

# WARMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

(Methodist/URC)

George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA

Spring 2021



Rainbow over Cotley Hill (Warminster)

*I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?*

*My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121*



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Dear Friends

It seems that during the last year we have had too many Good Friday's. In these days of darkness during the Covid-19 world epidemic, we are reminded of how precious life can be and how vulnerable we all are as human beings.

As we see and hear the grim statistics of infection rates and deaths, we recall that each number is a human being with loved ones and friends. The suffering and death from Covid stare us in the face. How we need to cling to the message that Good Friday is not the end! The message of Easter reminds us that death is not the end, and death does not have the final word. Through Jesus we believe in life after death, and in everlasting life in a place which we call heaven, reunited with the God who made us, and who came to save us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Normally we would gather together as one and in celebration sing our Easter hymns and remind ourselves of Christ's victory over death. This year will be different, however that does not dilute the hope and joy and life that Easter brings. Remind yourself of who first encountered the risen Christ – Mary ... and only Mary. Even the news of Christ's resurrection is only first known by very small groups. So, our Easter this year finds resonance in that first Easter. And may the message of that first Easter find not only room in our hearts, but in our minds and our lives ... giving us hope, joy and confidence. May indeed the risen Christ bring us hope for a brighter future.

Alleluia Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*David*

“LET US GIVE THANKS  
TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!  
BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT MERCY HE GAVE US NEW LIFE  
BY RAISING JESUS CHRIST FROM DEATH.  
THIS FILLS US WITH A LIVING HOPE.” 1 Peter 1v3

Churches Together in Warminster have suggested that, as this year most of us will be unable to gather to remember and celebrate the Easter story in our churches, all the churches in town produce a display showing any or all of the four special days of Easter. (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday).

**They also suggest that church members put a display in their windows or gardens. It can be as elaborate or as simple as you like.** A photo could be sent to the Warminster Journal [news@warminsterjournal.co.uk](mailto:news@warminsterjournal.co.uk)



Posters have been bought for our church windows and a large plain cross will also be put in the window. People are asked to make flowers that can be attached to the cross for Easter Sunday. Flowers can be made from any material and should be no more than A5 size. Please pop them in the church letter box (on the wall to the left of the front door) no



later than Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, or post to the church's address (Warminster United Church, George St, Warminster BA12 8DH). Penelope will be attaching the flowers to the cross on the Saturday. If your daily exercise walk can take you past the church, and others in the town, do have a look!

On Good Friday a man will be walking through our town carrying a cross. Would you take his photo if you see him and post it on Facebook and send it to the Journal so that people know that our town is remembering Good Friday.

CTW are also contacting the schools to see if they will be able (with everything else they have to do) to encourage the children to produce something beautiful for Easter. (paintings, Easter Gardens, collages)

Churches Together will offer palm crosses to every school.

They have asked them to send their art work into the Journal - whether it is at their homes or at their school.

We may not be in church, but we are still Christians in the Town. We hope you will be inspired to do something beautiful.

*Karen*

## WORSHIP

For the time being Zoom services will continue at 10.30a.m. each week.

**Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and  
Easter Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> April)**

**David will lead a Sector service on Zoom.**

A “worship at home” sheet will still be sent out to everyone each week, and we thank David for continuing to prepare these for us.

**It is hoped that the first service in Church will  
be on Pentecost, 23<sup>rd</sup> May to celebrate the  
birthday of the church.**



After that the aim is to have 2 services per month at first and increase to weekly when it feels safe to do so.

Precautions like 2 meters and wearing masks will still be necessary.

