

WARMINSTER UNITEDCHURCH

(Methodist/URC)

George Street, Warminster BA12 8QA

Summer 2023

June, July and August



Ministers: Rev Susan Holden (Methodist)

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Dear Friends,

I have written a diary on and off since I was fourteen years old. I still have my first attempt, in the loft, written in a scrap book. You can imagine the thoughts of a fourteen-year-old girl living in the early 70's. My main concern seemed to be piano lessons and who was on Top of The Pops. I always imagined that my diaries would be interesting to someone one day, useful even if they were preserved for future generations. Not so, for when I open one of the many that followed (all stored in the loft) I find they are really quite boring. When I look for a time when something important was happening, I find the pages blank! That's very frustrating.

In 2000 I was at Ammerdown for my 'Five Years in Ministry' course/retreat. We were introduced to the idea of spiritual journalling by one of the Sisters. I was so excited by this – new to me – idea that I immediately bought a notebook and wrote down on the front page the questions to think about when writing a spiritual journal. I still have it by me as I write this. A spiritual journal is not a diary, recording events. It is a collection of thoughts looking at the day through the eyes of a Christian. The questions to help are,

How open or aware was I to the presence of God in my day? In what way?

What kind of nourishment did I receive or give?

Does anything need to be emptied out to God for me to be at peace tonight?

For what or who do I thank God as I prepare to sleep?

As I followed this over the coming months, I found I got into a habit of answering these questions *during* the day. It was hard work at first, but it got easier as it became a habit. This way of looking at the day enabled me to be more God-centred in the ordinary every-day events. Suddenly, finding this journal now, many years after the last entry, I find it moving, at times troubling – have I grown up? - and it provokes further thought about my ongoing life as a Christian.

I was interested therefore when Joe and I were studying the module in the Local Preacher's course about prayer and it mentioned spiritual journalling with a similar set of questions. I think nowadays we might call it Christian mindfulness or perhaps just sensible positive thinking (always a help when life is rough). I was glad that it hasn't disappeared over the years. As I was talking to a friend about it, she commented that it would be good to try when on holiday. Rather than the holiday diary (or in addition to) a holiday spiritual journal would be an easy way to start. There would be so many beautiful places to thank God for, new people with their stories to pray about and just having the time to reflect on those questions.

While I was thinking about diaries, I remembered a funny book that was very popular in the late 80's, 'The Sacred Diary of Adrian Plass, aged 37 $\frac{3}{4}$.' Do you remember that one? There were many entries that made me chuckle but the one I will always remember is the account of a Bible study group that Adrian and his wife led. One young adult, young in age and faith, announced that God had told him he was to be a missionary to Brazil.

'Gosh', said Adrian's wife, 'Why Brazil?'

'It was so clear, 'he replied.' I was praying about what God was calling me to do and I ate a Topic bar. And there it was, a Brazil nut, staring at me after my first bite. I knew I have to go to Brazil.'

'Well, thank goodness you weren't eating a Mars bar!' she replied.

Give spiritual journalling a go this summer?

Yours in Christ, *Susan*

Sunday services 10.30 a.m.

JUNE

- 4th : Karen Woollard
11th : Revd Tracey Lewis HOLY COMMUNION
18th : Revd Susan Holden
25th : Revd Susan Holden

JULY

- 2nd : Shirley Cairns
9th : Revd Susan Holden
16th : Karen Woollard
23rd : Revd Graham Warmington HOLY COMMUNION
30th : SECTOR SERVICE AT WESTBURY METHODIST

AUGUST

- 6th : Eric Clifford
13th : Revd Susan Holden
20th : Margaret White
27th : Karen Woollard

Calne Methodist Church zoom their services. All are welcome. Please use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3854225136> Meeting ID: 385 422 5136

On June 25th Revd David Coppard will be taking the service at Westbury Methodist church. Visitors welcome.

Message from Rev Heather Morgan

As many of you know already, I am taking an enforced Sabbatical because of health issues. I am taking it easy, enjoying the sunshine and trying not to get stressed. The sale of my bungalow seems to be going through, but selling and moving house is one of the most stressful things in life, and I can totally agree with that! I now need somewhere to move to.....

I am waiting for an appointment at Salisbury District Hospital for tests and until I get the all clear, I'm not allowed to drive my car anymore. I'm very grateful to those who have recently either offered or given me lifts into Warminster.

I'm always pleased to have visitors, so do get in touch. I've had many lunches and short walks at Langford Lakes this year when friends have visited. It's a lovely spot.

Enjoy the Summer whether you spend it at home or away.

