

OUTLOOK



***THE JOURNAL OF
WAREHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
March 2019***



Minister Elect : Revd Martyn Needs

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



Secretarial Contact:

Janet Jennings

'Jays', 43 Bestwall Road, Wareham, BH20 4HY

Tel: 01929 555108

janetcjennings@gmail.com

Church Lettings: Felicity Roberts ~ Telephone 01929 792678

If you require access to the Church ring Sheila Holmes 01929 552806

Stewards Rota for March				
Date	Elder	2nd Reader	Vestibule	Flowers
3 rd	Shirley Communion Brian/Reg	May	Brian/Judith	Felicity
10 th	David	John	Marion/Liz	Pat
17 th	Brian	Pat	Pat/Reg	Judith
24 th	Janet	Liz	Felicity/Liz	Sheila
31 st	Joint Service at Swanage			
7 th April	Marion Communion Brian/David	Felicity	Liz	Shirley

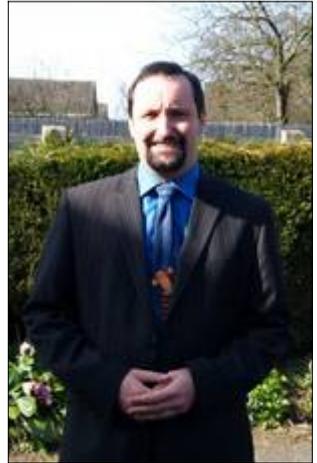
Thursday Coffee Rota for March				
7th	14th	21st	28th	4th April
Marion/ Sybil	Pat/Reg	Liz	Janet/ Judith	Marion/ Sybil

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
by the 12th of the month

'Time Flies'

It doesn't seem too long ago that we were wishing Simon and Jilly a fond farewell and happy retirement. Here we are, just 18 months later, getting ready to welcome a new minister and family.



During this time so much seems to have happened. A time of Ministerial Vacancy can be seen to be a time of limbo. It is, however, a rather intense phase of looking back to see what we have achieved and looking forward to what is to come. On top of this, of course, deciding what we would like our future to be.

The foremost part of this process is preparing a Pastoral Profile. Numerous meetings were held of the three Vacancy Committees under the guidance of the Interim Moderator, Revd Tim Meachin. We were also forging new working relationships with our new friends at Skinner Street in Poole. Eventually the task of compiling the profile was complete and presented to the Synod Moderator. At this point we formally became a 'Church in Vacancy'. Our details were then made available to all the ministers in the URC. The final Profile document ran to 35 pages, full to the brim with facts and figures, our past, our present and our hopes for the future.

Eventually two candidates asked to be considered and we met to consider their applications.

The rest, as they say, is history. Following a 'preach with a view' Revd Martyn Neads was invited to be the Minister of the three churches.

The Manse is currently being refurbished by Synod. Martyn, Lynn and Alex are due to move in during March. The Induction, at Skinner Street, takes place on Saturday 30th March at 2 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

The first few months will be a time of getting to know one another. For us it is just three people. For Martyn and family it will be getting to know not only three churches, but also the ecumenical members in each town. Quite a formidable task. Perhaps we should all have our names stencilled on our foreheads; that might help!

When you consider that our last vacancy lasted four years the process this time has been relatively swift and painless.

So friends, the next phase of our future is just around the corner. God has decided that Martyn is the ideal person to lead us into the future, the combined Church Meeting has come to the same conclusion - ***LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER in the months and years ahead.***

Jim Farrer, Elder, Swanage URC

Preachers' List for March

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

- 3rd Margaret Leivesley ~ *Communion*
- 10th Robert Pearce
- 17th Elizabeth Haynes
- 24th Sue Litchfield
- 31st Rev Martyn Needs ~ Joint Service at Swanage.
No service in Wareham



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.

GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

'Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me'. You will recognise the first line of the hymn 'Amazing Grace'. 'Wretch' is a very strong word but the writer of the hymn really did think he had been a wretch in his earlier life.

**A
M
G
R
A
C
E
A
M
Z
I
N
G**

The writer was John Newton, he was born in 1725 and died in 1807. I'm sure some of you know his story. His mother died when he was young, although her Christian faith always inspired him. He was sent away to sea at 11 and gained a reputation for his wild, undisciplined behaviour. He worked on slave ships in the slave trade for several years, even as a captain of some of them. However, in a terrible storm, Newton had a Christian conversion, although it took him some time to change his ways. He eventually saw the dreadful evil of dealing in human beings as though they were just merchandise and he renounced his trade. Some time later Newton felt God's call and was ordained as a clergyman.

