

March to May 2023
**WARMINSTER UNITED
CHURCH**

(Methodist/URC)

George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA
Quarterly Newsletter



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Pastoral letter from Area Superintendent Minister

When have you been truly joyful? The roar of a steam engine, a goal in the cup final? the birth of a child? A huge box of chocolates. Joy is described as a feeling of great pleasure and happiness. Yes, I am sure that chocolate does that, but how long does it last before the guilt of diet breaking, *intrudes on such a guilty pleasure?*

Let me tell you a story about a man who emigrated to America to begin a new life. He was not rich, so sold everything he owned, everything!

Holding on to all the wealth he raised from the sale, he decided to save as much of it as he could. On the voyage, he decided to eat sparingly, to bring as much wealth as possible into his new beginning.

He bought a supply of crackers and cheese to get him through his days at sea. But as the voyage progressed, the sea air made him very hungry. To make matters worse, the dampness in the air made his cheese hard and his crackers soft. He was almost desperate with hunger.

The last straw came when he smelled items of rich nourishing food being carried on a tray by a passing steward. The hungry man made up his mind that he would have one good square meal, even though it might take some of his precious money.

He stopped the steward to find out how much it would cost to go to the dining room and have a dinner. The steward asked the man for his ticket. He duly produced it and was informed that all his meals on the journey had been included in the price of the ticket.

He could have saved the money spent on crackers and cheese; he could have gone to the dining room at any time and eaten as much as he liked. It had all been included in the ticket for the journey. Sometimes it is so hard to see what blessings we already have in life, especially during such difficult times when we fail to see the joy we already possess.

An elderly parishioner's dying words, once given to his minister were penetrating and pertinent. He simply said, "*Whatever you do, don't miss the joy!*"

This new year we must all hold on to the full joy that is found in Jesus. He said, "*I came that you might have life, but that you might have it more abundantly.*", *I have told you this, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.*"

And we know how to spell joy as Jesus means it, J O Y – Jesus, first; others second; and yourself last..... God be with you this yearstay safe and well. **Craig Manley**

SERVICES

Sundays at 10.30 unless otherwise stated

MARCH

- 5th : Revd Heather Morgan HOLY COMMUNION
12th: Revd Susan Holden
19th : Karen Woollard
26th : Joanne Williams

APRIL

- 2nd : Jacky Williams PALM SUNDAY
9th : Revd Heather Morgan EASTER COMMUNION
16th : Karen Woollard
23rd : Revd Craig Manley
30th : SECTOR SERVICE AT STEEPLE ASHTON

MAY

- 7th : Revd Susan Holden HOLY COMMUNION
14th : Karen Woollard
21st : Revd Susan Holden
28th : Revd Heather Morgan

MAUNDY THURSDAY 6th April we are invited to join our friends at The Baptist Church – 6 p.m. for soup, followed by a short service

GOOD FRIDAY 7th April. -**WALK OF WITNESS** starting at St George's church at 10a.m. Finishing at St Lawrence's at about 10.30 with a short service.

It has been suggested that we then invite people to our church for coffee and hot cross buns. Please speak to Karen if you are willing to help with this.

Wednesday morning services at 10.30 a.m. will be led by Karen Woollard until Easter.

Charity Coffee mornings – 2nd Saturday monthly 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Date	CHARITY	NAME
2023 14 th January	Forever Friends - RUHX	£243
11 th February	Médecins sans Frontiers	£200.47
11 th March	DISASTER EMERGENCY COMMITTEE – TURKEY/SYRIA	
April 15 th *	People against Poverty	Joan Jones
May 13 th	Christian Aid	Karen Woollard
June 10 th		
July 10 th		
August 8 th		
September 9 th	Macmillan Cancer	Anita Silk
October 14 th		
November 11 th	Christmas Shoeboxes	Joan Jones
December 9 th	Guide Dogs	Anita Silk

*March and April's coffee morning have been swapped to enable us to raise money for **the Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal to help victims of the terrible earthquake in Turkey and Syria** in March. Please support this in any way you can.*

*The Coffee morning for People Against Poverty will now be **in April – on the 3rd Saturday as the 2nd Saturday is Easter weekend.** **

Volunteers are needed to run JUNE, JULY, AUGUST AND OCTOBER Coffee mornings.

If you would like to run one of them for your chosen charity then please tell Joan Jones. If you have never done it before then be brave... others will be willing to help!

