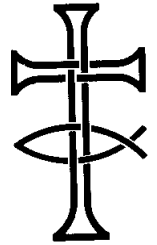


# APRIL & MAY 2017



The Magazine  
of the  
United Reformed Church  
South Somerset Group  
of Churches  
Martock  
Middle Lambrook  
Templecombe  
and Yeovil



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Items for Church Matters to the Editor by the third Wednesday of the month please.		

Dear Friends

### **A follower or disciple?**

Spring school is a chance for Ministers from the South Western Synod to meet, share time and learn together. This year the theme of the conference is discipleship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This got me thinking: are we more like followers or disciples of Jesus? Discipleship is not a term that is used very much in the modern world. Its use is often reserved for cults but the term "follower" or "following" with social media is taking on a new lease of life. People can follow celebrities, politicians, companies and other organisations like charities or protest movements, soap operas and sports teams, meaning they avidly read (and perhaps believe) the latest news and writings produced by the individual or organisations. The most popular are Katie Perry (96 million), Justin Bieber (92) million and Barack Obama (86 million). People can also follow family and friends - that's how I know what my nephews and nieces are up to. But what does it mean to follow? Is it only a question of following the latest news? I follow Yeovil Town Football Club and I am happy to support them through the ups and downs during the season. I also follow two mental health charities.

As Christians we can follow in the same way, happy to observe and support without getting too heavily involved. When Jesus asks us to follow him I suspect he meant much more than supporting from the sidelines, or turning up on match day.

That's why I like the term "disciple". A disciple is involved in faith seven days a week, is always learning new things, realises they never know it all, looks to the master for advice and learns best by trying things out in a safe environment, although leaps of faith are sometimes required. Jesus invites us to be disciples in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, not by reading from books or even by studying the Bible (though that is a good starting point), but by simply trying to faithfully to do his will – day in and day out, as a way of life not an optional extra.

As disciples we take great heart from the Easter story knowing he is alongside us all the way, still teaching and guiding us.

Happy Easter Everyone.

John Hayton

## MARTOCK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

**April**

Porch

2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Communion Rev Ruth Whitehead, Moderator of the South West Province, followed by coffee in the School Room. All welcome.	Mrs J Rees
9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship Rev Alan Thomasson	Mrs D Walker
16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Easter Communion Mr Nigel Nichols	Mrs W Westwood
23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am	GROUP SERVICE, Yeovil Rev John Hayton	
30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Hymns we love to sing, Mrs May Harris	Mrs M Crossman

**May**

7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship Rev Stella Hayton	Mrs J Rees
14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship Mrs Heather Andrews	Mrs D Walker
21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship Mr Peter Trenchard	Mrs W Westwood
28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Communion Rev Peter Henderson	Mrs M Crossman
4 <sup>th</sup> June	11.00 am	Morning Worship Mr Barry Bryer	Mrs J Rees

### Diary for April

12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Agape Service, Middle Lambrook
14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Walk of Witness, Martock, followed by service at All Saints
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning and Time for Tea (see note below)
26 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Whist Drive in the Yandle Hall

**May**

6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am to 12 noon	Gift Day and coffee morning in the School Room
12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Time for Tea in the School Room
31 <sup>st</sup>	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Whist Drive in the Yandle Hall

**NOTE:-** In April, the new kitchen is being installed. The Coffee Morning and Time for Tea will be a combined meeting on Saturday morning, 15<sup>th</sup> April, from 10.30am to 12noon. All proceeds will be divided between our charity of the year, The British Heart Foundation, and church funds. We hope you can and enjoy the usual chat and refreshments.

**HELP!** We at Martock seem to have mislaid some of our Mission Praise books. They are the thinner copies without the music. We are wondering whether we lent tem to anyone and have forgotten about it. Can anyone give us the answer to this mystery?

**FAIR TRADE** – Fair trade has been badly hit by the current exchange rate of the pound sterling. Most dealings are made in US dollars so there will be price rises. However, the Real Easter Egg remains at the same price this year. That is £3.99 each or £3.85 for anyone in the group. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like any.

