

December 2022 to February 2023
**WARMINSTER UNITED
CHURCH**

(Methodist/URC)

George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA



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Web site www.unitedchurchwarminster.org

Dear friends,

When my children were quite young, my family were at Church in Wilton. The local preacher leading the service was very fond of her own voice, for when she prayed it went on and on and on. When we got home after the service, my youngest son expressed his displeasure at the length of the prayers: he said, "If I were God, I would have walked off and let her get on with it!"

We, as a congregation, looked at prayer a few Sundays ago during the morning service. I asked everyone to jot down what prayer meant to each of you. Here are your answers: -

"Conversation (i.e., talking & listening); comfort, reassurance; communicating or being in touch with God; security, help, comfort; reaching out to God; my quiet time with God; love & mercy of God; sharing with the Father thanks & concerns; peace, eternity & support; requesting guidance; solace, helpfulness & peace of mind; connecting with God & asking for help; worship; petition - thanks-praise-confession; prayer opens doors with your faith; salvation; brings me calm & a space to think, reflecting perhaps on my worries. Prayer helps me & my family."

Jesus spent many hours in prayer away from the hustle & bustle of daily life. He taught his disciples to pray by teaching them what we now call The Lord's Prayer. He would often go up the mountain where he would spend hours in prayer. Do you have a special place where you go to pray because you feel closer to God? I like to sit - when it's warm enough! - by the pond in my garden: the waterfall trickling down always has a calming effect.

Whatever happens in life, & wherever we find ourselves, we should never cease praying for God loves to hear our prayers.

God bless,

Revd Heather

A Nicaraguan "Lord's Prayer"

Our Father, who art in heaven.

Don't say "Father" if you don't behave like his child each day.

Don't say "our" if you only ever think about yourself.

Hallowed by our name, Your Kingdom come

Don't say "hallowed be your name" if you don't honour that name.

Don't say "Your kingdom come" if you are weighed down with material goods.

Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Don't say "your will be done" if you don't accept the hard times,

Don't say "as it is in heaven" if you only ever think of earthly matters.

Give us this day our daily bread,

Don't say "Our daily bread" if you have no concern for the hungry or the sick.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us,

Don't say "Forgive us our sins" if you remain angry with you brothers and sisters.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Don't say "Lead us not into temptation" if you intend to continue sinning

Don't say "deliver us from evil" if you don't make a stand against injustice

For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever,

Amen

Don't say "Amen" without considering the words of your prayer.

Services in December
A warm welcome to all

Sunday 4th 10.30 a.m.

Holy communion service led by Revd Heather Morgan

Sunday 11th 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Eric Clifford

Sunday 18th 3.30p.m.



Christmas Carol service. Followed by tea, coffee and mince pies.

There will be a collection for "Crisis at Christmas"

Saturday 24th 4 p.m.

Christmas Eve communion led by Revd Susan Holden

Christmas Day we will be joining our friends at the Baptist Church in North Row

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**Mince pies and offers of help with serving refreshments at Carol service needed**

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Decorate the Church for Christmas

There are six side windows in our Church each with a ledge. Large candles will be placed on these shortly ready for the Carol Service on Sunday 18 December. Would you like to decorate a window sill? Perhaps with flowers, a nativity scene or a picture. This will remain in place throughout Advent & Christmas. For those wishing to get involved but who don't have a key, the Church is open on a Wednesday morning and often on a Saturday morning. Over to you!! *Heather*

CTW Christmas events in the town

10th December

CAROLS IN THE MALL 10.30 a.m.

The Kings Tent Mince pies.... Carols

Come along and joint others from around the town.



11th December

"DRIVE (or walk)-IN" CAROLS 5 P.M.

In the car park by Civic Centre



Services Sundays 10.30 a.m. unless otherwise stated

December 2022

4th: Revd Heather Morgan – HOLY COMMUNION

11th Eric Clifford

18th **3.30p.m. Carol service**

24th **4p.m.** Revd Susan Holden CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

25th **10a.m. at Baptist church** North Row - led by Revd Percy

January 2023

1st Karen Woollard and worship leaders

8th Revd Susan Holden - COVENANT SERVICE

15th Revd Tom MacMeekin

22nd Revd Gerald English – continuation of VISION DAY

29th Revd Heather Morgan SECTOR SERVICE (we will welcome friends from Westbury and Steeple Ashton)

February

5th Revd Heather Morgan HOLY COMMUNION

12th Revd Sue Henderson

19th Karen Woollard Followed by church meeting

26th Revd Susan Holden

CHRISTMAS CARD

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

Our traditional, large Communal Christmas Card will be making an appearance again this year- this time made by the children. You are invited to write your Christmas Greetings in it, 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 buying 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? And do remember to look in it later to see other people's greetings.

