets Myra Green 01225863628 or at the door

ALL WELCOME

A new charity is launching its unique training and support programme in Salisbury in February 2015. The charity has been set up to recruit and train volunteers for care homes with the aim of improving the well-being, social interaction, health and enjoyment of life for older people who live there. They are looking for friendly, caring and compassionate people who can spend some time on a regular basis volunteering for at least the period of the pilot project which will run between February and August 2015. Volunteers will take part in a bespoke training programme over a period of 5 weeks to help them gain insight and expertise in the role of volunteer; between each training session there will be opportunities to spend time in one of three care homes in Salisbury.

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For further information please contact Joy Kelly, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 07931 022824 or email [info@carehomevolunteers.org.uk](mailto:info@carehomevolunteers.org.uk)

**Street Parties**  
‘Fusion Youth and Community’ are producing, for ‘Neighbourhood Prayer Net’, an easy step-by-step guide to running a Street Party. They suggest  planning to run a Big Lunch on the 7th  of June ‘in your street or at the front of your church’ saying “ Is there a more effective way to get to know your street?”

Food for thought maybe? [www.neighbourhoodprayer.net](http://fusionyac.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f69af32aa7b0c6901cb06c8c7&id=98a8809473&e=295fbb0d75" \t "_blank)

**WARMINSTER & DISTRICT BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

A group has been started in Warminster to support bereaved people. The group, led by Francis Ballinger, will meet between 1.30p.m. and 4p.m. in the room behind Warminster Fire Station, on the last Friday each month, starting from February 2015.

A listening ear, with a cuppa and a biscuit, to those who want to offload and share how they are feeling on the loss of a loved one.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

**MAGNA CARTA LECTURES**

Salisbury Cathedral

Fri 6th March 7.30 p.m. “Making the Magna Carta We Want: The unintended meaning of an Icon”. Neil MacGregor.

Free admission- retiring collection

Thurs 12th March 7 p.m. “ Magna Carta and Human Rights Today.” Domonic Grieve MP.

Free entry (reservations via magnacartaevents@salcath.co.uk ) Retiring collection for Amnesty International

27th March 7.30 p.m. “Magna Carta: Charter for our Times or Antiquarian Icon?” Robin Griffith-Jones.

Tickets £7 via 017220424800 or [courses@sarum.ac.uk](mailto:courses@sarum.ac.uk), or on the door.

Fri 24th April 7,30 p.m. “Magna Carta and the Common People.” Chris Dyer Tickets £7 – as above

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**National Elections Hustings**- before the General Election on 7th May Churches Together in Warminster will arrange for the candidates from the different parties to attend a Hustings where they will be asked to give a short presentation and to answer questions. This event will take place at the beginning of April and will be held at Christ Church because of the good acoustics. The Civic Centre is not allowed to hold this kind of event which is why the churches take on the role of finding out what they can about our future parliamentarians. Everyone is invited to attend. More details in April.

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**VOLUNTEERS AND ROTAS**

Marion Hornby has volunteered to take over the job of contacting the Minister or preacher who is to take our Sunday service each week. Thank you Marion, and many thanks to Pam Copeland who has done the task for many years. Marion will also obtain the Bible reading from the preacher and need to find people to do the readings each week. **If you would be willing to read in church occasionally and are not already on the list of readers , then please let Marion know.**

As you see below, there are rotas for a number of tasks that keep our church running smoothly . The more people who are on these rotas , the less often anyone’s name appears! **If you feel you could help out occasionally with things like: Providing flowers, making coffee, handing out hymn books and welcoming people, opening up the church, being ‘on duty’ in** **the vestry**, then please let someone know! Hilda works out the flower rota, Marion Barton and Karen the others.

