**SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MARCH, APRIL AND MAY**

 **March to May 2017**

***WARMINSTER* UNITED CHURCH**

**(Methodist/URC)**

**George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA**

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*(Stourhead February 2017)*

**Minister: Rev David Coppard Tel: 01373858805 email:** [**david.coppard@yahoo.co.uk**](mailto:david.coppard@yahoo.co.uk)

**Booking/ room hire: 07900661789**

**Web site: www.unitedchurchwarminster.org.uk**

*(Stourhead in Springtime)*

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**10.30 a.m.**

**MARCH**

**5th : Revd Mike Burrell**

**12th : Revd Sue Holden**

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

**26th : Margaret White**

**APRIL**

**2nd : Local Arrangements**

**9th : Revd Heather Morgan PALM SUNDAY**

**16th : Revd David Coppard EASTER DAY HOLY COMMUNION**

**23rd : Clive Illman**

**30th : Revd Sue Holden**

**MAY**

**7th : Revd David Coppard ALL AGE WORSHIP**

**14th : Local Arrangements**

**21st : Revd Mary Teed**

**28th : Revd David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION**

**WEDNESDAY MORNING SERVICES WEEKLY at 10.15 a.m.**

**A Big WELCOME to ALL the new people who have been worshiping with us recently. It is always good to have children with us and we are delighted to welcome the Otoo family ; Samuel and Joyce with their 2 young sons Ebenezer and Solomon. Amongst other new faces, we welcome Biddy Shepherd, already well known to many of us, Muriel May who**  **joined** **us last year in time to come on one or two evening walks**, **Paula Johnson**  **and her** **brother, Elaine Seary and Evelyn. If you are new and I have missed your name please forgive me – but be assured you are also very welcome!**

We are, of course, also pleased to welcome Cyril – Anita’s new puppy, Guide Dog in training – now that Harmony has moved on to the next stage of her training.

**Items for next newsletter by 21st May –** [**iantojo@virginmedia.com**](mailto:iantojo@virginmedia.com)

**Dear Friends**

**Since September I’ve taken on additional responsibilities within the Wiltshire United Area, as well as looking after Warminster, Steeple Ashton and both the Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Westbury I am now also the Methodist Superintendent.  This means having overall responsibility for an additional 14 churches as well as all the Methodist clergy within the Area.  It also means attending various meetings. Recently I had to be at one in London at the Methodist HQ which is situated in Marylebone Road directly opposite the famous waxworks of Madam Tussauds.**