Shelter

The housing and homelessness charity

	Door welcome	Vestry	Coffee	Flowers
Nov 27 th	Evan	Joan J	Polly	Susan Holden
December 4 th	Barry	Mary	Anita	
11 th	Jan Cobb	Joan J	Evan	Joan J
18 th 3.30 Carol service	Penelope		Volunteers needed	
24 th 4p.m. 25 th Christmas	Evan No service	Joan J		
January 1 st	Andy	Marion H	Polly	Mary
8 th	Barry	Mary	Hilda	Marion H
15 th	Diana	Marion B	Joan S	Hilda
22 nd	Joan S	Erica	Mary	Sandra Matthews
29 th	Margaret Stanley	Joan J	Anita	Polly
February 5 th	Penelope	Marion H	Joan and Evan	Margaret Stanley
12 th	Andy	Marion B	Polly	Jan Cobb
19 th	Diana	Joan J	Anita	Susan Holden
26 th	Barry	Mary	Joan S	Marjory
March 5 th	Jan Cobb	Erica	Hilda	Helen Dawson
12 th	Evan	Joan J	Mary	Joan Stephens
19 th	Diana	Marion H	Polly	Joan Jones
27 th	Andy	Marion B	Joan and Evan	Hilda

If you cannot do the date you have been put down for, please try to arrange a swap with someone else.

Thank you to everyone who is willing to do these jobs. We could do with more people!

If there were more people willing to go on one of the rotas it would mean everyone doing it less often!

If you are willing to go on one of the rotas, please let Joan Jones know

New members

A warm welcome to Wame and Lameta Macaca who were received into membership recently and to their children Menelita, Miriama and Netani. We look forward to getting to know you all better.

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Joseva Vakacokaivu, (Jo) who is one of our newer members and already very active within the church, received an MBE in October. This was in recognition of his selfless commitment to others, especially to the work he has done in support of the Fijian Community and others. The recognition is also about committing a lot of his personal and private time to others from all the three forces (Army/Navy/Royal Air Force) He was involved in forming a Fijian Support Network that looks after the Fijians in the Defence Force, and their Families. He is also a Liaison Officer from the Fijian Support Network to the wider Defence Christian Network.



A proud day at Windsor castle when Jo was presented with the MBE. He says "It is indeed an honour and a Privilege to be awarded "The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in Windsor Castle on the 18th of October 2022."

It was presented by HRH Princes Royal. It was a proud and emotional moment for me and my Family

I am still collecting stamps for RNIB so please save them, especially from mail you get at Christmas. There is a box on the shelf in the Foyer at Church and all stamps can be sent - British and Foreign stamps. I have sent off 4 packages of stamps this year so please keep them coming.

*Marion Hornby*

## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

On a very wet November Monday morning Rich Parsons collected 111 packed shoe boxes from us. I was also able to give him £220, which had been raised from the coffee morning and other donations, towards the cost of transporting the boxes to Bulgaria. We saw in the pictures he showed us when he took our service in October just how much joy these boxes will bring to poor and marginalised children and adults. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible.

Although the £220 we gave him was a wonderful figure to raise, it is only £2 for each box and it is estimated that the cost of transportation is around £3 per box! He said that fuel costs have pushed the total cost up by around £1,000 this year. The boxes are transported overland by a Dutch company who specialise in transporting humanitarian aid, the cheapest way they have found. I have made a personal donation to cover the extra £1 per box and if anyone else would like to help them then please go onto their website FSCI(UK). [www.fscinet.org](http://www.fscinet.org)

We need to be aware that next year we should try to cover the cost of transporting as many boxes as we send.

Despite their various problems they hope to be able to take boxes again next year as always. So, in January we will again put out the big box to start collecting things to go in next year's boxes! We were short of socks this year, so perhaps we should start with them!! Brenda has done amazing work over the past years collecting and covering the empty boxes, she is still happy to cover any boxes given to her, but does not want to scour the countryside for empty boxes anymore! So, if you buy any shoes please remember to ask for the box, and any other spare ones the shop may have! If you haven't been involved in this venture in the past and want to know any more then I have some leaflets which explain more and list the things to go in the boxes. If you would rather pack a whole box yourself, then again please ask me for a leaflet that tells you how to go about it.

