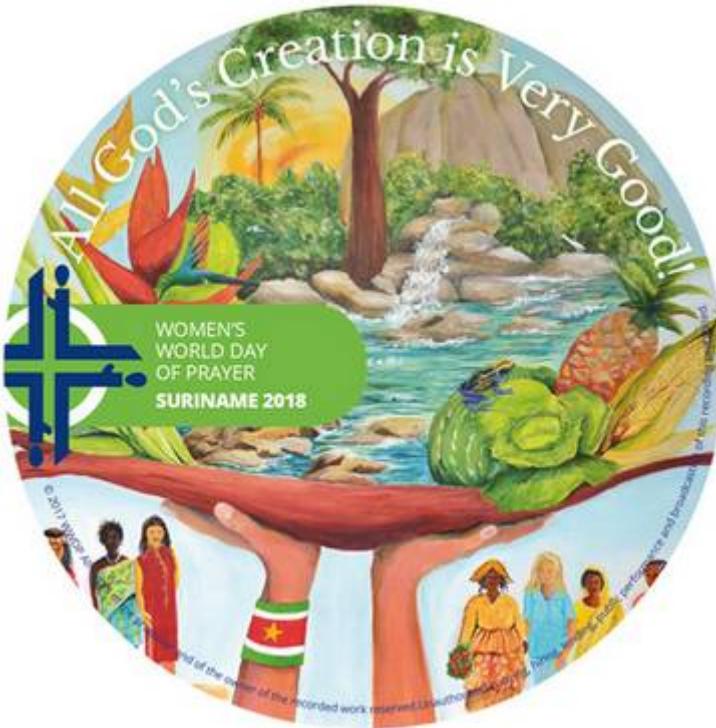


OUTLOOK



THE JOURNAL OF WAREHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

February 2018



In Ministerial Transition



Secretarial Contact:
 Janet Jennings
 'Jays', 43 Bestwall Road,
 Wareham, BH20 4HY
 Tel: 01929 555108
 janetcjennings@aol.com

Church Lettings: Felicity Roberts ~ Telephone 01929 792678
If you require access to the Church ring Sheila Holmes 01929 552806

Stewards Rota for February 2018

Date	Elder	2nd Reader	Vestibule	Flowers
4 th	Marion Communion Reg/Brian	Liz	David/Liz	Shirley
11 th	Reg	Pat	Liz/Judith	Felicity
18 th	Shirley	Liz	Marion/Brian	Pat
25 th	David	Felicity	Pat/Reg	Judith
4 th March	Brian Communion Marion/David	Judith	Felicity/Liz	Sheila

Thursday Coffee Rota for February 2018

1st	8th	15th	22nd	1st March
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@aol.com
 by the 12th of the month

[Our Pastoral letter this time is written by our Elder Marion](#)



Dear Friends,

I learnt Bible stories in Bridgemary Church, half-way between Fareham and Gosport. When war loomed, our family, minus my father, was evacuated to a distant relative in Upper Parkstone, and I walked to St John's Church with my grandmother. Two Sunday mornings stand out. On September 3rd 1939 a newsagent's poster announced the beginning of the war. Months later I remember seeing exhausted soldiers asleep on the churchyard grass.

Years later in Bedford, my husband Philip and I had the care of 50 boys, (aged 7-18), as well as a family of three. Those boys could choose which church they went to and a dozen or so of the younger ones opted for St. Luke's United Reformed Church. So the Grattidge family went to make sure they behaved themselves and were not a nuisance to the Junior School Teachers. My own association with the United Reformed Church has continued ever since.

We, all, have cause to be grateful to those who have taught and nurtured us on our Christian journey. How can we help our church in its vacancy now?

We have no prayer group at present; is the idea one you would like to pursue? What appeals to me is that we might link members by time, (in our own homes while washing up, walking the dog or travelling), and not by location. This enables those who are carers to take part.

Would you like to feel that in a certain prayer time, you might be joined by friends across Wareham and beyond? I have no experience of such a group but some of you may well have.

Please let us know how you feel and together we may discern a little of God's plan for our church.

May He bless us all,

Marion



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



This year the Women's World Day of Prayer falls on Friday 2nd March. Our local service will take place at Wareham Methodist Church at 11 am and will be preceded by refreshments at 10.30 am.

The service this year has been written by the women of Suriname in South America and will be used by some three million people around the world that day. Suriname has vast rainforests and a wealth of natural resources. We shall be praying for conservation and the protection of wildlife as well as for the situation in Suriname and concerns for the future.

This is not simply a day of prayer for women, but for all women and men who care for our world and those who live in it.

Everyone will be very welcome.

Sheila

Preachers List for February 2018

4th Dr John Foster
 11th Revd Bob Damer
 18th Janet Jennings
 25th Charles Crane



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 Simon please (425511).
 Everyone is welcome to share the fellowship.



