Let us rejoice in Ten Answered Prayers.

TEN ANSWERED PRAYERS

A new Synod Pastoral Adviser, Gerald England who has been more supportive to the needs of our pastorate of North Wiltshire.

Sarah's successful completion of a three month sabbatical after 20 years

in the ministry and the boost to her spiritual life and pastoral ministry which this has brought.

The production of a second Church Prayer card at Malmesbury and its anticipated uptake at RWB.

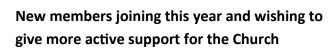
Joint Advent groups and the recent Lent groups across the pastorate — "one church two sites".

Greater ministerial and church involvement in Toddlers including a Christmas Festival celebration,

Craft developments and a planned Easter event.

Starting up of a monthly Junior Church during 2017

Active planning and leadership roles in Toddlers by Church members which should provide a direct link into Café services and a Junior Church.



Projected links with Abbeyfield's new development of flats at Burnham Court.

Having our URC minister as Chair of Malmesbury Churches Together has meant a more pro-active witness to the Community

Mildrid is now happily living with Jean and Tim at Milbourne.

Please pass on your answered prayers too



Malmesbury United Reformed Church



St Mary's Street Malmesbury

www.malmesburyurc.org.uk



Minister: Rev. SARAH SIMPSON Tel. 01666 826866

APRIL-MAY 2017 SERVICES & MEETINGS

9 April 10.30 Café Worship for Palm Sunday—Sara and Claire

14 April –FRIDAY-10.30 Meditative Worship Rev Sarah Simpson

Followed by Walk of Witness and Service at Market Cross

16 April 10.30 Easter Celebration-Rev Sarah Simpson H/C

23 April 10.30 Rev Andrew Francis

30 April 10.30 Martin Osman

7 May 10.30 Café Worship - Rev Sarah Simpson and Sara

14 May 10.30 Rev Andrew Francis

21 May 10.30 Rev Sarah Simpson (Baptism & Junior Church)

28 May 10.30 Bernard Crabb H/C

4 June 10.30 Café Worship Rev Sarah Simpson and Claire



Murmerings from the Manse

What is the sign that makes men great?

M The royal crown – the brandished sword?

A The power to make men leap to serve –

U The threatening of a tyrant's word?

N It is so – in the Christless world

D Where some would climb

And that which some would count as gain Is what their fellowman has lost But Christ is waiting by the door; He takes the humblest servant's seat. We see true greatness in the one

The Rev. George Walker was a wonderful man, a retired

Who washes his disciples' feet.

Minister in my first Church, he was always a good sounding board, an attentive listener and a confidante. After one of our monthly Bible Breakfasts he gave me the above poem. I have printed it here because this month's *Murmurings* needs to serve a double purpose: the Easter message and an introduction the *Walking the Way*, the national URC initiative rolled out in Synod two weeks ago, based around the book *Holy Habits* and encompassing the 10 attributes of discipleship found in Acts 2, as I thought about how this may work out the word which kept coming to me was serving ...

The Easter message is one of triumph of good over evil, light over darkness, love over hate; it is about sacrifice, it is about costly giving, but it is also about serving in very specific ways. And if we look at the 10 holy habits then we see Jesus himself reflecting them during his earthly ministry. Lent, Holy Week and Easter are vital to my faith, the message of the cross, the message of love and hope have sustained me throughout my life, let alone my ministry, Easter Day itself is a day of unending joy and celebration; but to get there, to be called Easter people, I am all too aware of the need to be Good Friday people as well, and that isn't so easy.

Serving Christ through the 10 holy habits is a part of our discipleship, some of the habits ask more of us, but none of them ask of us what was asked of Jesus, never again has such a sacrifice been asked for and never has a sacrifice been fulfilled so freely and with such love for humanity. As our Lent journey continues and the road to Jerusalem draws ever closer; hovering above the city

looms the cross, a symbol of pain and horror transformed into a symbol of love and divine power. We will walk past the cross to the empty tomb, empty because the death that lay there would not be contained, and we walk on, as disciples of Christ, and for Christ, seeking and finding new ways to serve him in the world.

We walk together in faith, In the name of the Risen Lord, Sarah

BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

22rd Maureen West 23rd George Kelsall

MAY

29th Audrey Waters

2nd Claire Edmeston 3rd Suzanna Tomlin
 7th Amy Edmeston 8th Rachel Spray
 14th Marilyn Stephens 23rd Sara Crabb
 27th Beryl Wheeler



PASTORATE LENT GROUPS March 2017

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Oscar Romero and Martin Luther King - what have they got in common?

They are all remembered above the West door of Westminster Abbey and they were all fighting for justice and all martyred for their beliefs - they stood for human rights against inhuman intolerance -yes AND they were all chosen to be our studies for Lent at the URC in Malmesbury and at Royal Wootton Bassett! It took us three weeks really to unravel what they had to say to us about Lent. Lent— a time of reflection, a time to think of ourselves and our relationship with the God of Easter. We were challenged with the meaning of "grace" and we all had different views on that one!! However, finally we did all come to the same conclusion that as Christians we must put our heads above the parapet in our own way and in our own circumstances. We have to stand up for what we believe to be right and like them we have to be prepared to allow God's grace to lead us on whatever the cost.