



# ***OUTLOOK***

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***THE JOURNAL OF  
WAREHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH***

*December 2018 / January 2019*



## In Ministerial Vacancy

### Our Vision

- † To Worship God, Father Son and Holy Spirit
- † To make god's love known to all people
- † To show God's love by the way we lead our lives



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### Stewards Rota for December

Date	Elder	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Vestibule	Flowers
2 <sup>nd</sup>	David Communion Janet/Shirley	Tom	Brian/Judith	Felicity
9 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley	John	Marion/Brian	Pat
16 <sup>th</sup>	Brian	Pat	Pat/Reg	Judith
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Janet	Liz	Felicity/Liz	Sheila
30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Joint Service at Swanage</b>			

### Thursday Coffee Rota for December

6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan
Marion/ Sybil	Pat/Reg	Liz	Closed	Closed

**Thank you to everyone who helps. Please change with someone else if you are not available.**

Please send items for the Journal to:  
[janetcjennings@gmail.com](mailto:janetcjennings@gmail.com)  
 by the 12th of the month

## The Greatest Gift of All



Dear Friends,

Many years ago when I was a teenager, it was about 1960, my mother presented me with a ball of string on Christmas morning. It was a bit less than I was expecting but Mum just told me to go and wind it up. So off I went up and down our South London terraced house. She'd wrapped it round the colourful paper chains which we had made together, round the hall light fittings from which ceiling hung yellow, pink and blue Chinese lanterns and wound it around the big paper star on the back of the front door.

The string went all through my grandmother's downstairs flat, above her old fashioned black range and across the mantelpiece full of Christmas cards sparkling with glitter. Then the string went up the stairs again to our flat, and was wrapped round the holly and the mistletoe dangling above the kitchen door. Mystified I followed the string into our front room, all decorated for Christmas and then the string disappeared behind the small, brightly decorated Christmas tree. Finally I found the end of the string, which was tied around a cream and brown record player! A record player was every teenage girl's dream present that year. I was so touched, because I knew that my parents really couldn't afford such a present, but they had still saved up for it anyway.

Christmas is a time of giving gifts, which reminds Christians of the great gift which God sent. Even without presents in 1960 or 2018, we would still have Christmas, because every year we have a very special present from God. God sent Jesus, the Word who had been with God from the beginning, to live amongst us and to be born as a baby, as we were. Jesus was born a king but a very different kind of king, one who was born into a humble yet devout family and whose crib was a manger from which the animals fed.

The first people to hear about the baby Jesus were poor shepherds, who were almost outcasts in Jewish society. It was to such as these that the angels' message of peace and joy through the birth of the Messiah was first given. However, it is clear from the New Testament that Jesus came as a gift for all people. How must God have felt sending the one who had been with him for all time to the flawed world of humanity? How much must it have cost God, not only to send Jesus but to suffer with him when

he died on the cross, killed by a cruel world? However, through Jesus' sacrifice and message of love, God gave us another gift, the gift of a new covenant for those who follow Christ's way and the promise of a new life in God's Kingdom.

We cannot give God anything comparable to His wonderful gift but, in Christina Rossetti's words from 'In the Bleak Midwinter', we can give him our hearts.

May the Christ child be born again in your hearts this Christmas.

*Wishing you every blessing this Christmas and for 2019 ~ from Janet*

### **Preachers' List for December 2018**

#### **December**

- 2nd Margaret Leivesley (Communion)
- 9th Robert Pearce
- 16th Elizabeth Haynes
- 23rd Janet Jennings
- 30th Joint Service at Swanage. Café Style Service

#### **January 1019**

- 6th Dr John Foster (Communion)
- 13th Covenant Service at Wareham Methodist Church
- 20th Wareham Church Family United Service at Lady St Mary
- 27th Sue Litchfield

**Please remember all these ministers of the Word in your prayers**

#### **Refreshments**

are served every Sunday morning in the Guild Room after the service.  
Please join us if you can.

Visitors please sign the visitors' book.

#### **Thursdays at 10.30 am**

there is a 20 minute Shoppers' Service in the church followed by coffee.

Prayer requests to *Janet 555108 please.*

Everyone is welcome to share the fellowship.

## Lottie's Christmas Letter



Hello Everyone, Lottie the Parson's Jack Russell here,

Well, it has been a reasonably successful year in my human training regime. Last January Janet got all excited because she had a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. I don't know what the fuss was about, as in human years I am about 80 and no one has offered me a party. So she had a party. I wasn't invited but spent a few days with my friends at Margaret Green Animal Sanctuary. I like it there because I have managed to train most of the dog carers to make a fuss of me and give me walks and treats.

I had another visit to Margaret Green later in the year when John and Janet went on holiday. I think these holidays much be very dangerous things as Janet came back with an injured foot and last year John broke his arm. As I've said before, humans do very strange things. Why would you want to go on a long journey to live somewhere else for a while when you have a perfectly comfortable home here?

Janet tells me that we are near that time of year when we sit round the Christmas tree and have presents. That's more like it. I love opening presents, especially the ones with squeaky toys and treats inside. Janet says we have presents because it's someone special's birthday. "Does he get two presents because it's Christmas as well?", I asked. Janet says it's called Christmas because it's the birthday of Jesus Christ who was a very special baby sent by God. Jesus did get some presents: gold, frankincense and myrrh, gifts fit for a king.

Think I'd rather have something to eat for a gift, so please excuse me I need to go and sniff around the tree to see if my presents are there yet.