Prayer

Now we are into the New Year it might be a time to look anew at some of our spiritual practices. Marion has suggested a prayer link, which I think is a great idea. However prayer can sometimes be difficult, even to the lifelong Christian.

If God already knows what we need, why do we have to pray to Him? I believe it is because God has given us free will to approach him or not. I do know that if I ask for something to happen, nine times out of ten there is an amazing coincidence and something does happen. It's not always in the way I'd imagined though. Sometimes God does not seem to answer our prayers at all, but I believe He is still listening to us. Occasionally, God sends great emotional peace rather than an immediate solution; this blessing of peace has helped me on many occasions.

If I have had a bad day I think of something I can thank God for, for there is always something. Things we often take for granted like fresh water, the skill of a doctor who has helped us, the love of our friends, relatives, even a pet, are all worth thanking God for.

We are instructed not to make our prayers elaborate or showy. 'When you pray do not use vain repetitions like the heathen do' Matthew 6:8. So long as our prayers are sincere and heartfelt, they do not have to be long, and simple modern language is appropriate. However, there are times when a set form of words says everything we mean, and more. St Francis' prayer 'Make me a channel of your peace' is an example and, of course, The Lord's Prayer.

We could not attend the Methodist Covenant Service this year, so I am quoting some verses from The Covenant Prayer, which give me much food for thought. Maybe you will find them useful to include in your prayers:

'Lord, I am no longer my own but yours, put me to what you will'.

Offering our whole self to God, in this total way, is extremely difficult but, even if we try and fail, God will still be there loving us and listening to our prayers.

Every Blessing for 2018 ~ Janet



Advent Lunch for Christian Aid



The December Christian Aid lunch at Wareham United Reformed Church raised £200 in donations, plus £43.75 Gift Aid. The Government match funded the donations resulting in a sum of £443.75 to send to the charity. Many thanks to all who helped or donated.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018: Monday 26 February - Sunday 11 March

'For hundreds of years, we were taught to serve, to be workers. Now with Fairtrade, we are entrepreneurs'

Marcial Quintero, member of Coobana, a Fairtrade banana co-operative in Panama.

It's a scandalous reality that millions of farmers and workers are still being ripped off despite working hard to provide the products we love. Unfairness in global trade is rooted in centuries of exploitation. Yet across the globe, Marcial and hard-working producers like him are unravelling this legacy. They're fighting for a fair deal, supported by Fairtrade, earning their way out of poverty and transforming their communities.

Together we're stronger, and more people choosing, sharing and shouting about Fairtrade in the UK means more power to producers like Marcial to break the stranglehold of poverty prices.

There's never been a more important time to stand with producers through Fairtrade – to protect the progress you've achieved alongside them, and to welcome more people – supporters, producers, businesses - into Fairtrade. This Fairtrade Fortnight, stand with farmers like Marcial to close the door on exploitation, and welcome more people into Fairtrade.

'Before joining Fairtrade we didn't see any benefits, development or profit. The price we received per box wasn't enough to cover our costs - and for 17 years it didn't change. Since starting with Fairtrade, it's made a mega-revolution in our lives.' Marcial Quintero, Coobana.

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

MONDAY:

We welcome the Alzheimer's Society (daytime fortnightly)
The Wareham Choral Society 7 - 9 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.

WEDNESDAY:

Boys Brigade 'Anchors' meet at 6.15 pm, for 3 - 6 year olds.

THURSDAY:

The Wareham Home Producers Market offers local food, produce and handmade items 8.30 - 11.00 am in the large hall.

At 10.30 am a short service is held in the church to which everyone is welcome.

Refreshments are available 10 - 11.45 am in the small hall - all welcome.

Brian holds a Fair Trade Stall most Thursdays 10.30 - 11.45 am.

Discussion Group alternate Thursdays 12 noon (details see **Dates for your Diary**).

'Melodies for Memories' Fortnightly 2 pm.

FRIDAY:

Badminton Club.

SATURDAY:

The halls are available for local events.

SUNDAYS:

We meet at 10.30 am 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

February 2018

Tuesday 6th February

Church Meeting and AGM
7.30 pm in the Small Hall. All welcome

Lunch Club

Tuesdays: February 6th and 20th

Discussion Group

1st and 3rd Thursdays in the month. 12 noon in The Small Hall.
All welcome.
Discussion led by group members.

Fair Trade Fortnight begins 26th February

1st March The Big Brew 10.30 - 12 noon at 2a Sandford Road.
Fundraising with coffee, information and Trade Craft Stall.
All welcome.

Friday 2nd March

Women's World Day of Prayer
At Wareham Methodist Church,
10.30 am Refreshments, 11am Service.
All welcome, men and women.

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