



# Royal Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church February 2017 Newsletter



## Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

5 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Tom McMeekin including Holy Communion
12 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Sarah Simpson
19 <sup>th</sup>	Bernard Crabb
26 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Osman



Many members of the Church warmed up a cold January evening with a hot curry at the Ganges restaurant in Royal Wootton Bassett.

Following up on our contact with the Harbour Project, Eileen and Jenny went to a Swindon City of Sanctuary event at St Luke's hall celebrating different cultures. They enjoyed a meal and music provided by visitors at the Harbour Project.



## Elizabeth retires as Church Secretary

On January 8<sup>th</sup> a presentation was made to Elizabeth Shaw in thanks and recognition of her services since 1999 as Church Secretary.



She was given a copy of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack and a cheque.

Elizabeth will continue as a serving Elder. At the church meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> Joy Mattis was elected as the new Church Secretary. She will be ordained as an Elder on February 12<sup>th</sup> and will take up the post of Secretary in April.

Some of the tasks that Elizabeth carried out will be shared amongst the elders, and there will be a rota for giving the church notices and for preparing for Communion.

At the church meeting a programme of events through the year was planned. See the Whats On page on our web-site for details.

**Happy Birthday** this month to  
Barbara Burgin and Doreen James

### Rotas for February

	Church Flowers	Welcome	Vestry	Notices	Readings	Communion	Tea
5 <sup>th</sup>	Isobel	Eileen	Jenny	Jenny	Ron, Margaret	Fiona, Richard	Joy, Fiona
12 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny	Joy	Andrew	Jenny	Jenny, Jack		Jack, Isobel
19 <sup>th</sup>	Angela	Elizabeth	Jack	Jenny	Richard, Fiona		Eileen, Elizabeth
26 <sup>th</sup>	Doreen	Richard	Fiona	Jenny	Joy, Nicky		Jenny, Andrew

## **Murmurings from the Manse**

Reconciliation was the theme of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, it had plenty within it to encourage thought and debate, so much so that I am still thinking about it!

Reconciliation is one of those words which has many levels of understanding, the idea of reconciliation is even broader, but my thoughts, in the light of the event which took place in the middle of the week in America, turn to internal reconciliation within countries.

How can countries so definitely split come back together, be it over President Trump or Brexit or any other differences, and yet it can be done.

Remember the Truth and Reconciliation committee in South Africa, under the leadership of Desmond Tutu ... the work they did, the words spoken in pain and sorrow, the tears and the apologies: remember the split caused by apartheid, so definite but not final, the work was harrowing for all involved but because the desire to be united was stronger than what kept the nation apart, there was success.

What do we need to be reconciled to, in our personal lives or in our communities, or politically? What keeps us from enjoying right relationships?

Whatever keeps us from another also keeps us from God, until we are reconciled to another, our relationship with God will not be all we know it can be.

Think about reconciliation.

Yours in Christ

**Sarah**

# Church Diary for February

## Larks Bible Study

Tuesday 7th 10.30am

## Elders Meeting

Thursday 9th 7pm

## Owls Discussion Group

Thursday 16th 7.30pm

## Badminton in the hall

Friday 24th evening

## March

### Lent discussion groups with Malmesbury URC

At Wootton Bassett URC Thursday evenings 7pm

Grace through the eyes of .....

9th March .. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

16th March .. Martin Luther King

23rd March .. Archbishop Oscar Romero

30th March Summation

The same subjects will be discussed each week at a session in Malmesbury, dates to be announced.



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

## Contact details

### Minister

Rev'd Sarah Simpson 32 Niebull Close Reeds Farm Malmesbury SN16 9TX Tel: 01666 826866

### 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

### Serving Elder

Andrew Crown 01793 330502

### Pastoral Visitor and Serving Elder

Mrs E. Henly 01793 848712

**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

### Hall Booking

Richard Jacob 01793 852689