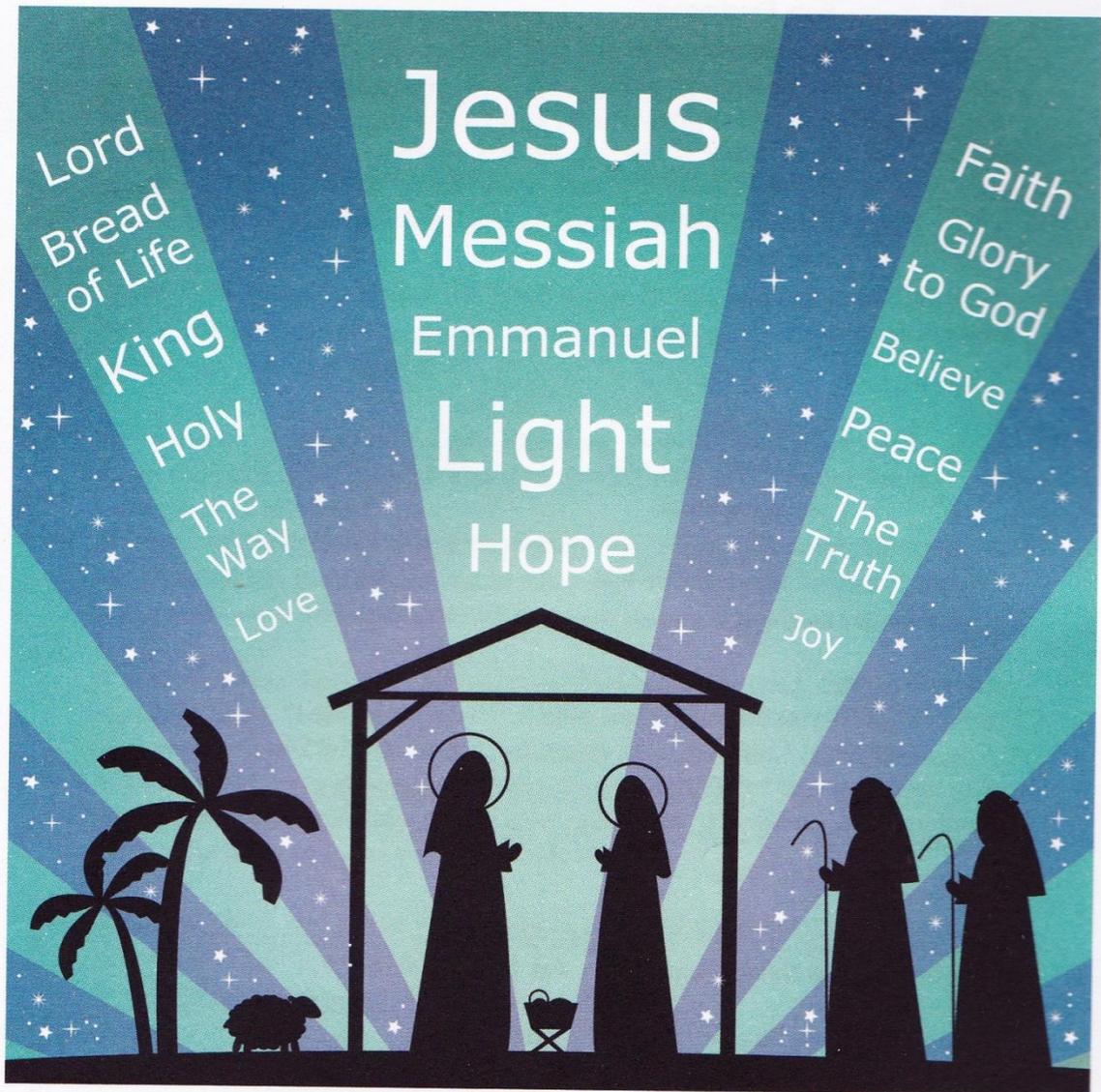


WARMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

(Methodist/URC)

George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA



WINTER

December 2016 to February 2017

SUNDAY SERVICES 10.30 a.m

DECEMBER

- 4th : Rev. Simon Edwards
11th : Bob Farrimond
18th : Rev. Mike Burrell
25th : COMBINED SERVICE AT BAPTIST CHURCH 10a.m.

