## A Modern Version of the 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my pace setter ~ I shall not rush. He makes me stop for quiet intervals, He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity,

He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind,

And his guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret, For His Presence is here.

His timelessness, His all importance, will keep me in balance

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the

midst of my activity, By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility,

My cup of joyous energy overflows. Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours,

For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord And dwell in His House for ever.

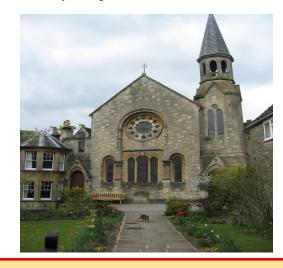
by a Japanese writer~ Tokio Megashie

### **Malmesbury United Reformed Church**



St Mary's Street Malmesbury

www.malmesburyurc.org.uk



Minister: Rev. SARAH SIMPSON Tel. 01666 826866

**JUNE-JULY 2017 SERVICES & MEETINGS** 

4 June 10.30 Café Worship for Pentecost—Rev Sarah & Claire

11 June 10.30 Martin Osman 18 June 10.30 Terry Riches

10.30 Rev Sarah Simpson Membership service H/C 25 June

**No Church Meeting** 

2 July 10.30 Café Worship Sara Crabb and Claire Edmeston

9 July 10.30 tbc

10.30 Rev Sarah Simpson 16 July

23 July 10.30 Rev Sarah Simpson H/C

30 July 10.30 Bernard Crabb

10.30 Café Worship Sara Crabb and Friends 6 Aug



Murmerings from the Manse

Monday morning, May 22nd, myself and a Ministerial friend discussing what we were going to write in our respective newsletters, both due this week. Tuesday morning May 23rd, the country wakes up to the news of the bomb in Manchester.

Amongst the many tweets I read it was one from Laurence Moore, former director of the Windermere Centre that said, "prayers without words, because there are no words", he was right and the vigil that followed showed how powerful silence can be.

In this situation words can help but they can also increase feelings of hurt and therefore there must be a sensitivity about their use.

Some words that I found which have helped my understanding of this heart breaking event come from Deuteronomy 30,15, " See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil", they remind me of the daily tension that we live with in our world. They remind me also that whilst we must be vigilant it cannot be at the expense of living our lives and engaging fully in the world, if we feel to do so then evil wins.

I was ordained on the day the previous bomb went off in Manchester, June 15th 1996, after that day I wrote that Manchester would rise, 'phoenix like' from the ashes, such was the Mancunian spirit - we have seen that same spirit already shown and it will continue in the months ahead, people will never forget what has happened and those children and adults who lost their lives, but neither will they allow their lives to be wasted by refusing to live their own lives to the full.

It is easy at this time to preach hate instead of love, division instead of conciliation, segregation instead of unity, but that helps no one and festers feelings that do no one credit, save those who see it as their 'cause'.

I would like to end these thoughts with the words found scratched onto a wall in Auschwitz.

I believe in the Sun, even when it is not shining. I believe in love, even when I cannot feel it. I believe in God, even when He is silent.

In the name of the Prince of Peace.

Sarah

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

#### **JUNE**

3rd John Auburn 6th Maureen Pike 6th Irene Clark 14th Linda Clark 24th Val Cousins 27th Ella Tomlin

**JULY** 

19th Terry Riches 31st Jasmine Tomlin

**AUGUST** 

6th Jean Fitzgerald .....more to follow



# In April The Foodbank was awarded the Paul Dove trophy for the Organisation of the Year.

Trustees and volunteers were delighted at this unexpected honour and fully appreciate it has only been possible because the support given by the community has been incredible. The challenge is still to get to people for whom food shortage is a problem. If anybody knows of someone needing help get in touch, we really do want to help. The picture shows three trustees and three volunteers receiving the award from Malmesbury town Mayor.



CHRISTIAN AID ......
RECORD BREAKING
TOTAL .....so far ....



The following sums are the current totals raised during Christian Aid Week this year.

 Soup Lunch
 - £ 449

 Car Wash
 - £ 319

 Market Cross
 - £ 1,496

 Coffee Morning
 - £ 295

 Street Collection
 - £ 229

 Big Brekkie
 - £ 130

 House to House
 - £ 5,203

 TOTAL to DATE - £ 8,121

This is a **RECORD** total for the Malmesbury Christian Aid Week!

Many thanks to all who helped and supported these activities.

Dick Gray - Chairman, Malmesbury Christian Aid