## ZOOM MEETINGS

The following meeting are held weekly on Zoom:

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>10.30am.</b>	<b>“Coffee morning” – a chance to chat</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>8pm</b>	<b>Bible Study of John’s Gospel</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Quiz</b>

**We are grateful to Marion Hornby who usually sends out the Zoom link the previous day.**

**Please contact Marion at [marionhornby@gmail.com](mailto:marionhornby@gmail.com) if you wish to receive a Zoom invitation to any or all of the above.**

## Re-opening for other groups

The church council decided that use of the premises for purposes other than worship will hopefully recommence in September (subject to Government guidelines) and a new contract is to be sent to all outside organisations. Group leaders will be sent more information when it is available

## **REV DAVID WILKINSON**

West Midlands Synod have informed that Revd David Wilkinson, died on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Sad news for those of you who remember David Wilkinson and his wife Pauline. David was Minister in Warminster and Westbury from 1989 to 1993. I'm sure many of you, like me, have very fond memories of David; a very down to earth ministry, a very warm character, a great sense of humour with an infectious laugh (more of a giggle really!), the bane of my life as a totally disorganised record keeper of membership, admin was not his strongest point! I'm sure many of you have your own memories.

Let's remember Pauline and family in our prayers and thank God for David's ministry in Warminster.

best wishes

*John Alpin*

### **Memories of Rev Wilkinson from Karen**

"I heard today that David Wilkinson had died - he was our minister when Mike and I got married. As Mike was waiting for his parents (and me) to arrive at the church, he went up to the front door and David said, "It's too late to leave now Mike!" and they had a laugh. He came to our house after our wedding to see how our journey with the Lord was continuing. What a lovely visit.

When I went travelling to Synod with him, we went for a cup of tea and he lit up a cigarette. I was so surprised. I hadn't seen a man smoke for years! He said he found it broke the ice a lot when he went to visit people from outside the church and he could stand around and have a cigarette alongside the men after a funeral or wedding. It helped people relax in his company when they realised he was just an ordinary man. We found him to be extraordinary. "

### **NEW TREASURER NEEDED**

**Hilary will be packing up as treasurer soon, having been doing a wonderful job for many years.**

**A new treasurer is urgently needed. This will not be as complicated a task as Hilary has been doing because an external accountant is being appointed to do the more complicated work and the new treasurer would only have to deal with the week-to-week finances.**

**If you feel you could do this then please speak to Hilary.**

## DATA PROTECTION UPDATE

It is two years since we last asked you to provide your personal details and to ensure that we are following the legal requirements, we now need to update the permission you gave us. I do not keep the slips that you send me, once this information is recorded.

As people improve their I.T. equipment, they may opt for a different email address and phone numbers change when we update our mobile or decide to forget the landline and go mobile only. In order to keep our records current and up-to-date, the Church has to request permission from you to keep such details every two years.

If you or your partner share the phone and computer address, please add both names to the form. There is no need to complete two forms but please make sure the form is completed clearly.

You should always be asked before the use of your photograph or personal details being shared but with the photograph board and the Church Newsletter, we would appreciate prior consent being given.

If you are happy to share, please complete and return the form to me on [barty.warminster@btinternet.com](mailto:barty.warminster@btinternet.com) or to the Church post box for manual copies. Please mark the questions with a tick or a cross.

Thank you,  
Marion

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Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Do you give permission for your photograph to be displayed in the church building?	
Do you give permission for your name and photograph to be added to Church publicity, eg. for a coffee morning?	
Do you give permission for your personal details to be shared in publicity, eg. in the Church Newsletter?	



## AGM

Each Autumn we hold an AGM, where as well as receiving reports, the Church congregation are invited to elect Trustees and Church Council Members.

During these extra-ordinary times it has not been possible to hold an AGM and we are seeking permission from Church Members that the Church Council be authorised to take such decisions/appointments as would normally be made at an AGM.

Once we are able to have an AGM in person these decisions will be either adopted, amended or rejected by the Church body.

Reference has been made to charity law in embarking on this proposed course of action.

Please can you indicate your acceptance or not of the above, by using the return slip, which can also be emailed to Marion or returned to the church.

