



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



## Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> December | Revd Tom MacMeekin<br>including Holy Communion |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>         | Revd Sarah Simpson                             |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>         | Julian Priddle                                 |
| 28 <sup>th</sup>         | Revd Sarah Simpson                             |
|                          |  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> January  | Revd Tom MacMeekin<br>including Holy Communion |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>         | Bernard Crabb                                  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>         | Revd Adrian Heath                              |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>         | 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup>  | Elizabeth      | Bob       | Tom       | Jack, Sheila      | Jenny                       | Isobel    | Andrew & Fiona |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Eileen         | Jack      | Fiona     | Brian, Fiona      | Jenny                       | Nicky     | Eileen & Brian |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Isobel         | Elizabeth | Bob       | Nicky, Tom        | Jenny                       | Eileen    | Margaret & Ron |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Jenny          | Sheila    | Elizabeth | Margaret, Ron     | Young people stay in church |           | Jack & Isobel  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Angela         | Richard   | Jenny     | Elizabeth, Andrew | Jenny                       | Fiona     | Eileen & Joy   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Doreen         | Eileen    | Tom       | Jack, Sheila      | Jenny                       | Elizabeth | Fiona & Brian  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Margaret       | Bob       | Fiona     | Brian, Fiona      | Jenny                       | Isobel    | Margaret & Ron |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Barbara        | Jack      | Elizabeth | Nicky, Tom        | Jenny                       | Eileen    | Jack & Isobel  |

## Contact details

### Minister

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### Church Secretary and Serving Elder

Mrs E. Shaw  
01793 855676

### Serving Elder, Newsletter editor

Jenny Stratton  
01793 850310

### Serving Elder and Hall Bookings

Sheila Jacob  
07881 206656

### Church Treasurer

Charles Burgin  
01793 850731

### Pastoral Visitor and Serving Elder

Mrs E. Henly  
01793 848712

### Serving Elder, Preacher Booking

Fiona Butler  
01793 849075

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

# Church Diary for December and January

Vision4Life Larks bible study  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:15am

Elders Meeting  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm

Christmas lights service at Town Hall  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 6pm

Father Christmas at the Hive  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00am

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Music Group in Church 7pm  
Badminton in the Church Hall 7.45pm

Vision4Life Owls Discussion Group  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

## **Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 6pm

Vision4Life Larks bible study  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 10:15am

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January  
Music Group in Church 7pm  
Badminton in the Church Hall 7.45pm

Curry night at the Ganges  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 6pm Names to Joy please

Church Meeting  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm

Vision4Life Owls Discussion Group  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm

Coffee morning and sales table  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 10am-12



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