Church Meeting 19 February 2023 Our Vision for our Christian Witness

20 members were present and apologies were received from Linda Gibbs, Hilda Hanks, Margaret Stanley and Barry Treadwell.

Our Vision for: - a) **The Community - the clubs and societies that use our building,** b) **Children's work - Family Days, Junior Church, Toddlers Worship,** c) **Coffee mornings,** d) **Supporting our own congregation.**

i) **Are we equipped to meet their needs? (Leadership, volunteers, finances)**

ii) **What changes do we think we need to improve**

a) **the building for them?** b) **our witness to them?** —

We agreed that we want to look at the future needs of our town and how our church building can serve our town after our current (older) generation has passed on.

We discussed some of the problems facing us and suggested some solutions:

1. We recognised that the Property Committee has worked very hard for the past 3 years and agreed to establish a Refurbishment Committee to take on any new tasks for the building as it is unreasonable and unfair to expand the Property Committee's remit. Four volunteers, Polly Boswell, Helen Dawson, Rev Susan Holden and Marion Hornby were accepted by the meeting to take on Refurbishment duties.

2. Susan Holden will ask Rev Tracey Lewis to visit our church building and advise us on practical problems/solutions. We will consider getting professional advice as our plans firm up.

3. We spoke about weekday children's events, Warminster Action Group, improved toilets (suitable for adults with learning/physical disabilities), improved acoustics and shading in the Cameo Room, up-dating and re-siting the boiler, Warm and Safe, Eco-Church funding, removing the vestry, kitchen and toilets entirely and constructing a new build to suit our future needs. looking into the flooring and waste flow problems under the Cameo Room and ensuring we follow all safety guidelines.

4. We will hold a series of Gift Days for the church members to show that we support this exciting new venture and are prepared to fund raise towards it. In addition, the Refurbishment Committee will explore funding from our church parent bodies.

5. It was suggested inviting other organisations to use our Coffee Mornings to raise money for their charities, to increase outreach and awareness of our presence

6. During the discussion we recognised that we own the Garden Area but the deeds need to be deposited in our safe.

Our meeting ended (at 12.40) with prayers to thank God for guiding our discussion and encouraging us towards exciting new plans.

A MESSAGE From REVD HEATHER

At the Church Meeting held on 19th February, the members present voted in favour of a Gift Day or more accurately, a Gift fortnight over the Easter period, 2-16 April.

A Refurbishment Group was set up to bring forward ideas and plans for the refurbishment of the vestry, kitchen and toilets. When these are eventually approved by the Church Meeting, funding may be applied for from the Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

However, before funding can be applied for, we, as a Church, must show that we will be contributing to the work by raising a certain level of funds for the project.

With this in mind, Gift Envelopes will be available from Palm Sunday, 2nd April. We hope that you will feel able to support us in this necessary work as we seek to witness to our community. We will be able to claim Gift Aid from your gifts if you have signed up for this with Diana Bennie our Gift Aid Secretary.

Thank you for all you are able to contribute to the United Church.

Heather

GIFT AID

If you have signed a gift aid form and have since moved, please see me as you need to fill out a new one. I must have your current address on the latest form.

If you pay your donation to the church by standing order and would like to register for gift aid, then please see me in church. If you don't understand how it works, then I can explain it to you. Anyone who pays income tax can register for gift aid. It's an important source of income for the church.

If you retire or change job and are no longer paying income tax, and you have a gift aid form with the church, it's your responsibility to let me know. I can then remove you from the list of persons paying gift aid.

Diana Bennie

Ammerdown Lent Course 2023 – please join us on Zoom.

Are you in need of a spiritual detox? Fancy spring cleaning your soul?

You always thought of joining a Lenten Bible study group, but never got around to it? Perhaps you are not a Christian, but you are curious about Christian spirituality?

Well, wherever you are and whoever you are, you are warmly invited to join the friendly Ammerdown team for a series of six online guided spiritual reflections. Each one-hour session focuses on one (or two) of the "I am" sayings of Jesus.

Together, as virtual pilgrims, we will learn and share our thoughts in response to the message of God's love at the heart of the Easter story.

Make 2023 the year you take some time to step back from everyday busyness and activity, and look afresh at the unique claims of Christ Jesus, and the implications they have for those who follow his teachings today.

Our online Zoom sessions mean you can join in from wherever you are.