Many thanks *Joan Jones*

Come and join in at  
8pm, Monday 12th December for  
a Zoom Singalong for Christmas!  
Singing through Roger Jones' Christmas musical, The Inn Crowd  
A musical telling the Christmas story through the eyes of the Bethlehem  
Innkeeper and his wife.

I know some of you like Roger Jones music. Here is a chance to sing one of his Christmas musicals without leaving your armchair. All the words will appear on the screen. All you have to do is email: [-events@cmm.org.uk](mailto:-events@cmm.org.uk)  
You will then be sent a Zoom link nearer the time. We all hear the soloists but we are all muted so no-one hears us singing. It is great fun. I will be there so hope to see some of you too.

*Marion (Hornby)*

## CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

| Date                                      | CHARITY                         | ORGANISER             |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>2022</b><br>10 <sup>th</sup> September | <b>Alzheimer's Support</b>      | <b>£200 raised</b>    |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> October                   | <b>Chat Café</b>                | <b>£185 raised</b>    |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> November                 | <b>Christmas shoe boxes</b>     | <b>£220 raised</b>    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> December                 | <b>Guide Dogs for the Blind</b> | <b>Anita</b>          |
| <b>2023</b><br>14 <sup>th</sup> January   | <b>Forever Friends RUH</b>      | <b>Marion Barton</b>  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> February                 | <b>Médecins sans Frontiers</b>  | <b>Karen Woollard</b> |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> March                    | <b>People against Poverty</b>   | <b>Joan Jones</b>     |
| April 15 <sup>th</sup> *                  |                                 |                       |
| May 13 <sup>th</sup>                      | <b>Christian Aid</b>            | <b>Karen Woollard</b> |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup>                     |                                 |                       |
| July 10 <sup>th</sup>                     |                                 |                       |
| August 8 <sup>th</sup>                    |                                 |                       |
| September 9 <sup>th</sup>                 |                                 |                       |
| October 7 <sup>th</sup>                   |                                 |                       |
| November 11 <sup>th</sup>                 | <b>Christmas Shoeboxes</b>      | <b>Joan Jones</b>     |
| December 9 <sup>th</sup>                  |                                 |                       |

\*This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday as the 2<sup>nd</sup> is Easter weekend – whoever runs this month's is welcome to choose which week they hold the coffee morning

The Saturday morning charity coffee mornings re-started in September and are going well. Not as well attended as previously but numbers are picking up. Please spread the word!

If you would like to run a coffee morning for your chosen charity next year, on one of the dates not taken, then please tell Joan Jones. If you have never done it before then be brave... others will be willing to help!

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I write with news that will come as a surprise to many of you. I will be leaving the post of Synod Moderator in the South Western Synod at the end of March next year (2023), after nearly 10 years.

I have loved my time here and have always described it as a happy Synod, even though we have weathered some storms together. I will miss all our local churches, but God has called me to serve the Landsker Pastorate – a group of six small chapels in Pembrokeshire, and as you know, where God calls us is where we find our deepest joy.

There will be time for proper farewells but now is a good time to say thank you for welcoming me to share the life of your church. Leading worship in the many churches of the Synod has been an especial joy, and I will continue to pray for you all.

God bless you, *Ruth* [Revd Ruth Whitehead](#) Moderator URC [South Western Synod](#)



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 to 25 January 2023 –

see [ctbi.org.uk](http://ctbi.org.uk) website

**Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice** prepared by Church of Minneapolis

|                                                                    |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Meetings to be held at 12noon |                 |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January                                 | FCF             |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January                                  | Baptists        |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January                                    | St Georges      |
| Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> January                                  | No meeting      |
| Sunday Joint Worship 22 <sup>nd</sup> January                      | 3pm at St Johns |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January                                    | United          |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January                                   | Minster         |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January                                 | Christ Church   |



Barry Treadwell is standing down from his role of opening Action for Children collecting boxes and banking the money so raised. Many thanks Barry for all you have done.

Would someone be willing to take over this task? Please see Barry to find out more.



