



'Taste
and see
that the
Lord is
good'
Psalm 34:8a

SUMMER 2015
WARMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
(Methodist/URC)
George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA

Dear Friends

A few days ago the first of our Church walks took place, when a group of us met at Heytesbury and went for a gentle ramble through the fields and lanes around the village. Poppy, my border collie and I brought up the rear and as I watched people chatting away, or pausing to admire a wild flower or the local scenery my mind thought about the Easter walk to Emmaus. You will remember the words from Luke's Gospel about the two friends who through their walking and talking with an apparent stranger discover that the risen Christ is travelling alongside them. Walking can be a spiritual exercise, many people go on pilgrimage to places like Walsingham in Norfolk, Lindisfarne, Iona or just down the road from us, Glastonbury.

The Bible in many ways can be described as humankind's journey with God, there are many examples of people travelling with the presence of God. Deep in the Old Testament we find the Israelites making their way from Egypt to the Promised Land, within the Gospels there are the disciples who respond to the call of Jesus "Follow me". It is not a one way process, Matthew's Gospel concludes with the incredible promise of God that wherever we journey he will be there, "I am with you always even until the end of the age." Personally that is one of the most important verses in the entire Bible.

When I was at school we would regularly sing Sydney Carter's hymn, "One more step along the world I go..." One verse states,
*"As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know..."* (STF 476)

Wherever our journey in life takes us may we know the close presence of God who loves us and is always there with us, whatever the situation.

Wishing you peace and joy this summer
Rev David.

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*David Coppard's email has been wrong on previous Newsletters, please make sure you have it right in your address book

SUNDAY SERVICES
JUNE to AUGUST 10.30 a.m.

JUNE:

7th Jacky Williams
14th Rev David Coppard
21st Rev Heather Morgan **HOLY COMMUNION**
28th Eric Clifford

JULY:

5th Local arrangements
12th Rev David Coppard **HOLY COMMUNION**
19th Margaret White
26th Local arrangements

AUGUST

2nd Rev Heather Morgan
9th Rev David Coppard **HOLY COMMUNION**
16th Rev Mary Teed
23rd Local arrangements
30th Rev David Coppard

Wednesday morning services 10.15 a.m. weekly

<p>26th July (after service) : Church meeting to include election of church officers. Thursday 23rd July : Church Forum meeting</p>
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PRAISE & PLAY BAGS

Some members of the sewing group have made 'Praise & Play Bags' to provide quiet Christian play for young children during services.

We have 6 bags, each themed with a Bible Story and containing a story book, play figures, colouring sheets & crayons. They are situated at the back of the worship area so do have a look at them. Parents should return the bags with contents after the service.

We have also made little angels which the children may take home.



Charity Coffee Mornings 2015 10a.m to 12 noon

January 10 th 2015	Medicins Sans Frontieres	£175
February 7 th	People Against Poverty	£163
March 14 th	Foodbank	£100
April 11 th	MEDAIR	£75
May 9 th	Tools for Self Reliance	£160
June 13 th	The Hope Centre	
July 11 th	Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund	
August 8 th	Action for Children	
September 12 th	Rwanda Education	
October 10 th	Wessex Heartbeat	
November 14 th	Shoebboxes	
December 12 th	Beach within Reach	

June 13th: Penelope & Jack are hosting a Coffee Morning in support of The Hope Centre in Southwick Park. The Hope Centre is a unique project which helps young adults with learning disabilities, giving them the opportunity to experience working and socialising with the general public in a busy tearoom and animal park. To find out more visit their website:

www.hopenaturecentre.org.uk

There will be a bric-a-brac & a cake stall and donations of cakes etc would be greatly appreciated for this and all coffee mornings.

JULY 3rd (note date change)

6.30 pm

"BANGERS & BRAINS" - a fun evening for all.

A sausage & mash supper (with yummy puddings) followed by a light hearted quiz.

Supper tickets £5 per person (inc of quiz),

Proceeds going to the church refurbishment fund.

Vegetarian and Gluten free catered for.

Booking for this event essential. Contact Penelope for more details.



June 21st from 2.30 pm *(note date change)*
STRAWBERRY TEA
at the home of Penelope & Jack (42 The Ridgeway)
in aid of the church refurbishment
no need to book just come along and enjoy the fellowship,
sunshine & strawberries.



HOLIDAY AT HOME

The Church will be a 'hotel' for a day in August: tea and coffee, newspapers, DVD room, jigsaws, music, craft activities, light lunch, evening tea and epilogue.

Other churches have run this for a week, but we will start small!

Charge for the day £3.

Look out for more details



AWAY DAY PICNIC

An away day picnic outing has been suggested to Trudoxhill, Frome where Rev Angela Steele runs retreats at her small holdings.

No date has been decided yet.

If you would be interested in this please give your name to Margaret Edwards

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There is a **Sunday Service** on Warminster Community Radio (WCR) on 105.5 MHz FM Stereo. The service time is 9.00 - 9.20 a.m.- Our church leads this service every 7 weeks in a rota with the other churches of the town.

