

March to May 2022
**WARMINSTER UNITED
CHURCH**

(Methodist/URC)

George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA



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Rev Heather Morgan (URC) 07711 576307
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Next church meeting will be on 3rd April after the morning service. All are invited to attend.

If you would prefer your copy of the newsletter in larger print or as an email copy, please let Joan Jones know

SO, WHAT NOW?

It may have been quite a surprise to some of us last November when we heard that Rev David was leaving us shortly to go into full time chaplaincy. Heather and I immediately offered to the Area to help out in whatever way we could. We met with Pamela Packer and Jan Sayers, who look after staffing in the Area, one Christmassy afternoon at Crockerton Garden Centre (of course) and agreed to share the role of being the 'responsible' Ministers for Warminster United Church- until a new permanent replacement is found. So, what will happen now to do this?

Pamela and Jan told us that a URC Minister would not be available so the Methodist system for finding a new Minister usually happens like this: In September Ministers decide whether they are going to leave a Circuit in the following year and then write a profile of themselves. This will include what sort of churches they would be interested in, family or disability considerations and what they feel their strengths are. The circuit they are leaving writes a similar profile. In about November the Chairs of District meet to act as 'marriage brokers' pairing up possibilities and then they inform the Ministers and churches of what they think might work. The two then arrange to meet up and everyone hopes they have a marriage made in heaven! Personally, I always thought that there couldn't be a worse time of year to be doing this – it used to be January at one point. It was dark and cold and dreary. In those days I would be taken round lots of chapels that I might potentially look after and where the Senior Steward and a few members of the congregation would be huddled over a portable gas fire to greet me and we tried to find out about one another before being swept off to see yet another chapel. I could expect the Superintendent of the circuit to phone that same evening to tell me if they liked me – or not! What did I think? I only once said, 'No' when in Devon. The Manse was literally in the church car park and a public right of way ran actually through the garden! I had visions of me hanging out my washing while a crowd stood by to watch. I also picked up very strongly that they didn't want a -by then -single Minister with two children. So, no, not a match made in heaven. I was sent to Wiltshire instead to look after, among other churches, Christchurch Marlborough, which was a URC/ Methodist church in an Ecumenical Area.

Those churches and Ministers who have not yet been matched go through the process again but sadly many churches will not get a Minister even in that second stationing round. Surprises do come along during the year and Ministers do suddenly become available outside the normal process. This happened in the Bradford Upon Avon Sector.

This is how it was six years ago when I retired but the system may have been tweaked a bit since then. This summer an invitation committee will be set up comprising Area and church representatives and they will begin working on our profile. Your prayers for the smooth and successful running of the whole process are much appreciated.

In the meantime, Heather and I consider it a great privilege to be 'active' again although I don't think Heather has ever been anything else! We aim to work very closely together within the Church Council and congregation to ensure that everything is ready for the new Minister.

MAY GOD BLESS US AS WE GO THROUGH THIS EXCITING AND CHALLENGING TIME.

Susan

Last weekend on TV was a veritable feast for sports fans: the FA Cup, the 6 Nations Rugby Union Tournament & the start of the Winter Olympics in Beijing. What always strikes me when watching football games on TV is the enthusiasm of the supporters: they wear the jerseys, the scarves, carry the banners supporting their team. Support them through thick & thin.

The ministers & Church Council at United Church need YOUR support over the coming months: Revd David left us but his replacement will not arrive until September 2023. In the meantime, Revd Susan Holden & myself will be “holding the fort”. Please think prayerfully too, about your time & talents & your role in the Church & how best you can show your support for the Leadership Team.

Football & rugby supporters wear their hearts on their sleeves, when it comes to supporting their team. We are God’s Team & our hearts should be so filled with the love of God & gratitude for the gift of life itself that this shines forth to those we meet in our daily lives.

