

## Church Diary for September

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September

**Ride and Stride and Heritage Day**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September Croft, St Barts 10am - 1pm

**Coffee morning in aid of Marie Curie nurses.**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 7pm

**Elders Meeting**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September

**Musical concert, Vibrato String Ensemble and friends**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September

**RWB Orchestra concert, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September

**Harvest service, bring and share lunch afterwards in hall**

## For your October Diary

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 10-12pm

**Musical Coffee Morning**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm-10pm Steam Museum

**“Free to be” is a Christian event for all women to come together.**

**Tickets £4-7 online.**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm

**Quiz at URC - new quiz master this year**



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

## Contact details

### Minister

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

### Church Secretary and Serving Elder

Joy Mattis 01793 848328

### Serving Elder, Preacher Booking, Foodbank Voucher Issue

Fiona Butler 01793 849075

### Church Treasurer and Serving Elder

Jenny Stratton 07818 450651

### Serving Elder

Andrew Crown 01793 330502

### Pastoral Visitor and Serving Elder

Mrs E.Henly 01793 848712

### Hall Booking Contacts

Ron & Margaret Wills  
ronwills1940@tiscali.co.uk

### Web-site [wburc.org.uk](http://wburc.org.uk)

Find us on Facebook  
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### Web-site and newsletter editor

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## Royal Wootton Bassett United Reformed Church September 2019 Newsletter



### Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30am

1 <sup>st</sup>	Terry Riches including Holy Communion
8 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Tom McMeekin
15 <sup>th</sup>	Service led by our worship team
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Revd Gerald England
29 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Sarah Simpson Harvest service followed by bring and share lunch

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.

On 15<sup>th</sup> September is a worship team led service; featuring hymns chosen by the congregation. So, if you'd like a particular song in this service please let Andrew know at least a week before the service. Thank you.

## God of the Harvest

A prayer for those whose livelihood is dependent on the harvest

God of the harvest,  
so much depends on timing:  
when to gather in the crops,  
waiting for the best time,  
but watching the weather anxiously,  
nervous of everything being destroyed.  
Often, we see none of this uncertainty in our food supplies.  
Be with everyone whose livelihood depends on the harvest,  
and guide their decisions for the benefit of all of us.  
Through your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

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Wootton Bassett Bible Society Action Group invites you to a **Coffee Morning** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 10am-12 at The Croft.

The local fund-raising group for **MARIE CURIE** will be holding a coffee morning at the Croft (Next to St Bartholomew's Church, High Street, RWB) on Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Raffle, cakes, produce, books. Any donations welcome.

Please contact Alison Meek – 01793 851516 – if you can help in any way.

VIBRATO STRING ENSEMBLE

with guest soloists

**AUTUMN CONCERT**

featuring:

MOZART

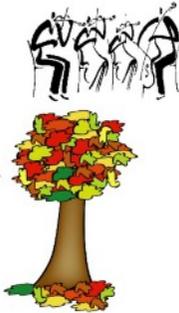
K496 Piano Trio No1 in G major:

Allegro

VIVALDI

Sonata in E minor: Preludio and Corrente

**Saturday 21st September 2019 at 7pm.**



**Ride and Stride Day and Heritage Day.** On 14<sup>th</sup> September we invite the community to 'look inside' the church from 12- 4pm and learn about its' history in this town. From the beginnings of a church congregation in 1976, the building was in place from 1825 making it the second oldest church building in the town.

**Rotas for September**

	Church Flowers	Welcome	Vestry	Notices	Readers	Communion	Tea
1 <sup>st</sup>	Angela	Eileen	Jenny	Andrew	Andrew, Lorna	Jenny, Jack	Jack, Isobel
8 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret	Lorna	Eileen	Andrew	Ron, Margaret		Andrew, Lorna
15 <sup>th</sup>	Eileen	Joy	Jack	Joy	Jade, Jack		Ron, Margaret
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Isobel	Jack	Joy	Joy	Fiona, Andrew		Joy, Eileen
29 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny	Eileen	Andrew	Joy	Jenny, Nicky		Jenny, Andrew

**Murmurings from the Manse**

During August I have been looking once again at Jonah, which has been interesting.

Some years ago a TLS student I was mentoring described it as 'the Old Testament soap opera' and strongly argued that it was a made up story.

Many of the prophetic books of the Old Testament have an indication of context; Jonah doesn't. However there is a theological connection with part of 2 Kings which both talk about the triumph of God's grace over evil.

I feel some considerable sympathy for Jonah, often a bit of a mixed up missionary rather than a prophet he spent much time either arguing with God or fleeing from God or hiding from God ... the list goes on.

There is something of Jonah in me, and I would guess in each one of us. How many of us admit to a relationship with God that at times is quite difficult – or one where we 'hide' from God when we know something is coming up that we would rather avoid?

There is an honesty about Jonah that I find refreshing, he wasn't a perfect prophet, he never professed to be something he wasn't and his humanity, with all its faults and failings comes through very clearly, it isn't hidden from us, Jonah isn't presented as someone perfect in every way.

We may strive for perfection but we all fall short, we are not meant to be perfect, we are meant to try our best and by God's grace we may accomplish far more than we expect.

At times, particularly when Jonah was grumbling to God about the unfairness of his life, God directed him to consider the bigger picture; to step away from his situation and see what was before him and its effects on a far greater number than one individual.

It's a good lesson, albeit a hard one.

Is it a lesson we need to learn?

Yours in Christ,

**Sarah**