*David*

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I \_\_\_\_\_ (Name)

ACCEPT / DO NOT ACCEPT (please delete as appropriate) the proposal to allow the Church Council to act in the capacity of the Annual Church Meeting until such times that an AGM can be held.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## SHOEBOXES



As always, Brenda is collecting empty shoeboxes to cover in Christmas paper ready for next Christmas' shoebox appeal. With shops being closed she is,



understandably, not receiving many boxes but asks that everyone remembers to keep any boxes when they do buy new shoes and give them to her when circumstances allow. She will also be happy to receive any items that anyone makes or buys to go in boxes and store away until the autumn Many thanks.

*Meanwhile we have received the following message from Rich Parsons, who is the operational manager responsible for shipping the boxes:*

“The boxes (collected last November) are still in the UK at the moment, but we hope to get them out in time for Easter in Bulgaria.

Things have been complicated because the authorities in Bulgaria don't seem to have been ready to deal with Humanitarian Aid (HA) from the UK post Brexit. We are basically waiting for them to give us leave to import HA without attracting the fees and taxes that would be attached to a commercial load.

We obviously want to avoid paying these, so it is good that the Bulgarian government is working to sort the process.

Feedback from the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour is positive so far, and, all being well, we shall hear next week that we can ship the Christmas boxes.

We will update you when things are moving again

Prayers appreciated!”

Best regards, Rich Parsons    **Operations Manager**

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

I am pleased to inform our members of the offerings for the last four months.

November.        £1,401.05

December.        £1,702.00

January.         £1,365.00

February.         £1,345.00

Thanks to people with their standing orders, it helps us to maintain our finances. We still have to pay our assessment payment to the Wiltshire area every 3 months.

We received a Christmas offering of £100 also which was sent to the charity Médecins Sans Frontiers.

I hope it won't be too long before we can all meet up again for a service.

*Hilary* (Treasurer)



## PASTORAL CARERS

Thank you to all the pastoral carers who have supported members throughout these long winter months when we have all been isolated, away from our nearest and dearest. Despite the wonders of technology, I have certainly found it hard to accept and am longing for the opportunity to spend time with a friend chatting over a cup of coffee. It never seemed to be a luxury before!

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been affected by the loneliness of this pandemic and especially our church family members who have been ill, at home or in hospital. We remember:

John, who had his hip replacement in January, and his family as they live without Stella.

Betty now at home with carers after being in the RUH,

Jenny, in Scotland, who had a hip replacement and is struggling with her mobility

Muriel who is having treatment

Jenny who is in Salisbury Hospital and

Susan who is being treated in hospital, with the proposal that she be moved for reassessment into a local Nursing Home.

Much will have changed when we next gather together.

*Marion B*

## FRIENDSHIP

**Friendship, just friendship, is all that it takes  
to make a day happy, for friendship makes  
for peace and for cheerfulness, grace and goodwill,  
stirring no trouble and speaking no ill,  
feeling for others and trying to ease  
the burden that presses, to help and to please,  
Forgetting yourself and your own heavy load  
Thinking of somebody else on the road.  
The value of friendship one cannot access,  
Spoken or written no word can express  
how one deed of friendship can make someone's day  
giving them courage to go on their way  
a smile on their lips and a song in their mind  
knowing that friendship is not far behind.**

*Contributed by Heather Morgan, writer unknown*

## RECYCLING I.T. EQUIPMENT

I recently attended a Sustainable Warminster meeting to hear Simon talk about a company based in Chitterne and was very impressed. The message below is being shared so that should you have any pieces of electrical equipment which can be used, please consider recycling. I will act as our drop off location or you can drop things off at Kingdown school. What surprised me the most was the amount of kettle leads about, which can be recycled; taking the copper out of the wires, recycled in to useable tonnage and then shipped back to China to start all over again!!

