

WARMINSTER UNITEDCHURCH

(Methodist/URC)

George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA

Autumn 2023

September, October and November



Ministers: Rev Susan Holden (Methodist) 01985 511349
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Dear Friends

In another cool, wet summer some years ago, I asked a member of one of my congregations if the weather would make the cereal harvest late that year. He was a salesman for a large agricultural seed company. He travelled all round the country advising farmers on what seed would best suit their land. 'No,' he replied. 'Nowadays seed is programmed to ripen within a two-week window.' I was amazed for a bit but then thought about it. We cross different plants to



bring out their best qualities all the time. Why not cereal crops? Then a farmer knows exactly when to hire in a combine harvester if the farmer doesn't have one. This doesn't mean that crops won't ever fail in extreme weather. There's a couple of cereal fields at the moment on the way to Salisbury looking very ragged and have not been harvested. Something is wrong. With all our technology we are still at the mercy of nature.

And don't we know it this year!

In Biblical times the growth of plants was a bit of a mystery. Jesus shows us that people were aware that the wrong soil would hinder or stop growth but exactly what happened deep down in the earth was a miracle from God. Psalms were written for the three harvest festivals the people enjoyed. Yes three – the barley crop in Spring, the wheat crop in summer and the general harvest in the Autumn. These hymns praise and thank God for his part in the harvest. Take a look at Psalm 65 for example. In Leviticus 23: 40 the people are told to rejoice at harvest time and remember how God saved them in the past. They must not think that all the bounty of the land was due to them. Deut 8.

Henry VIII did away with Harvest services (and many other festivals) in church. He wanted the farming community working, not having a day off. Folk continued to celebrate the end of harvest on the farm however, where they worked with the landowner thanking his workers for their long hours in the fields. By the C19th these celebrations were giving cause for concern with much drunkenness and bad behaviour. A Minister from Morwenstow in Cornwall is supposed to have been the first to bring Harvest back into Church as his congregation was especially wayward. This gave him the opportunity to bring the faith back into the festival and remind his congregation of the 'harvest of souls'. Other churches around the country quickly followed and new hymns were written for the festival which we still enjoy singing today.

I have a bumper crop of plums this year and I've no idea why. I'm going to thank God and think of ways of preserving them and cooking with them.

May God bless you at this lovely time of year.

Susan

Sunday services 10.30 a.m.

September 3rd: Karen Woollard

10th: Revd Susan Holden HOLY COMMUNION

17th: Joe Amoah

24th: Erica Castle

October 1st: Revd Susan Holden HARVEST FESTIVAL

8th: Karen Woollard

15th: Joe Amoah

22nd: SECTOR SERVICE AT WESTBURY

29th: Revd Susan Holden HOLY COMMUNION

November 5th: Revd Tracy Lewis

12th: Joe Amoah

19th: Elizabeth Manley

26th: Isobel Smears

From September our church, along with the 2 Westbury churches, will have with us a URC trainee Minister, **Joe Amoah**, in his final year, until May. Revs Gary Gotham and Tracey Edwards will be supervising him. Rev Susan will be his 'companion' from Warminster who will meet with him and the other church companions roughly every six weeks. If there is anything you would like to say about Joe's ministry, you can of course talk to him but the companion is also available for that. It is important that the congregations have their input. He will be living in Westbury during this time.

Please hold Joe in your prayers as he moves in and gets started.

His first service with us is on 17th September

HARVEST FESTIVAL

1ST October

The service will be led by Revd Susan Holden

Anthony Matthew will be talking to us about
the work of
the FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK.

FCN | THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

25
YEARS

SUPPORTING THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Food donations for the Warminster Foodbank would be gratefully received. Especially Long-life milk, fruit juice and tinned meat.

PLEASE JOIN IN A BRING AND SHARE HARVEST
LUNCH

after the service – look out for more details.

HARVEST
Lunch

WARMINSTER FOODBANK

The foodbank was set up in 2009 in a double garage in someone's garden Quite worrying times really with very little funds. Then moved to the Regency site, a lock up in East Street, after that we came to Dewey House in 2012. Our rent is £600 per month. We now use the whole of the ground floor. CCTV have moved out. It's a dream site and would be difficult to replicate. Our lease is until March 2024 with the possible extension to 2025.

