

'EVERY
GOOD AND
PERFECT
GIFT IS FROM
ABOVE..'

JAMES 1:17A

**AUTUMN
2015**

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

Dear Friends,

On my day off I spend the morning as a Chaplain in Taunton Hospital, where my late father worked as a porter. It is very poignant how many people on seeing my badge say how they remember him: one of the "advantages" of having an unusual surname.

My surname has Dutch origins, back in the seventeenth century my ancestors sought asylum in Brighton, where even today there is a whole page of Coppards listed in the phone book. Perhaps it is this that makes me think so much about the plight of migrants at Calais and attempting to cross the Mediterranean which at the time of writing are very much in the news?

The Bible holds many references to people travelling in search of a new home, there is the whole book of Exodus when the Israelites are led out of the slavery of Egypt. And mentioning that country how many of us realise that it was to Egypt that Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus seek asylum during the cruel years of Herod?

Then there is that haunting parable of the sheep and the goats, (Matthew 25) with the line "I was a stranger and you did not invite me in". The letter to the Hebrews takes up this theme (13v2), "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

Whilst we are called to show care and compassion to all, our faith also tells us that we ourselves are on a journey called life but that we do not travel alone, irrespective of the situation God is with us. Wherever you are in life, may you know and feel the presence of God who uniquely loves you.

Shalom
Rev David



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(A copy of the newsletter in colour can be seen on the website)

27th September



followed by a Bring-and-Share lunch
Look out for details on weekly notice sheet

For one night only
Warminster United Church is to host
an Italian Night.

At 'Bell Nosh' you can enjoy a candle lit three course Italian meal served by our handsome 'Italian waiters, Giovanni & Giuseppe'. Have a drink from our non alcoholic bar and listen to Italian music. You'll almost think you are in Italy!!
Suggested donation £10

Early booking is essential as we are only able to cater for 48 diners.

For menu and booking form please contact
Penelope: Tel: 01985 212200

Bella Nosh



Ristorante Italia

Friday 18th September
At Warminster United Church
George Street

Sittings at
6 pm or 7.30 pm

Booking essential

All profits will go to the church
restoration fund

RAIN DIDN'T STOP PLAY!



Margaret Edwards suggested that one of our Local Arrangements this summer could be a picnic and recommended we ask Rev Angela Steele, URC minister in Frome, if we could go to her farm for prayer and praise and a picnic. Despite the weather on 26th July, we enthusiastically arrived at the farm with our sandwiches and salads. Angela had baked some cakes and prepared a Sensory

Worship time - with incense, feathers, and the life of the farm to inspire us to see God in all parts of our day and with all our senses. While we prayed together in the barn one of the horses nodded over the fence to us. We explored the farm and enjoyed the fellowship.

Thank you, Margaret for an excellent suggestion.

RESTORATION FUND

(or should that be FUN! Ed.)



Many thanks to all who supported the Strawberry Tea in June, braving the windy weather. More than fifty enjoyed the afternoon tea, raising £230.00. plus gift aid toward the refurbishment fund.

Thanks also to those who supported and helped make 'Bangers & Brains' a fun evening. Seventy members and friends enjoyed a supper of bangers and mash and a variety of puddings. This was followed by a light hearted quiz. The evening raised £340.00 plus gift aid for the refurbishment fund. Many thanks to those who made puddings and who joined in with the clear up on the Saturday morning.

The next fundraiser will be on Friday 18th September – see previous page.

Watch out for details of one to follow - "Puddings, Poetry and Lots of Custard"!

Penelope Harrison

Heritage Days

11th and 12th September from 10am to 1pm

we will open our church for visitors from the town.

Mary Treadwell, Marion Barton and Karen Woollard will welcome the visitors

REPORTS FROM CHURCH MEETING.

Property Matters

Pauline had a long list of property work including repairs to electricity issues in the church and foyer to comply with safety standards. From September 4th for 5 days the electricity will be mended and a certificate issued.

Pauline is grateful that everyone in this church takes a turn at stepping in to do different jobs and volunteering when new jobs come up.

Christina asked if we could have a light over the front steps for safety.