JANUARY

- 1st : Rev. David Coppard ALL AGE WORSHIP
8th : Clive Illman
15th : Rev. Mary Teed
22nd : Eric Clifford
29th : Rev. David Coppard COVENANT SERVICE

FEBRUARY

- 5th : Clive Illman
12th : Rev. David Coppard HOLY COMMUNION
19th : Janet Ruddick
26th : SONGS OF PRAISE

Wednesday morning services weekly at 10.15 a.m.

OTHER SERVICES

DECEMBER

- Thursday 1st : 6 p.m. LIGHT UP A LIFE
Sunday 18th : 3.30 p.m. CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
Saturday 24th : 4p.m. HOLY COMMUNION

Minister: Rev David Coppard	Tel: 01373858805
	email: david.coppard@yahoo.co.uk
Booking/ room hire	07900661789
Newsletter editor email:	iantojo@virginmedia.com
Web site: www.unitedchurchwarminster.org.uk	
(A copy of the newsletter in colour can be seen on the website)	

Dear Friends

Tuesday mornings find me in the chaplaincy department of a 500 bed hospital. Recently I got called to a ward to visit someone who had been admitted following a suicide attempt.

The patient, a young lady, told me that she didn't want to say anything but simply wanted someone to hold her hand. After 10 minutes or so she mentioned her partner, how they had been together for many years and how she was amazed he had never left her. I told her about David and Heather Morgan's 50th wedding anniversary that I'd attended just a few days before and how I had quoted a few verses from 1 Corinthians 13:

"Love is patient, love is kind, love is not boastful or arrogant ... love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, love never ends."

Those words changed the whole situation. Having asked me to write them down she read them through and with shining eyes said, "I think I'm going to have those as a tattoo."

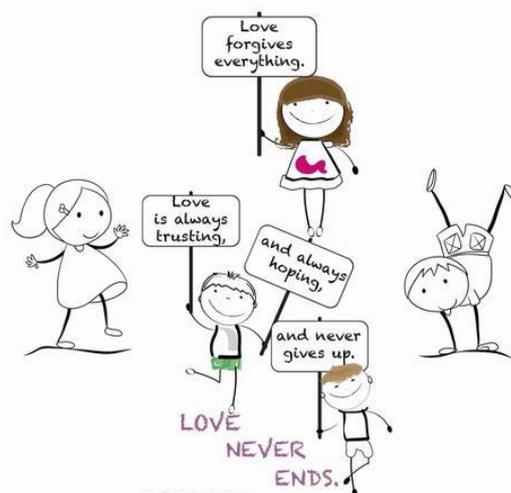
After about 20 minutes I asked the patient if it would be acceptable to leave, as I thanked her for allowing me to come and visit her, she looked at me and said, "I feel so much better."

It was Christina Rossetti, the Victorian London born poet who wrote the beautiful carol, *"Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign."* (STF 210)

In a turbulent, ever-changing and often fearful world, let us never forget the power of love, especially that which came to the world as a helpless vulnerable babe so many years ago in Bethlehem.

May God's love and
to you through
and through every
everyday.
Rev David

peace be so close
Advent, Christmas
moment of





LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICE.
Warminster United Church
Thursday December 1st at 6pm.

An opportunity to remember loved ones
within a service of carols and readings.
Refreshments will be served following the service

Everyone is warmly invited to attend



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The Minster Church of St. Denys
Church Street, Warminster

- ❖ Friday 2nd December 10am – 4pm
(Festival Concert: 6.:30pm)
- ❖ Saturday 3rd December 10am – 4pm
**(Father Christmas: 10:30am – 12:30pm
and 2 pm – 3:30pm)**
- ❖ Sunday 4th December 11am – 3:30pm
**(Candlelight Festival Carol Service with
Warminster Brass Band: 4:00pm)**

Entertainment and Refreshments

Admission: By donation

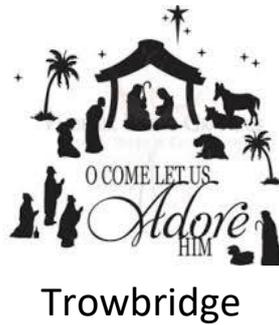


CAROLS IN THE MALL
Saturday 10th December 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon

Children's Choir **Three Horseshoes Walk**

Refreshments

Wednesday 14th
DEMENTIA FRIENDLY
At Bethesda Chapel,



December 2 p.m.
CAROL SERVICE
Gloucester Rd,

A short, visual, interactive, stimulating service organised by Alzheimer's support. Followed by refreshments
Choir from local primary school will be singing



On Saturday 4th March our Baptist Friends have offered to host a Dementia Friendly Churches training morning. They have organised speakers and trainers to come along and share ideas that we can easily put into action in our own church . . I hope many of us will be able to attend. The meeting will be in the Baptist Hall, North Row. Start time to be confirmed but it will be all morning.
Please see Karen Woollard for information

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

United Church Warminster

December 18th

3.30 p.m.