### ***Lots of woofs ~ Lottie***

*A member of the Free Church of Scotland gave the minister a bottle of cherry brandy on the understanding that it would be acknowledged in the church magazine. In the next edition the minister thanked Mrs. Mackintosh for the gift of cherries and 'for the spirit in which it was given'.*

### Stewards Rota for January

Date	Elder	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Vestibule	Flowers
6 <sup>th</sup>	Marion Communion Brian/Reg	Felicity	David/Liz	Shirley
13 <sup>th</sup>	At the Methodist Church			
20 <sup>th</sup>	United Service at Lady St Mary			
27 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley	Tom	Liz/Judith	Felicity
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	David Communion Janet/Shirley	John	Marion/Liz	Pat

### Thursday Coffee Rota for January

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Closed	Pat/Reg	Liz	Janet/ Judith	Liz	Marion/ Sybil



**WISHING ALL OUR READERS A  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**



## The Meaning of Twelve Days of Christmas

From 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practise their faith openly. Someone, during that era, wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit – Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolised the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

**We serve the whole community every day of the week and we welcome you to our services and activities.**

#### **MONDAY:**

**Splitz Studios** (dance school for all ages) 4.00 – 7.15 pm

**The Wareham Choral Society** 7.30- 9.45 pm

**Band Practice** 6.30 – 9.00 pm

#### **TUESDAY:**

We continue to offer a **cooked lunch** to all who live alone and enjoy the support which friendship gives. This is an unbroken service we have offered for over 30 years, thanks to a small group of volunteers; and is available every other week.

Please see Liz, or phone her on 01929 459440, if you would like to come.

**Splitz Studios** 3.45 – 7.30 pm

#### **WEDNESDAY:**

**Daisy Chain Fitness** 2.00 - 4.00 pm

**Splitz Studios** 3.45 – 6.15 pm and 7.30 – 8.30 pm

**Dorset Buttons** 7.45 – 9.45 pm (winter only)

**Boys Brigade Anchors** 6.15 – 7.15 pm

#### **THURSDAY:**

**Wareham Home Producers Market** 8.30 – 11 am

(local food, produce and handmade items)

**Thursday Service** 10.30 am – 20-minute service to which everyone is welcome.

**Refreshments** in the small hall from 10.00 - 11.45 am open to all.

**Traidcraft Fair Trade Stall** 10.30 – 11.45 am on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays

**Discussion Group** alternate Thursdays 12 noon

**Splitz Studios** 4.00 – 7.00 pm

**Town Band** rehearsals 7.00 – 10.00 pm

#### **FRIDAY:**

**Daisy Chain Fitness** 2.00 – 4.00 pm

**Melodies for Memories** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 10.30 – 12 noon

(friendly sing-along with a musician; drop in or call Jules on 07342 88344)

**Splitz Studios** 4.15 – 5.45 pm

**Badminton Club** 7.45 – 9.45 pm

#### **SATURDAY:**

**Splitz Studios** 10.00- 12.45 pm

The halls are available for hire for local events.

#### **SUNDAYS:**

**We meet at 10.30am for an inspirational service followed by refreshments.**

**Details of Church services are in the magazine**

**We thank all those who contribute to these activities and services.**

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **Thursday 29th November**

Church meeting from 12 noon in The Small Hall.  
All welcome. Bring your lunch.

## **December**

### **Saturday 1st December**

Festive Coffee Morning with some stalls 10 am -12 noon.  
We need volunteers to help please.  
Donations of and cakes, mince pies and biscuits for refreshments.

### **Sunday 9th December**

Christmas Sing-a-long from 7 pm followed by refreshments.  
*All welcome*

### **Lunch Club Dates**

Tuesdays 11th and 18th December  
Please see Liz if you want to join. Ring 01929 459440

### **Discussion Group**

Thursday 6th and Thursday 20th December  
Advent preparation 12 noon to 1 pm. Small Hall.  
*All welcome.*

### **Thursday 20th December**

Short Cafe Style Service at 10.30 am  
in the Small Hall during Coffee Morning.

### **Sunday 16th December**

Short Anglebury Court Carol Service led by Brian at 3 pm  
*All welcome*

***For other events, please look at the notice board  
or listen to notices in church***

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**Capriccioso Quartet**

at Wareham United Reformed Church 7.30 pm

Tickets £5 on the door



**Advent Lunches**

Donations to Christian Aid

Lunches are 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Wednesday 5th December, Lady St Mary Parish Rooms

Wednesday 19th December Wareham United Reformed Church.

*All welcome*

**Tuesday 25th December**

Short Christmas Day Service led by Revd Bob Damer 10.30 am

**Sunday 30th December**

Joint service with Swanage URC at Swanage 10.30am

*NO SERVICE AT WAREHAM URC*

***No Market Service or Coffee Morning***

27th December and 3rd January

Recommence 10th January 2019

**Home Producers' Thursday Market**

The Home Producers' Market will close from Christmas 2018.

However, there will be a few stalls on Thursdays in the Small Hall.

Please continue to support them.

**Dates for your Diary ~ January 2019****Lunch Club Dates**

8th and 22nd January 2019

Please see Liz if you want to join. Ring 01929 459440

**Thursday 10th January**

Market Service and Coffee Morning recommence

**Sunday 13th January**

Covenant Service at Wareham Methodist Church 10.30 am

We will be joining our friends at The Methodist Church  
for their last Covenant Service before their church closes  
in Summer 2019

*NO SERVICE AT WAREHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH*

**Thursday 17th January**

Discussion Group 12 noon to 1 pm.

*All welcome*

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
18th January to 25th January 2019****Sunday 20th January**

Wareham Church Family Service at Lady St Mary 10.30 am

We will be joining with the other churches in Wareham  
at this combined service

*NO SERVICE AT WAREHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH*

***For other events, please look at the notice board  
or listen to notices in church***