Shepherd window* –Marion Barton has contacted a lead window specialist who will be able to assess and fix the damage. We may need to pay for scaffolding to remove the window safely.

Glass in the worship area doors is to be replaced

Finance



New church laptop is running.

£23,256.00 p.a. is the new assessment. Members need to be aware that we need to meet this figure every year.

Church balance is £15,373.22 which includes Gift Aid contributions of over £4,000.

Pauline Howell as assistant treasurer will learn the new account programs and Hilary will take a break from being our Treasurer from January 2016. If any member feels able to step in to do the accounts with Pauline, please talk to Hilary to find out what support you will receive. In the meantime Hilary will drop all her other duties to be able to concentrate on the Treasurer's job until January.

Review of Church Officers

Susan Hewitt to join the Church Forum.

Diana Bennie to join the Finance Committee.

Pauline Howell and Pam Copeland to join Karen Woollard as Area Meeting Representatives. Next meeting October 14th Wesley Road, Trowbridge. 7 for 7.30pm

Anyone from church is entitled to go to URC Synod (next meeting 10 October in Taunton, Karen Woollard will attend to represent our church.) There are only two meetings a year.

Little jobs for Property Committee will be filtered down to church members.

Fire Officer is vacant.

There will be changes to the Pastoral Committee after their next meeting.

Penelope Harrison to be Catering Co-ordinator.

**Did you know*

Our Shepherd's window was first installed in the Congregational church in The Close , which later became URC. After the amalgamation with the Methodist church that building was demolished and the Shepherd's window was rescued and reinstalled in our church. One of its companions can be seen in the entrance hall of Kyngeston Court which was built on the site of the old church. These windows were originally installed in memory of Rev Henry Mayo Gunn Congregational minister 1848 - 1870 and author of "The History of Non-conformity in Warminster"

Minister's Matters

URC General Synod decision following consultation on Same Sex Marriages produced two special orders and these will be discussed and ratified at our next Area Meeting as part of a national discussion. If 5 or more of the 13 Area Meetings reject the orders it will not be carried

Shoe boxes



Christmas Box Appeal

Christmas shoe boxes will be filled again this year to be sent to children in Bulgaria via Trussell Trust. Last year they distributed 8545 boxes to poor and marginalised families and children.

The first thing we need is empty shoeboxes. Please give any you can to Brenda who is willing to cover them. Kevin has been busy knitting babies' jackets, so we may be doing more boxes for very little ones than usual – so plenty of rattles, drinking mugs, babygrows and other items for babies please. We will also do boxes for all ages of children. Donations of items for the boxes can be brought to church at any time. These include: hats, gloves, scarves, underclothes, socks, pens, pencils, paper pads, erasers, sharpeners , soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo, hair brush, comb, and other bits for girls hair, **small** toys (e.g. cars, puppets, dolls, skipping ropes, balls, jigsaws) sweets, jewellery (children's)

Trussell Trust say that they need more boxes for boys and men so maybe some of you would like to bring along items suitable for them or maybe pack a box at home.

A coffee morning to raise money to send the boxes will be held on Saturday 7th November.

A date for packing the boxes will be arranged somewhere around that time.

Joan Jones

SUNDAY SERVICES SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER

September

6 th	Rev Mike Burrell	
13 th	Rev Heather Morgan	HOLY COMMUNION
20 th	Tom Hill	
27 th	Rev David Coppard	HARVEST FESTIVAL

October

4 th	Isabel Smears	
11 th	Local arrangements	
18 th	Rev Heather Morgan	
25 th	Rev David Coppard	HOLY COMMUNION

November

1 st	Rev Simon Edwards	
8 th	Rev Ward Jones	
15 th	Rev David Coppard	HOLY COMMUNION
22 nd	Margaret White	
29 th	Janet Ruddick	

Wednesday morning services will recommence in September.
10.15 a.m. each week.

Pastoral Care

There are many friends who we remember especially in our prayers at this time:

Marion Hornby and her family following the loss of John,
Bernard Cooper after his recent operation, now recovering at home,
Audrey and Howard after a brief separation now back together at home,
Betty Fielding at home and Howard Fielding recovering in Trowbridge,
June Laird as she has moved to a new home in Trowbridge where she will get constant care,

Janet and Nigel Titt facing ill health

As well as Sally, Daphne and Ivy at home.