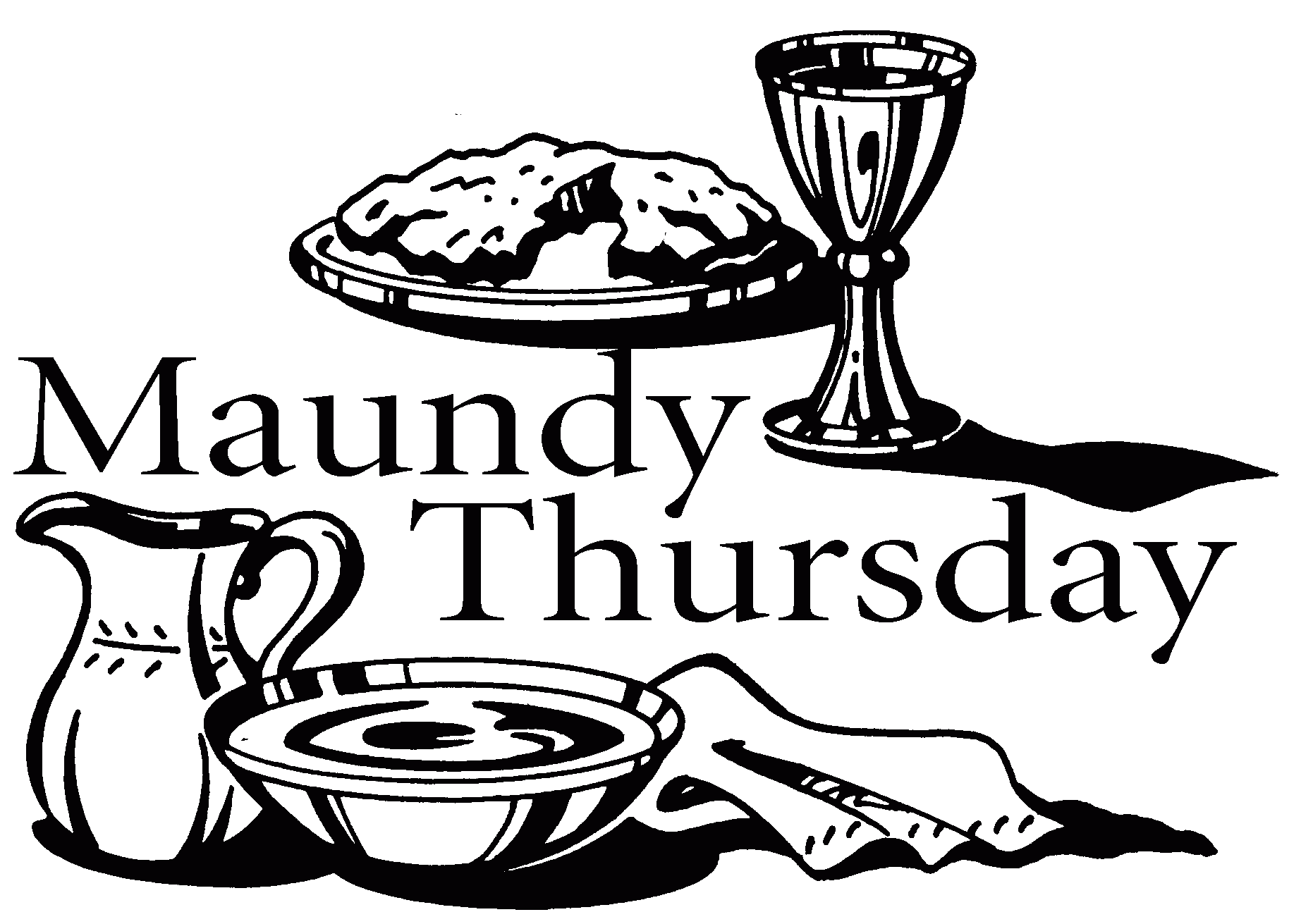
**The building is seven stories high and having never been there before I paused outside looking at the large front windows displaying posters of young people attending church events from Youth weekends to special services.  Being in Church House gave me a real sense of what it means to belong not only to a national church but also a global one and of a church that seeks to reach people of all ages from the youngest to the young at heart.**

**As I read the Gospels I encounter the Jesus who welcomed all ages and indeed people of every background.  This magazine period covers Lent, Holy Week, Easter when we are challenged to journey with Christ into the wilderness, into the triumphant entrance to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, into the garden of Gethsemane and into the pain and agony of Good Friday before we reach a garden tomb with a stone rolled away.  So many of these journeys sees Jesus meeting people of all ages and backgrounds.  Of course the message does not end with the triumph of Easter, actually that is basically where it begins to start for Christ commissions his followers.  That’s a commission we are still seeking to fulfil.  I remember someone once saying that the Acts of the Apostles is the only book in the Bible that has never been completed, because all of our efforts are continuing the story of sharing the Good news of God’s love to all those we encounter.**

**In our personal and spiritual journeying and in our ministry as Warminster United Church may we never forget our responsibility to be ambassadors for Christ.**

**Peace**

**Rev David.**

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**We are invited to share with our friends at the Baptist Church , North Row.**

**Time to be confirmed – probably 7 p.m.**

**13th April**

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**Churches Together in Warminster invite you to join in the Walk of witness starting at 10.30 and finishing around 11.30 stopping at the Mall, the Library, the Hub, the corner of the Masonic Hall, and finishing at St Lawrence Church**. **14th April**

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**WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**3rd March**

**Minister Church2pm**

**and Upton Lovell 6pm.**

**Dementia Awareness Session**

**4th March - 10am to 1pm– Baptist Church everyone welcome.**

**Come to CHRIST CHURCH for a LENT LUNCH**

**Saturday 25th March from 12 noon till 2pm.**

**CORNERSTONE will  provide the lunch**

**Donations appreciated for the work Cornerstone-**

 a local charity with a Christian ethos, set up to help relieve poverty and distress whilst promoting social inclusion and cohesion amongst the people of the Warminster community area irrespective of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race or religion. Cornerstone is staffed entirely by volunteers drawn from the local community who have a heart for helping others.

