

September to November 2020
WARMINSTER UNITED
CHURCH
(Methodist/URC)
George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA



Autumn walk near Warminster

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Dear Everyone

The past 6 months have been unprecedented, you don't need to be reminded of what we have gone through! Yet even on the bleakest of days there has been many blessings, some of which we might not have noticed. In Blandford Forum where I was based 25 years ago the Lunch Club would regularly include a sing-song. One of the favourites was, "Count your blessings".

“Count your blessings, name them one by one

Count your blessings, see what God hath done

Count your blessings, name them one by one

And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done”

Each day throughout Lockdown nationally we had safe running water in our taps, energy to heat, cook and light our homes whilst the media kept us informed. Our dustbins and recycling bins were emptied. The NHS provided sterling work for those in medical need. Within the local community assistance was offered for shopping, there was a support phone line for people needing prescriptions, and a great sense of community. And there were so many other blessings as well - if we just pause and reflect.

Within the Church the blessings were many: pastoral visitors sought to keep in touch with everyone. We have phoned, emailed and prayed for each other. Services were emailed or delivered so that people could worship at home. On Easter Sunday we started having Zoom services which those with internet could join in with. Then there have been the online Bible Studies. Church Council members have tirelessly worked so that we can have hold physical services in church. So many have gone "the extra mile" in Lockdown to provide blessings - and we are so grateful.

On a personal note I would like to express my sincere and genuine gratitude for the prayers offered for my two days a week working within the NHS Chaplaincy. Ministering to patients suffering with Covid-pneumonia has been extremely demanding and emotionally and spiritually challenging, but your prayers have given such strength - yes there have been many times when I have been frightened, but throughout it all I have felt so supported - thank you.

Despite the challenges there have also been numerous blessings - that came in a variety of ways, from a local public school canteen making sandwiches for staff, to people sewing scrubs for us to wear.

The past six months have affected us all in so many ways, but there have been many blessings. As we face the future, with all its challenges and hopefully opportunities, we likewise look for blessings and also hope to be a blessing to others. In Church there are now direction signs - many of them include at the bottom these words, "The best of all God is with us." Whatever the future, we trust in the love and presence of God and recall Jesus' words at the end of Matthew's Gospel, "I am with you always"

Blessings *David*

BIBLE STUDY BY ZOOM

"There is an enthusiastic group of friends who meet on Zoom every Wednesday evening at 8pm for 40 minutes. We have been reading through a chapter of Acts each week and we always find something to talk about and this week we will be reading Chapter 19. It doesn't seem possible that we have met 18 times already. Just a reminder that it is never too late to join - we had a new member last week and there are usually 7 or 8 of us. Please contact me, if you would like to join so I can send you the link to the Zoom meeting." marionhornby@gmail.com

Marion Hornby (written 15th September)

CHRISTIAN AID



Thank you to everyone who has supported our giving to Christian Aid this year. As you know each of the ten churches has a target of £600 so that together we meet a town target of £6,000, (a very modest target for such a large town). Our church has to date banked exactly £500.00 so we are well on our way towards our church's target.

I have the local paying-in book so if anyone wants to post me a cheque (to 25 Ashley Coombe BA12 9QU) I will be pleased to bank it for you.

Karen Woollard

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES



It won't be possible to collect items monthly nor meet for a packing session as we usually do but Brenda and I have started packing the items already received. Quite a lot had already been collected before Lockdown and we have already packed a good number of boxes and have more stuff ready to pack more boxes. We will not ask people to buy any more items to donate but if anyone has items that they have already made or purchased we would be grateful if you could take them to Brenda's house, 17 Daniell Crest BA12 8NZ, phone 213128. The only thing we have none of and would appreciate someone buying is sweets, again please take to Brenda's if possible. Other than that if anyone would like to donate money towards the cost of transporting the boxes then I would be happy to receive that either in cash or cheque payable to Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion (FSCI). This could be sent/brought to my house 75 St John's Rd BA12 9LZ. Rich from FSCI hopes to collect the boxes from us in November as usual (probably from Brenda's rather than the church). They are hoping to be able to take the boxes out to the children as usual – although of course this year anything could happen!



Many thanks for all the help and donations already received.

