

Spring March to May 2016

**WARMINSTER UNITED
CHURCH**
(Methodist/URC)

George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA



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Dear Friends

I have started compiling these thoughts as the rain hammers down whilst the wind howls around the house: storm Imogen is making a felt presence! This winter has seen a pilot project between the Met Office and Met Eireann in “naming” storms. We’ve had Abigail, Barney, Desmond, Eva, Frank and so on. Some of these have hit us whilst others have focussed their fury on other parts of the country and we certainly remember people who have been flooded or suffered storm damage, not least in Cumbria.

Within the Gospels is a passage about Jesus and some of his closest friends who are caught in a storm. Jesus is asleep and eventually it looks like the boat will sink but still Jesus slumbers, his friends in panic awake him and he said “Peace be still” and we are told, “The wind dropped and there was a deep calm.

It is like that in life. As we grow from childhood, to maturity we have our storms and frightening moments. Into these situations we very much want to hear Jesus’ words, “Peace be still.” Yet sometimes we forget that Christ did not only calm the storm for the disciples but was also with them during the storm whilst it raged.

The word “peace” is also very much associated with Easter, how many times does Jesus use this word to his still grief stricken followers following his resurrection. At the very end of Matthew’s Gospel there is a promise, “I am with you always even until the end of the age.” Wherever we find ourselves, be it a time of calm or storm may we experience the presence of Jesus, who in the midst of the storm says “Peace be still.”

Shalom

Rev David



SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MARCH, APRIL AND MAY

MARCH	6 th :	Rev Heather Morgan	
	13 th :	Songs of Praise	
	20 th :	Pat Clarke	
	<i>EASTER</i> 27 th :	Rev David Coppard	HOLY COMMUNION
APRIL	3 rd :	Rev Mike Burrell	
	10 th :	Rev David Coppard	HOLY COMMUNION
	17 th :	Rev A. Ward Jones	
	24 th :	Rev David Coppard	
MAY	1 st :	Rev Sue Holden	HOLY COMMUNION
	8 th :	John Greenaway	
	15 th :	Rev Mary Teed	
	22 rd :	Rev David Coppard	
	29 th :	Rev David Coppard	ALL AGE WORSHIP

MAUNDY THURSDAY 24th March 7p.m.

Service led by Rev David Coppard

will follow the Network Service of 30 Pieces of Silver.

Tea & coffee will be served **before** the service (from 6.30p.m.) to give a chance to socialise with our friends from the Baptist church who will be joining us

GOOD FRIDAY 25th March



WALK OF WITNESS starting at Baptist's Church at 10.am with prayer and hymn then around town, stopping for further prayer ,singing and worship outside the Library, outside Masonic Hall , in 3 Horseshoes Mall, outside Athenaeum and finishing at St Lawrence around 11a.m.

The Prayer of witness to be used is on the back of this newsletter

EASTER DAY service led by Rev David Coppard.

After the service there will be special refreshments, including Easter Biscuits and cake

DATES & NEWS FROM CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARMINSTER

4th March Friday 2pm Christ Church

4th March Friday 6.30 Upton Lovell Village Hall

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

20th March 8pm £3 pp – **Quiz at Organ Inn in aid of Cornerstone.** Raffle Prizes

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT 29th Feb to 13th March.

Saturday March 5th - Civic Centre Big Breakfast –

Sit Down for Breakfast, Stand up for Farmers.

(Warminster Town has had its Fair Trade Certification renewed.)

1st May Day **Tea Party 2.30 – 4.30** Civic Centre

Further ahead

11th October 7pm at the United Church - Fish and Chip Supper - £5 a head in aid of Christian Aid. More details later

Street Pastors - *17 active members, but need to have a minimum of 22.* There are 24 prayer pastors but only a small group meet at the hall. They go out every Friday and 4th Saturday but with some teams reduced to 3 instead of 4 pastors. They are considering going out on Saturdays which is a busier night instead of Fridays.

Cornerstone – have been successful with a couple of grant bids, so finances are coming in to set up a Mobile Cornerstone to go out into the villages and hospitals. There are three sessions a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday and in the first year they have had 500 episodes of assistance. More volunteers always welcome. Thank you for prayer and financial support for the main Cornerstone.