Being independent from the Trussel Trust has given us more freedom. We can support clients for much longer periods. We work closely with Cornerstone now, which is lovely and makes good sense.

Mere and Westbury are independent as well, so we now longer need to cover those areas

140 to 180 local people are helped each month

We are very grateful to the Warminster Community for their ongoing support. Collection points in Waitrose, Morrisons and Lidl's as well as churches and businesses around the town.

Jean Colgrave

SUNDAY MORNING ROTAS

	DOOR	VESTRY	COFFEE	FLOWERS	FLOWER DISTRIBUTE
September 3rd	Evan	Joan J	Polly	Joan J	Hilda
10 th	Penelope	Marion B	Sarah	Sandra	Brenda
17 th	Diana	Marion H	Hilda	Sarah	Sarah
24 th	Andy	Polly	Evan	Polly	Joan S
October 1 st	Jan Cobb	Joan J	Anita	Helen D	Joan J
8 th	Evan	Erica	Linda G	Joan S	Hilda
15 th	Andy	Marion H	Joan S	Margaret S	Brenda
22 nd SECTOR	SERVICE	WESTBURY			
29 th	Diana	Joan J	Anita	Jan	Joan S
November 5 th	Sarah	Marion B	Polly	Hilda	Hilda
12 th (Remembrance)	Penelope	Jan	Linda G	Helen R	Joan J
19 th	Polly	Marion H	Hilda	Sandra	Brenda
26 th	Evan	Joan J	Sarah	Sarah	Joan S
December 3 rd	Diana	Erica	Evan	Helen D	Sarah
10 th	Sarah	Marion B	Joan S	Joan S	Hilda

Please notice the change in October as sector service has been moved. **If you can not do any date you are down for, please swap with someone else and change the list on the notice board**



**Do you have a heart for families and community?
Can you spare an hour a week to support a family
who are feeling isolated and lonely?**

Safe Families is a Christian charity that has been in existence in the UK for around 10 years. At Safe Families we know that every child deserves to thrive, and we recognise that to do this, children need to be loved and secure in their own family. Facing life alone is hard, and when families feel like and there is no one there to help it's a scary place to be.

We are working with Wiltshire Council to provide support to families who are isolated, struggling or overwhelmed by their circumstances. We are looking for volunteers right across the county. We train, support, and connect volunteers with isolated families, so they can build relationships that bring them hope and belonging.

We need volunteers to come alongside families by supporting them weekly, this can be in person or a mixture of in person and over the phone. We have a range of volunteer and supporter roles available from befriending, partnering in prayer or offering your DIY skills. Could you be a Friend to a family in need?

For more information about all the ways you can support us as a charity including becoming a prayer partner or a financial supporter please visit: <https://safefamilies.uk>

For more information about volunteering in Wiltshire or to meet for an informal chat please contact Kirsty Cross – Community Volunteer Manager for Wiltshire on 07425 792699 or email: kirstycross@safefamilies.uk

**SUPPORT FOR
PEOPLE
AFFECTED
BY CANCER**



Drop In
at
The Athenaeum,
Warminster.

1st and 3rd Friday of each month
From 10am until 12 noon

The Cancer Support Cafe will be hosting Karen, a **Welfare Advisor from Macmillan CAB Bath** on **Friday 15th September**

On the **6th October** they will be having a **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

On the 17th November a volunteer from Look Good Feel Better, a charity supporting people during or after their treatment, will be available to provide information on skin and hair care.

CREAM TEA



9th and 10th September at St John's Church 2 – 5 p.m.

Proceeds shared between Christian Aid and St John's church



EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING 10.30 a.m. informal get together in COFFEE #1 Share news and discuss previous Sunday's sermon.

This autumn the **Warminster United Church** has again chosen to support the Christmas box appeal run by **houseofopportunity.org**. Rather than asking you to bring in a fully made-up box from home we are asking for donations of items in bulk (e.g., a dozen toothbrushes). Once the items are collected in, we will make up presents for children and families in Southeast Europe. This is an effective way of making up lots of Christmas boxes! If you would like to support the Christmas box appeal this year, please choose from the list of items below (feel free to donate more than one type of item should you wish!) and bring them in.