Wendy Westwood telephone 01460 250751 or at Just Things Tuesday to Saturday on 01460 394931

### **MIDDLE LAMBROOK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

#### **April**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Communion	Rev Paul Cattermole
9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00.am	Morning Worship	Dr Stephen Powers
12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Agape supper at Middle Lambrook	Organised by Nigel and Helen Nichols and led by Rev J Hayton
13 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Light to Darkness Service at Kingsbury Episcopi Methodist	
16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 am	Sunrise Service at Burrow Hill	Rev P Waystaff – followed by bacon bap and tea/coffee at the Rusty Axe
	11.00 am	Morning Worship at Middle Lambrook URC	Mr Barry Bryer
23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am	GROUP SERVICE at Princes Street Yeovil	Rev J Hayton
30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Hymns you enjoy Singing at Martock URC	Organised by Mrs May Harris

#### **May**

7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	To be arranged
14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Communion	Rev S Hayton
21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Mr Basil Wright
28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Dr Stephen Powers

## Elders April

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs J Harris Mr W Powers (Holy Communion)
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mr W Powers
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Harris
23 <sup>rd</sup>	GROUP SERVICE at Yeovil URC
30 <sup>th</sup>	Service at Martock URC

## May

7 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Harris
14 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Jean Harris Mr F Pocock (Holy Communion)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Mr W Powers
28 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Harris

## TEMPLECOMBE URC

### April

2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	TBA
9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	TBA
14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Meditation	
16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Easter Communion	Arlo Cuss
23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am	GROUP SERVICE YEOVIL	Rev John Hayton
30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	United Worship	Horsington

### May

7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Rev John Hayton
14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Nigel Nichols
21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Rev Stella Hayton
28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	TBA

## PRINCES STREET YEOVIL

### April

2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Communion	Rev Ivor Hughes
9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship St Marks Methodist	Robert Rickards
16 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Easter Breakfast	St Marks Methodist
	10.30 am	Easter Morning Worship St Marks Methodist	Dick Sinden & Daniel England
23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am	GROUP SERVICE Princes Street Yeovil	Rev John Hayton
30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev Stella Hayton

## May

7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship	TBA
14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship	TBA
21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev John Hayton
28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am		

## Diary April

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 for 10.30 am	Lent Course	
4 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club	Chris Salberg TOTS
5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Healing Service	Venue TBA
7 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 – 11.45 am	Coffee Morning	Murray Parish Trust
8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Planning Meeting for June Open Days	All Welcome
11 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club	
12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Agapé Meal	Middle Lambrook
13 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Tenebrae Service	Baptist Church
14 <sup>th</sup>	11.30 am	Walk of Witness, Act of Worship, Christian Aid Bread & Cheese Lunch	Post Office, King George Street to Vicarage Street Methodist Church
	2.00 pm	Good Friday Meditation	St John's Church
18 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club	No Meeting
21 <sup>st</sup>	9.45 – 11.45 am	Coffee Morning with Good News Library WWDP Meeting	Charity
25 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club	
	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	The Manse
26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Church Meeting	
28 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 – 11.45 am	Coffee Morning	Murray Parish Trust

## May

2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club	Mary Irwin - TOTS
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00 pm	Healing Service	Venue TBA
5 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 – 11.45 am	Coffee Morning	Murray Parish Trust
9 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club	
10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Church Meeting	If requested by 26 <sup>th</sup> April meeting
12 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 – 11.45 am	Coffee Morning	Murray Parish Trust
16 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club	Mat Callaghan - TOTS
19 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 – 11.45 am	Coffee Morning with Good News Library	Murray Parish Trust

20 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 am	Annual General Meeting	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club	
26 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 – 11.45 am	Coffee Morning	Murray Parish Trust
30 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club	Palmers Coffee Shop
10 <sup>th</sup> June	2.30 pm	Final Service Princes Street	Rev Ruth Whitehead

**AGAPE SERVICE 12th April 2017  
at Middle Lambrook URC 7 pm**

Numbers and special dietary needs to Helen Nichols by 5th April  
helennichols94@btinternet.com



**Wessex and South Western Synods' Big Day Out**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July

The Burgate School, Fordingbridge, Hampshire. SP6 1EZ

Further details from your church secretary or  
the Synod website: [www.urcsouthwest.org.uk](http://www.urcsouthwest.org.uk).

**Mr John Porter**

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Mr John Porter, husband of Princes Street member Sandie. John died at St Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil after a short illness. John was a good friend to Princes Street over many years and he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sandie and the wider family circle.

**ALISON GREAVES IS IN DEMAND.** The 18-year-old, a member of United Reformed Church Youth, has just returned from New York where she was the UK's sole delegate to the [United Nations 2017 Winter Youth Assembly](#). The conference, at UN headquarters from 1 to 3 February, involved 13,000 young people and adults from over 100 countries.