Churches together in Wiltshire

This year's **Quiet Day will be held on Saturday 14 May**
at St Katherine's Church Savernake.

It will be led by The Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of United Reformed Church, Wessex Synod

Entitled '**WAIT HERE** ' - **PREPARING FOR PENTECOST** , it gives us a chance to reflect on this wonderful festival in beautiful surroundings in the tranquillity of the Savernake Forest.

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Rota for Church April to June 2016

Apr to June 2016	Vestry (V)/ Opening(O)	Books/Welcome	Coffee	Flowers
April 3 rd	John V Marion O	Marion Barton and Hilda	Diana and Wendy	Helen Mills
April 10 th	Hilda O/V	Pauline and Hilary	Pam and Derrick	Joan Stephens
April 17 th	Karen O/V	Denis and Pat Mills	Brenda and Ron	Jean Colgrave
April 24 th	Barry O/V	Jenny and Margaret E	Joan & Evan	Susan Hewitt
May 1 st	Marion O/V	Roger and Andy	Mary and Barry	Wendy Womersley
May 8 th	Diana O Karen V	Sue Hewitt and Christian	Diana and Wendy	Margaret MacDonald
May 15 th	Pauline O/V	Karen and Mike	Brenda and Ron	Marion Hornby
May 22 nd	Joan S. O Karen V	Marion B and Joan S	Helen and Hilda	Mary Treadwell
May 29 th	Joan J. O Karen V	Denis and Pat Mills	Joan & Evan	Pam Copeland
June 5 th	Brenda O	Denis and Sylvia Trevethick	Brenda & Ron	Hilda Hanks
June 12 th	Karen O/V	Jenny and Margaret E	Pam and Derrick	Helen Dawson
June 19 th	Marion O/V	Roger and Andy	Mary and Barry	Joan Agnew
June 26 th	Barry O/V	Karen and Mike	Joan and Evan	Joan Jones

It is sometimes difficult to fill all the slots on the rota – **more volunteers are needed.**

Vestry duty is especially in need of more people – this involves greeting the Minister and making sure they have all they need before and after the service, coming into the church with them, saying a few words of welcome and reading any additional notices. Please let Marion or Karen know if you could help with this or want to know more.

More people for coffee and books rotas, and for flowers, would also be welcomed.

Treasurers Report

At the start of a New Year it is time to review our finances. Our Assessment payment to the Area increases every year and we are now paying £5814 per quarter. Our income from offerings for the last 3 months is as follows :

November £1901.91

December £1750.90

January £1822.81

As you can see this doesn't cover our quarterly payment and we have other regular costs to cover, as well as the upcoming refurbishment of the schoolroom. As we review our giving, I would be happy to advise anyone who would like to set up a standing order to the church as it makes giving much easier and gives us a regular income to cover our running costs. We can also Gift Aid your payments if you are a taxpayer. Another option is to use our offertory envelopes, although this is a commitment to give weekly even when you are not in church.

I am pleased to announce the following collections over the festive period:

The **Carol Service and Christmas Day** Offerings raised £387.25 for **Medecin sans Frontieres**

The **Christmas Card Collection** for **Shelter** raised £100.00

I would like to thank everyone for your consideration and generosity. *Hilary*

2016	Charity coffee mornings	
January 9 th	Olney/Newton Link (Pre-school for Ebola orphans in Sierra Leone.)	£155
February 13 th	Dementia UK	£195
March 12 th	People against Poverty	
April 9 th	Guide Dogs for Blind	
May 14 th	Christian Aid	
June 11 th	Zimbabwe V S F	
July 9 th	Cancer Research	
August 13 th	Action for children	
September 10 th	Wessex Heartbeat	
October 8 th		
November 12 th	Shoeboxes	
December 10 th	Rwanda Education	

October still free for YOUR charity maybe? Tell Joan if you could fill this space

SUMMER EVENING WALKS

To everything there is a season! We can be sure that the light evenings will come again before too long!