We will have a coffee morning to raise money for shipping in November Please help us raise the £4 per box to help cover what it will cost to ship our boxes to Southeast Europe. Plus, we need empty shoeboxes!

- Sweets
- Small toys
- Underwear/ socks
- Balls (tennis, bouncy)
- Skipping ropes etc
- Hair accessories
- Hats, gloves, scarfs
- Soap/facecloths
- Toothpaste/brushes
- Jigsaws
- Colouring books/note pads
- Pens/pencils/erasers
- Babies' items



Deadline to get items and donations in by:

12th November

Thank you!

"House of Opportunity" is the operating name of FSCI (UK), which is a Registered Charity in England & Wales (1107914).

Dear Friends,

As you are aware, our boiler is in need of replacement.

This was planned for the summer period, but unfortunately it was realised at a late stage that the boiler cupboard is lined with asbestos sheet - safe if undisturbed, but no work could take place until it is removed.

We are now at the stage of arranging removal of the cupboard and boiler which will take place at the end of September. The rear of the building will be 'out of bounds' for at least a week.

We hope to have a new boiler up and running before the cold weather sets in!

Best wishes,

Erica

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY restarts September – Wednesdays 8p.m. Contact Marion Hornby if you want to join the group.

CHARITY COFFEE MORNING ROTA 2023

Date	CHARITY	NAME/raised
14 th January	Forever Friends RUH	£243
11 th February	Médecins sans Frontiers	£200.47
11 th March	DEC Turkey/Syria earthquake	£267.60
April 15 th	People against Poverty	£200
May 13 th	Christian Aid	£120
June 10 th	Warminster Food Bank	£208
July 8 th	Dorothy House	£238
August 12 th	McMillan Cancer	£258
September 9 th	Action for Children	Erica and Marion B
October 14 th	Brain Tumour	Pat Cutler (with help from church people)
November 11 th	Christmas Shoeboxes	Joan Jones
December 9 th	Guide Dogs	Anita

There is a list of 2024 dates on notice board in foyer – please fill in any dates that you would like to do for your chosen charity. If you have never run a coffee morning and would like to know more, please speak to me, Joan Jones

Pastoral news.

The funeral of Susan Hewitt was held at the church on 22nd July and the funeral of Christine Banks Walton was held at Semington Crematorium on 11th August. We continue to hold their families and friends in our prayers and give thanks for their lives.

Rev Susan had the pleasure of marrying her daughter Rebecca and Alexander Grace at the church on 7th August.

In July the pastoral visitors were invited to meeting to welcome Helen Dawson and Linda Gibb as visitors. We thank Hilary Reynolds and Mary Treadwell as they retire from their many years of service. We also discussed what the visitors would find useful as they carry out this important work and they decided that we should invite speakers from various areas of social care to share their knowledge, for example in Alzheimer's disease or care of the dying. These would also be open to the congregation.

Susan Holden

GOOD AFTERNOON CHOIR

Many readers will know Grenville, Heather's 'little brother!' ...well, every Friday here at church the Warminster & Westbury "Good Afternoon Community Choir" meet and sing out from 1-3pm led by the multi-talented Tanya Davidson. This is one of Grenville's music projects with over 1000 folk 'singing in the afternoon' across the west. It's a no audition mixed-voice choir for everyone. If you love to sing why not go along one Friday to meet Tanya and the choir? The first rehearsal is free - the music is varied and there are concerts that support local organisations. Fridays 1-3 pm in the church.

FAMILY ACTIVITY DAYS



Another Family Activity Day was held on 17th August with the theme of "God's Wonderful World".



Not so many people attended due to holidays etc but we still welcomed a number of families from babies to great-grandparents. Many thanks to our willing team of helpers who make these days run so smoothly and help everyone to have a

good time.

Hopefully the next Family Day will be in the October half term holiday when we will meet our old friends from the Pumpkin Patch in another "Pumpkin Heroes" event.