



## Royal Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church August 2016 Newsletter



### Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

7 <sup>th</sup>	Bernard Crabb including Holy Communion
14 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Osman
21 <sup>st</sup>	Revd Alyn Owens
28 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Andrew Francis



Our house to house and church collecting for Christian Aid week raised £422.90. The combined total for Wootton Bassett was £1936.75. Thank you to all that contributed in any way.

### A good question: Scrap the Church?

Revd Sarah Simpson led our Owls discussion group this month around this '1 question, 4 answers' topic in the Reform magazine.

Is the Church what Jesus had in mind when he talked of the kingdom of God? Does it do the work of God, or get in the way? Four events run by the United Reformed Church at this summer's Greenbelt festival will explore the same question.

You can read the whole article on the Reform Magazine's website.

## From URC General Assembly 2016

### The URC inducts two new moderators

On the opening day of its General Assembly, 8 July 2016, the United Reformed Church inducted two new moderators – the Revd Kevin Watson and Mr Alan Yates. Moderators of General Assembly are the URC's national figureheads, representing the denomination both at home and abroad.



Mr Watson and Mr Yates will serve as moderators for two years, continuing the URC's leadership tradition of ordained and lay ministers serving together. The duo succeeds the Revd David Grosch-Miller and Mr John Ellis, who were thanked for their hard work during the induction service.

### The URC empowers its local churches to conduct marriages of same-sex couples

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church (URC) on 9 July voted in favour of allowing its local churches to conduct and register marriages for same-sex couples. This means that the URC is now the largest UK denomination to freely permit the celebration and registration of marriages of same-sex couple in its churches.

Assembly voted in favour of the resolution by 240 votes to 21 votes. United Reformed churches in England and Wales wishing to register their buildings for the marriage of same-sex couples are now able to start that process immediately.

---

### Rotas for August

	<b>Church Flowers</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Tea</b>
7 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth	Eileen	Bob	Ron, Margaret	Jack, Isobel
14 <sup>th</sup>	Eileen	Elizabeth	Andrew	Joy, Andrew	Joy, Jenny
21 <sup>st</sup>	Isobel	Richard	Fiona	Fiona, Jack	Ron, Margaret
28 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny	Jack	Jack	Jenny, Richard	Andrew, Fiona

## Murmurings from the Manse

One Synod suggests Ministers clear their desks the week before their Sabbatical, thinking that a clear desk equals a mind freed from everything other than the approaching study leave. Well, that's one idea, but you know me enough by now not to believe that is, shall we say, rather unlikely.

Whilst I am looking forward to this time, I am also worried - it seems like an enforced break from you all and at a fairly crucial time as well, I know you will work together and can manage perfectly well without me, but still, it isn't ideal and I appreciate that.

Three months will fly by, if the speed at which this year has progressed is any indication, hopefully a good summer, then looking ahead to Harvest and beyond, time for plans to be put into action, time to rise to the challenge Synod has set and to which we are responding wonderfully, and I am so proud of you all for doing so.

So over the coming months look after each other, look out for each other and in no time at all, I'll be back with you. Please remember David and I in your prayers, as you will be in ours.

Every blessing  
Sarah

---

## For your September diary

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

### **Ride & Stride**

Sponsored cycle or walk joining up participating churches - money split between Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and home church.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 10:00am -6pm All round Wiltshire

More info and sponsorship form from Elizabeth.

And volunteers to man our door and book in riders, names to Elizabeth.

### **Coffee Morning for MARIE CURIE NURSES**

(Providing care at home for terminally ill people)

At The Croft (next to St. Bartholomew's Church) 10am – 1pm

If you would like to help on the day or donate cakes, biscuits, books, soft toys or raffle prizes. Please contact Alison Meek 01793 851516

## Church Diary for August

### Larks Bible Study

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.15am

### ELEVEN-SEY's at Jack and Isobel's

Jack & Isobel invite us to their home and garden, Vines House, Grittenham, SN15 4JT

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 11:00am

### Owls Discussion Evening

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Items for next newsletter to Jenny please

### Elders Meeting

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 7pm

### Church Walk at Jubilee Lake

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Meet 10.00am in the car park

### Badminton in the hall

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> evening



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

---

## Contact details

### Minister

Revd Sarah Simpson 32 Niebull Close Reeds Farm Malmesbury SN16 9TX Tel: 01666 826866

### Church Secretary and Serving Elder

Mrs E. Shaw 01793 855676

### Serving Elder, Preacher Booking, Foodbank Voucher Issue

Fiona Butler 01793 849075

### Church Treasurer and Serving Elder

Richard Jacob 01793 852689

### Hall Booking

Richard Jacob 01793 852689

### Pastoral Visitor and Serving Elder

Mrs E. Henly 01793 848712

### Serving Elder

Andrew Crown 01793 330502

**Web-site** [wburc.org.uk](http://wburc.org.uk)  
And Find us on Facebook

**Web-site and newsletter editor and Serving Elder**  
Jenny Stratton 01793 850310