We hope to start the evening walks, which proved popular last year, again in April. I am suggesting **Wednesday 27th April**. We would then hope to have a walk each month throughout the summer. These would be short walks, about 3 or 4 miles finishing in a pub for a meal, snack or drink as wanted. Please let me know if you have any ideas

for routes for these walks and suitable refreshment venues. Look out for more information on the notices sheets nearer the date.

Joan Jones

FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

We have been up & running now for 5 months and up to 25 church members have enjoyed a meal and time together. In November our guest speaker Linette Tedman talked about her work in Paraguay and at Christmas & New Year celebration lunches were enjoyed.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 4th March when after lunch guest speaker Judith Duddy will give a talk about chocolate (with samples).

Some dates for your diary:

April 1st : Fish & Chips Lunch,

May 6th : 'Darling Buds of May (the meaning of flowers),

June 3rd : Guest speaker 'Warminster Street Pastors'

July (exact date to be arranged) Church coach trip to Moreton Village and Athelhampton House and Gardens.

As numbers are limited for the lunches booking is essential.

For information contact Penelope Harrison



How About a Book Club?



Interested in reading, love a good mystery, gripped by a thriller? Some of us enjoy a good book and would like to share our enthusiasm with others; learn about new authors, talk over old stories and generally appreciate the opportunity to share.

If you are interested, then speak to *Marion Barton*. If there are sufficient of us, then we will see about joining forces for an hour over a cup of tea for a chat.

THANK YOU

Not wanting to sound like the winners at BAFTA or OSCAR awards ceremonies and not wanting to make a list of names either (for fear of leaving someone out) my heartfelt thanks go to all the people that make our church run as smoothly as it does. To everyone that adds a few stitches to knit the whole thing together, be that in a practical way or a spiritual or pastoral one. We often read that a Church is not a building but the people, and that is very true of The United Church, George Street. So to all those who regularly step up to the task, step in at the last minute and generally join in the true concept of service and fellowship, be assured your part is acknowledged. We go forward together in faith.

Sincerely, *Pauline.*

PROPERTY NEWS

I'm sure you have all noticed how lovely and bright the new lighting is in the Foyer, and two outside lights will also be put up soon. We have found a sympathetic electrician who understands what we are trying to do – i.e. bring our building up to current safety standards whilst spending our money wisely. This work has been paid for from our current account.

The Shepherd Window will be accessed by a working platform to be erected when the old School Room is scaffolded for the ceiling repairs. In previous times, leaded glass was “finished” using tallow and it may be that it is this tallow which needs cleaning off and/or replacing. We will know the full extent of the problem when we have the window laid flat on a table in the Vestry for closer inspection.

We recently had the 5-yearly inspection of the building and one item mentioned was the position of the gas meter. Not very user-friendly, it is currently under the stairs and Hilary can sometimes be found on her knees with a torch to get an accurate reading. The meter needs to be moved to an outside wall so that in the event of an emergency, the supply can be isolated.

All these tasks can only happen if and when we have the funds to carry out the work. It's worth pointing out that our Offerings just about meet the Assessment. Our church is noted for being warm but this comes at a cost – the winter quarter averages £1500 for the three coldest months and the various lettings fees help toward this cost.

On a more positive note, the refurbishments in the old School Room will be going ahead very soon as we are within £500 of the target needed to cover the projected costs. Of course there will be added extras – things we cannot plan for but which need to be addressed. I am sure the outcome will be something we can all be proud of and, just like the refreshment area in the Foyer, we will very quickly get used to the facilities and forget how it was before. *Pauline*

PASTORAL NEWS

With the passing of Winter and looking forward to Spring with lighter nights and warmer days, when pastoral carers can get out to visit more easily, we are undertaking more training on Safeguarding with Jan to learn more about the welfare of vulnerable people and children whilst serving our congregation. Most of us have applied for the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and have John Alpin to thank for his time going through the process as Verifier. Karen Woollard continues as the Safeguarding Officer for the Church.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with Jack and Penelope in his continued illness, and with Betty Fielding and family. With old friends Audrey and Howard Spurr, Tony Reade, Bernard Cooper, Sally Petrie and Janet Titt unable to attend our services but held in our hearts.

