

**Royal Wootton Bassett
United Reformed Church
July 2017
Newsletter**



Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

2 nd	Revd Sarah Simpson including Holy Communion
9 th	Revd Andrew Francis
16 th	Bryan Elkington
23 rd	Bernard Crabb
30 th	Terry Riches

A prayer to connect with the lectionary reading for 16th July,
Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23, the parable of the sower

Listening

'If you have ears to hear, then hear'
We do have ears, but some of us are deaf, God
The loud background noise stops us hearing you,
or the voices of those in need around us.

Some of us have 'selective hearing', God
Hearing our own name activates it,
but the names and concerns of others get filtered out.

Some of us choose not to listen, God.
Our ears are blocked to new challenges
or ideas which involve change.

'If you have ears to hear, then hear'
Help us to listen more carefully, God,
So that we hear what you are saying to us
And then act on what we hear.

By Julie Martin, a retired URC minister, From the 2017 Prayer Handbook



Christian Aid Week 2017

Our house to house collections this year raised £255.08 and £61.09 donated in church.

The coffee morning at Church Croft raised £93.80

The RWB overall total £1987.04 is a few pound more than last year.

Roger Moss says it is a pleasing result to aid refugees, and thanks to all.

In July's edition of the URC Reform magazine

“Are all welcome?” Four answers to the question which is the theme of the URC’s involvement in the Greenbelt festival this year.

End of term

We send best wishes to all the children and young people coming to the end of their school years, whether graduating from playgroup or finishing GCSEs.

For your August diary

Curry meal

Monday 21st August 6pm Ganges

Happy Birthday this month to Elizabeth Shaw

Rotas for July

	Church Flowers	Welcome	Vestry	Notices	Readings	Communion	Tea
2 nd	Isobel	Jack	Fiona	Richard	David, Nicky	Richard, Joy	Andrew, Fiona
9 th	Jenny	Joy	Bob	Richard	Fiona, Jack		Jack, Isobel
16 th	Angela	Richard	Jenny	Richard	Andrew, Richard		Jenny, Eileen
23 rd	Doreen	Eileen	Joy	Richard	Joy, Jack		Andrew, Fiona
30 th	Margaret	Jack	Fiona	Richard	Jenny, Nicky		Joy, Jenny

Murmurings from the Manse

A Monk and a Nun get married...

Not the beginnings of a joke but the start of a marriage which was in essence a blueprint for clergy marriage of its time.

The marriage of Martin and Katharina Luther in many ways defied the odds, and this coming October, when we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the beginnings of the Reformation I wonder how much will be made of this side of the man who changed the direction of faith in Europe and who is studied by theologians and historians alike.

Someone who worked for many years with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches has urged clergy to remember Katharina in any commemorations they might be holding, urging that whilst her influence on the Reformation isn't great, her influence and support of her husband was tremendous and the Reformation would possibly have been the poorer without her.

It is an interesting thought, not in that we can or should rewrite history but that does not mean we should not re-evaluate it in the light of new evidence or new ideas, and having studied Luther specifically as the architect of the Reformation, I think Luther as husband and father would offer a very different side to the man.

I also think ignoring those "behind-the-scenes" narrows our conversation and understanding, we focus so much on the face of or the main driver of a project or organization that we fail to adequately recognise the contribution made by the others.

We are more than one individual, more than one local church, more than a Synod, more than a Denomination, the Reformed Tradition is worldwide. I wonder if Martin Luther ever considered how great his vision would be? And I wonder if Katharina knew, but didn't tell, just supported, quietly.

Yours in Christ

Sarah

Church Diary for July

Church garden tidy

Saturday 1st 10am

Italian lunch at the Bella Vita

Sunday 2nd After church at 12.30pm

Community Barbeque

The Minister invites members of groups that meet in our church to join congregation members for a barbeque in the church garden.

Saturday 8th 4-6pm

Elders Meeting

Thursday 20th 7pm

URC Safeguarding Training

Saturday 22nd venue and time to be confirmed

Badminton in the hall

Friday 28th 7.45pm

Elevenes at Jack & Isobel's

Saturday 29th, Vines House Grittenham



Hive Toddler Group for parents, carers, and babies and toddlers, meets Thursday mornings, 9.30-11.30

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