**THE HUMBLE ROCK BUN**



**Some of you may have noticed that, when I am able to bake them, I bring rock buns to the Saturday morning coffee mornings. I find it fascinating to hear the many comments made about such a humble little cake. Common themes include " My mum/granny used to make these - I remember the delicious smell while they were baking and cooling ". "They remind me of my childhood and teatime treats". As yet I haven't found a person who is not a fan! Well, there is also church related history behind them.**

**Those of us who have worshipped at George Street for some time will hold a special place in our hearts for our very dear friends Gladys Turner, Ruth Dodge and David Syrett. Sadly, they are no longer with us in person but their precious legacy of faithfulness, kindness, generosity and hospitality lives on.**

**Gladys and Ruth were both great rock bun makers and Gladys, Ruth and the rock buns were a regular feature of Saturday morning coffee mornings. Gladys used a recipe she had always used and was kind enough to give to me and Ruth used a recipe from Be-Ro - slightly richer than Gladys' recipe. I have taken the liberty, over the years, of adapting the recipe to suit the occasion and the recipients! So in our home you may come across: pebble cakes ( mini versions - not popular with Kevin), choc-rocks- for those who don't like dried fruit, festive buns with cranberries and winter spices, and Kevin's favourite the boulder bun - when I have been heavy-handed with the dollops of mixture!**

**Not only did rock buns appear at coffee mornings but I know I will not have been alone in receiving a visit from Ruth if feeling under the weather or recuperating; these visits often included a lovely posy of gorgeous garden flowers and a foil package of rock buns or equally delicious cheese scones - tremendous healing properties! Gladys just loved having visitors and the opportunity to share her great gift of hospitality and her baking skills.**

**I have so many happy memories of our lovely friend David Syrett. Always cheerful with his dazzling smile; so thoughtful,  caring and cheerful. David was king of the washing-up at church social events- and there could be a huge amount. No problem for David, he just cracked on with the job.  David enjoyed a rock bun too. One of those coffee morning rock-bun themed conversations, while Yvonne was singing in choir practice, revealed David's preference was for a plain - no frills version- crunchy exterior and soft interior just like his mum made. However, ever adaptable, David was very happy to enjoy those on offer on the day!**

**So my making of the rock buns is about sharing something that is enjoyed by seemingly so many, raising money for worthy causes and honouring those memories, traditions and legacies that we have been given by our friends. So please, give generously eat and enjoy *. Helen Dawson***

**AGM - CHURCH MEETING FOR ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

**Saturday 18th March 4 p.m.**

**All are invited to Share Tea**

**and News**

**If you run a group or activity within the church please come along ready to share news of what has been happening. If you have ideas of what you would like to see happening this is your chance to share that too.**