Be assured that you are all remembered with love and affection by your friends at church.

We also think of all the tragedy around and about us; the hungry, the homeless, the dispossessed. Let us remember them, praying for more understanding and tolerance.

Karen and I are arranging a Safeguarding session for Pastoral Carers as it is important that we understand and recognise the vulnerable amongst us and know how to care for them as well as ourselves.

Marion Barton

Treasurer's Report

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

May	£1856.10
June	£1818.05
July	£1861.50

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

We are also working to raise funds for the refurbishment of the schoolroom.

Penelope has held two very successful events:

The Strawberry Tea raised £240.00 and the Bangers & Brains Quiz raised £330.00.

Thank you to Penelope for all her hard work and to everyone who contributed.

Hilary



As discussed at the Church Meeting in August, Hilary Reynolds, after 9 years as our treasurer, would like to hand this role on to another member of our church. She is happy to talk to anyone about the job and its responsibilities and help with the transition. Pauline Howell is our assistant treasurer and will continue to support the treasurer in their work. Please prayerfully consider if you would be able to take on this job in January 2016 when Hilary stops."

Action for Children



I would like to thank everyone who turned up for the Action for Children Coffee morning. The morning was buzzing with a lot of people and the reporter from the Warminster Journal was able to take several photos. The article about the morning and one photo was on the front page of the Journal. In total we raised £150. If anyone would like an Action for Children box to put in their spare pennies, please see me at church.

Diana Bennie

Saturday Charity Coffee Mornings 10 a.m. to 12 noon

January 10th 2015	Medicins Sans Frontieres	£175
February 7th	People Against Poverty	£163
March 14th	Foodbank	£100
April 11th	MEDAIR	£75
May 9th	Tools for Self Reliance	£160
June 13th	The Hope Centre	£228
July 11th	Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund	£155
August 8th	Action for Children	£150
September 12th	Rwanda Education	
October 10th	Wessex Heartbeat	
November 14th	Christmas Shoeboxes	
December 12th	Beach within Reach	

We have had a letter from Christine Jones, treasurer of Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund, thanking our church for the £155 proceeds from the Coffee Morning in July.

'Thank you for the proceeds of your coffee morning, £155 is a magnificent amount, so please pass on our thanks to all those who helped. It was good to see Zimbabwe in the news recently though sadly it was for the plight of a lion rather than the plight of its people. It did however give an opportunity for some commentators to try to redress the balance. Thank you for your concern and support for her people'.

Thank you from us too for the support, *Pam and Derrik*

Paracetamols



Thank you to everyone who has given paracetamols to Marion Barton for Mtangani Village, Malindi, Kenya. These are much appreciated by the recipients for whom basic medical supplies are hard to come by.

Please continue to give packets to Marion.



Race 4 Men 10 k run for Prostate Cancer Unit at Salisbury hospital.

In our last newsletter you will have read that David Syrett was taking part in this race on 7th June.

Now we must congratulate David on finishing this run and raising £600.

He sends his thanks to everyone for their generosity.

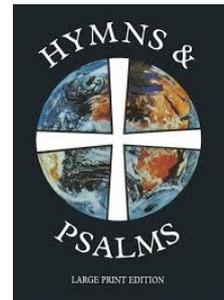
David was taken ill after finishing the run and had to undergo an emergency operation the following day. He is now attending Southampton hospital for further treatment which has been tiring.

During the same time the family have moved to Damask Way. But he and Yvonne were with us in church this week – and were still smiling!

So well done David – you are an inspiration!

Ashwood Care Home

Rev David Coppard takes a service at Ashwood care home in Gypsy Lane each month on the first Wednesday at 3pm. Several people from our church attend and a dozen or so residents. It's held in the "cinema" and is about 20 minutes in length. It is much appreciated. Copies of "Hymns and Psalms" which were donated to Ashwood from our church are used for the service. Anyone else wishing to go along would be welcome.



Postage stamps



Joan Agnew has put a new box in the foyer for the collection of used postage stamps. These she will give to a lady in Imber Court who sends them to CLIC Sargent charity for children with cancer.

