

Church Diary for February

Larks Bible Study

Guided by the 2016 Prayer Handbook we will read some of the lectionary passages for February, to lead us into Lent
Tuesday 2nd 10.15am

Badminton in the Church Hall

Friday 5th 7.45pm

V4Life Discussion evening

Wilderness - retreat and renewal
Thursday 18th 7.30pm

The winter **Area Gathering** for Wiltshire United Reformed Churches will be held at Immanuel Church, Upham Rd, Swindon, SN3 1DH, on February 20th at 11.00am.

Revd Ruth Whitehead, the Synod Moderator, will introduce a project to grow Discipleship. It is hoped that the Education and Learning Enabler and possibly the Mission and communications officer, will also both be there. Immanuel is a short drive for us so it would be good for as many as possible of us to go as it is a great opportunity to meet members of all our nearby churches. It would help for them to know rough numbers so please let Elizabeth know if you can go.



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

Contact details

Minister

Revd Sarah Simpson 32 Niebull Close Reeds Farm Malmesbury SN16 9TX Tel: 01666 826866

Church Secretary and Serving Elder

Mrs E. Shaw 01793 855676

Serving Elder, Preacher Booking, Foodbank Voucher Holder

Fiona Butler 01793 849075

Hall Booking

Richard Jacob 01793 852689

Church Treasurer

Richard Jacob 01793 852689

Pastoral Visitor and Serving Elder

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Andrew Crown 01793 330502

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Royal Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church February 2016 Newsletter



Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

February

7th

Revd Sarah Simpson
including Holy Communion

14th

Martin Osman

21st

Bernard Crabb

28th

Terry Riches

Temptation

For forty days Jesus was tempted by the devil.
Forty days? Is that all?

Keep us strong in the face of daily temptations:
whispered gossip,
turning a blind eye,
sharp words,
lack of patience,
false pride,
old resentments,
failure to forgive,
sense of guilt,
self-absorption,
judgement of others,
self-deprecation

Help us not to be overwhelmed
By weakness and failure;
Keep us confident in the knowledge
That, whatever we face,
We face it with you.

Melanie Smith, for the first week of Lent, URC Prayer Handbook 2016

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of **Charles Burgin** on 12th January 2016.

Charles and Barbara moved to Wootton Bassett in 1962. For 10 years they worshipped at Chippenham Baptist Church. In 1975 they couldn't continue travelling to Chippenham every Sunday, and they say the Lord led them to worship at Wootton Bassett URC. Charles was one of our organists for many years. Despite increasing health problems he had only just retired as Church Treasurer. Our Church Meeting had just voted to recognise that service by a donation to a charity of his choice. That will still be made and will go to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Our thoughts and prayers are with Barbara at this time.

The funeral service will be at 1.15pm on Wednesday 10th February in our church, following cremation at Kingsdown crematorium.

Collections

The retiring collection for the Bible Society in November raised £100 and was to be put to the Open the Book project.

The collection at our Carols by Candlelight service and donations in lieu of Christmas cards together raised £130 for the Royal Wootton Bassett Children's Centre and our Minister took the cheque to them last Thursday.

Retirement

Madge Sutton has been a frequent worship leader at our church. She has now retired from preaching. During the service at Immanuel, Upham Road on Sunday 14th February there will be a time of thanks for her gifts and her sharing of them. We will send a message, and pray for her in our service.

Happy Birthday this month to Barbara Burgin and Doreen James

Rotas for February

	Church Flowers	Welcome	Vestry	Readings	Tea
7 th	Angela	Jack	Elizabeth	Fiona, Jenny	Joy, Andrew
14 th	Doreen	Elizabeth	Bob	Elizabeth, Nicky	Jack, Isobel
21 st	Margaret	Richard	Andrew	Ron, Margaret	Ron, Margaret
28 th	Elizabeth	Eileen	Jack	Joy, Andrew	Fiona, Jenny

Our young people are no longer so 'junior' so they are invited to remain together with the congregation in the church.

Murmurings from the Manse

"You are the potter, I am the clay ... help me to be willing to let you have your way"

I remember that worship song from some years back, and I recall it after my first pottery class this week.

I promised myself I would learn a new skill (or 2) in 2016, and I have been true to my word.

So I have made my first pot, not perfect, but I'm pleased with it. In the studio there are many pots and vases and vessels of different descriptions, my eye wonders to them, partly for inspiration, partly because I can't get that worship song out of my mind!

You are the potter ...

You, God form us, shape us, mould us –

We are empty vessels waiting for your Spirit to be poured into us –
But whilst pots and vessels contain what is put inside them, we are to empty ourselves by sharing all we have been given and constantly making room for you to refresh and renew us.

I don't believe we spend enough time considering the image, the visual –

Over the coming weeks I will create other shapes and forms out of clay, but for them to be worth anything I have to allow my creativity to come through, I have to take time and work with the clay, as God works in and through me.

As Lent begins, a time of self-sacrifice, a time of denial in order to receive, let us consider anew what God is doing in and through us.

Yours in Christ

Sarah