**Congregational carols, Readings and our Choir.
Followed by Hot Drinks and Mince Pies
Collection for Brain Tumour Charity**



**CHRISTMAS EVE
COMMUNION
4p.m**



CHRISTMAS DAY

10 a.m.

**Worship with our friends at
Warminster Baptist Church
North Row**

**SHARE CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WITH YOU CHURCH FRIENDS AND
GIVE A HOMELESS FAMILY A REASON TO CELEBRATE!**



The housing and homelessness charity

As in previous years there will be a large Christmas Card in the Foyer in which you are all invited to write your Christmas Greetings to your friends at Church. There will also be a collection box in which you can put a donation to Shelter. Writing your

Christmas greetings in this card saves you the cost of separate cards. Why not give this money to Shelter to help Homeless people over Christmas so they may know they too are important to God and to us.



NATIVI - TEA
Saturday 10th December
4p.m. to 7 p.m.
An afternoon of Entertainment
&
Christmas Tea
Open to ALL the community



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**THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP** continues to enjoy its monthly lunch and time together. During the summer months we had an outing to Athelhampton House & Gardens and also enjoyed a shared picnic at the home of Heather and David Morgan.

We have had several guest speakers and look forward to visits from the "Bobby Van" and Phil Sneddon (the town crier) in the coming months.

**Our next meeting will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in December (Christmas Lunch). Booking for all lunches is essential as numbers are limited. For Further information, contact Penelope Tel: 01985 511526**

As Christmas approaches we rejoice with our friends as we celebrate the coming of Jesus.

We welcome all our new friends who have joined the church family. Whilst remembering and praying for those members unable to attend Church; Audrey and Howard Spur, Bernard Cooper, Sally Petrie and Tony Reade. Tony has now moved and we wish him well in his new home at Sutton Veny.

Chris (Scott), one of our newer members, will be going into hospital on 30<sup>th</sup> November for an operation on a brain tumour and needs our prayers.

A special thanks to all those who knitted the jumpers for the “fish and chip babies”; we know how much these tiny garments mean to both mother and child.

*Marion Barton*



The term ‘**chip shop babies**’ began when it was discovered that often new born babies mostly in developing countries arrived into this world and had no clothes to put on. As a result the newborns were wrapped in newspaper, just like a fish supper, to keep them warm. News of this reached knitters up and down the UK who developed a simple vest pattern, with additional hat sometimes, which even a novice knitter could cope with. As a result tens of thousands of vests have been knitted and sent out to needy babies around the world. Mission International has been instrumental in storing, packing and sending chip shop baby vests to a number of countries in Africa where the need is great.

The flow of vests and matching hats continues to flood in to the Mission International HQ in Dundee. **One area however where they would benefit from extra help is the funding of transport to take the vests out to the children who are in need. Often their teams will carry vests as they travel**

out to deploy in areas of need, however there are many more vests which need to be sent independently.

*With this in mind we will be running our Saturday charity coffee mornings for this cause in March*

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2016	CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS	
January 9 th	Olney/Newton Link (Pre-school for Ebola orphans)	£155
Feb 13 th	Dementia UK	£195
March 12 th	People against Poverty	£223
April 9 th	Guide Dogs for Blind	£313
May 14 th	Christian Aid	£236
June 11 th	Zimbabwe V S F	£205
July 9 th	Cancer Research	£305
August 13 th	Action for children	£140
Sept 10 th	Wessex Heartbeat	£213
October 8 th	Water Aid	£248
Nov 12 th	Shoebboxes	£180
Dec 10 th	Rwanda Education	
2017		
Jan 14 th	Water Aid	
Feb 11 th	People Against Poverty	
March 11 th	“Fish & Chip Babies” - Mission International	
April 8 th		
May 13 th		
June 10 th	Action for Children	
July 8 th	Cancer Research	
August 12 th	Guide Dogs for Blind	
Sept 9 th		
Oct 14 th	Rwanda Education	
Nov 11 th	Shoebboxes	
Dec 9 th		



The Charity coffee mornings have been very well supported during the past year by church family and local people. The money raised has increased and there is always a very friendly atmosphere.