The teenager, who attends [Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church](#) in Rochdale, flew out after speaking about the trip at her church and the United Reformed Church Youth Assembly in Staffordshire. Alison said: 'My role now is to educate people, in particular young people, about the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aim to improve 17 aspects of life in both the developing and developed world. Personally I feel this is how I am going to let Jesus shine in my life.'

### **THANK YOU FROM THE LORD'S LARDER**

Many thanks to everyone who responded to last month's appeal for food items, it was amazing to see those food items coming into the Larder. The first 2 months of 2017 we have been able to help 426 adults and 181 children in need of emergency food support in the South Somerset Area, that is a hundred more adults, and the same number of children compared with last year.

With Easter in the middle of April, I have already been asked if they can give Easter Eggs, and Easter Biscuits to the Larder, to go out in food parcels, I think that would be great, I know the families we give food parcels to cannot afford Easter Eggs for their children.

If you would like to know what other food items we are currently running short of in the Lord's Larder, we are currently running short of the following:

**Jars of Meat Paste**  
**tins of stewed steak, (ring pulls)**  
**tins of hot dogs, (ring pulls)**  
**tins of SPAM, (ring pulls)**  
**tins of Corned Beef, (ring pulls)**  
**Jars of Pasta Sauce,**  
**packets of sugar,**  
**UHT Milk,**  
**Powdered Milk.**

Many thanks for all your continued support.  
Mat Callaghan, YCST Operations Manager.





## **EASTER EXTRAS**

### **AGAPE SERVICE**

12th April 2017 at Middle Lambrook URC 7 pm

Numbers and special dietary needs to Helen Nichols by 5th April  
helennichols94@btinternet.com

### **TENEBRAE SERVICE**

13th April 2017 YEOVIL BAPTIST CHURCH MAUNDY THURSDAY

**'Gather in Darkness'** – Please join us at 6.30 pm for a meal followed by communion and readings. After each reading a candle is blown out ending with the room being in complete darkness. Tenebrae recreates the emotional aspects of the passion story.

To help with catering numbers, please contact Linda Bleazard (secretary of YBC) darren.bleazard@sky.com or 01935 477742 by Thursday 6th April.

### **WALK OF WITNESS**

14 April 11.30 am

Post Office, King George Street to Vicarage Street Methodist Church  
Walk of Witness, Act of Worship, Christian Aid Bread & Cheese Lunch

### **COMMUNION SERVICES**

As well as the Baptist Tenebrae Service on Maundy Thursday (13<sup>th</sup> April) there are also communion services at St James' Church at 7.30 and Vicarage Street at 7pm to which we're invited.

### **MEDITATIONS**

There will be meditations for Holy Week at St Andrew's Church at 6.30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> April). On the Wednesday the service will be led by Yeovil Chamber Choir.

Meditation on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2 pm at St Johns Church

### **BREAKFAST**

Easter Sunday morning at 9 am at St Marks Methodist Church

## OUT ALONG LEA

*“Alone you once went forth, O Lord, in sacrifice to die;  
does not your sorrow touch the hearts of people passing by?”*

*Our sins, not yours, you bore then Lord: make us your sorrow feel,  
Till through our pity and our shame Love answers love’s appeal.*

*This was earth’s darkest hour, but you did light and life restore;  
then let us give all praise to you who live for evermore.*

*Grant us with you to suffer, Lord, that, as we share this hour,  
your cross may bring us to your joy and resurrection power.*

*- Peter Abelard (1079-1142).*

“The trouble is that there are so many things that we doubt in this life. What can, and who shall, we trust?” preached Rev. Hodges from the pulpit on Easter Sunday, some way through her sermon. The bright April sunshine streamed through the windows either side of her, and the golden rays made the brown of the pews it encountered light up with a jolly brightness in comparison to the more sombre hue of those left in the shadows. The congregation, including Sophie, her brother Angel, their parents and their old friend Mr. Jones at the back, listened with attentive ears. On this Sunday, of all the Sundays in the year, the strength of their faith and devotion could be seen on their faces. Once again they were being reminded of that day when God intervened to free us from sin and death, of that day when Christ followed God’s will. Each person had thoughts about that wondrous event, the first Easter.

Mr. Jones thought about how Christ had not been afraid of the confrontation with the authorities, nor of the road He had to take. Then his mind turned to ponder on how so many people have been killed for their Christian faith, which could be different from that of the majority around them. Time and time again this sort of thing has happened throughout history, thought Mr. Jones. Christ did his duty that fateful Friday and many have followed in his footsteps, and are still following.