**Please bring along something to share for tea if possible.**

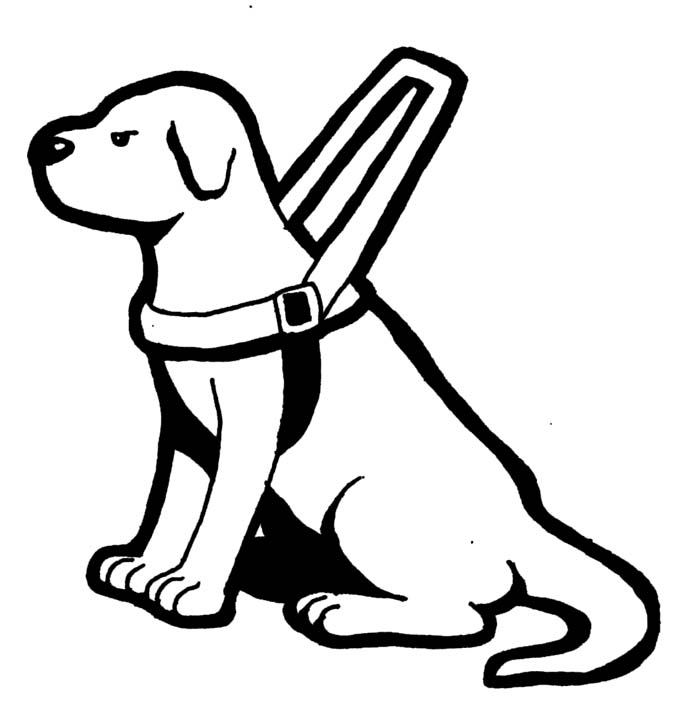
**Next Church Forum meeting is Thursday 9th March at 7.30 p.m.**

**1ST FRIDAY FOOD & FELLOWSHIP**

**A time of fellowship & sharing over Lunch**

**For members & regular attendees at Warminster United Church**

**Our fellowship (meeting on the 1st Friday of each month) continues to be popular, with 28 enjoying a belated Christmas Lunch in January. We had a lesson in hand bell ringing and you could almost recognise Jingle Bells!**

**Spring/Summer Programme:**

**3rd March Guide Dogs for the Blind**

**7th April Action for Children**

**5th May Warminster’s Town Crier (Phil Sneddon)**

**2nd June Call My Bluff**

**7th July Outing to Lyndhurst and Bucklers Hard**

**4th August Shared Picnic - dependant on weather**

**Cost: £5.00 of which £1 per head will go to the upkeep of the church. Booking essential.**

*Penelope Harrison*

**LEGACY FROM LEN BENDALL**

**Early in February Rev David opened an envelope containing £1,000 donated by Len Bendall’s widow following the wishes of her husband who had worshipped here from a boy into adulthood. David Dodge remembered Len and contacted his widow, Pam, to offer his condolences and shares here his memories and an update on Len’s life.**

**“Len was the eldest of seven children who ‘grew up’ through the Sunday School and thence as Members of George Street Methodist Church in the 1940’s and beyond. His aunt, Susie Pearce, was organist for many years for evening services at George Street and as pianist for the afternoon Sunday School. (“She played at my wedding, too.” interrupted Karen Woollard). Len delivered the eulogy at Susie’s funeral.**

**Len was proud that he was the first from Princecroft to gain a scholarship to Trowbridge Boys High School, he went on to qualify as a pharmacist, some of his training being with Richard Grenfell, a Methodist Local Preacher at Westbury. Len also qualified as a Local Preacher and in 2004, when George Street celebrated its Bi-Centenary, he was invited to preach on one occasion during that year.**

**He was interested in Folk Lore and was a member of the White Horse Morris Men for many years. At Len’s funeral the Morris Men danced as a tribute to his fellowship as a member. Len and Pam his wife (also a pharmacist) set up in Wrington serving that area as chemists. During 2016 Len developed Alzheimer’s syndrome and passed away in August.**

**It is apparent that the fellowship Len experienced and enjoyed at George Street formed a lasting impression on him and so moved him to remember the Church in the bequest he made in his will.**

**We are grateful for his kindness.”**

**The Church Forum and Church Meeting will decide as members together how we would like to use this donation.**

**SHEPHERD’S WINDOW**

**An update from Sheenagh, who is doing the work: “ The first section is all made and polished and looking lovely – I am starting leading the top section, incorporating as many thin steels as I can to make the panels as rigid as possible. I am aiming to finish and deliver back the first week in April.”**

**There is some work to be done on the woodwork – but it may be possible to have it back up in time for Easter.**

**Erica, who is liaising with Sheenagh, has some photos of the work so far.**

**TREASURERS REPORT**

**I am pleased to advise our income from Offerings for the last 3 months:**

**November £1800.10**

**December £1706.80**

**January £2102.79**

**There is quite a difference between December and January as December was only a 3 week month because Christmas day was on a Sunday and January was a 5 week month.**