**Rotas for Church**

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| **April** | Vestry/Opening | Books | Coffee | Flowers |
| 5th (Easter) | Brenda Open  Karen Vestry | Penelope & Jack | Brenda & Ron | Easter flowers |
| 12th | Joan S. Open  Pauline Vestry | Pat & Dennis Mills | Pam & Derrik | Helen Mills |
| 19th | Karen O/V | Jenny S & Hilda Hanks | Mary &Barry | Joan Stephens |
| 26th | Marion O/V | Pam & Derrik | Yvonne & David | Joan Jones |
| **May** |  |  |  |  |
| 3rd | Barry O/V | Karen & Mike | Penelope & Jack | Jean Colgrave |
| 10th | Helen O/V | Debbie & Dennis Major | Joan Stevens & Marion B. | Hilda Hanks |
| 17th | Diana Open  Karen Vestry | Diana B & Wendy W | Jenny S & Hilda | Joan Agnew |
| 24th | Joan J. Open  Hilda Hanks V | John & Stella Case | Joan & Evan | Betty Fielding |
| 31st | Marion O/V | Yvonne & David | Karen W. & Hilary | Helen Dawson |
| **June** |  |  |  |  |
| 7th | Hilary Open  Pauline Vestry | Joan Stevens & Marion Barton | Debbie & Dennis Major | Pauline Howell |
| 14th | Karen O/V | Andy S & Roger M | Diana B & Wendy W | Susan Hewitt |
| 21st | Brenda Open  Margaret E. V. | Hilary R. & Joan Agnew | Brenda & Ron | Helen Mills |
| 28th | Barry O/V | Helen & Kevin | Dennis & Pat Mills | Kate Skillman |

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

With so many members to hold in our prayers, we must reflect upon the strength within our Church family. We remember with love and affection John Hewitt . We think of Susan, and of Ruth and David as a new chapter begins for them and June as she embarks on a different journey in life’s rich pattern.

Each one of us can recall special times with our church friends, the joy shared and the special link that being one of God’s children brings to us.

Many of our congregation need our love and support and as pastoral carers, we do our best to be there for you – remember you can call us as well as us visiting you.

Please introduce me to the new friends you bring to church; it’s important for me to have people’s names and addresses if they are considering joining us. I would ask that you complete the form below with up-to-date information to ensure that I hold the correct data for you – and that your Pastoral Carer can reach you.

Thank you. *Marion Barton*

It is really rather good to have been able to welcome quite a few new people to our Sunday worship over the past few months.

This means that our Pastoral List ( a list of Church members and others who attends regularly) is out of date. It has not been updated properly for some time and it is probable that as well as people not being on it, there are changes of address etc that have not been recorded, it would also be useful to have email addresses.

This list is only used for Pastoral care matters. Everyone on the list is allocated a Pastoral visitor, who is their special point of contact within the church. Please could you fill in the form below and return it to Marion, who will keep the information confidentially, only sharing it with your pastoral visitor and our Minister. If there is more than one person in your household please put each on a separate line.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(1)church member Yes/No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(2) church member Yes/No

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations and Best wishes to **Helen and Spencer** as they begin their married life. Our thoughts are also with them and their family following the death of Helen’s grandmother, Thelma, who worshipped with us for a while**.**

**Thelma** was born in Gloucester on the 27th June 1928, the second youngest of seven children. She married John Fleming in 1949 and had 4 children ,she was then blessed with 8 grand children and 4 great grand children. When the family lived in Elm Park in Essex she ran a group called the Imps & Girls Brigade. When they moved to Leigh on Sea she carried on her involvement with the Church and was regularly at Belfairs Methodist Church helping at the Mums and Tots sessions as well as making tea and coffee for the old folk.

After her husband died she looked after her father until he passed away in 2005 at the ripe old age of 103 .

In November 2010 she moved to Warminster with her daughter Mary and son in law, Arthur and started to attend our church. Unfortunately shortly after moving to Warminster she was diagnosed with Dementia and so she then turned from being the carer to having to be cared for.

Although she was not well enough to attend Helen and Spencer’s wedding she did get to see Helen in her wedding dress and said that she looked beautiful.

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We have been remembering **John Hewitt** this month as he has died after a fairly long and difficult time of illness. As well as a valuable member of this church for many years, John was also an enthusiastic walker; chairman of “Warminster Walkers” for some time and always willing to organise and lead walks. At his funeral his son and daughter, Mark and Dawn, talked of going on walks with him when they were children, and John and Susan met on a rambling holiday in Croatia, so walking played an important part in his life. Warminster walkers also enjoyed the BBQs held at John and Susan’s home , the beautiful house designed by John. His son recalled how his Lego was often used to try out designs as John worked on them!

Sadly for the past few years John’s health declined and he was unable to join in the activities he enjoyed. He and Susan were helped through this difficult time by dedicated staff at Culverhayes Care Home and the loving support of family and friends.



**PATIENCE**

**If you stand very still in the heart of a wood**

**You will hear many wonderful things;**

**The snap of a twig, the wind in the trees**

**And the whirr of invisible wings.**

**If you stand very still in the turmoil of life**

**And wait for the voice from within**

**You’ll be led down the quiet ways of wisdom and peace**

**In a mad world of chaos and din.**

Contributed by Pauline Howell