There are still 4 months to be filled next year. If you would like to have a coffee morning for your chosen charity please add it to the list in the vestibule, or if you haven't done one before and want help, let me know .

Joan Jones

ROTAS FOR JAN TO MARCH 2017

JAN	Vestry (V)/ Opening(O)	Books/Welcome	Coffee	Flowers
1st	Joan J.– O Karen - V	Joan Stephens and Margaret Edwards	Joan & Evan Jones	Hilda Hanks
8th	Hilda O/V	Sandra Mathews and Helen Richards	Diana and Wendy	Pam Copeland
15th	Diane – O Barry - V	Andy Simmons and Arthur Pimm	Mary and Barry Treadwell	Marion Hornby
22nd	Marion O/V	Sue Hewitt and Christina Walton	Pam and Derrick Copeland	Wendy Womersley
29th	Joan S. O John Alpin V.	Dennis and Pat Mills	Brenda and Ron	Joan Agnew
FEB				
5th	Karen O/V	Penelope and Jack Harrison	Karen Woollard and Mike Evans	Jean Colgrave
12th	Brenda – O Pauline - V	Dennis and Sylvia Trevethick	Brenda & Ron	Helen Dawson
19th	Karen O/V	Jenny Sanderson & Margaret Edwards	Helen and Kevin Dawson	Sandra Mathews
26th	Barry O/V	Hilda Hanks and Joan Stephens	Diana and Wendy	Pauline Howell
MARCH				
5th	Joan J - O Karen - V	Pam and Derrick Copeland	Joan and Evan Jones	Joan Jones
12th	Hilda O/V	Andy Simmons and Arthur Pimm	Mary and Barry Treadwell	Margaret MacDonald
19th	Diana – O Marion– V	Sue Hewitt and Christina Walton	Helen Richards and Marion Barton	Pat Mills

26 th	Karen O/V	Penelope and Jack Harrison	Helen And Kevin Dawson	Joan Stephens
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If anyone else is willing to go on the rota to do any of the jobs please have a word with Marion Barton or Karen Woollard – or for flowers, Hilda Hanks. The more people who are willing to help out the less often any one person has to!



Help Needed

Next year when I open the Action for Children boxes at the end of February, I would like some help to carry the bags of coin from my car to the bank. The first couple of weeks I find I have a huge amount of pennies and these weigh very heavy, especially as quite a few of the boxes are with non church people. I always count the money on the Sunday and then bank it on Monday morning. I know it seems ages away, but there won't another newsletter before I open the boxes. Thanks.

Diana Bennie



There are teams going into many local schools; St John's/ The Minster/ Princecroft / Sambourn - but organisers say they have to turn down schools as they don't have enough local church teams. If anyone is interested in becoming a part of this and taking Bible Stories into schools in a fun way, then speak to Karen who can tell you more



“Come cross the barriers and join together for these times of prayer and fellowship”

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
18TH to 25TH January**

- Wednesday 18th** 12 noon St John's, Boreham Road
- Thursday 19th** 12 noon Minster Church of St Denys, Church Street
- Friday 20th** 7 p.m. UNITED CHURCH
- Sunday 22nd** 3 p.m. Baptist Church , North Row
(Annual United Service – all welcome)
- Monday 23rd** 12 noon St George's, Boreham Rd

Tuesday 24th 12 noon Christ Church , Weymouth Street
Wednesday 25th 12 noon Foundation Christian Fellowship, Woodcock Rd

All midday services are followed by a light lunch

Tuesday afternoon TEA-TIME AND FRIENDSHIP CLUB will no longer be meeting in the New Year as attendance has been low recently. Many thanks to Margaret and Jenny who have been running these get-togethers for several years

WARMINSTER FOODBANK were very grateful for the food donated by our church at our Harvest Festival. They continue to provide food and support to families and individuals in crisis in and around Warminster, on average helping 140 people each month. At Christmas time they usually give out Christmas "Goody bags" as well as routine supplies, 264 bags last year. One man who received a bag last year for his family of 4 children said " the goody bag made our Christmas day special". They would be happy to receive donations for these bags ; Christmas puddings, cakes, special biscuits, chocolates, tinned ham and other treats .These can be left in the box at church, in one of the supermarkets or taken to the Foodbank in North Row.