**Our Carol Service raised £270.00 for the Brain Tumour Charity and our communal Christmas Card raised £112.00 for Shelter. I have had letters of thanks from both these charities for our donations.**

**We have also been fundraising for the restoration of our Shepherd Window. It is inspiring to see how much this means to so many people and so far we have raised £3214.00. We will still need to raise over £3000.00 to finish this project but it is progressing well and I think everyone will be pleased to see the finished result. A special thanks to Penelope for all her hard work fundraising for this.**

**We have received a £1000.00 legacy from Len Bendall and I am going to propose that we put this towards the Shepherd Window in his memory and others of our congregation to whom the Shepherd Window meant so much. I hope people will support this at the next church meeting.**

**Thank you to everyone who supported all of the above, our church does so much for charity.**

*Hilary*

**This note is for those members of the congregation who have completed a Gift Aid Declaration so that the church may reclaim a refund ( currently 25%) from the Income Tax they have paid , or will have paid. Over the years the declaration form has been redesigned. Though it is completely unnecessary for anyone to complete an up to date one we think you may like to know the changes appearing in the current version. Perhaps it is better to quote some of the wording that is on the most recent declaration form as follows:**

**“By completing this form you confirm:**

**I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on my donations in that year it is my responsibility to pay any difference”**

**You probably know this already but we thought to keep you up to date**

*Hilary and Derrik*



**January 2017 brought many bleak nights in Warminster with temperatures at zero and below; a challenge for people who are sleeping on our streets and up in the local woods.**

**The Volunteers at the Foodbank have seen an increase in homeless clients seeking help. Reasons for loss of a home are many and the stories we hear are heartbreaking. The government guidelines state in very cold weather homeless people should be offered a bed for the night, but those facilities are often miles from Warminster. In fact the government also states there are no homeless people in Wiltshire – we don’t support that view in the Foodbank.**

**However Warminster’s independent Foodbank can offer help. Our aim is to support individuals according to their needs. We can supply self heating meals, tins of meat (with pull rings) and bread etc. We can also help with the provision of sleeping bags amongst other items. All this work stretches our finances.**

**Besides the homeless other clients seek help when they are in a crisis following illness, unemployment, redundancy, low income work etc., when the unexpected bill tips people into difficulty and debt.**

**Most of the food received by the Foodbank is from local donations. 1956.4kgs was given in January. Where there are shortages the Foodbank will purchase milk, tins of vegetables for example. 175 people were given food in January, 70 of this numbers being children.**

**We are very grateful for the support we receive from the community, either by putting items in collection boxes around the town or by supporting the fund raising efforts during the year.**

**The Foodbank in Dewey House is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Tel no: 01985 214463 or in an emergency 07855627945.**

**Collection boxes can be used in Morrisons, Waitrose, Lidls, all the churches, Cooper and Tanner and the Hub.**  *Jean Colgrave*