Joan Jones



WARMINSTER LINK SCHEME

The Warminster Link Scheme was set up some twenty years ago, when many Local Community Transport schemes were also set up because many people are unable to use public transport for various reasons relating to their health, mobility, and costs. This was to provide a useful valuable service to the community, with volunteers driving clients to various appointments. Warminster Link Scheme helps people in the community with transport to various hospitals and surgeries, and for other appointments, as well as sometimes undertaking shopping, dog walking and befriending. The volunteers use their own cars for transporting clients to the various locations, which provides an opportunity for interesting interaction between driver and client, as well as enjoyable driving to various different locations. Access to the service is via a phone number, followed by a response from a coordinator, who will liaise with the client, taking details of the journey and appointment time before allocating to an available driver from our list of volunteers. The driver receives a mileage rate for the journeys they undertake for Link, which is funded by donations and various fund raising events. Before accepting volunteers they are required to undergo a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service), but otherwise need no special training. Our scheme undertakes about 900 journeys, covering 35,000 miles, every year. We are always looking for volunteers so if you are interested please contact us on 01985 211655 or warminsterlink@icloud.com and join us in providing this service to the community.

Dr David Little Chairman Warminster Link Scheme

TREASURERS REPORT AUGUST 2020

Grateful thanks from our church to all who have been giving their offerings by standing order. Our income for the last 3 months has been:

May	£1,335.00
June	£1,475.00
July	£1,315.00
August	£1,985.00

I have also received some payments by cheque or bank transfer to the account. I would rather not receive cash in weekly collection envelopes for the last 3 months and I don't expect everyone to pay for every week during the lockdown; Not everyone has available funds, which I totally understand. If anyone wants to send me a cheque or do a transfer please give me a ring on 300585 so I can help. Also if you would like to set up a standing order I would be pleased to help. I hope and pray that all are well.

Hilary

GOOD TO BE “HOME”



Due to the hard work of the committee, our church welcomed us! We thankfully entered on Sunday 13th September. It was comforting to be “Home”. We were led to our safe place after hand washing and given a service sheet, and listened to the organ.

Everywhere was sparkling and everyone smiled through their masks.

Joyce and her family filled the front seats and joined in with David leading the service. Reading the hymns was no problem, the words meant more as we did not sing.

At the end we walked out according to instructions and were happy to see that the Cameo room was welcoming too.

I look forward to the rest of the services and hope that we can all enjoy meeting this way

God Bless us.

Jenny Sanderson

ZOOM SERVICES

Perhaps surprisingly, I have enjoyed leading the Zoom service at 10.30 most Sunday mornings. (Up to now, David has taken one of the services each month.)

For those of you unfamiliar with this way of worshipping, we can all see each other and there is a chance to share any news. Most weeks Sebastian joins us to say “hello!”

I usually use some of the Lectionary Bible passages and prayers linked to these from the United Reformed Church Prayer Handbooks. These are emailed to different people to read in the service.

Just recently I have included a hymn which I accompany on my piano. This works well as we all “mute” our computers to avoid distortion, but we can’t hear each other sing, which some might think is a good thing!!

The “sermon” is always short! Usually just a few comments on the Gospel reading. Sometimes we have a short discussion.

Anyone interested in joining us should contact either Paula Johnson pjnjack1017@gmail.com or Marion Hornby, who usually issue the “invitation” to join.

If you have a computer but are unfamiliar with Zoom, I’m sure that John Alpin will be happy to guide you through the process.

It looks as though it will be quite a while before we can ALL meet together in Church and the Zoom service is a useful way of “seeing” each other and keeping in touch.

Heather

SERVICE DATES SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2020

Hello Everyone. It's lovely to be back in Church isn't it?

Our Services will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

Rev. David will take the service on the 2nd Sunday each month as this fits in with his obligations to the other churches. The service on the 4th Sunday will most likely be a 'Local Arrangement' as many of the Lay Preachers are in the 'at risk' category. David is however taking the service on 27th September

Rev. David has offered to provide an outline service, which can be amplified by the person leading on other weeks

So that we can ensure there are enough places for the congregation (and to avoid the need to phone everyone each week) please fill in the Service Diary which you should have already received and return it to either your Pastoral Carer or John Alpin. **(01985 215781 or email jaalpin@gmail.com)**. You could also pop it into the church postbox if you are passing. (If you are really unable to return the form in time, you could phone John with your answers- but please, only as a last resort: we are aiming for a simpler life for all of us, including John!)

