

# WARMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

(Methodist/URC)

George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA

# SPRING

March – May 2019



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](http://www.unitedchurchwarminster.org.uk)

Dear Friends

Today (February 3<sup>rd</sup>) all my Sunday services have been cancelled due to snow and especially ice. It seems ironic that these thoughts, compiled in the depth of winter, will be in the edition of the church magazine that will cover up to June. A popular hymn includes a reference to such climatic extremes in a verse:

*"Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love..."*

Words from "*Great is thy faithfulness*", written by the American Thomas Chisolm. He was born in Franklin, Kentucky on 29th of July 1866 in a log cabin. Aged 16 he became a school teacher before finding faith and training as a Methodist minister, ill health meant he could serve for just one year. He wrote over 1200 sacred poems but it was not until he was aged 57 that he compiled, "*Great is thy faithfulness*".

On being asked why he wrote it, Chisolm replied simply: "I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness."

The words remind that God not only works in dramatic or miraculous ways but it also in the simple, everyday.

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'

*Lamentations 3 v 22-24*

Wherever the coming months take you, may you know the presence, love and compassion of Christ.

With all best wishes  
Rev David





**What Difference Do We Make To Our Town?**

In what way are we building up spiritual lives?

How successful are we at this?

How successful do we involve the Local Community in Spiritual Growth?

How will we continue to change the community

**You are invited to bring your thoughts and ideas to this discussion  
on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 4p.m.  
in the Cameo Room  
Tea and Cakes will be available.**



**EASTER SERVICES**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> April :  
Baptist Church 7p.m.**



**GOOD FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> April:**

**9.30 a.m. meditation at our church  
followed by Walk of Witness with  
Churches Together in Warminster**



**EASTER SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> April :**

**8.45 a.m. SHORT MEDITATION in our  
church – followed by Easter Breakfast**

**10.30 Easter service with Communion  
led by Rev David Coppard**

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Spring is on its way! There are definite signs of snowdrops in gardens and hedgerows and the days are lengthening - early birds amongst us will have noticed a lighter sky in the mornings and it is no longer dark at 4pm.



As we have only just experienced the first snow fall, winter has not passed and we still could get some very cold weather. As suggested, please remember to look out for your neighbours when it does, ensure that the older person up the street has got some food in the house and a warm fire to sit by.

In our efforts to care for each other, please pray for those amongst our Church family who are unable to get to services; Daphne, Joy, Joan, Vera and Bernard, Howard and Tony. We also pray for those who are not able to come so regularly, Betty, Stella, John and Jennifer.

We celebrate the life of Jack Harrison who left us in December, remembering his smiling face, endless enthusiasm and love of life. Penelope and Jack moved here from the north of the country to be nearer some of their family and, I believe I speak for us all, when I say it was a pleasure to know Jack.

We sadly learnt of the death of Sally Petrie at our church service on Sunday 10 February. Many of our more recent members will never have met Sally but for those of us who knew her, we remember a lady full of life, an infectious smile with a strong faith full of love for us all. I certainly have missed her friendly presence. For those she nursed during her career, her love and faith brought comfort.

New members are joining us constantly; a warm welcome to all. Please make yourself known to us – if we haven't asked your name already.

*Marion Barton*



***Congratulations to Pam and Derrik  
on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary  
in February.  
Very best wishes for the years ahead.***


## **PROPERTY**

The work to the gable ends of the roof on the Cameo room and vestry /kitchen building have been completed quickly despite bad weather. A fire klaxon has been fitted outside the kitchen door, outside lighting has been improved and a shed has been erected and is ready for use. Work will soon start on improving the garden area with screening, seating and planting. The roof work has helped with the damp in the vestry and to further aid this the radiators in that room are to be changed for greater efficiency.

Lettings have continued to increase with rents of £850 last quarter and 38 activities booked during the 28 days of February! This is a busy church.

**Many thanks to Pauline Howell for all her hard work.**

**Pauline would like to hand over the letting administration to someone else so she can concentrate on the outstanding property jobs. She wishes to retire fully in January 2020.**



**LETTINGS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
NEEDED NOW!**



**NEW PROPERTY  
STEWARD NEEDED  
FOR JANUARY 2020**

**Find out more about these roles from Pauline. The lettings administrator needs to take over as soon as possible and , ideally , the new property steward should work alongside Pauline during some of this year to learn what is involved.**

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

Our income from the Offerings for the last 6 months is as follows:

July 18	£2108.52
August 18	£1782.78
September 18	£1996.32
October 18	£1828.70
November 18	£1886.70
December 18	£1819.15
January 19	£1821.97

We also had special collections over Christmas and our Carol Service raised £281.19 for Alzheimer's Support which was contributed to the Warminster Day Club.

Our communal Christmas Card raised £150.00 for Shelter.

A big Thank You to all for your generosity.