**FUND RAISING LUNCH 4th March – 11.30 to 2 pm.**

**CHRISTCHURCH HALL**

**ROTA FOR CHURCH APRIL TO JUNE 2017**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **April** | **Vestry (V)/ Opening(O)** | **Books/Welcome** | **Coffee** | **Flowers** |
| **2nd** | **Karen – O/V** | **Joan Stephens and Margaret Edwards** | **Joan & Evan Jones** | **Helen**  **Richards** |
| **9th** | **Hilda O/V** | **Sandra Mathews and Helen Richards** | **Diana and Wendy** | **Joan**  **Jones** |
| **16th** | **Diane – O**  **Barry - V** | **Andy Simmons and Arthur Pimm** | **Mary and Barry Treadwell** | **EASTER** |
| **23rd** | **Marion O/V** | **Sue Hewitt and Christina Walton** | **Pam and Derrick Copeland** | **Susan**  **Hewitt** |
| **30th** | **Joan S. O**  **John Alpin V.** | **Dennis and Pat Mills** | **Brenda and Ron** | **Mary**  **Treadwell** |
| **May** |  |  |  |  |
| **7th** | **Karen O/V** | **Penelope and Jack Harrison** | **Hilda Hanks and Joan Stephens** | **Hilda**  **Hanks** |
| **14th** | **Brenda – O**  **Pauline - V** | **Dennis and Sylvia Trevethick** | **Brenda & Ron** | **Marion**  **Hornby** |
| **21st** | **Karen O/V** | **Jenny Sanderson and Muriel May** | **Helen and Kevin Dawson** | **Pam**  **Copeland** |
| **28th** | **Barry O/V** | **Hilda Hanks and Erica Castle** | **Diana and Wendy** | **Jean**  **Colgrave** |
| **June** |  |  |  |  |
| **4th** | **Diane - O**  **Karen - V** | **Pam and Derrick Copeland** | **Helen Richards and Marion Barton** | **Joan**  **Agnew** |
| **11th** | **Hilda O/V** | **Andy Simmons and Arthur Pimm** | **Joan & Evan Jones** | **Wendy**  **Womersley** |
| **18th** | **Brenda – O**  **Marion– V** | **Sue Hewitt and Christina Walton** | **Brenda & Ron** | **Erica**  **Castle** |
| **25th** | **Karen O/V** | **Penelope and Jack Harrison** | **Helen & Kevin Dawson** | **Helen**  **Richards** |

**HEALTH FAIR- 31st March in Civic Centre**

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**WARMINSTER HUB – Community Information Service- Men’s Shed Movement has been started and a Minor Repair Station, also Safeguarding course will run in March and April by County Council**

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| **2017** | **MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS** |  |
| **Jan 14th** | **Water Aid** | **£260** |
| **Feb 11th** | **People Against Poverty** | **£165** |
| **March 11th** | **“Fish & Chip Babies” - Mission International** |  |
| **April 8th** | **Horatio’s Garden** |  |
| **May 13th** | **Zimbabwe V S F** |  |
| **June 10th** | **Action for Children** |  |
| **July 8th** | **Cancer Research** |  |
| **August 12th** | **Guide Dogs for Blind** |  |
| **Sept 9th** | **Motor Neurone Disease Association** |  |
| **Oct 14th** | **Rwanda Education** |  |
| **Nov 11th** | **Shoeboxes** |  |
| **Dec 9th** | **Action on hearing loss ( was RNID)** |  |

**COFFEE MORNINGS**

**Our monthly Charity Coffee Mornings are still proving very popular; they are well attended and the amount raised for the Charities has risen quite a bit in the past year. These mornings are more than just a fund raising exercise though. Increasingly we are seeing new people come along who have seen an advert either in the paper or on the window. At February’s I spoke to a lady whose husband had recently died and she was making an effort to get out and meet people, another living in a local care home who wanted to see what our church was like and two ladies celebrating the birthday of one of them ( who bought a big cake from our stall!) As well as these “first timers” there were several people who have now become “regulars”. It is good that people can come along and share in making such a friendly atmosphere. The coffee mornings are advertised to run from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and although most people have been by 11.30 and it is tempting to pack up then, I think it important to stay until the advertised end- last month 2 people came in after 11.45 – one from a local care home, who had walked down specially and the other a visitor to Warminster.**

**Thank you to everyone who has run, or is going to run, one of these mornings and thank you to all of you who support the events.**

*Joan Jones*

**December’s coffee morning for Rwanda Education raised £280 bringing the total raised at charity coffee mornings during the year to £2,698.29. Well done to all for this generous amount.**

**CHURCHES TOGETHER NEWS**

**HELP FOR REFUGEES**

**In November Michael Tansey addressed Warminster Churches Together about working towards supporting a Syrian refugee family. A small group led by Michael then researched a Community Support scheme supported by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales . An excellent presentation was given on 9th January to over sixty enthusiastic people representing all the churches in Warminster. The small steering group let us know they had a) found a house, b) planned English lessons and, c) found a Supporting Charity to oversee legal points. At our meeting we needed to ensure financial support and help from people already working with refugees. That was immediately given by the assembled people. and an application will now be made to the Home Office.**