Please choose a mix of 2nd and 4th Sundays so that everyone has the opportunity to attend a service led by Rev. David. We hope the replies will allow us to accommodate everyone on the weeks they choose. If you would like to go every week then please say so but indicate which weeks you would be most willing to forgo if necessary. The size of our worship area limits us to approximately 30 people, in order to keep COVID Secure within the Government's requirements. If you do not hear to the contrary, you may assume that you have your choices. If a particular service is over-subscribed, we may have to ask some people to change weeks; in this case, preference would be given to those who have not yet attended. If you are unable to attend a booked service, please let John know. If you do not want to go to any services, either because you are happy with the Zoom services or any other reason, it would be helpful if you could indicate that as well .

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Church Council

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Copy of the form

Date		Yes	No
September 27	Rev David		
October 11	Rev. David		
25	Rev Heather		
November 8	Rev. David		
22	TBA		

NAME(S).....

If you haven't already done so Please mark 'Yes' or 'No' with an 'X' for each service and return as soon as possible

PASTORAL CARE

It has been very obvious to me how much care and love there is within our church family in these past few months. Everyone has been available to support and comfort each other, a phone call for a chat, a word or two on the Whatsapp, the new Facebook page and the website updated to share our news and the regular Sunday Worship Zoom services provided by Rev David and Rev Heather, not to mention the printed page. I think we covered every aspect of modern communication, with many of us learning along the way!

But it didn't replace our longing to meet up on Sundays to share worship together face to face and we finally accomplished our first service on the 13 September. As you know it has not been easy to try and ensure that those wanting to attend can do so but with care John Alpin did a marvellous job in sorting us out. Thank you all for your patience and forbearance with the Church Council and Property group.

We remember in prayer:

Susan Hewitt who was in hospital but she is now safely home recovering, with her daughter and Andy supporting her,

John and Stella living at home with the care of their daughter, Kate,

Helen and Kevin grieving the death of their brother-in-law.

Marion B.

Useful contact details:

Joan Jones - "News and Natter" – What'sApp group . Contact 07986491612 if you would like to join.

Newsletter – items for inclusion iantojo@virginmedia.com

Marion Hornby – **Zoom Bible study** and **Zoom Sunday** services
marionhornby@gmail.com

Paula Johnson pjnjack1017@gmail.com **Zoom Sunday** services

John Alpin **Church website and attendance** at Sunday's services in church
jaalpin@gmail.com

Marion B. – **Pastoral matters** barty.warminster@btinternet.com

Claire Johnson – **Church Facebook** page clairejohnson@cjenrichment.co.uk

Erica Castle – **Property matters** ericacastle@gmx.com

Rev David Coppard – david.coppard@yahoo.co.uk

Rev Heather Morgan – heather@morgan123.com



FOOD BANK

As it seems likely that there won't be a Harvest Festival service this Autumn, the Church Council suggested that you may like to donate food to the Food Bank where our gifts are normally sent. It may be easiest to put your donated items in the box at Morrisons. Or no doubt the Foodbank would be happy to receive it there, in North Row when they are open.

The items most needed at the moment are:

Long life milk - NOT skimmed
Long life fruit juice
Tins of meat
Tins of vegetables NOT sweet corn
Tinned soup
Tins of spaghetti hoops

During recent months the need has doubled but people have given generously, however, items on the list are in short supply & particularly welcomed
Thanks!!

LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICE

To remember loved ones who have died

Thursday 3rd December

Details nearer the date

We are still really keen to ensure there are physical services available for our community so that they don't feel isolated at a time when they may need support more than ever. Obviously we would follow any updated guidelines as outlined by the government and adhere to what is appropriate in your church too

We are looking at a virtual offering too, with pre-recorded parts to live stream to our online audiences. So if you would like to also be a part of that...even if it was to read one of the readings from the service that would be wonderful.

Contact Steph Cox steph.cox@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk

DAVID DODGE

In normal times the church would have been full for David Dodge's funeral on 17th June but with Lockdown in force this wasn't possible so a few of the church family stood in the road near his house to see him start on his final journey. This in no way diminishes the love and respect that was felt for David. He was involved with our church all his life, growing up in Warminster and living here most of his days. He was very interested in and knowledgeable about the history of the area and wrote a book on the history of the church, which is still available. Over the years he and Ruth filled many roles within the church and were greatly valued by all and will be greatly missed.

His family hope to be able to hold a memorial service next year when circumstances permit.

DO YOU ENJOY



A CHAT?

