

## Church Diary for June

### Church Meeting

Thursday 2nd June 7.30pm

including consideration of outcome of Pastorate planning with Synod.

### Larks Bible Study

Tuesday 7th 10.15am

### Joint Service to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Revd Sarah Simpson's ordination

Sunday 12th June Malmesbury United Reformed Church

No service at Royal Wootton Bassett URC

Can you offer a lift?

### Joint church meeting with Malmesbury URC after services

Sunday 19th June

Our service, led by Martin Osman, will finish a little early and we will travel to Malmesbury URC with our sandwiches. We'll talk about our future plans for the pastorate while we eat!

### Owls Discussion Evening

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

### Church Walk at Jubilee Lake

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Meet 10.00am in the car park



**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

### Church Treasurer and Serving Elder

Richard Jacob 01793 852689

### Hall Booking

Richard Jacob 01793 852689

### Pastoral Visitor and Serving Elder

Mrs E. Henly 01793 848712

### Serving Elder

Andrew Crown 01793 330502

**Web-site** [wburc.org.uk](http://wburc.org.uk)  
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## Royal Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church June 2016 Newsletter



### Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Revd Sarah Simpson<br>including Holy Communion   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | United service in Malmesbury<br>celebrating 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the<br>ordination of Revd Sarah Simpson.<br>No service in RWB. |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Martin Osman (shortened service)   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Revd Tom MacMeekin   |

## Murmurings from the Manse

20 years on – and 3 pastorates later.

The grey hairs testament to the 'challenges' and the many good memories testament to the times God's plan was discerned and successful.

Am I in a contemplative mood – or a celebratory one?

May it be both?

The last 10 years have seen aspects of ministry change whilst the core elements remain the same; the geographical location has changed, the people have changed, even the dog in the manse has changed, and yes, the Minister has as well.

So reflecting on this has perhaps been easier than I expected – EVERYONE who knows me has remarked how happy I am here in Wiltshire, how God has obviously put me in the right place and yes that is true, the churches are happy churches, I have the best Elders I have ever had, the communities are responsive and the desire to grow God's kingdom clear, life is wonderful.

Cont

The last 10 years have taught me that I am not a super hero, that God has not called me to do everything and a team has more than one person. Experience doesn't always bring wisdom but it has taught me trust and patience in new forms; most evident in the last 9 months!

As I reflect I keep coming back to Paul's conversion, his Damascus Road experience and I wonder why – I wanted to reflect on my favourite words from Jeremiah, but obviously God has other ideas, what comes to mind is how Paul's life so radically changed, he was convinced his way was right, he was a strong and powerful man and God stripped him of everything in order to rebuild him and what keeps coming through to me is the need to allow that vulnerability and not to be frightened by it, ministry is not about control, it is about putting yourself in the places of vulnerability and it has taken me a long time to realise that, the last 10 years have seen times when that lesson has been almost brutal, yet living through it has given me new insights.

I look forward to the special service on June 12<sup>th</sup> where we will celebrate and give thanks; I look forward beyond that to all God's plans, yet to be revealed to us and most of all I give thanks to God for His call to a 17 year old and my prayer is that I make good His faith in me and I thank Him for the privilege that is ministry. Finally, there is one very special Thank you, and that is to David, I couldn't do any of this without him.

*Sarah*

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday this month to  
Lucy Dixon



Thanks to those who collected door to door or contributed to envelopes in the Church. It was good to find familiar faces at the doors, some with the envelopes already filled. So thanks too to all

those who donated to help in Christian Aid's work. *Jenny*

A prayer related to the lectionary Gospel for June 12<sup>th</sup>, Luke 7.36-8.3, a woman anoints Jesus' feet.



Protective God,  
give us the strength and the courage  
to leave the safety of our little boxes,  
to open their lids so we can see out  
and others can see in,  
so that they can touch our lives  
and we can touch theirs,  
and together we can touch yours.

Amen.

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### For your July diary

Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup> will be Sarah's last service before her 3 month sabbatical leave.

Followed by Sunday lunch at the Cross Keys, RWB, function room - in newly refurbished venue. Roast beef £9.95, less for a small portion.

Senior citizens menu available.

Please let Joy know if you will be coming.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Joint Elders Meeting in RWB 7.30pm

### And in August

Pencil in 13<sup>th</sup> August for Eleven-sey's at Jack and Isobel's

### Rotas for June

|                  | Church Flowers | Welcome   | Vestry    | Readings                        | Junior Church | Tea                     |
|------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Margaret       | Eileen    | Elizabeth | Jack, Richard                   | Jenny, Isobel | Ron, Margaret           |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> |                |           |           | Joint service at Malmesbury URC |               |                         |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Elizabeth      | Elizabeth | Jenny     | Ron, Margaret                   | Jenny, Fiona  | Lunch at Malmesbury URC |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Eileen         | Richard   | Bob       | Fiona, Andrew                   | Angela, Nicky | Eileen, Andrew          |