WCR is also an internet radio station.

To listen go to <http://www.wcrfm.org.uk/> and follow the instructions.

**Door locks:**

If you need to get out of the building in a hurry please note: The front door can always be opened from inside by turning the door knob. The back door key is kept on a cord by the fire extinguisher next to the door and the code for the new side gate is on the 'dog lead' on the coat stand where the key was previously.

The door and gate should be kept unlocked when the premises are in use .



**heritage open days** , organised by the Warminster Civic Trust . This is an annual event when various buildings of historic or architectural interest are opened to the public. The Trust has asked local churches if they would participate this year - 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September.

It is hoped that our church will be able to open and put on a display on those days. Volunteers are needed to prepare the display and to be on a rota so someone is in attendance when the church is open. If you are willing to help please speak to Karen.

**St Andrew's Church, Long Street, Devizes, SN10 1NJ**

## **A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY**

Saturday 4 July : 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. and Sunday 5 July : 12 noon - 4.00 p.m.

Displaying hidden talents, including art & photography, etc

Free entry. Refreshments available. [www.standrewsdevizes.org.uk](http://www.standrewsdevizes.org.uk)



**UK Choir of the year - 2014 winners**

**Warminster Athenaeum**

**25<sup>th</sup> July at 7 p.m**

**Tickets £10 – proceeds to Dorothy House Hospice Care**

## RUTH DODGE

The church was full to overflowing on 21<sup>st</sup> March, for the service of thanksgiving for the life of Ruth Dodge. The large number attending showed the love and high regard which surrounded Ruth. A local girl, born in Bishopstrow, she played an active part in the life of the town and local charities, at the same time bring up her three children, John, Abigail and Tuan. Within our church she had many roles, including running a youth group in the 1970s, organising NCH collections, arranging charity coffee mornings, Pastoral care leader, welcoming people as they arrived at church, running a Toddlers club, also in the 70s, and a Ladies group , teaching in Sunday school and being a church Elder . She was actively supported by David in all of this. Many of us who have joined the church in recent years recall that it was Ruth and David who first spoke to us and made us feel welcome.

I won't try to reproduce here the excellent article about Ruth in the Warminster Journal, but I will repeat it's opening line:

*Ruth radiated vitality , a sense of humour and kindness, she lived an active life and enjoyed many adventures.*

She will be missed by many.

## TREASURERS REPORT

I am pleased to report that our Offerings for the last 3 months are as follows:

February    £1,633.10

March        £1,984.55

April         £1,847.44

These Offerings contribute to God's work in our Church, the Area and throughout the world.

The Easter Offering amounted to £96.00 and was sent to the Area for the World Mission Fund.

Thank you to all for your contributions.

*Hilary*



Nearly 4 years ago I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and had an operation which has been successful . All my treatment was done at Salisbury Hospital so on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, at 11am, at Hudson's Field in Salisbury I am going to attempt to run 10 k (6.2 miles) with all the proceeds going to the prostate cancer unit at the hospital. Despite my two spinal fusions and two knee replacements I am hoping to finish on the Sunday not Monday! If you see someone running very slowly around town that will be me attempting some training to help me on the day. I will let you know how it goes in the next news letter,  
Thanks *David Syrett*

#### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Our thoughts and prayers remain with friends in the congregation who are facing difficult times ahead; we hold you in our prayers and remember you with love in our hearts.

As we grow older so we face new challenges and it is not always easy to accept but we know God's love will support us. Be assured that your friends from church will also be there for you.

We recall those friends who can no longer worship with us but who are fondly remembered and thought of with pleasure; Howard and Audrey, Ivy, Daphne, Bernard, Sally and June. As they remember us, so we remember them in love.

May God grant us all the opportunity to share our love and friendship to those people we know and those who are strangers who need a smile of affection as we pass by.

I wish to thank all the pastoral visitors for their special kindness and willingness.

*Marion Barton*

**A Quiet Day at St George's Harnham, Salisbury**

**12<sup>th</sup> June 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**“Something Understood – An approach to Lent with George Herbert “**