Saturday 7th January 3.30 p.m.

A "NIBBLE AND NATTER" MEETING

This will include AGM matters and reports from the various groups and activities within our church

Please Bring and Share food for a tea together

Next Church Forum meeting 9th March.

Next Church meeting 19th March in the Cameo Room

THE CAMEO ROOM is now bright , comfortable and welcoming and being used by an increasing number of people both from within and outside the

church. (With so many regular bookings it is important for everyone to remember to consult the calendar in the foyer before arranging to do something in any of the rooms)

Outside lettings have already replaced income lost by the Nursery closing. Visitors have been heard to comment "What a lovely room this is". Well done to Pauline and the team who bought this change about.

The Cameo Room will be dedicated during a Sunday service sometime soon.

There is always something organised in the town for The WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER in March. People from various churches get together to arrange this. Recently there has been no one from our church involved. IF THERE IS ANYONE WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO GO ALONG TO A PLANNING MEETING AND GET OUR CHURCH MORE INVOLVED then please have a word with Karen who can tell you all about it.

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#### THE CHURCH WALKING GROUP

This year there have been 5 evening walks and 3 morning walks, all followed by a meal. Over 20 people have taken part.

In the past 3 months ; September's evening walk at Holt, led by Andy Simmons , took us through beautiful countryside before an enjoyable dinner at the "Old Ham Tree". With the shortening days October's walk, led by Joan and Evan, was on a Thursday morning when a good sized group , including a couple of dogs, walked on hills, meadows and riverside around Stapleford on a bright , breezy day finishing with a well earned lunch at the Pelican. November's walk started at the Manse, with David's delicious cakes to give people energy! He then led a small but enthusiastic group on walk though countryside around Westbury before lunch at Fairfield Farm. There will not be a walk in December but they will start again in the New Year – depending on the weather. Watch notice sheets for information. If anyone would like to lead a walk, organise a meal or suggest a venue for either then please let Joan Jones know.



ON SALE NOW

" A LITTLE BOOK OF  
PUDDINGS & POETRY WITH  
LOTS OF CUSTARD"



Following an evening of puddings & poetry, Penelope has produced a book containing poems, written by local people, and pudding recipes.

**The book costs £4 a copy,  
with all profits going to 'The Shepherd Window' repairs.**

### A Message from the Treasurer

**We have reached the end of another financial year and if anyone would like a copy of our accounts, please speak to me.**

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

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>August</b>    | <b>£1851.95</b> |
| <b>September</b> | <b>£1894.16</b> |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>£1993.70</b> |

**We have overspent on the Cameo Room but the result is excellent with many favourable comments. We hope to recoup our losses with future lettings which are looking very promising. We are now raising money to finance the Shepherd Window so please support our fundraising events.**

**Many Thanks to everyone for your support.**

***Hilary***



**Thank you from Warminster Fairtrade Group for the use of the church and the support for their coffee morning in October. Donations and cake sales were £193.40 and Bolga baskets sales £264.90.**

**Fairtrade Fortnight is February 27- March 12 and theme is:**

**“Put Fairtrade in your break, take Exploitation out.”**

**Ideas for events from the Fairtrade Foundation include a Mad Hatters tea party! Look out for details of local events.**

**Above all thank you for your continued support for our monthly Traidcraft stalls over the past 25 years.**

**Susan Hewitt**

**A young lady called Tanya Michaels will be starting a singing class/choir every Wednesday between 7p.m. and 9 p.m. at our church, starting 16th Nov. She is a qualified singing teacher and was recently involved in Jesus Christ Superstar at the Athenaeum**

### **SHOE BOXES**

**A big thank-you to everyone who has knitted, sewn, and bought the wonderful collection of goods that we received for this year's shoe-box appeal , thank- you too for collecting and wrapping all those empty boxes and thank you to all who sorted and packed the gifts.**



**A total of 108 boxes have been packed – 98 will go via Trussell Trust to Bulgaria and Serbia, to poor and marginalised communities, the other 10 will go to children in a Women's Refuge near here. £185 was also raised to help with the transport costs to Europe.**