### CHURCH FINANCES

Over the past 2 years the financial outgoings from church funds have exceeded the income. We are in a better position than many churches in having a healthy balance to fall back on, but of course this can't go on indefinitely. Costs are rising all the time; heating costs are soaring! No doubt some of you are also feeling the pinch and cannot afford to give any more – and there are so many worthy causes too! But please think about your giving to the church and if you are able to increase your weekly offering (through the bank or in the plate) then it would be helpful. Also, if you pay tax and haven't yet set up Gift aid then please consider this. Anita is doing a wonderful job as treasurer, have a chat with her if you would like to change the way or the amount that you give.



**November 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **Christ the King Sunday**

While Karen led the congregation through a thoughtful service thinking about Christ the King, the children enjoyed themselves making crowns. Thank you, Solomon, for helping the little ones.

Here Sebastian and Angel, with Solomon, proudly show us their crowns

### **FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY**



The theme of October's family activity day was "Pumpkin Patch goes Green". The material was supplied by World Vision who every Autumn have a new story featuring Pumpkin Patch (they promote this as an alternative to the spooky Halloween themes that are around) – this year he was helping us to think about looking after our beautiful world. Karen and her helpers did a wonderful job and around 30 children and their parents had a great time.

Hopefully there will be another Activity Day in the February half term holiday.

## **News from the Church Council**

First of all, a big thank you to our retiring members Joan Stephens and Margaret for their work as Trustees over the last year. Thank you also to continuing members of the Council.

Following the Vision Day with Gerald England in June, the church has been focusing on building our Spiritual life; Bible study groups have started to meet in person again as well as on-line and Wednesday morning services have restarted, followed by a time of reflection and discussion about what we believe.

While we will continue to build on all this, we also want to start looking at what we do next.

A lot of the suggestions coming from the Vision Day involve serving the local community and we hope to look at this in more detail at our next Vision day.

With the Cost of Living and Energy prices being on everyone's minds at the moment, Council have looked at the need for **Warm Hubs** – somewhere for people to go for a few hours to keep warm, have a hot drink and socialise. We have the space, but we do not have the people and expertise to run it. But Warminster Action Group already run similar drop-ins in a very limited space. So, the proposal is that we provide the space and WAG's trained volunteers will run the drop-in. We are suggesting one morning a week for elderly people to start in the New Year. It would be nice if Church Members could attend to help serve, chat or to just come and join in. If this sounds like something you would like to do, speak to Marion Barton.

The next **Vision Day is on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** with Gerald England.

Everyone agreed the last one was a success and very enjoyable. If you were not able to attend in June, don't miss out this time! Lunch will be provided. It has been proposed that we spend some time looking at our spiritual development and some at our community work.

The next **Church Meeting will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February**, when we will focus on the results of the Vision Day. Please put these dates in your next year's diary and do attend if at all possible.

Everyone is encouraged to start thinking about the future of our church and there is time between the two dates for further reflection.

If you have any items that you would like the Council to consider, or if you would like to become a Trustee (Council member), please speak to one of the Council members. If you have an interest in buildings, eco-church (energy saving/ etc) please talk to John A, Mario B or Erica, who would also be delighted to hear from anyone with experience of applying for funding! Don't be shy!!

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Current Church Council members (Trustees)

John Alpin, Erica Castle, Karen Woollard, Anita Silk, Heather Morgan, Joan Jones, Marion Hornby, Marion Barton, Mary Treadwell



2023 Programme

The Side-by-Side Cancer Support Group

Meet on the first and third Friday of each month at
The Old Fire Station, Warminster, BA12 9AL
From 10am to 12 noon.

On **20th January, 2023**, we will be hosting
Macmillan Nurse, Tracy, Macmillan Cancer
Information Specialist Nurse at RUH

On **17th February, 2023**, we welcome
'Look Good Feel Better' volunteer Liz to talk
about skin and hair treatments

On **17th March** we will introduce
'We Hear You' Clinical Coordinator, Frances, to speak about the benefits of nature.

We are open to all including family and friends who are seeking support and information.

Come along for a chat over coffee and cake, you're always welcome.

CRAFT AND CHATTER



Following the enforced shut down for Covid, Craft & Chatter re-opened in September from 2-4pm every other Monday, and the first get together had over a dozen crafters returning with their various projects, all happy to be back together again. Hopefully the pleasant chattering and sharing of craft achievements and help will continue to be a welcoming afternoon for anyone in the

local community to join.'

A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to come along for a pleasant couple of hours doing any craft they like and/or enjoying a cuppa and a chat. The group meets, in the Cameo Room, every other Monday from 2 – 4 p.m.

Dates for Jan to March 2023 are:

January 9th, 23rd February 6th, 20th March 6th, 20th