As always, a big thank you to the Pastoral carers for their time and commitment.

Marion Barton

We are sorry to hear that Howard Fielding died on 17th February. His funeral is 3rd March at 12 noon at our church. Our thoughts and prayers are with Betty and her family

DEMENTIA UK

Thank you to all who supported the coffee morning for Dementia UK in February and helped to raise nearly £200. The organisation offers specialist one-to-one support and expert advice for people living with dementia through their world class Admiral nurses. They provide the compassionate and expert support families need every step of the way, helping everyone in the family to live more positively with dementia and to face the challenge of tomorrow with more confidence and less fear. Several visitors to the coffee morning spoke of their own experiences of coping with a family member with this condition and how much they appreciate the support given.

John Alpin

PRESCHOOL CENTRE IN NEWTON SIERRA LEONE

Latest news from Sierra Leone is that the walls of the Preschool centre are now built and all is ready for the roof to go on. It is slow work, with weather and acquiring materials presenting problems, but they are very grateful to the help we gave them with the proceeds of our January coffee morning. I will pass on further news as I hear it

Joan Jones

CHURCH MEETINGS (WITH A PLUS!)

The next church meeting will be on
Saturday **19th March** from 3.30 p.m.
and will include a **Bring and Share tea**.
To finish around 5 p.m.

The following Church meeting will be on **22nd May**. This is Trinity Sunday. The meeting will be incorporated into the morning worship and this will be followed by a **Celebration Lunch** . Watch notice sheets for more information . Venue depends on the progress of the refurbishment work

Also church meeting on 21st August
Church Forum dates: May 5th and August 4th

SUNDAY MARCH 13th

Rev David Coppard hopes to compete in the Bath Half Marathon raising funds for Christian Aid. Sponsors welcome.



ACTION FOR CHILDREN BOXES

The amount collected so far is £454.64. I expect about another £50 to come in. I would like to thank everyone for returning their boxes promptly. If anyone would like an Action for Children box to collect all their odd pennies that gather in their purse or pockets, then please see me at church.

Diana Bennie

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's service will be at Christchurch
on 4th March at 2 p.m.
and will include afternoon tea

We need one or two volunteers to join the Women's World Day of Prayer committee. This is an interdenominational group who meet once a year to plan the service held on the first Friday in March. **Can you Help?** If you are interested further details can be sought from Mary Treadwell.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
THE MINSTER
MONDAYS DURING LENT
6 – 7 p.m.

“GOLDIES” SING & SMILE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY at The United Church.



Held on the first Thursday every month starting at 2.30 for an hour, this popular get-together is a way of revisiting the songs from our younger days. No singing ability needed, this is not about perfecting technique or choral instruction. The printed words are provided and the song is played in its original form, as we remember it, with every word clearly heard and the melody easy to follow.

We have a new session leader, Katy, who was bowled over by the whole-hearted participation and jolly time had by all at the February session. It can get quite noisy and everyone feels up-lifted after a good sing. Remember that “Goldies” refers to those taking part AND to the songs, “Sing & Smile” is the perfect description of the activity outcome.

So come along and be part of the experience, for a minimum donation of £2 you get to enjoy the camaraderie and well-being that singing provides, with light refreshments included. Next sessions are Thursday 3rd March and Thursday 7th April, doors open at 2pm ready to start singing at 2.30pm.



Thurs 7th April
CHRISTIAN AID

South West Representative, Stephen,
is coming to give a talk and slide show .

11 a.m. to 12 noon

Followed by Curry and rice lunch.

More details from Karen

IDEAS STILL NEEDED for a name for the room being refurbished!

Please write your idea on a this tear off slip (or any slip of paper) and put in the box in the foyer



My suggestion for the name for the old school room behind the church is :



**Lord Jesus,
the mystery of your Cross
is at the heart of our lives.
You are the rock of our strength
and the one who leads us from death to life.**

**Help us to embrace the world
as you embraced the world.
Give us the strength we need
to make our world a better place.**

**Fill us with your Spirit
that we may become your people.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done.**

**In Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Prayer for Churches Together in Warminster's Good Friday March of Witness