**Leader: The Revd Canon Jeremy Davies.**

**Enjoy the peace of this ancient church, close to the river and water meadows**

**Bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Contact Liz Overthrow 01380 722404**

**[lizoverthrow@btinternet.com](mailto:lizoverthrow@btinternet.com)**

**Rotas for Church**

| <b>July</b>      | Vestry (V)/<br>Opening(O) | Books/Welcome                        | Coffee                          | Flowers               |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5th              | Karen O/V                 | Pam and Derrick<br>Copeland          | David and Yvonne<br>Syrett      | Kate<br>Skillman      |
| 12th             | Marion O/V                | Marion and John<br>Hornby            | Mary and Barry<br>Treadwell     | Mary<br>Treadwell     |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Joan J. O<br>Pauline V    | Joan and Evan Jones                  | Pam and Derrick<br>Copeland     | Jean<br>Colgrave      |
| 26th             | Diana O<br>Hilary V       | Penelope and Jack<br>Harrison        | Diana and Wendy                 | Sandra<br>Matthews    |
| <b>Aug</b>       |                           |                                      |                                 |                       |
| 2nd              | Helen O/V                 | Sandra Matthews/<br>Margaret Edwards | Jenny Sanderson/<br>Hilda Hanks | Pam<br>Copeland       |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Barry O/V                 | John and Stella Case                 | Debra and Dennis<br>Major       | Margaret<br>MacDonald |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Brenda O<br>Karen V       | Dennis and Pat Mills                 | Brenda and Ron                  | Wendy<br>Womersley    |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Marion O<br>Karen V       | Marion Barton &<br>Ingrid            | Denis & Debbie<br>Major         | Jenny<br>Sanderson    |
| 30th             | Joan S.<br>Karen V        | Karen Woollard and<br>Mike Evans     | Helen and Kevin<br>Dawson       | Marion<br>Hornby      |
| <b>Sept</b>      |                           |                                      |                                 |                       |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Helen O/V                 | Margaret Edwards<br>Jenny Sanderson  | Diana and Wendy                 | Hilda Hanks           |
| 13th             | Marion O/V                | Roger Miller and<br>Andy Simmons     | David and Yvonne<br>Syrett      | Joan Agnew            |
| 20th             | Hilary O<br>Pauline V     | John and Stella Case                 | Joan & Evan<br>Jones            | Pat Mills             |
| 27th             | Karen O/V                 | Penelope and Jack                    | Brenda and Ron                  | Joan Jones            |

## URC Groups

Many of you will by now be aware that the URC Synod decided at its last meeting in March to go ahead with forming 5 Areas or Groups. (I realise the name Area will cause confusion in the United Area so any alternative name would be very welcome.)

These groups will not have any legal standing like the old Districts and so will not be able to make policy decisions. However the main conclusion that came out of the Synod Review was that many churches felt isolated, they missed meeting with other churches to share stories, good practice and to be able to socialise.

The new groups hope to address this. Each group will have its own Synod Pastoral Adviser (SPA), who will organise twice yearly gatherings. The idea is that these will be held alternately with the meetings of Synod and so be in the summer and winter. All the Synod staff will be available to come to the gatherings and could be used to give talk/ training on what they do. (This was another request from some churches.)

Warminster United church's group will include all the united Area and all the churches in Swindon and North Wilts. This is a fairly large area and so I propose that the gatherings be held in various churches with one meeting a year probably in the United Area and the other in Swindon/Wilts.

**To that end I have planned the first one to be in St Andrew's Devizes on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July from 15.00 to 18.00.**

Hopefully it will include a short service, a discussion on how people see the future of the gathering, a talk with questions from the Synod Treasurer on Trustee and Treasury matters and, most important of all TEA. I also hope to include at each gathering some Good News Stories from the Churches. I know the United Area are familiar with this as it happens at their Area meeting.

The exciting thing about the gatherings is that they are for EVERYONE, not just Ministers and representatives from the churches. All can come.

I am very excited about this new venture and think it could really help to unite the Synod. It could also help people feel more connected, both to the Synod and to the denomination as a whole. We need to celebrate who we are and these gatherings will help us do just that.

Blessings to you all and to your churches.

Janet Gray  
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser

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The Action for Children

boxes raised £472.94 this year.

your donations.

Diana Bennie

Thank you all for



Evening Walks

7 of us(plus 2 dogs) had a very pleasant walk from Heytesbury to Corton and back across fields on a slightly wet evening, (about 3 miles). Our chosen day of Thursday 14th May turned out to be the only day that week that the sun didn't shine! But the rain held off while we actually walked, waiting until we were all snugly in the Red Lion enjoying refreshments before pouring down!



The next walk is planned for Thursday June 25th . It will be about the same length , this time starting from Corsley, again at 6p.m. and finishing in the Royal Oak. Hopefully this date will be OK for those who would like to have joined us for the first walk but had other commitments. For further information please contact Susan Hewitt (telephone 01373 832554).



Roughshod: *IrRESISTible*

Roughshod Theatre Company will be in **Trowbridge** with its new show *IrRESISTible* bringing death-defying stories of hope, courage and resistance.

IrRESISTible asks '*Would you be brave enough to change the world?*' For those with courage, conviction and enthusiasm this may be an irresistible idea, but life presents hurdles that can deter even the most determined.

Thursday, 18th June , 7.30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Church on the Roundabout, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 9AA. Box Office: 01225 712299 Tickets: £5

Five young actors depict inspiring stories through a mix of bold drama, music and comedy. We meet a life-style guru whose advice goes one step too far, a desperate daughter who takes hold of her destiny and an intrepid bible smuggler who discovers hope in the darkest places.

For 2015 the company is in partnership with Open Doors, a charity that has served persecuted Christians across the world for the past 60 years.

The U, In Jesus

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son...

And each time U pray, U'll see it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - Just like I love U."