

Church Diary for December and January

Vision4Life Larks bible study
Tuesday 2nd 10:15am

Elders Meeting
Thursday 4th 1.30pm

Christmas lights service at Town Hall
Friday 5th 6pm

Father Christmas at the Hive
Thursday 11th 10:00am

Friday 12th December
Music Group in Church 7pm
Badminton in the Church Hall 7.45pm

Vision4Life Owls Discussion Group
Tuesday 16th 7:30pm

Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December 6pm

Vision4Life Larks bible study
Tuesday 6th January 10:15am

Friday 9th January
Music Group in Church 7pm
Badminton in the Church Hall 7.45pm

Curry night at the Ganges
Monday 12th January 6pm Names to Joy please

Church Meeting
Thursday 15th January 7.30pm

Vision4Life Owls Discussion Group
Tuesday 20th January 7.30pm

Coffee morning and sales table
Saturday 24th 10am-12



Hive Coffee Club for parents, carers, and babies and toddlers, meets
Thursday mornings, 9:30 till 12.



Royal Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church December 2014 and January 2015 Newsletter



Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

7 th December	Revd Tom MacMeekin including Holy Communion
14 th	Revd Sarah Simpson
21 st	Julian Priddle
28 th	Revd Sarah Simpson
4 th January	Revd Tom MacMeekin including Holy Communion
11 th	Bernard Crabb
18 th	Revd Adrian Heath
25 th	Madge Sutton

Christmas Eve

A warm welcome to all to
Carols by Candlelight 6pm
followed by mincepies and
tea or coffee

Christmas Day

Morning Service 10am
We are invited to join the
Methodist Church
for Worship

A Prayer for Advent

On tiptoe, eager,
we clear away the clutter.
We make space in our lives for God.
We sweep away the rubbish,
cut loose the clinging sin,
prepare the way.
We build a highway in our world for
God.

Advent Lord,
come to us on the highway of hope.
Lead us in your way;
baptise us in your Spirit;
that our lives and our lips may cry,
"Holy!"
And your glory be revealed for
all. all, to see.

So what do we see through the little
window today..
Another chocolate?
A whole new world?
Glory?

Elizabeth Caswell
Advent 2, URC Prayer handbook 2014

Christmas cards

At the last Church meeting we decided that we would all sign a big Christmas card and not expect individual cards to each other. We can choose to make a donation to charity instead of buying cards.

Carol Service Charity

Also at the Church meeting it was decided to donate the collection at the Carol Service to Swindon Women's Aid.

Donations to charities

£36 was raised at the quiz for Christian Aid.

£70 was sent to the DEC Ebola appeal

Sunday 18th January items for next newsletter to Jenny, please

Happy Birthday in December to Ron Wills, Daniel Crocker, Charles Burgin, Isobel Fairgrieve, Amy Crocker and Cameron Bell and in January to Sarah Simpson, Eileen Henly, Margaret Wills and Andrew Crown

Rotas for December and January

	Church Flowers	Welcome	Vestry	Readings	Junior Church	Crèche	Tea
7 th	Elizabeth	Bob	Tom	Jack, Sheila	Jenny	Isobel	Andrew & Fiona
14 th	Eileen	Jack	Fiona	Brian, Fiona	Jenny	Nicky	Eileen & Brian
21 st	Isobel	Elizabeth	Bob	Nicky, Tom	Jenny	Eileen	Margaret & Ron
28 th	Jenny	Sheila	Elizabeth	Margaret, Ron	Young people stay in church		Jack & Isobel
4 th	Angela	Richard	Jenny	Elizabeth, Andrew	Jenny	Fiona	Eileen & Joy
11 th	Doreen	Eileen	Tom	Jack, Sheila	Jenny	Elizabeth	Fiona & Brian
18 th	Margaret	Bob	Fiona	Brian, Fiona	Jenny	Isobel	Margaret & Ron
25 th	Barbara	Jack	Elizabeth	Nicky, Tom	Jenny	Eileen	Jack & Isobel

Contact details

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Web-site wburc.org.uk

Find our group on **Facebook**, it is called Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church

Murmurings from the Manse

It is Friday, the 21st of November and as I write there is a beautiful rose blooming in my garden. I had to look twice before it registered, because it is so unexpected but at the same time, it is such a gift and despite the cold and the rain it has opened and it is providing a perfect touch of colour.

What a blessing, what a gift.

By the time you receive the newsletter we will nearly be in December and looking forward to Christmas, we will also be engaged in what could be described as the struggle to keep Christ in Christmas, something that can be quite challenging as we try to tell the Christmas Story.

I was told the Christmas story a few weeks ago by Evie Mae Lewis. Evie is 2 ½, she is the daughter of a cousin of mine and thanks to her Church going Gran (who was determined that she should know the true meaning of the story as soon as she could take it in), was able to tell me that Jesus was born in a stable, she told me about the angels who had wings, and the shepherds and the star and kings who visited the baby. She told the story with the simplicity of a child and it was something special to hear, it made my Christmas and even writing this I have a smile on my face.

Like the rose in my garden the birth of our Lord and Saviour was a gift from God, but a gift like no other, a gift for the world, even though the world had not asked for it and often does not deserve it and the birth was also a blessing, a blessing to a people who had hoped and prayed and asked God to do something to help change their lives.

Amidst the turkey and tinsel, the family get togethers and the squabbles, is the reality of Christmas, not the carefully staged Nativity tableau, but a story of homelessness and rejection, of public scandal and not a little pain. And over and above it all is this amazing plan that God had to save the world by the gift to the world of His only Son. It is the most tremendous story of all, and it is ours not just to tell, but to live. So let us celebrate God's amazing gift as we look forward once again to the birth of our Lord and Saviour, born as a baby in a manger, let us sing our carols and give thanks, let us celebrate and enjoy this time; and in our celebrations let us remember and pray for those for whom this is a difficult time.

I wish you a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year,
Sarah