People like to talk, share concerns, support each other – and this virus has made us all aware of how much we miss our family and friends.

On the 8th October the Chat Café, a new project, is going to open its doors to people who have been isolated, cut off from friends and family but we need volunteers to sit and chat over a cup of tea or coffee. It won't be onerous; it won't require you to do much apart from listen, with an additional occasional word here and there. If we can get sufficient helpers, it would be for one Thursday morning a month, for two hours in spacious surrounds which are Covid compliant.

If this is for you, please get in touch with me and I will provide you with more details – and thank you,

Marion B

From URC SW synod e-news letter

We are a group of young activists putting our faith into action for climate justice. Please contact clobrim@gmail.com for more information. Sign our petition to send this message to Boris Johnson:

To: Boris Johnson “End the use of UK Export Finance to fund fossil fuel projects overseas.” In light of rapidly increasing global temperatures and the materialising dire consequences of the climate crisis, it is imperative that the UK government takes drastic action to ensure that the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement is met. As host of COP26, the UK has the opportunity to be a world leader in the transition towards a more sustainable future. We are therefore calling on you to end the damaging use of UK Export Finance to fund oil and gas projects overseas. This spending is at odds with commitments to lowering emissions. We ask that it is instead used to fund projects that are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The UK has the chance to lead the transition away from fossil fuel extraction. To do so, funding must stop by 2021. Will you ensure that the UK’s overseas energy spending aligns with the commitments made in the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Goals?

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The calendar comes with a 24 page Christmas story-activity book illustrated by Martina Peluso. There is a page for every day of Advent and some fun Advent challenges along the way. There is a line from the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows. Foiled for freshness. Palm oil free. Recyclable box and tray.

A great way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. RRP £3.99.

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/christmas>

The Real Advent Calendar is made using Fairtrade chocolate - giving producers a fair price and a cash bonus. Money raised from the sales of the calendar will also help provide care and support for mums and new babies in African villages supported by the Funzi and Bodo trust.

## SPONSORED WALK

Up in the Himalayan mountains of Nepal there is a small school offering basic education to young children enthusiastic to learn – just as children here in Warminster are excited to learn. There is just a little more difficulty in getting books and toys to the school in Nepal as delivery is usually by Sherpa on foot.



I am proposing to undertake a walk along the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath from Bradford-on-Avon to Bath and back again in early October with the intention of raising funds to share between Shri Nubi, the Nepalese school, and St John's, the Warminster school. The funds will be given to purchase learning equipment for the children. The towpath is an interesting place to walk; it is used frequently by cyclists who seem to expect walkers to know when they are coming and jump out of the way - I am fast learning the art!!

Thank you to all of you who have kindly offered to sponsor me; my aim is to raise at least £100. Please share this message with others you know so that we can support children to live and love to learn.

*Marion B.*

### Answers to Potluck quiz in last Newsletter

How did you do?

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| 1. Mistletoe             |
| 2. Flo                   |
| 3. Campanology           |
| 4. Greenwich             |
| 5. The Big Dipper        |
| 6. Admiral of the Fleet  |
| 7. William the Conqueror |
| 8. A host                |
| 9. Clarence Birdseye     |
| 10. Sausage              |

|                                             |
|---------------------------------------------|
| 11. Skull or head                           |
| 12. Cocktail onion                          |
| 13. Trafalgar Square Lions                  |
| 14. Morris Minor                            |
| 15. London                                  |
| 16. Chester                                 |
| 17. A fashion leader in Prince Regents time |
| 18. The river Fleet                         |
| 19. Somerset                                |
| 20. Amadeus                                 |

I want to share a song I love 'Go Peaceful' by Paul Field. You can listen to it on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoVWJEUZg2E>



**Go peaceful, in gentleness, through the violence of these days,  
Give freely, show tenderness in all your ways.  
Through darkness in troubled times, let holiness be your aim,  
Seek wisdom, let faithfulness burn like a flame  
God speed you, God lead you, and keep you wrapped around his heart,  
May you be known by love. Be righteous, speak truthfully, in a world of  
greed and lies,  
Show kindness, see everyone through heaven's eyes.  
God hold you, enfold you and keep you wrapped around his heart,  
May you be known by love.  
God speed you, God lead you, and keep you wrapped around his heart  
May you be known by love.... may you be known by love....  
May this be true for you now and always**

Yours in Christ

*Rev. Ruth Whitehead* ( synod moderator)