

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.



New members joining this year and wishing to give more active support for the 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

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APRIL-MAY 2017 SERVICES & MEETINGS

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| 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

M What is the sign that makes men great?
A The royal crown – the brandished sword?
U The threatening of a tyrant's word?
N It is so – in the Christless world
D Where some would climb
Y 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
Who washes his disciples' feet.

The Rev. George Walker was a wonderful man, a retired 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 *Mur-murings* 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
29th Audrey Waters	

MAY

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.