



# Royal Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church April 2019 Newsletter



## Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

7 <sup>th</sup>	Julian Priddle
14 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Sarah Simpson Palm Sunday
21 <sup>st</sup>	Revd Andrew Francis Easter Sunday including Holy Communion
28 <sup>th</sup>	Church worship team

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.  
Please stay and enjoy this time of fellowship with us.

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## Easter Services

### Good Friday Morning Walk of Witness

10:00 am from Sacred Heart Church to the Town Hall, where there will be a short service, followed by hot cross buns

### Easter Sunday

Worship led by Revd Andrew Francis  
including Holy Communion

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Look out for the new pointer sign to the path to the church from the car park. The old one was faded and hidden by the trolley shelter. This one is next to the library. Thanks to Joy for organising.

Welcome to any visitors today,  
please make yourself known to any  
one of us.

## Choral Society Spring Concert

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm RWB Methodist Church  
Passion of our Lord According to St Luke

## The Crucifixion by J. Stainer

Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 7pm St Bartholomew's Church  
Sung by St Bartholomew's Choir and friends

## Easter Coffee Morning



Our Vibrato String Ensemble will be playing Easter music, and music from Cats, Brahms, Blues and Bach.



Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 10am-12pm.

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On Sat 11<sup>th</sup> May between 11am - 3pm we will be holding a May Festival at the church with all profits being split between Christian Aid and The Swindon Food Collective.

There will be a bring and buy plant sale. Lorna has arranged talks from local wildlife and planting societies. She has gathered donations of some interesting local produce/gifts for sale and raffle. Please let her know if you feel you could grow a plant or two for the sale or help on the day selling the cake or raffle tickets.

## Rotas for April

	Church Flowers	Welcome	Vestry	Notices	Readers	Communion	Tea
7 <sup>th</sup>	Angela	Lorna	Jenny	Andrew	Andrew, Richard		Jenny, Eileen
14 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret	Eileen	Jack	Andrew	Lorna, Fiona		Jack, Isobel
21 <sup>st</sup>	Eileen	Joy	Eileen	Andrew	Jack, Jenny	Eileen, Jack	Joy, Andrew
28 <sup>th</sup>	Isobel	Jack	Fiona	Andrew	Nicky, Lorna		Jenny, Eileen

## Murmurings from the Manse

Which Easter character intrigues you?

I ask that having just finished a service on Pilate which prompted some gospel searching as well as some re-adjusting of established opinions.

What I found was the different portrayals of Pilate in the gospels, what he said or didn't say, how the Pilate of John's gospel is different to that of Matthew.

I found I needed secondary sources to get a balanced view. I found that I was considering a man who has a pivotal role in the Easter story and is yet often portrayed as the arch villain.

Yet Pilate, for all his faults recognised in Jesus, a man very different from any he had met before. A man who stood in front of him, calmly, who engaged in conversation with him whilst under the threat of death. A man who, acclaimed as a leader, nonetheless refused to resort to violence or call up his followers in his name.

The Pilate of John's gospel is the only one who asks "What is truth?"  
What is his truth – what is ours?  
Who do we say Jesus is for us?

Shortly we will once more live through the events of Palm Sunday, the whole of Holy Week until we come to Easter Day itself when we proclaim 'Christ is risen' but who is the Risen Christ and how central is he, how central is his message in our lives?

This year, as we hear the familiar story, may I suggest we hear it as if for the first time, not second guessing what follows, shaking our heads at the actions of Judas or the denials of Peter, not condemning Pilate without a hearing whilst blessing those who stood at the foot of the cross with tears in their eyes, but rather understanding the context of what was happening at each stage so that on Easter Day, when we shout 'Christ is Risen' we deserve to do so and then we take the Risen Christ onto the streets to make him known again to those he gave his life for.

Christ is Risen, he is risen indeed!

**Sara**

## Church Diary for April

Thursday 11th 7.30pm

**Annual Church Meeting (note change of date)**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 10am Town Hall

**Palm Sunday - Blessing of the palms**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 10am

**Good Friday Walk of Witness**

**10am service at Sacred Heart - walking to the Town Hall**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 10am - 12

**Musical Coffee Morning**

## For Your May Diary

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 11am-3pm

**May Festival** in aid of Christian Aid and the Swindon Food Collective

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>

**Elders Meeting**

**Happy Birthday** this month to **Bob Adams, Joy Mattis**



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

## Contact details

### Minister

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### Church Secretary and Serving Elder

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### Serving Elder

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### Pastoral Visitor and Serving Elder

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### Serving Elder

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### Hall Booking Contacts

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