*Photo Rich Parsons ( who recently visited our 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Fellowship) helps deliver boxes*

### **COMMEMORATING 'REFORMATION 1517' IN ENGLAND**

**The following is part of the statement on marking the anniversary made by the Presidents of Churches Together in England on this topic.**

As Presidents of Churches Together in England we encourage all churches in England to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 with sensitivity as we acknowledge our unity in Christ. We have learnt over the past century that unity is achieved by walking together, and we have grown in communion, friendship, reconciliation and healing. During this anniversary we want to be able to listen to the truth that is in each other, to hear our different stories, and build bridges of deeper understanding and respect.

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household, said, 'The Christian world is preparing to celebrate the fifth centenary of the Protestant Reformation. It is vital for the whole Church that this opportunity is not wasted by people remaining prisoners of the past, trying to establish each other's rights and wrongs. Rather, let us take a qualitative leap forward, like what happens when the sluice gates of a river or a canal open to enable ships to navigate at a higher water level. We need to start again with the person of Jesus, humbly helping our contemporaries to experience a personal encounter with Him.....'

The course of the English reformation was long and complicated, whereas in most of what is now Germany and Switzerland it was sharp and short. That means that the anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 theses on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1517 is but one date in a long English history which lasted from Henry VIII's break with Rome in 1532-36 to the Restoration Settlement of 1662. As religious wars convulsed Europe, Protestant and Catholic reformers alike sought with integrity and faithfulness to bring the church closer to the will of Christ. As they did so

they lent shape to what became modern Europe. During England's long reformation, streams of Christian life that we now call Catholic, Anglican and dissenting, were all present, and have been shaped by what they experienced.

We acknowledge with sorrow that during the years of the English reformation our ancestors in the faith inflicted unspeakable violence on each other. We rejoice, however, that by the grace of God we have learnt to look at that history through the eyes of each other's martyrs, to appreciate their integrity, courage and self-sacrifice, and above all their faithful witness to God. As we commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we want therefore to acknowledge both the good that came out of this period of our history, and also the pain inflicted and the scars that remain.

### **We therefore urge the churches in England to keep this anniversary together in the spirit of five 'Rs'**

- **Rejoicing** – because of the joy in the gospel which we share, and because what we have in common is greater than that which divides; and that God is patient with our divisions, that we are coming back together and can learn from each other.
- **Remembering** – because all three streams of the Reformation have their witnesses and one church's celebration could be another's painful memory; and yet all believed they acted in the cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ for their time.
- **Reforming** – because the Church needs always to grow closer to Christ, and therefore closer to all who proclaim him Lord, and it is by the mutual witness of faith that we will approach the unity for which Christ prayed for his followers.
- **Repenting** – because the splintering of our unity led us to formulate stereotypes and prejudices about each other's traditions which have too often diverted our attention from our calling as witnesses together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.
- **Reconciling** – because the call to oneness in Christ begins from the perspective of unity not division, strengthening what is held in common, even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.

In national and local events, whether together or separately, we pray that our churches may honour each other and give thanks for our growing friendship and fellowship in the Gospel.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>2017 marks the <b>500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation</b>. Wiltshire Churches Together is trying to find historic churches or buildings in the county which were affected by the Reformation. Do you know of buildings where recusants</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

went into hiding? Do you know of churches with significant history of this time?

We'd love to hear from you - especially if you have ideas on how to mark this anniversary to connect it with our local area.

With all good wishes

(Mrs) Liz Overthrow Secretary Wiltshire Churches Together (01380 722404)

### IF YOU HAD BEEN THERE

**IF you had been in Bethlehem that night  
you would most likely not have known:**

**Next day you may have heard  
in small town gossip on the street.**

**It was not so very unusual;  
a poor couple having a baby  
in squalid conditions.**

**You would have expressed  
some sympathy or disapproval,  
and talked of something else.**



**You would *not* have gone to see.**

**All right, perhaps *you* would –  
To see if you could help –  
But most likely not.**



**Most certainly  
You would *not* have thought of God**

**The manner and the means,  
The people and the place,  
Would never make you think of *God***

**People *do* find God –  
In special places and rituals,  
Special rites and services -**

**But if you had been in Bethlehem that night  
A thought of God  
Would not have crossed your mind**

**It's the ordinariness,**