“Have you any IT equipment you no longer need or no longer use? We are working in collaboration with a company based in Chitterne (Blackmore Ricotech). They are specialists who perform Licensed Data Wiping, Re-purposing and Re-cycling of IT equipment with a view to donating back to the community (specially laptops, tablets and phones) to those who are in need - both the young and the elderly. Of course, with the current Covid situation and people working and learning from home, the digital divide is even greater.

The advantage of working with Blackmore is that they have a zero to landfill policy which interests us greatly - everything is recycled.”

Visit [www.r3cycle.co.uk](http://www.r3cycle.co.uk) to learn more about their business and here is a link to a short video <https://youtu.be/59JQS1m9Ap4>

**WHAT to donate:** laptops, PC's, tablets, phones, routers, mains leads, power supplies, connectors and leads, AC adaptors, batteries for digital (lithium is specially in demand), carry cases (more detail on their website).

**WHAT CANNOT be accepted:** printers, monitors, TFT or CRT displays, VGA screens.

**HOW to donate:** For Covid safety please bring any equipment in a carrier bag.

For any technical queries, please email Simon Barfoot at [DonateIT@r3cycle.co.uk](mailto:DonateIT@r3cycle.co.uk)”

Thank you, *Marion B.*

HANKY PANKY – just for fun.

Helen Dawson has sent this puzzle to keep our minds in trim.

The answer to each clue is two rhyming words. e.g., No. 1 “Speedy thoroughfare” is “Fleet Street”. Easy when you know the answer! (I have had it for a week and still got less than half the answers- Joan {Editor}). Answers will be in next newsletter.

1. Speedy thoroughfare
2. Serious Indian
3. Dull God of Love
4. Rational Scandinavian
5. Gallic Female
6. Stupid spiked animal
7. Unobstructed insect
8. Lawful dog
9. Pleasant servant
10. Slender Missile
11. Angry employer
12. Colour vegetable
13. Desolate mountain top
14. Sober pillar
15. Sufficient specimen
16. Clever song
17. Larger archaeologist
18. Healthy dog
19. Ultimate explosion
20. Latin archer
21. Odd holy person
22. Uninterested nobleman
23. Greasy ornamental napkin
24. Lively insect
25. Tardy spouse
26. Repeated hard luck
27. Belgian scar
28. Large feline
29. Amiable bird
30. Splendid demarcation

Good Luck!



Well, as many of you will know, this is third time lucky – we hope!!  
Hopefully, 17th - 19th September 2021  
will be the new date for the Pilgrimage.

We are unable to book it with Glastonbury Abbey 'till we get to stage 3 (mid-May) of the release from lockdown. Please book the date in your diary! However, we will do nothing more than a bit of rudimentary preparation 'till we can confirm the date and full arrangements with Glastonbury Abbey.

With the date coming in the latter half of 2021 Harold is planning this Pilgrimage to be a time of reflection, thanksgiving and remembering. In view of what we have all experienced over the last 15 months, at least, this is most appropriate. On a practical level, once our booking is confirmed, I will be circulating Registration Forms again. Most of the Pilgrimage will be very much as arranged initially. We are very keen that it is a "Pilgrimage for All", nobody should be excluded!!! There will be walkers who will most likely depart from the Minster on Friday 17th. We will have cyclists who will leave the Minster on Saturday 18th. Most others will leave the Minster by car on Sunday 19th early enough, so those who wish to, can join Harold's 2-hour tour of the religious sights of Glastonbury at 10.30am. The objective is for everyone to end up at the Abbey grounds by 12.30pm for a Bring and Share Picnic Lunch and Discussion at 1pm. We will then have our main culmination feature of the Pilgrimage Service in the Undercroft at 3pm. As before we are spreading the word via our churches, benefice, Deanery, Churches Together and word of mouth. Do please do what you can to spread the word.

If you have any thoughts, questions etc. do please be in touch with me. For now, keep going, safe, smiling and well and kind regards to everyone. Tim.  
(CTW)

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