Area Appeal 2015-2017 COPA

On September 26 the Area Appeal for COPA launches with a soup and pudding lunch 12.30 at Bradford on Avon United Church. Peter Gardner from COPA, (Community Partners Association) is coming to bring us up to date about the work that the charity undertakes in the Dominican Republic.



COPA was started in 1992 by two retired teachers from Gloucester who were horrified by the lack of education in La Hoya, a village in the Province of Barahona in the Dominican Republic. On their return home and after involving their Methodist church and a

church in Florida, where they were associate members, they returned to the Dominican Republic and established the first COPA school. Another village school at Bombita was started in 1996, and there is now a recognised path for students to enter secondary and tertiary education, some have since become teachers and returned to work at the schools they once attended. The work has expanded to include health care, COPA constructed healthcare clinics are then staffed by the government medical and nursing staff

Do come and hear more about COPA. Lunch starts at 12.30 and there will be a basket for donations. To facilitate catering, we need to have numbers attending by 19 September, so please let any of the World Church Group committee know that you are attending, or tell Rev David Coppard.

We have no representative of our church on this committee , if you would be interested in taking on that role please speak to Rev David.

Church Library



Did you know that the books on the shelves at the back of the church are there for you to borrow? If you would like to read one, just take it and then return it when you have finished reading it. No paperwork or formalities!

Margaret Edwards has recently sorted them out and tidied them up. She has put a label in each to remind you where to return them to!



The Foodbank continues to offer food to people in difficulty. In July 167 people were fed 66 being children. A massive 1,848kgs of food was donated from well wishers around Warminster and Westbury. Since our purchase of a deep freeze we can now give bread and meat on a limited basis.

Although the Foodbank in Warminster was initiated in 2009 by the Churches together in the town, it was the United Church in Warminster steered by our own Rev Heather Morgan, that took the plunge and purchased the Trussell Trust manual for £1,100. (it now costs £1,500). The manual detailed one model of a Foodbank, that once established could serve local people.

Our founder members included Joan and Evan Jones, Eva Burton, Sheila Pomeroy and Doreen Baker who served as treasurer. Through their hard work, the Foodbank had a strong base , slowly we developed.

We have always been an independent charity run for the welfare of local people, supported by the generous giving of town's people in Warminster and Westbury..... A community venture in every sense.

Our affiliation to the Trussell Trust amounted to paying for its Data Collection, which was used alongside figures from other foodbanks, during the national debate on welfare reform. The Trust do not actually run any foodbanks themselves.

During a recent meeting of the trustees and committee it was decided to end our affiliation with the now huge Trussell Trust, who now have an annual turnover in excess of 2 million pounds. We do not think it's beneficial to be caught up in an all consuming corporate body.

We will in future be known as " The Warminster and District Foodbank --- a community venture". Logos have been changed on all food collection boxes and publications.

We continue to strictly adhere to all legislative bodies covering the running of a foodbank. i.e. Health and safety, information commission, food standards agency, Equality commission and HMRC.

We fervently hope that our support in the churches, schools and the community at large will continue.

Many thanks *Jean Colgrave (trustee and management team member)*

Rotas for Church

Oct	Vestry (V)/ Opening(O)	Books/Welcome	Coffee	Flowers
4 th	Marion O/V	Pam and Derrik Copeland	Mary and Barry Treadwell	
11 th	Karen O/V	Pat and Dennis Mills	Joan Stephens Jenny Sanderson	Jenny Sanderson
18 th	Joan J. O Pauline V	Roger Miller and Andy Simmons	Joan and Evan	Sandra Matthews
25 th	Diana O Marion V	Margaret Edwards Sandra Matthews	Diana and Wendy	Helen Mills
Nov.				
1 st	Helen O/V	Karen Woollard and Mike Evans	Debra and Dennis Major	Helen Dawson
8 th	Barry O/V	Pam and Derrik Copeland	Penelope and Jack Harrison	Mary Treadwell
15 th	Brenda O Karen V	Joan Agnew and Sheena	Brenda and Ron	Hilda Hanks
22 nd	Karen O/V	Roger Miller and Andy Simmons	Hilda Hanks and Marion Barton	Jenny Sanderson
29 th	Joan S. O Karen V	Penelope and Jack Harrison	Joan Stephens Jenny Sanderson	Jean Colgrave
Dec.				
6 th	Helen O/V	Pat and Dennis Mills	Mary and Barry Treadwell	Joan Stevens
13 th	Marion O/V	Margaret Edwards Sandra Matthews	Brenda and Ron	Pauline Howell
20 th	Pauline O/V	Karen Woollard and Mike Evans	Diana and Wendy	Susan Hewitt
27 th	Karen O/V	Helen and Kevin Dawson	Karen Woollard and Mike Evans	Janet Titt