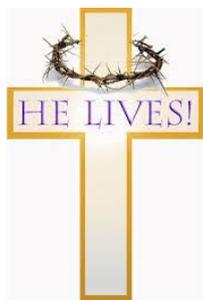
God bless,

Heather



SUNDAY SERVICES 10.30am (unless otherwise stated)

- MARCH** 6th : Rev Susan Holden
13th : Karen Woollard
20th : Rev Susan Holden
27th: Rev Heather Morgan HOLY COMMUNION
- APRIL** 3rd : Karen Woollard (Followed by Church meeting)
10th : **PALM SUNDAY** Rev Susan Holden
17th : **EASTER SUNDAY** Rev Heather Morgan HOLY COMMUNION
24th : Tom Hill
- MAY** 1ST : Rev Susan Holden
8th : **11am. SECTOR SERVICE** at Westbury **URC**
led by Rev Ruth Whitehead, Synod Moderator
15th : Rev Heather Morgan
22nd : Rev Susan Holden HOLY COMMUNION
29th : Karen Woollard



EASTER SERVICES

- 2nd March: **ASH WEDNESDAY** 10.30 am
a short service led by Rev Susan Holden and refreshments
Sunday 10th April: **PALM SUNDAY** service led by Rev Susan Holden
14th April: **MAUDY THURSDAY 7 p.m.** communion led by Rev Susan Holden with Baptist church
Sunday 17th: **EASTER SUNDAY** service with communion led by Rev Heather Morgan

Short, regular weekly WEDNESDAY MORNING SERVICES will start again from Ash Wednesday, 2nd March.

LOOKING FORWARD!

With longer days and (we hope!) better weather, Spring is a time of change and new growth; and this can encourage us to look for some changes in our own lives – spring-cleaning or de-cluttering, anyone?

You may remember that at the end of 2019 we had started to think about how we could use our church building and what we might be able to do to increase our ministry and service to the people of Warminster. We all know only too well what happened next! But as restrictions are beginning to ease, we can start to look forwards to a time when we can decide on our ‘New Normal’ as a congregation and as a Christian presence in the town.

Some of you may still have reservations about coming to church, or the relaxing of Covid precautions. Church Council have agreed that we will continue with the current spacing, advising wearing masks etc. until things are more settled. However, whether you come to church or continue to worship at home, we can all start to think about what we would like to see happening in our church in the future.

This is a wide subject! We can break it down into more manageable topics if we start with what we can do now or in the next year, the next 2-3 years, 5 years...

Or it may help to think in terms of our activities: worship and children’s work, pastoral care and teaching, community and outreach for example.

Before all the lockdowns we had talked about possible changes to the rear of the building and had agreed that the first step should be to decide what we wanted to do *in* the building as that would affect what we did *to* the building. A ‘Vision Day’ was in the early stages of planning. Church Council have agreed that this should be arranged for this year and hope to be able to set a date with an outside facilitator to help us move forward. (Ed. Date now arranged for 12th June)

Before that happens, it would be good if everyone could take time to think and pray about the future of our church so that we are well prepared for the Vision Day.

Rev Susan Holden has a list of questions to get you started and there will be a Box in the church for your comments and ideas if you would like to put these forwards for discussion at Council or Church meeting. (The survey as at the back of this newsletter)

Please do let us know what you think – you may be the only person to have that amazing idea! No idea is too small or too big!

Erica



Revd Gerald England the URC Pastoral Advisor will be leading a Vision Day for us on Sunday 12 June. He will lead a shorter time of worship followed by “a time to reflect & discern together” It is suggested everyone should bring their own lunch tea/coffee & cake will be provided. The event should finish early afternoon

He is also happy to join a Zoom meeting with a few of us towards the end of March or early April so we can “give some background information “



KNOW YOUR CHURCH TECH!

I remember in my first appointment when we got our first 'mouse'. In those days the words on the computer monitor were still green against a black background. I ended up in tears of frustration because I just couldn't get that little green arrow on

the screen to go where I wanted! I also remember 'No Organist? No Problem.' This was the first piece of equipment that provided a church with hymn and song music. It was very expensive though.