Subject to bookings, we will be running the 2023 Ammerdown Lenten Course at two times:

- Tuesday mornings, 10–11am (21 and 28 Feb; 7, 14, 21 and 28 Mar)
- Tuesday evenings, 6.30–7.30pm (21 and 28 Feb; 7, 14, 21 and 28 Mar)

To book your place, please visit The Ammerdown Centre

website www.ammerdown.org or phone 01761 433709 or send an email

to admin@ammerdown.org Rupert Kaye Chaplain - The Ammerdown Centre

	Door welcome	Vestry	Coffee	Flowers
April 2 nd	Marion H and Linda G	Marion B	Hilda	Sandra
9 th EASTER	Andy	Mary	Anita	Easter flowers
16 th	Evan	Joan J	Polly	Polly
23 rd	Linda Gibbs	Marion H	Evan	Mary
30 th SECTOR	No service our church			
May 7 th	Andy	Mary	Polly	Jan
14 th	Sarah Weston	Joan J	Evan	Helen D
21 st	Diana	Marion B	Joan S	Joan S
28 th	Joan S	Erica	Mary	Joan J
June 4 th	Margaret Stanley	Joan J	Anita	Margaret S
11 th	Penelope	Marion H	Joan and Evan	Mary
18 th	Diana	Marion B	Polly	Hilda
25 th	Andy	Mary	Linda Gibbs	Susan Holden
July 2 nd	Evan	Joan J	Joan S	
9 th	Jan Cobb	Erica	Hilda	
16 th	Evan	Joan J	Sarah Weston	
23 rd	Diana	Marion H	Polly	
30 th	Andy	Marion B	Anita	

Thank you to all on the rotas who are helping to ensure the smooth running of our Sunday worship. An especial thanks to Sarah and Linda Gibbs, both on the rotas for the first time.

If there is anyone else willing to help on one or more of the rotas please let Joan Jones know.

If anyone has a problem with a date they are down to do then please swap if you can – let me know if that is difficult (Joan)

LENT LUNCHESES 12 noon to 1.30p.m.

- Friday 24th Feb: St John's Hall Boreham Rd
 - Tuesday 7th March: the West End of The Minster Church
 - Thursday 16th March: The Rectory, 5 Church Street
 - Monday 27th March: St Boniface Hall, Warminster School
- All above lunches in aid of Alabare supporting homeless adults, young people, veterans and those with learning difficulty
- Friday 31st March: St Mary's Upton Scudamore, In aid of Dorothy House hospice care

STUDY GROUP Mondays in Lent, The Minster West End, 7p.m. **“GRAPPLING WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT”**

Each meeting will last 90 minutes and conclude with Compline The first part of each session will give an introduction to a particular aspect of the Old Testament and the second part is intended to raise question to challenge and encourage our thinking
Above events organised by the River Were Benefice of the Anglican church.

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**FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY**

Coming the day after Valentine's Day, the theme for the latest Family Activity Day had to be "Love is all Around". The day started in the church with a short time of stories and lively songs about the love of Jesus, before everyone moved into the Cameo room for a variety of crafts, including painting and colouring in various forms, making felt hearts, icing cakes and biscuits and threading beads. While the crafts materials were cleared away and lunch laid out, there was an energetic game in the church that involved a lot of soft balls and much laughter! Before lunch they again sung about God's Love and thanked God for all he gives us. The morning finished with everyone sharing lunch.

28 children attended the day, ranging in ages from 2 weeks to 13 years. The children were accompanied by a parent or grandparent and all seemed to have a great time. Most of the families live in Warminster.

The church aims to hold one of these Family Activity Days in each half term holiday and during the summer break. Anyone who would like to get involved, with ideas, preparation or help on the day, please have a chat with Karen or Joan. Ideas for activities for the older boys would be especially welcome.

*There are photos in the foyer (the church printer is not up to coping with too many photos in the newsletter!)*

**Current Church Council members:**

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

Newsletter editor: Joan Jones. Next issue due out end of May



## MESSAGE FROM PASTORAL LEADER

We warmly welcome Linda Gibbs and Sarah Weston into our Church family. Linda will be welcomed into membership by transfer from her previous Church at the next service of Holy Communion.

Jenny Sanderson is now settled at Henford House. She now has a phone in her room and has retained her telephone number.

It's been great to have children and young people at our recent Sunday morning services along with their parents. Thanks to Karen and Joan for taking charge of them and also for organising and running the successful Activity days.