Love,

Heather

ROTAS

	DOOR	VESTRY	COFFEE	FLOWERS
June 4 th	Margaret S	Joan J	Anita	Margaret S
11 th	Penelope	Marion H	Joan and Evan	Hilda
18 th	Diana	Marion B	Polly	Hilda
25 th	Andy		Linda Gibbs	Helen R
July 2 nd	Evan	Joan J	Joan S	Erica
9 th	Jan Cobb	Erica	Hilda	Kate Skillman
16 th	Evan	Joan J	Sarah Weston	Polly
23 rd	Diana	Marion H	Polly	Jan Cobb
30 th	SECTOR	WESTBURY	MEHODIST	
August 6 th	Andy	Marion B	Anita	Sandra
13 th	Sarah	Polly	Evan	Helen D
20 th	Linda Gibbs	Joan J	Linda Gibbs	Joan S
27 th	Diana	Erica	Joan S	Joan J
September 3 rd	Evan	Joan J	Polly	
10 th	Penelope	Marion H	Sarah	
17 th	Diana	Marion B	Hilda	
24 th	Andy	Polly	Anita	
October 1 st	Jan Cobb	Joan J	Evan	
8 th	Evan	Erica	Linda G	
15 th	Diana	Marion H	Joan S	
22 nd	Sarah	Marion B	Polly	
29 th SECTOR SERVICE HERE	Andy	Joan J	Anita	

Flower distribution: JUNE: 4th: Brenda, 11th: Hilda 18th: Joan S ,23rd:
Joan J

JULY 2nd Brenda, 9th Hilda, 16th Joan S, 23rd Joan J.

AUGUST 6th Hilda, 13th Joan S, 20th Joan J, 27th Brenda

Church flowers are given to people who are ill or unable to attend church. If you are willing to take them occasionally, please see Hilda. Also, if you know of anyone who it would be good to take flowers to.

Revd. Mary Teed started sending out Thoughts for the day during Lockdown. She is now resuming this and if you would like to receive these direct to your inbox, please email her on m.rev.teed@btinternet.com

Resumed Thoughts 1

18th May 2023

*A good friend is the antidote to despair, the elixir of hope,
the tonic for depression and keeps alive your faith in human nature (Anon)*

It has been so long since I have been able to sit down and write a Thought for the Day. I have decided to start a fresh batch as 'Resumed Thought'. Life can take us unawares without warning. The last six months have been such a time. Everything has been turned around and looking back I can scarcely recall what my daily life was. Many of you will be aware that Christopher has been (and still is) very ill. From day to day, after the first shock, life seems to have been a roller coaster or even a helter-skelter. It has been a frightening time in many ways and during this period I have discovered aspects of myself which are unwelcome. Throughout this time, I could not have existed without the support and understanding compassion of so many people. Friendship has taken on a new meaning which has been expressed in so many different ways. If I were to try to list all the people who have been there in the background, the list would be endless. It reminds me of Paul's long list in his letter to the Romans. As he names each person he wants to send greetings to, he also writes why they are important to him, as for example "**Rufus chosen by the Lord and his mother, who has been a mother to me too.**" It made me think of the credits they used to show at the close of a film. Not only the famous names of the actors are listed, but also each person who has played some part in the making of the film. So, directors, technicians, artists, camera-crew, musicians – even the person doing the make-up are all listed. Sadly, when watching films on television they often cut the viewing short before you can see the list – or else it is so small you can't read it.

Paul may be the name you know, the person in the headlines as it were, but behind the scenes are all the backroom staff that he has listed. Without their tireless involvement, he could not have achieved all that he did.

So, it has been with myself. Without the prayerful support and encouragement, I could not have been able to function in any meaningful way. Not only has there been comforting telephone calls late at night, but also many practical deeds, small and almost unnoticeable at times, overwhelming at others. There are so many things to give thanks for. As I wept, someone has wept with me. When there has been cause for rejoicing, someone has shared my joy. I hope I shall always be able to remember these many kindnesses during a difficult time.

It is very easy to become so wrapped up in oneself that we forget all we owe to others; the support, love, encouragement, and inspiration we receive from so many. Of course, when you are hit by adversity out of the blue, we do acknowledge those who rally behind us. But I am conscious that it is not only in the bad times, but constantly day by day that I am enfolded in prayer and sustained by the faith of others when my own falters. As you settle down to sleep just review your life and give thanks for all those who support and sustain you (often without you noticing.) You may be surprised at how many people you can name.

There can be no excuse for becoming self-centered. Just as others have given so much for me, I need to play my part in turn, contributing to the lives of others with equal commitment and dedication. A word of appreciation or a simple Thank you at the right moment may be just what is needed. Serving without expecting thanks also brings its own rewards. Thanks be to God. My grateful thanks, love and prayers go to you all.