There are a few pieces of new equipment for churches now which you may have wondered about. In my list below I've also included where they are already in use across the United Area. Have a trip out one Sunday and see them in use!

Projection.

Using a laptop and powerful projector the words of hymns and prayers are projected onto a large screen at the front – or sides- of the church. At Christchurch C of E in Warminster they have small screens on the pillars. This means that all hymn books, new and old, can be used and paper copies of orders of services are no longer needed. If the church has internet access, like we do, clips of videos and films can be shown. Services can be illustrated too. See it in action at Trowbridge Wesley and Bradford Upon Avon URC.

Live Streaming.

This turns the church into a mini broadcasting studio. Just one camera – or several – can film the preacher and congregation as the service is happening and send it out over the internet to various sites or 'platforms' where we can pick it up through computer or smart phone. This is live so it's not possible to talk to anyone at the service itself if you are at home. With practice a very professional live programme can be made. At home you will need a computer or smart phone to access it. Some churches prefer to just screen another church's service. The congregation meet in their own church together in front of a big screen and join in. This is cheaper because there's no cameras and it helps where preachers are in short supply. See it in action at Calne, shortly to be joined by Corsham who are 'tuning in' to them.

Zoom.

We are more familiar with this but again you will need a computer with a camera or smart phone to access it. The advantage of zoom is that participants can talk to one another so it's popular for meetings too. There are different companies offering this. You may have heard of Google Teams for instance. The greatest advantage of all is that it is free for about thirty-five minutes. One person sets it up – called The Host- and you are then notified by e-mail how to get in at an arranged time. If your host is really clever, like Marion Hornby, they will include music for the hymns and words on screen. See it in action at Warminster United!

Expense is of course a concern for all of these options. Our United Area has a fund especially for mission which would include the above. There are also many other grants available, local and national, to apply to.

Susan Holden

The Chat Café



Are you affected by cancer in any way, or have a family member or friend who is, and would benefit by talking to a friendly person who has experience of the disease. Then you are invited to come along to the Side-by-Side Chat Café, where you will receive a warm welcome in comfortable surroundings, enabling you to chat about any worries or concerns you may have over a hot drink and biscuit with someone who has been on the cancer journey themselves.

The Side-by-Side Chat Café has been set up by the Community Support Group Open Door Warminster, which aims to fill some of the gaps in local non-medical and wellbeing services. It is held in the Old Fire Station, The Close, Warminster every first and third Friday of the month, between 10.00-12.00pm. No need to book, just pop in for a chat with people who truly understand and care.



The Foodbank has continued to be very active, feeding about 250 people per month. These numbers went up to 450 during the height of the pandemic.

Contact with clients is still by telephone, strange for us but it works well, occasionally we need to deliver food by volunteer drivers. We are very grateful for all the support we

receive from the Warminster community.

Items we are always pleased to see are long life semi skimmed milk and fruit juice and tinned potatoes. Mince, sausages and fish plus bread is purchased by the Foodbank, in the hope of improving nutrition.

The Foodbank is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to 1pm still in Dewey House North Row. Telephone. 01985 214463 or in an emergency 07855627945. *Jean Colgrave*

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES



As well as the 102 shoeboxes we sent to the Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion, which go to vulnerable children and families in South East Europe, this last Christmas we also sent 12 boxes and bags to Afghan refugee families in Wiltshire. Many thanks to all who contributed to this in any way – and especial thanks to Brenda Goodwin, without whom we would not have achieved anywhere near as much. The hope and plan is that we can do similar at Christmas

2022. Brenda is happy to receive empty shoeboxes and knitting wool at any time. Other items to go in boxes can be brought to the church from May when there will be a collection box in the Foyer. Stationery, children's underwear, small toys, toiletries and knitted items would be a good start! Thank you all in advance.

Joan Jones

Photo is the gifts for the refugee families being collected by Wiltshire council for distribution

FROM PASTORAL CO-ORDINATOR.

