



Royal Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church February 2015 Newsletter



Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

1 st	Revd Sarah Simpson including Holy Communion
8 th	Revd Tom MacMeekin
15 th	Revd Adrian Heath
22 nd	Martin Osman



Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March 2pm

The service this year will be at our church and is written by the women of The Bahamas. The theme is "Do you know what I have done to you?". The speaker is Revd Sarah Simpson. The service will commence at 2pm, followed by light refreshments.

A warm welcome is extended to everybody to attend.

Donations to charities

£61 was raised for the DEC ebola appeal through the donations in lieu of Christmas cards

£175 donated was donated to Swindon Women's Aid at Carols by Candlelight

Coffee Mornings

At the church meeting it was decided to change from monthly coffee mornings to a few themed ones during the year. We will have a plant sale on the morning of 23rd May.

Happy Birthday this month to Barbara Burgin and Doreen James

Rotas for February

	Church Flowers	Welcome	Vestry	Readings	Junior Church	Crèche	Tea
1 st	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	Bob	Margaret, Ron	Young people staying in church		Eileen, Elizabeth
8 th	Eileen	Sheila	Jenny	Elizabeth, Andrew	Jenny	Fiona	Joy, Brian
15 st	Isobel	Richard	Fiona	Jack, Sheila	Jenny	Elizabeth	Fiona, Andrew
22 nd	Jenny	Eileen	Elizabeth	Brian, Fiona	Jenny	Isobel	Jack & Isobel

Contact details

Minister

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Web-site wburc.org.uk

Find our group on **Facebook**, it is called Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church

Murmurings from the Manse

Sometimes plans need changing –

This was not the Murmurings I intended but I write it in the light of the events in Paris, and its effects which are still rippling through our country and that of Europe.

As I reflect on those horrific and tragic events I send my sympathy to the families and friends of those killed and to the people of Paris who are in shock, but whose resilience is enabling them to cope, and I reflect also on an old cartoon which I had in University, it was a photocopy from a SCM magazine and it showed a collection of religious leaders with the caption, ***“Can’t we talk about something other than religion all the time”***.

I believe very strongly in free speech and I do not believe that a faith which tries to stifle free speech will ever succeed in doing so, nor should it. I believe that any faith which cannot allow its beliefs to be discussed and argued over, a faith which does not permit robust debate and discussion is a faith which will be viewed with some negativity by those ‘outside’ it, and will become a target, as indeed we have sadly seen.

I come from a town which welcomed a big influx of Jews in the 1930’s, fleeing from Nazi Germany they found warmth and welcome in a small Welsh town, there they made their home, there they settled and established businesses, found a profession and merged seamlessly into Llanelli, some of whom remain there to this day, so I believe I speak with a little knowledge about religious tolerance and different faiths coming together.

Whenever events like Paris happen it is how the religious groups respond that is pivotal; and respond we must, we cannot remain silent, indeed ‘for evil to flourish, it is necessary for good men to do nothing’ as the saying goes, but our response needs to be measured and not inflammatory; it needs to be compassionate and conciliatory, above all, our response should be based upon our Christian values and teachings, and if those set us on course for a debate then so be it.

Please continue to pray for all those affected in Paris, pray also for tolerance and compassion and dialogue, above all pray that this seeming disregard for the life of another may stop before it is too late. In the name of the prince of peace

Sarah

Church Diary for February

Friday 6th February
Music Group in Church 7pm
Badminton in the Church Hall 7.45pm

Bible Society Coffee Morning and Cake Sale
Raising funds for Open the Book
Saturday 7th February Church Croft 10:00am- 12 noon

Vision4Life Larks bible study
Tuesday 10th February 10:15am (note 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Friday 13th February
Music Group in Church 7pm

Sunday 15th items for next newsletter to Jenny, please

Joint Pastorate Committee
Monday 16th February 12.30pm Malmesbury

Vision4Life Owls Discussion Group - with pancakes
Tuesday 17th February 7:30pm

First Lent Ecumenical service
Led by Revd Sarah Simpson, visiting preacher Revd David Perkins
Monday 23rd February 7.30pm Our Church

Women's World Day of Prayer service
All welcome, tea and coffee afterwards
Friday 6th March 2pm Our church



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