**It was a wonderful meeting and we felt the love of God blessing our decision.**

**OUR CONTINUING RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS.**

**Claire Cuckoo from the Baptist Church is working with Somalian women refugees in Bristol. They need household goods (saucepans, pillow cases, warm blankets). Claire said, “thanks all the churches for their support and the women have been very grateful for all that has been donated”.**

**CTW would like to give £500 towards supporting refugees who arrive in Wiltshire and the team suggest retiring collections from all the churches in town. Minister Church is co-ordinating the donations through Wiltshire Council.**

**QUIET DAY**



**Saturday 10th June**

**at St Katherine’s Church Savernake.**

**led by the Revd Sam King, Baptist minister at Calne**

**Last year we found this beautiful church in the middle of the Savernake forest a perfect setting for quiet reflection. Do join us!**

**Liz Overthrow 19 Bratton Avenue Devizes SN10 5BA**

**email: liz.overthrow@btinternet.com T: 01380 722404 – Wilts CT**

**ISRAEL 2017 PILGRIMAGE**

**Led By Revd. Peter Whatton**

**20th  - 28th November, 2017**

**Rev Peter Has led numerous pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Turkey and Jordon.**

**He and his wife Ann also worked as Volunteers at The Garden Tomb in the heart of Jerusalem, so you will be in experienced Hands.**

**The tour takes in all the important Holy sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem , Galilee and Nazareth. We have an experienced local Christian Guide a coach and all entrance fees and Gratuities are included in the cost which is £1495.**

**I would love to take you along we share in great fellowship, make new friends and have the Bible opened up to us in a most wonderful way.**

**If you are interested please contact me on 01225 971607 or e-mail     [p.whatton@wiltsunitedchurches.org.uk](mailto:p.whatton@wwiltsunitedchurches.org.uk)**

**Charity takes time out to launch £25k appeal**

**The Carer Support Wiltshire, “Time For Carers” Appeal is raising £25,000 to give the thousands of unpaid carers they support a break, and they are calling on the people of Wiltshire to help them reach their target.**

**3 in 5 of us will become a carer at some point in our lives.  Often as a result of illness or accident suffered by a loved one, many take on the role without question, but are often unprepared for the impact on their own life and health.**

**“One thing all carers say – whatever their age – is that they need a little time for themselves. Yet our research shows one in three carers never have a weekend or evening break from their caring role, and one in three feel guilty if they do.  Many don’t have time to enjoy some of the things we all take for granted, like a trip to the cinema, taking part in a sporting activity or spending time with friends. This can affect their physical and mental wellbeing and lead to feelings of isolation”, says Catharine Hurford, CSW Chief Executive.**

**“All the money we raise through this appeal will go directly to enabling carers to have a bit of time to themselves.”**

**We are calling on people to get involved with fundraisers or sponsored events, and businesses to make CSW their charity of the year.”**

**You can find out more about the appeal here:  [http://carersinwiltshire.co.uk](http://carersinwiltshire.co.uk/" \t "_blank)**

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**2017 is the centenary year of Oscar Romero's birth and the 37th since his martyrdom. He was Archbishop of San Salvador and was assassinated by a right wing death squad.**

**Each year there are celebrations and commemorations in the week of the anniversary of his martyrdom . In this centenary year, there will also be a National Ecumenical Service in St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, London, at 11.00 am on Saturday 25 March.**

**He is one of 10 modern martyrs whose sculptures are above west door of Westminster abbey .**

**THE WINTERSHALL LIFE OF CHRIST SATURDAY JUNE 24th 2017**

[http://www.wintershall-estate.com/about-us/](http://www.wintershall-estate.com/about-us/" \t "_blank)

**I would very much like to invite you to make up a group from Warminster and the surrounding villages to come and see this wonderful play.**