Would you be willing to be on one of these rotas? It is not always easy to fill all the spaces. The more people who share the tasks the less frequently anyone needs to do them! Please give this some thought and make yourself know if you are able to help out in any way.

Summer Walks



The summer evening walks have been going well with 10 people and a 3 dogs joining in. We have enjoyed circular walks from Heytesbury to Corton, From Warminster to Bishopstrow and around Corsley. Discovering paths that some of us knew nothing about. Most stayed on after the walk and enjoyed a meal together in a convenient pub. One or two non-walkers joined us for this. The walk on August 20th saw 7 brave folk set off in heavy drizzle and after a couple of fields we started to wonder why we were there! But then the sun came out and rewarded us with a brilliant rainbow! The rest of the walk was very pleasant. This will be the last evening walk until next May.

Ideas for winter activities are being discussed – maybe a skittles evening at the Organ Inn, or activity evenings in the church , games or a film with fish and chips, or a meal out. Suggestions welcome!

Susan Hewitt has also been leading short walks around Warminster on Wednesday mornings. During August these were at 10.15 but other times they are after the Wednesday morning service . They usually include a stop for coffee somewhere. Dark evenings don't affect them so they will continue as long as people are keen!!

Joan Jones

St John's Church 150th Anniversary Saturday 19th September Music and Memories

10 a.m to 4 p.m.

“Quiet reflections”

Flower festival – in St John's Church

Exhibition of photographs and artefacts from the past 150 years
& Fairtrade tea, coffee and refreshments – in the Parish Hall

7 p.m.

Concert

The Community Choir

& Warminster Military Wives Choir

St John's Church Boreham Road

Tickets £7.50 to include refreshments

01985 216056



Prayer Group



A small group of people, led by Margaret Edwards, meets once a month to pray for our church , community & wider world. They meet the day before the Charity Coffee mornings and include that month's charity in their prayers.

Anyone is welcome to join them. 3.30 – 4 p.m.

John Hornby

On 25th July there was a wonderful evening at the Athenaeum when CF1 Welsh choir gave an amazing performance. John & Marion Hornby's daughter & son-in-law are members of the choir and took part in the evening, their granddaughters acted as door stewards. As well as raising funds for Dorothy House this event celebrated John & Marion's Golden wedding anniversary. It was great that John was able to enjoy this and other family celebrations that weekend despite his illness.

John died on 20th August and will be greatly missed.

He and Marion joined our church when they moved into Imber Court 3 years ago and they quickly became involved in many aspect of church life. John showed some of his financial skills by running a successful TRIO campaign at the church, he also became URC Synod representative for our church. As well as being very involved in the church, John also joined the Warminster Bowls club and Probus and quickly played an important role in both.

His funeral will be on Thursday 3rd September at 11 a.m. in our church
Our thoughts and prayers are with Marion and family

Dates for your diary :

Light up a Life service for Dorothy House 3rd December 6pm.

Carol Service 13th December 3.30pm

Christmas Day service – we invite our Baptist friends to join us here at 10 am
(note earlier time)

CHILDREN'S THOUGHTS ON LOVE

(Sent to us by Barbara Spooner from her church magazine)

“Love is when you go out to eat and give someone most of your chips, without making them give you any”

Karl - age 6

“ When my Grandmother got arthritis she couldn't bend over and paint her nails anymore, so Granddad did it for her all the time , even when he got arthritis in his hands – That's love”

Rebecca - age 8

“If you want to learn to love better you should start with a friend you hate”

Nikka - age 6