I recognise that we have missed many members & friends at our Church services over the past two years because of COVID. With that in mind, each Pastoral visitor has been asked to contact those on their list. The aim of this is to find out what support & help we can provide. The questions they are posing are: -

1. Do you anticipate coming back to Church in the near future?
2. Is there anything the church community can do for you? e.g., would you appreciate a lift to Church? Would you like to receive Holy Communion at home?
3. Would you appreciate receiving Sunday worship at home via Zoom or be interested in a live streamed service should this become possible in future?
4. Would you like to join events on Zoom, such as Bible study, coffee & chat or a quiz?
5. Would you like to receive a printed copy of the service delivered shortly afterwards?
6. The Church Council are planning a Special Day in the Summer to look at the way ahead for our Church. Is this something you are likely to attend?

Heather Morgan

All who attend our church are on the Pastoral list and will have been allocated a Pastoral visitor. Do you know who yours is? If not then you can contact Heather and ask her.



At the Morning service on Christmas Eve, Revd David Coppard welcomed Helen Richards, Janice Cobb & Anita Silk into membership of our Church.

Shortly Revd Susan Holden will welcome Polly Bodsworth & Joseva (Joe) Vakacokaivalu who have transferred from elsewhere.

We extend a warm welcome to them all.

Have you considered coming into full membership of our Church? Need to know more about it? Then either Susan or Heather are willing to meet with you for a chat.



DBS checks (Disclosure and Barring Service)

Anyone with a church key or any position of responsibility (e.g., Pastoral visitors, children's leaders, church council members etc) need an up-to-date DBS check and we are arranging for the Area safeguarding officer to visit the church soon to do these online. Can anyone who needs this doing please let Rev Susan know Tel 01985 511349

CREATING SAFER SPACES FOUNDATION MODULE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

With Jan Sayers and Derek Gard

7.30pm on Wednesday 16th March



**at Trowbridge United Church
(The Park Club)**

Very close to the Park Club there is parking in St Stephen's Place car park, postcode BA14 8AH.

or

7.30pm on Wednesday 27th April



**at St Andrew's Church Devizes
SN10 1NJ**

Please let me know if you are intending to come so that I can have enough resources available.

jan.sayers@sky.com

Short Church Survey.

**What does
your church
look like to you?**



To help us prepare for the Church Vision Day on June 12th, the Church Council would like to start conversations about what we think about our Church now and what we might like to see happen. Please fill in the survey, overleaf, but remind yourself of our mission statement below before you begin.

**Our mission is to celebrate God's love:
in worship that is within the Methodist and Reformed tradition,
in fellowship that is inclusive, supportive, challenging and affirming,
in service that extends the love we share within our own community
to the wider World.
In all things we hope, through the help of the Holy Spirit, to be true
disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.**



Please circle a number which shows what you think about each statement. 1= Strongly disagree, 2= slightly agree, 3= strongly agree.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Overall, I am satisfied with being a member of Warminster United Church. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2. Our Church cares about its members. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3. I would like to volunteer more in our church. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4. Our church meets the spiritual needs of our members. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5. Our church is welcoming to visitors and new members. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6. Our church engages well with the community. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7. I would like to see the words of services etc. on a screen behind the preacher | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 8. Our church cares about the spiritual development of my family. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 9. I would like to attend a church service at home on my computer/smart phone. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 10. I feel like I am part of a team fulfilling our church mission. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 11. I would feel confident inviting someone to our church services | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 12. I would like the zoom services and events to continue. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 13. I would like to watch, at home, services from other local churches. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 14. I feel that our property is part of our outreach. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 15. I would like to see more social events for our congregation | 1 | 2 | 3 |

If there is anything else you would like to add please do so here:

Please remove this sheet from the Magazine and put your completed survey in the questions box in church or you can post it in the church letter box.

Thank you for taking part in this survey.

If more than one person in household please photocopy or pick up another form in church



I AM
THE
VINE YOU
ARE THE
BRANCHES

JOHN 15:1