

Church Diary for October

Fri 4th 7pm

Quiz night at Bath Road Methodist Church - organised by Swindon Chaplaincy - with Martin Osman as quiz master. (Not at Emmanuel URC)

Tuesday 15th 7.30pm-10pm Steam Museum

“Free to be” is a Christian event for all women to come together.
Tickets £4-7 online.

Friday 25th 7.30pm

Quiz at URC - new quiz master this year.
Teams of 4-6 £3 per person, payable on night

Saturday 27th

Clocks go back one hour. BST ends.

For your November Diary

Saturday 23rd Stem Museum

Swindon Symphony Orchestra presents A Night at the Movies - featuring Nicky on 'cello. Tickets online at swindonsymphonyorchestra.org.uk

Sunday 24th **Church meeting** following service, then lunch at 5 Bells.

Thursday 28th St Barts Christmas Tree Festival with the music group playing.



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

Contact details

Minister

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Royal Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church October 2019 Newsletter



Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

6 th	Revd Sarah Simpson including Holy Communion
13 th	Revd Andrew Francis
20 th	Martin Osman
27 th	Bernard Crabb

Tea and coffee will be served after the service. Please stay and enjoy this time of fellowship with us. Welcome to any visitors today, please make yourself known to any one of us.

After reading Luke 17:11-19 (for October 13th)

Saying 'thank you' might be a fleeting formality or, otherwise, a time-consuming chore but, for this one, healed person - this non-belonger from Samaria - it becomes a sacrament, a moment when heaven and earth meet, embrace, and the Kingdom of God becomes real enough to touch and know.

Today, dear God, help us to take the time to be thankful, properly thankful. May saying 'thank you' be more than a stepping stone to somewhere more important but be, for a while, the best place, the holiest ground on which to plant our feet.

Here, may we remember gladly, savour deeply, and be refreshed by all your gracious gifts.

Ian Fosten, URC Prayer Handbook 2019

Enclosed in this newsletter is a letter from the URC Treasurer about the URC Ministry and Mission (M&M) fund, and thanking us for our raising this from our 1400 churches.

Autumn concert

The autumn concert by the Vibrato Ensemble and guests took place on Saturday 21st September in the church. Alison Lyn brought together her young students and the string ensemble,



including Nicki, Fiona and Andrew, accompanied by John Fitter.

Popular pieces included a medley from Lloyd Webber's Cats, and Eileen Mellors' piano medley including Edelweiss.



Comments from a member of the audience

"I saw a flyer of a String Ensemble Concert at the U.R.C and as my husband and I like this music we decided to attend. It was a very nice way of Musical entertainment for two good causes. I thought that the chapel was an ideal size for the young children to perform and they all did very well. In the second half the adult entertainers took over and performed to a high standard a varied number of classical pieces for the flute, violin, and other stringed instruments. Especially memorable was the string trio of a Mozart piece and a piano medley by Eileen Mellors, to which we could all sing along. We shall definitely come again"

Mr & Mrs M Osborne

Rotas for October

	Church Flowers	Welcome	Vestry	Notices	Readers	Communion	Tea
6 th	Angela	Lorna	Jenny	Fiona	Jade, Jack	Fiona, Eileen	Jack, Isobel
13 th	Margaret	Joy	Fiona	Fiona	Lorna, Fiona		Lorna, Joy
20 th	Eileen	Jack	Eileen	Fiona	Ron, Margaret		Eileen, Jenny
27 th	Isobel	Eileen	Jack	Fiona	Nicky, Jenny		Ron, Margaret

Murmurings from the Manse

I've done it! Finally David and I have been to Bletchley Park and it was amazing, well worth waiting for.

As we all know, more and more about Bletchley Park is coming into the public domain as those who worked there have begun to talk about their experiences. In so doing they are providing a fascinating glimpse into a part of war work that had remained a secret for many years, war work which has gone to explain this fascination with codes and ciphers and legitimate (?) spying activity ...

So we arrived, picked up our guide book and began the suggested route with a display that gave an overview of all BP did.

And that is where I received my first surprise for amongst the boards of stories and quote was one that said this,

"In 2007 I was asked to record my experiences. I declined to do so and pointed out that I had signed the official secrets act. That still remains my position today".

Underneath were the words, 'An anonymous Bletchley Park worker'. Gender, age, position unknown – and that was as they liked it.

Very often much of what we do is unsung – and we wouldn't think of changing that, we were rather not be known by our deeds, we are not in the habit of self-glorification.

Yet collectively the church in this country is picking up more and more in terms of what it offers and the groups and individuals it tries to help. That doesn't look like altering any time soon, and yet it is hardly ever reported, if anything what comes through are stories which present the church as insular, institutionalised, out of touch, without a place in today's world.

It is not true, we are not perfect but we do make a difference and there should be something between the two extremes. Good news stories can encourage us, and we all need encouraging.

So instead of being told what the church isn't doing – let's remind those outside what we are involved in, let us take strength from that and remember every time we do so we are making a difference, however small or large.

Yours in Christ,
Sarah