*Revd Heather*

### Goodbye to old friends

We have had to say goodbye to four of the older members of our congregation in the past two months, as they have moved on to be with our Lord in Heaven.

Denis Trevethick and Bidy Shephard both died in early December. They had both been attending our church for several years until recent illness prevented them. They also both enjoyed the Friday Fellowship Lunches. Denis and Sylvia were a devoted couple whose love shone from them. Our thoughts and prayer are with Sylvia now as she learns to live without Denis. We will all miss his gentle smile.

Bidy had lived in and around Warminster for most of her life and was known by many people. Her large family are still mostly in the area. In recent years Bidy was well known for dashing around the town on her mobility scooter, and for her pink hair!

Denis spent the last few weeks of his life in Salisbury Hospital and Bidy in Henford House where they were well cared for.

Barbara Giessler passed away in January and Betty Fielding on 6<sup>th</sup> February, her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Mary writes about them below:

"I was sad to learn of Barbara Giessler's death. I visited both her and Hans for a number of years. We had several things in common, both having taught at local Primary schools and both of us being Cornish-born. She and Hans were bell-ringers at the Minster Church as well as attending the United Church.

I also knew Betty Fielding well. She was a member of this church when we moved to Warminster many years ago and her daughters Carol and Tina attended the same school as our two daughters. Betty was a regular member of the Tuesday afternoon Fellowship and also the Wednesday Ladies Evening Fellowship".

They will all be sadly missed, although unable to attend worship here more recently.

Most things in the report on the last Vision Day are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, but one point not mentioned is:

"There are no prospects of a full-time Minister in the near future. Rev's Susan and Heather are retired people who are being over-worked. The URC and Methodist leadership are looking to equip ordinary Christians to work practically in the Church"

All of which means we all need to think about the part we play in the life of our Church. Could we do more? Karen is a Worship leader, Joseva is training as a Lay preacher.... Are there others amongst us who feel a calling to something like this?

Or maybe admin is more your thing... There are lots of jobs always needing doing which are done by busy people! Could you help? Would you like to be on the Church Council and help shape decisions more? Think and pray about it! Speak to someone on the church council ( see list opposite)

## CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

We hope to be able to send Christmas shoe boxes to the appeal again this year. Every year, the teams of Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion from Bulgaria and the UK organize this campaign and give out thousands of Christmas boxes to underprivileged children, families and groups. Some of them live in terrible poverty and their budget will not allow anything special for the holidays. Others have no family or friends to share the holiday with.

The Christmas boxes go to children aged 0-18 in residential units; children deprived of parental care; women and children who are victims of abuse; women rescued from trafficking; single parents; families in crisis; families of prisoners; old people in specialised homes; lonely elderly and others.

The presents bring joy to people in difficult situations and make them feel special and loved. For some of the people a Christmas box is the only present they will get this year. The presents give the opportunity to reach people in difficult situations and to build relationships of trust in order to help them long-term.

In previous years Brenda Goodwin has done the lion's share of the work in organising the shoe boxes we have sent. Although Brenda wants to still be involved, she needs more help and support from others within our church.

We will start putting the box out to collect items to go in the boxes after Easter. Please start to bring items along weekly.

Items required:

- **Clothing:** Hats, gloves, scarves, knickers/pants, socks, babygros
- **Stationery:** Pens, felt tips, pencils, crayons, notebooks, colouring books, pencil sharpeners, erasers
- **Toiletries:** soap, flannel, toothpaste, toothbrush, combs, roll on deodorant, small shampoos, tissues
- **Toys:** (all small to fit in shoebox), cars, dolls, balls, skipping ropes, jigsaws, puppets etc – nothing military and nothing with words.
- **Other:** hair slides, scrunchies, Alice bands etc, children's jewellery.
- **Baby items:** rattles, dishes, spoons, dummies, soft toys, cardigans/jumpers,
- **Sweets:** please bring later in the year.

Empty shoe boxes and spare Christmas wrapping paper also needed.

PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE THIS VALUABLE WORK

### Action for Children Collection Boxes

There are still a number of people with Action for Children collection boxes, which they use to put any loose change in and then donate to the charity. (Years ago, these were known as National Children's Home, "League of Light" boxes). This is still a valuable source of income to the charity. These boxes are brought along to the church once or twice a year to be emptied. For some years Barry Treadwell has been in charge of emptying the boxes and sending the money to Action for Children. He would now like to hand this job to someone else. So, **Volunteer needed please!**