*Hilary*

## **REPORT FROM PROPERTY STEWARD**

We have come through the winter period in quite good form, with no major incidents and a lot of happy people using the building. The latest group to use the Cameo room is Wiltshire College on Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Routine servicing of the boiler and fire safety equipment will be carried out in the next few weeks by the relevant contractors.

General upkeep and tidying requires some input by everyone. Team effort is key to making the premises a welcoming, comfortable place for all to meet and share fellowship. To all those who regularly wash tea towels, empty bins, replenish toiletries, pick up litter outside etc. I say a very big thank you. Obviously we would like to spread the load across as many as possible - not just the regulars. Please consider what you can offer and make yourself known.

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, I intend to relinquish my church responsibilities in January 2020. With that in mind and to make the transition easier I would like to hand over the Lettings administration to the next volunteer as soon as possible. This person will need good computer skills and like dealing with people, usually by telephone. Good knowledge of the building will also be useful.

I am looking forward to the approaching Spring and better weather, when groundwork can begin to create a better access to the garden and an improvement to the surface.

Watch this space for the date of our first Afternoon Tea Party.

*Pauline Howell*

## **FINANCE**

After paying the assessment of £5K we have a balance of £24,000. At first glance this seems a very healthy balance and we are indeed in a better position than some churches in our Area. However our balance represents the 6 months reserve we must hold to enable the church to function. Our church benefits from several positive factors, investments, good management and generosity. The investments made previously generate interest but the percentage does fluctuate, The leaders in the church always consider carefully any decision about spending, to ensure value for money and future stability. A percentage of our congregation are very generous and should we lose just a small number of these beneficiaries our reserves would soon diminish.

*Pauline Howell*

Thinking of how much worse off some churches are it was suggested that we should hold some fund raising events for St John's Church, in Warminster, who are struggling to raise money to repair their roof and heating and currently unable to use their church on a regular basis. Look out for more information on this.

**CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS – 2<sup>nd</sup> SATURDAY EACH MONTH 10A.M TO 12  
OFFERS OF HELP AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAKES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**

<b>2019</b>	<b>CHARITY</b>	<b>ORGANISER</b>	
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Action for Children	Barry Treadwell	£200
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sachibondu Mission Zambia	Marion Barton	£185
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Warminster Stroke Club	Elaine Hunter	
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Zimbabwe Victims Support	Pam and Derrik	
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Warminster Food Bank	Jean Colgrave	
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Aid	Karen Woollard	
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Shelter Box	Joan Jones	
August 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dementia UK	John Alpin	
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	Guide Dogs for the Blind	Anita Silk	
October 12 <sup>th</sup>	School in a bag	Helen Richards	
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Shoebboxes	Joan Jones	
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Air Ambulance	Anita Silk	

**In 2018 December's coffee morning for Riding for the Disabled raised £200 and the total raised throughout the year was £2826. A big thank you to all who support these events.**



**CHRISTIAN AID  
8<sup>th</sup> April  
there will be fund raising**

**MEAL AT THE AGRA  
RESTAURANT**



**Ticket will be £20 – of which £10 will pay for the meal and £10 will go to Christian Aid.**

**Two sittings at 6.30 and 8.p.m.**

**Tickets from Karen Woollard**

**SUNDAY SERVICES 10.30 a.m.**  
**March to May**

**MARCH**

3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Karen Woollard	<b>SONGS OF PRAISE</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev Heather Morgan	
17 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev David Coppard	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev Mike Burrell	
31 <sup>st</sup> :	Tom Hill	

**APRIL**

7 <sup>th</sup> :	Douglas Colborne	
14 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev Mary Teed	
21 <sup>st</sup> :	Rev David Coppard	<b>EASTER COMMUNION</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> :	Local arrangements	

**MAY**

5 <sup>th</sup> :	Eric Clifford	
12 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev Graham Warmington	
19 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev Heather Morgan	
26 <sup>th</sup> :	Rev David Coppard	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>

**Wednesday morning services at 10.15 a.m.**

**Holy week services listed on first page.**



**Children are welcome at all services .**

**On Sunday mornings they can join in their own age appropriate activities in the foyer for part of the service.**

**AFTER ALL MORNING SERVICES EVERYONE IS INVITED TO STAY FOR A FURTHER TIME OF FELLOWSHIP ,TO SHARE COFFEE/TEA AND BISCUITS AND TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER.**