Mary Teed

AN UPDATE FROM THE RE-FURB GROUP

We have been gathering information from various sources in Warminster to help us see what our church can offer in the way of service to the local community. To date we have collected information on Town Council proposals for future housing developments, a community survey which showed that Warminster is a town that has a dominantly ageing population. and we also looked at what Warminster currently has to offer for families with young children as well as the older generations.

Other churches in the town have been asked if they would provide us with details of their congregation size and age range, as well as what activities they offer not just to their members but to the community as a whole. Although we have had some responses, others are still awaited.

Sunday 14th May, a Questionnaire was circulated round the congregation asking how people saw our church, what do we do well and any ideas of what more we could do to make our church better. We have also asked a few people who meet in our church but are not members of our congregation, if they too would let us have their comments, and these are still awaited. The first 20 responses show that we are a friendly, welcoming and caring church, we are good at supporting charities especially with our coffee mornings. There were also one or two fresh ideas about what we might be able to offer – open for discussion.

Polly Bodsworth

Whilst not losing sight of the exciting ideas that have been suggested for improvement to our building it was agreed that the most pressing need at the moment is to replace the boiler which failed several times last winter. A cold building, as well as being uncomfortable for us all, made it impossible for us to offer “a warm place” to people who would have needed it, or provide a meeting place for local organisations. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation we are well on our way to a new boiler. Thank you to all who returned the colourful gift day envelopes on Pentecost Sunday. There are still envelopes available at the back of the church if anyone else wishes to contribute.

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	Helen Richards
July 8 th	Dorothy House	Marion Hornby
August 12 th	McMillan Cancer	Anita
September 9 th	Action for Children	
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

Help is needed to run the **September** coffee morning for **Action for Children** please tell Joan Jones if you could do this.

A list with next year's dates will be available soon, if you would like to run a morning for your chosen charity then please fill in a date, if you have never done this before then be brave... others will be willing to help!

Our church is well known for its charity coffee mornings and they are much appreciated as a social gathering place for local people as well as by the charities who benefit.

We can only keep these going monthly with more people willing to help!

Thanks Joan Jones

BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

Every Wednesday a group of us meet together for 40 minutes on Zoom. I send out the link each week, or Diana sends a link if I am away. We have been reading through various books in the bible taking it in turns to read and stopping now and then to talk about what we have read. At the moment we are reading Genesis, learning about Adam and Noah and then about Abram and Sarai and how their names were changed to Abraham and Sarah. Please let me know if you would like to have the link to join us and I will include you in this email group. It would be lovely to welcome you if you feel you could spare 40 minutes a week to join us.

Marion Hornby

WARMINSTER COMMUNITY RADIO

Each week, as part of John Alpin's Sunday morning show on the Warminster Community Radio, there is a 15-20 minute service. This is recorded in advance by some of the churches in the town. When David Coppard our previous minister left there was a slot which needed to be filled every 6 weeks. Paula offered to record the first service and Mary and I recorded the next one. This has continued ever since with our turns coming round every 12 weeks. It would be really good if someone else could join this team - I am happy to help you with recording if that is a problem for you. Come and talk to me to find out what is involved.

Marion Hornby

CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

We send greetings and love to all our church family and friends who are not able to be with us very often because of health problems. You are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Joe, Mariama, Eroni and Kiefer have now left their army accommodation and have moved to Melksham. Joe will continue to train as a local preacher and we will see him soon. Chrissy Walton has moved to the Westbury care home. We wish them all well in their new homes

We received a message recently from Nicola Blackwell to tell us that her father, Jim Blackwell died recently. Some of us will remember Jim who, with his wife Molly (who died in 2019), attended our church from 1999 to 2010. Jim was a good artist and used to draw and design all our posters. Nicola said that her parents very much enjoyed their time in Warminster and appreciated the warm welcome from our church community.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

We have been filling shoeboxes with Christmas gifts for needy children for many years, but maybe some of our newer members don't know how it works! The charity, we support, which works in South East Europe, started off as part of Trussell trust then broke away as an independent charity called Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion, rather a mouthful! They now call themselves "House of Opportunity" because, as well as providing gifts to children and families through the Shoebox appeal, they run houses for vulnerable young people to give them the opportunity for a better life.

The Christmas Boxes are given to abandoned children living in state care, poor rural schools and kindergartens, women's refuges, prisoner's children, isolated elderly people, refugees and Roma children living in difficult conditions.

We collect items to go in our boxes all year. We have already received some items and now need to build that up. From June there will be a box in the foyer for donations. Items needed include: children's underwear and socks, pens, pencils, notepads, colouring pens/pencils, soap, flannels, toothpaste and brushes, hair accessories, small toys, babies' items, small wrapped sweets, roll on deodorant, shampoo. We have a fairly good quantity of hats, gloves and scarfs. We mainly pack for children but if we have items for adults, we do a few for men and women. *Joan Jones*