

## United Reformed Church Services.

### NOVEMBER

*Services at 10:30 am unless stated otherwise.*

Sunday 4th Mrs Jo Morling.

*(including Holy Communion).*

Sunday 11th United Remembrance Service @ St. Andrews

Sunday 18th Mr Steve Beney.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Uniting at Langport URC, Bow Street

Rev. Rowena Francis

*We are a small, inclusive, outward looking community and wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey we welcome you without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability. We respect the traditions of our past, engage with the present and look forward to the future, believing that Christian truth is not contained in static propositional statements but is ever changing and constantly evolving. Tea/coffee is served after every service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher.*

*Minister: Whilst Rev. Tim Richards is on sabbatical for Church business please call the Mid-Somerset Group Secretary on 01458 447020.*

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### **Harvest Charity Lunch News.**

**BIG THANKS** go to everyone who attended or supported in any way our Harvest Charity lunch: to date **£276.10** has been raised for the **Royal National Lifeboat Institution** with the RNLI volunteers taking another **£87.35** in sales on their stall.

The congregation are very grateful to those who gifted and prepared the delicious food and helped decorate the building in celebration of the earth's Harvest.

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### ***What would Jesus Do?***

During our harvest thanksgiving this year we explored the harvest celebrations that Jesus as a Jew would have taken part in during his lifetime: there were 3 – the feast celebrating the Barley Harvest, another celebrating the Wheat Harvest and the feast of the Tabernacles (or Booths) or *Sukkot*. Appropriately the date of our own Harvest Thanksgiving coincided with the timing of Sukkot. In what way was this coincidence appropriate? Sukkot celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection God provided the people of Israel as they left Egypt escaping slavery and bondage only to find themselves wandering through foreign lands and

deserts sheltering in tents and temporary structures living hand to mouth. Part of the festivities include building shelters, under the open sky if possible, with 3 walls and a roof of natural greenery to represent the temporary shelters used on the biblical journey of escape from Egypt.

The donations of goods on our Harvest Sunday were boxed up and taken into **Open Door** in Taunton to be used towards providing meals, washing & personal hygiene facilities for the homeless on our doorstep. The similarities between the experience of the escaping, wandering Israelites and the people that our chosen charity **Open Door** support was inescapable – present day individuals escaping their own demons, their own form of enslavement, or fleeing circumstances which have turned their worlds upside down, living in temporary accommodation, sofa surfing, in tents or under the stars; these are the people **Open Door** support with hot meals, facilities for washing, offering advice, hope and protection. Being for them the way God was for the escaping Israelites. For us as a congregation social justice is an important expression of our faith and desire to treat all humanity & the world as God would have us do: a practical expression of the Jesus' instruction to love our neighbours. It's one of the ways we can as a community do what Jesus would do in our world today.



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### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Continuing our charitable work, we are hosting  
a

Charity Carol Service

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm

In Support of **Taunton Association for the Homeless** (*now called ARC*) **Shoobox Appeal**.

**We therefore invite You or Your Organisation to join us for our Carol Service at which Shooboxes filled with items for individuals supported by ARC will be collected, carols sung and refreshments (including mulled wine, canapes & mince pies) enjoyed.**

We would love you to bring a filled shoe box, but a monetary gift, if you prefer, will be used to buy items. In the box opposite is a list, usefully provided by ARC, of what can be included.



#### What to include in your box:

- Hats
- Scarves
- Gloves
- Socks
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Shower Gel
- Shampoo
- Sanitary products
- Sweets/chocolate

#### Extras if you can:

- A torch
- Blankets
- Towels
- Thermals

*You could even include a Christmas card in your box to wish the person receiving your gifts a happy Christmas*

*If you choose to put your items in a shoebox and would like to wrap it, we ask that you please wrap the lid and the box separately, as every box must be checked before giving out to our clients for health and wellbeing reasons.*

Perhaps you could treat it as a *reverse Advent calendar* - as you open the windows on the countdown calendar (often revealing a sweet delight treat each day) why not place a gift in the shoebox each day to give to someone for whom 'treats' and 'delight' are rare experiences.

***Help us Support those less advantaged this Christmas time.***