Sophie thought about it all with a touch of sadness, even though she rejoiced about the happy ending, and the new beginning, that occurred on that first Easter morning. As the sermon continued she thought about the unbelief of the people at the time, and how Christ’s words ‘Forgive them Lord, they know not what they do’ was as relevant then as it is now. She couldn’t help thinking that a lot of people in the world *do* know what they

are doing as regards injustice, exploitation and greed, know that it is wrong, but still carry on doing it. For others, well, it was not as though they hadn't had the opportunity to think about the unseen as well as the seen, to raise their minds above the earthly gods of wealth and worry. It seemed to Sophie that the world could be divided into three types of people: those who want answers to everything without considering God, those who want answers but believe that He knows all the answers anyway, and finally those who don't care. Atheists, believers, and agnostics; but if there could be something more fulfilling than just this world, why not believe in it? In an RE lesson at school, Mrs. Priest had said that there was nothing to lose in believing, and that she couldn't understand why more people didn't think about these things and come to an opinion. Sophie found it hard to understand atheists at all – how could they be so sure? On the other hand, she *could* understand the “don't know and don't really care” set of folk: in a situation where there is no one telling you to make a decision, why bother to make one? Why not just go along with life and see what happens? Sophie knew that this was where Christians and the advertisement of their churches needed to make an impact. One could argue with an atheist all day long and get nowhere, but someone with an open mind is free to make a choice.

Angel thought about the two chocolate eggs he was going to crack open later that afternoon.

“We have been let down by things in the past, so who's to say that things will go well in the future?” continued the minister, oblivious to the wandering minds in her congregation. “Other words for ‘doubt’ are ‘worry’ and ‘fear’. Together, these three words, ‘doubt’, ‘worry’ and ‘fear’, can make us a load of nervous wrecks, frightened of our own shadows. The situation isn't helped by the overwhelming host of health and safety, political correctness and other stuff that throttle the courage out of anyone thinking of getting out of bed in the morning. And no wonder you don't see many groups of Christian folk doing a spot of evangelising on the high street, they're afraid they might get ‘kettled’ into WH Smiths by the police or something...”

This story of Christ going to the cross is one of courage. It is a story of a man doing what He knew to be right, and not wavering. Ah, but He did waver a little, didn't He? He asked God in the garden whether it had to go the way it was all looking like going. Yet he was ready for the answer that God gave. He was brave. He didn't turn around and say: ‘No, I can't do that. It's beyond me to go through all that. I know you have given me special abilities, but look, can't I do something else?’ Would we be ready to be so brave? What is God asking us to do? We need to listen to God talking to us in our dreams and through our conscience. But to get back to my theme, we

must stand firm in our faith and not lose our spark, however much the ways of the world crowd in on what we know to be our true nature, which is from God. Do we believe that there is something in everyone that is of God? Shall we call it 'the soul'? Does the Spirit touch the soul, so that the person is awakened to life with a capital 'L'? Is it 'doubt', 'worry' and 'fear' that keep the Spirit away from the soul, in the same way that doubt, worry and fear keep us all from doing all sorts of adventurous things in this life? After His conversation with God, Christ had no doubt, worry, or fear. He went calmly, believing that God would hold Him in His hands. We must do that too, go calmly about our lives, and encourage others to do the same.

So the message I want to leave you with today is this: We have everything material in this world that we want. We couldn't really ask for more, even though we still do. There is the continual march of progress and if we make problems for ourselves then God has given us the brains to solve them. So much for what we want; now what about what we *need*? What do we really need? I would say we need something to believe in. What shall we believe in? How about some hero of our day, or maybe that our football team will win the cup? Surely our belief in such things is temporal. I can think of nothing better to believe in than a God who sent us a Saviour to show us that there is a better Life to wait and hope for, a Life in a heavenly place free from all pain, doubt, worry and fear. And the key to that place is given to us by the events of that great day all those years ago, when Jesus was seen again, *alive*! And then He went home, to live in that blessed place, and to lead us there.

I hope you love believing in that. I love believing in that. It makes life worth living. Amen."

S.J.P.

## **CLOSURE OF THE PRINCES STREET BUILDING**

It is planned to relinquish the Princes Street building to the Synod Trust at the end of June. There will be a service to mark this on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30 pm. It is hoped to open the church all day Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June and on the Saturday morning.

There will be a planning meeting for the open days on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. All are welcome.

Please send any suggestions to George Faris if you are unable to attend the planning meeting. Alternatively you can ring him on Yeovil 420258.