In his first parish, Olney, Newton was joined after three years by the poet William Cowper, who became a lay helper. Newton and Cowper eventually produced the popular Olney Hymns. Well known hymns from this collection include: 'Amazing Grace', 'Glorious things of thee are spoken', 'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds' and 'O for a closer walk with God'.

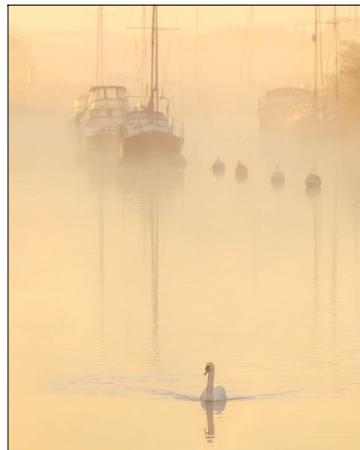
Deeply aware of his own sinfulness in his former life, Newton wrote 'Amazing Grace', which I think contains a potent sense of awe that God in his grace could forgive the wickedness of even, as he says, 'a wretch like me'. Verse two states: 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved'. Newton was full of fear and wonder, full of awe, at God's amazing generosity.

John Newton became a passionate advocate of the anti slavery campaign and in 1787 wrote the pamphlet 'Thoughts upon the African Slave Trade' to help William Wilberforce's work towards abolition. Thus God used this former slave trader to help bring about the outlawing of that terrible trade. As we see throughout the Bible, God often calls the most unlikely people to work for Him; maybe He is calling you or me now.

***Every blessing,
Janet***

CALL ME 'MISTY'

I expect, like me, you have stood on the seafront and watched a sea mist move in. To start with there is a slight whiteness, way, way off on the horizon. Gradually the 'blanket' rolls inexorably landward. The sunshine starts to fade, firstly into a round pale, watery ball of light. The cliffs, boats and sea fade into nothing. Then, almost imperceptibly, the life giving ball of flame is temporarily extinguished. The mist hangs round you like a wet claustrophobic net, leaving you cold and damp.



All the familiar landmarks are gone. You stand, alone, disorientated, longing for the return of the warm sunlight. Sunlight that you know will eventually burn up this depressing wetness, and return all those familiar features that make you feel safe, part of the rest of the world.

Now, dear reader, I expect you are thinking “now comes the religious bit, he’s going to draw some Christian analogy out of all this”. Well, I wouldn’t want to disappoint you, although I could leave you to make your own. And for every reader there could be a different conclusion.

I think you might agree that at times it seems as if you have been enveloped in a mist. The sun may be shining and warming your face. Never the less the mist can come down on your mind (and spirit). A well chosen word, an act of unexpected kindness, or a remembered phrase from a hymn or Bible reading can disperse the gloom, just as a gentle breeze can waft away the sea mist.

The sun will always be there, shining somewhere in the world, giving its life-giving warmth and light. God has given us his life-giving Son to disperse the gloom and mist which can cover our minds. But, just as the sun is shining somewhere, God’s Son is waiting for us to allow his light to shine for us.

Jim Farrer

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.

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.

Fair Trade Stall (most Thursdays) 10.30 – 11.45 am

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 1st and 2nd 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 ~ March

Friday 1st March

World Day of Prayer

10.30 am Wareham Methodist Church

Service written by the women of Slovenia - all welcome

Fair Trade Fortnight (ends 9th March)

Saturday 2nd March

Purbeck Fair Trade District - Quiz at Corfe Castle Village Hall

7 for 7.30 pm Tickets £6 from Brian

Lunch Club

Tuesdays 5th and 19th March

Please see Liz if you want to join or ring 01929 459440

Discussion Group

Thursdays 7th and 21st March

We are discussing the book 'Holy Habits' 12 noon - 1 pm Small Hall

All welcome. Discussion led by group members

Lent Lunches

Saturday 23rd March - Lady St Mary Parish Rooms

Wednesday 10th April - Wareham URC 12.30 pm

Donations to Christian Aid. All welcome

Saturday 30th March

Induction of Reverend Martyn Needs

to the Pastorate of Swanage, Wareham and Skinner St Poole URCS

2 pm at Skinner Street followed by tea

Please sign the list on the notice board ASAP if you want to come

If you need a lift, please see an Elder

Sunday 31st March

Joint service with Swanage URC at Swanage led by Rev Martyn Needs.

10.30 am All welcome

NO SERVICE AT WAREHAM URC

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