**There is no charge for the refreshments but any donations towards the cost of providing them is gratefully received.**



### Rota for Church - April, May and June 2019

<b>April</b>	Vestry (V)/ Opening(O)	Books/Welcome	Coffee	Flowers
7	Sue Hewitt O/V	Andy Simmons Arthur Pimm	Wendy and Diana	Sandra Mathews
14	Pauline O/V	Karen Woollard Betty	Pam Copeland Anita Silk	Marion Hornby
21 EASTER	Andy Simmons O/V	Sue Hewitt and Muriel May	Hilda Hanks and Dana	Hilda Hanks
28	Marion Barton O/V	Sylvia and Dennis	Joan and Evan Jones	Mary Treadwell
<b>May</b>				
5	Karen O/V	Muriel May Paula Johnson	Wendy W and Diana Bennie	Pauline Howell
12	Barry O/V	Marion Barton Joan Stephens	Erica Castle and Pam Copeland	Joan Stephens
19	Brenda O Helen V	Dennis and Pat Mills	Brenda Goodwin Yvonne Syrett	Helen Dawson
26	Hilda O/V	Pauline Howell Karen Woollard	Claire Johnson Anita Silk	Margaret McDonald
<b>June</b>				
2	Joan Jones O Karen V	Biddy and Sue Hewitt	Joan and Evan	Joan Jones
9	Barry O/V	Karen Woollard Derrick Copeland	Pam Copeland Diana Bennie	Jean Colgrave
16	Sue Hewitt O/V	Andy Simmons Arthur Pimm	Hilda and Dana	Susan Hewitt
23	Marion Barton O/V	Dennis and Pat Mills	Helen and Kevin Dawson	Elaine Searly
30	Pauline O/V	Paula Johnson and Stuart Brydon	Brenda and Helen Richards	Pat Mills

A lot of jobs around the church seem to be done by invisible fairies! The "fairy" who has been washing tea towels has asked if people on coffee duty could possible take the dirty tea towels home to wash each week to save her a job!!

**Dates for church council meetings: ( these are for stewards and trustees)**

**29<sup>th</sup> April, 29<sup>th</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> October all at 11 a.m.**

**DATES FOR CHURCH MEETINGS: (these are meetings for all)**

**12<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> August, 17<sup>th</sup> November ( AGM) all at 11.45 a.m.**

**following morning worship. ALL who attend our church are invited.**

**T.L.S.**

(Training for Learning and  
Serving)

**L.I.T.E.**

(Local Introductory  
Training Experience)



Could you be interested in doing the TLS lite course from  
the **United Reformed Church**.

The course can be undertaken for a person's own interest and  
education or it can be for local accreditation as a Lay Preacher.  
This means that the person gets accreditation from the Synod  
to preach within the local area. It is an interesting and not  
onerous course.

If anyone is interested, please get in touch with me by e-mail.  
It is hoped that we could begin the course sometime in May  
after a preliminary meeting. Please get in touch if you have any  
questions.

*Revd. Sue Henderson*

Contact; [shenderson@wiltsunitedchurches.org.uk](mailto:shenderson@wiltsunitedchurches.org.uk)

Celebrating 10 years of changing lives in Bulgaria and the Balkans

## **Charity Concert for FSCI**

**Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion**  
(the charity we send Christmas Shoe boxes to)

**Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30 p.m.**  
**St Paul's Church Salisbury SP2 7QW**  
Refreshments available

Reserve free ticket phone 01722 580192 or email  
[rich.parsons@fscinet.org](mailto:rich.parsons@fscinet.org)

## CHILDREN'S EASTER ACTIVITY DAY



It is hoped to run an Activity Day for children on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

It would follow the format of previous activity days – starting about 9.30 with a session all together in the church with story, songs and probably an Easter Egg Hunt. Then a variety of craft activities in the Cameo room, followed by another short session all together in the Church , while lunch is set out in

the Cameo room. Finishing after lunch. As usual there would be no admission charge. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

This is in the early stages of planning. More helpers would be appreciated, so if you feel you could help in any way please let me know.  
*Joan Jones*

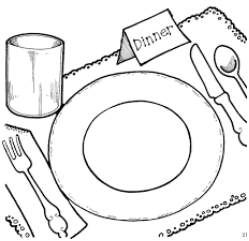
## SUMMER EVENING WALKS

Ideas are around for two evening walks both starting and finishing at the church. Andy and Susan have suggested leading one to the North of the town and I have one in mind to the South. Both could finish with a meal in the church (possibly pre ordered fish and chips or pizza – unless someone likes to offer to cook something!!) If preferred we could go to a pub or restaurant for a meal after. These would probably be in April and May when the evenings are lighter. It would be good to have some other such events in the summer months, either evenings or day time with a lunch somewhere maybe. Any suggestions of venues and/or offers to lead and organise a walk would be welcomed. Let us know if you would be interested in taking part. Look out for more information on weekly notice sheets.



*Joan Jones*

## FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHES



continue to be very popular and one or two new members have joined in recent months.

Many thanks to Penelope for continuing to organise these and providing us with such delicious meals and a variety of interesting speakers . Also thanks to all the willing helpers and those who provide a variety of

desserts .

The heavy snow on the first Friday in February meant that day's meeting had to be cancelled – we were all sorry to miss this monthly treat!

## BETTER THAN BISCUITS

A story contributed by Rev David Coppard

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."



The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

"Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."



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God loves each of us as if  
there were only one of us.

Saint Augustine