**The event is the complete Life of Christ, set out doors and moving round a beautiful estate. The sound is wonderful and the sight lines are very good although they are best if you don’t mind sitting on the ground. (Limited space is available for you if you wish to bring a chair).**

**We would leave Warminster area at 7.30 to arrive at Bramley Nr Guildford (GU5 0LR) by 9.30-10am and I suggest that we could car share, with the driver receiving £15 in travel from each passenger.**

**With cost of the ticket £20 that would be £35 for a wonderful day out.**

**We will need to book tickets soon and I suggest that you register interest by contacting me (upperwylyevalleyteam@gmail.com) with an offer of driving or the need of a lift by March 11th. I will sort out the group and give the go ahead for you all to purchase your own tickets on line (I am happy to do this for people if they wish)**

**Revd Ali Morey**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR THE ELDERLY AND LONELY FOR 2017**

**In 2014 the Baptists ran a Christmas lunch, 2015 it was run by nurses, no lunch in 2016. Jacky Wingfield (CTW) will ask the Baptists if they will host 2017 but asks if other churches will support the work that day. 538 people have been recognised as in need of support. The Area Board will support financially and other charity groups will be available but will YOU consider helping on 24-26 December?**

**EVENING WALKS**

**The evenings are beginning to get a little lighter now, so hopefully we will soon be able to start our evening walks , followed by a meal. I think early April would be good , the clocks will have gone back by then. If anyone has any suggestions for venues, either for walking or eating, please let me know. Watch notice sheets for more information.** *Joan Jones*

**EASTER EGGS**

**The Christmas gifts that we sent to the children in a local Women’s refuge were very much appreciated so we have been collection money to enable us to send Easter eggs to them. They think they will have 15 children with them at Easter and we have collected enough to be able to buy 15 eggs from the Real Easter Egg Company – fair trade chocolate and a booklet telling the Easter Story. Many thanks to all who contributed.**

**PEOPLE AGAINST POVERTY**

**Thanked us for the £165 raised at February’s coffee morning. They said that this amount would support a child on the sponsorship scheme for almost 8 months. They have a lot going on; a new Family Partnership scheme in Romania aims to help the whole family develop safe from disease, hunger & deprivation integrating them into society. They continue with their medical outreach, feed a child project, Legal project and Micro farm project and run social classes for adults and young people to help with the problem of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. In Napal they aim to grow the Starlight Scholarship program to give more children access to education and in Haiti they continue to support children of St Joseph’s Crèche and Notre Maison Orphanages. They aim to give those they help “a handshake not a handout”**

**WHAT OF LOVE?**

**So, What of love? What does it mean? Or how can you define it?  
We know our life-long quest is to develop and refine it,  
Just one short word - somehow, therein, life's essence is contained,  
And yet to date its mighty power seems mostly unexplained.**

**Priests, poets and philosophers have wrestled throughout time   
To articulate this concept using reason, thought and rhyme,  
Yet love remains aloof from man's attempts at definition,  
While occupying, in our hearts, preeminent position.**

**Men love their cars, their football teams, their wives and children too,  
Indeed, love motivates us in most everything we do,  
But how can love of family be compared to how he feels  
For some man-made steel machinery with an engine, seats and wheels?**

**The 'What' of love is complex, it ignites our souls with passion,  
And yet it can be fickle, fade away like last year's fashion.  
Possessive love decays into indifference, then aversion,  
Just as this year's 'Must Have' car is next year's superseded version.**

**But in no way does this undermine the priceless worth of love,  
The truth lies all around us, and the answers up above,  
For love seeks not to own, to conquer, vanquish or possess,  
But rather to inspire another toward Godliness.**

**Love consists in recognising the eternal soul within  
Both ourselves, and those around us - from that moment, we begin  
To see, in true perspective, the potential we possess  
To love, as does our Saviour, with perfect selflessness.**

**For the 'What' of love pertains to our divine, eternal worth,  
And can't be fully understood in context of this Earth,  
But through divine enlightenment we start to understand  
The What, the How and Why - just as our loving Father planned**

*by Andrew W Turner ( Joan Jones’ nephew)*