

You are invited to:



**A Quiet Day at St George's Harnham,
Salisbury**

**Friday 13 March 2015
10.00 am to 4.00 pm**

Something Understood - an approach to Lent with
George Herbert".

Leader: The Revd. Canon Jeremy Davies

Enjoy the peace of this ancient church, close to the river
and the water meadows where George Herbert walked.

Bring your own lunch – drinks provided

(The Old Mill at Harnham is nearby if you forget your lunch!)

(contact Liz to book)



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**WILTSHIRE
CHURCHES
TOGETHER**

**Winter
2015**

**Reviewed, reconstituted and recommitted
Churches Together in Devizes**

Eight churches in Devizes have signed up to a new constitution and a new name, marking the next stage in the life of the Partnership of Churches which was founded in 1978.

Over the last eighteen months the member churches have held discussions and prayed. They have glimpsed God's will and reviewed the basis of collective activity, that is, the constitution. There was a Vision Day in October 2013, services and discussions in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2014 and in Lent 2014. Draft documents were drawn up and circulated to member churches for approval. The discussions were not all about formal structure of course. Priorities for the future were also agreed which include nurturing children and young people, championing social justice, finding confidence to talk more about our faith and being good stewards of the environment.

John Saunders, Chair of what is now to be called, "Churches Together in Devizes" said, "Many good things have been achieved in the last 36 years and there are many supportive friendships across the churches.

Our new constitution and fresh vision will help us to build on all this. We now hope to work more closely together and become increasingly involved in the life of Devizes, responding to some of the real need that there is in the town."



Signing the new Constitution on Thursday
29 January at the Church of Our Lady.

(left to right Revd. Gary Gotham) St Andrew's), Revd. David Fiddy (The Rock), Lawrie Smithson (St James'), Revd. Vincent Perricone (St Peter's), Liz Overthrow (St John's and St Mary's) Jacky Thomas (Quakers), Fr. Philip Baptiste (Church of Our Lady), Revd. Paul White (Sheep Street Baptist Church).

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News from Melksham

Living Nativity- This was the brain-child of the manager of Brookside Care Home. The town responded well, churches, supermarkets and people. Gaily dressed participants processed from the Town hall to the Care Home led by a donkey and two camels – real ones! Bless Melksham choir led the singing and mulled wine and mince pies were appreciated

Bless Melksham @ Christmas – Children from primary school, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and church members entertained with songs, carols and sketches. The Assembly Hall was packed and a great time was had by all.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – The churches were all open and each church had a designated time of prayer using the WPCU resources. The family of Churches renewed its Covenant at a service in St Michael's led by the Baptist Church and St Michael's.

The family of Churches AGM is on February 9th. Our speaker will be Stuart Windsor, Special Ambassador Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

We look forward to our Lent Course – Inside Out. We have 22 groups across the town.

and from Bradford-on-Avon

The Hub@BA15

This is an exciting project initiated by the Churches Together in Bradford on Avon and the surrounding villages, where a Community Hub is being set up in partnership with the Town Council and the Community Area Network linked to Wiltshire Council. There are six trustees, two from each of the three partners, plus a further four on the management team. The existing local foodbank, debt advice, and Credit Union, are all moving into the centre, each of which are run by local churches in the town.

The location is in the vacated HSBC bank in the centre on town. At present we are waiting to take possession of the lease from the Catholic Church, who have reduced the rent to allow the donation of the Community Fund held by the Parish Church to go further.

It is hoped to have the project open by the end of March, so volunteers will be needed to help offer these and other activities such as counselling and a job club.

The Foodbank is being affiliating to Trussell Trust and is nearly ready to go. The Christian nature of the activities and opportunities for all the churches to be involved is fantastic and God's blessing on the project is wonderful as things fall into place.

It is hoped that by serving the vulnerable and needy in the area, God's purposes will be served and the local community will see the Church acting in the name of Jesus.

News from Mere

Fair Trade Fortnight falls between 23 February and 8 March this year and is a wonderful opportunity to pop one or two extra Fair Trade items in your basket knowing that buying them really does make a huge difference to the producers around the world. We are holding a Big Brew Coffee Morning in the Methodist Church Schoolroom, North Road, Mere from 10.30-12.00 on Wednesday 25 February when there will be the opportunity to sample some of the Fair Trade goodies both new and old, enjoy a cuppa and good company. Money raised on the morning is to be matched pound for pound by the UK Government to support Traidcraft's work with smallholders to enable them to access the most basic of life's essentials.

Do come along and join us.

Lent Lunches:

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE AND DISTRICT are holding their popular Lent Lunches in aid of Christian Aid and CAFOD for five Fridays during Lent in the Grove Buildings, Church Street. Bring a friend and enjoy homemade soup, roll, butter, cheese, coffee and tea for only £3.

There will be a sales table which will include home-made produce.

and from Trowbridge

Faith Based Social Action Audit
(by The Cinnamon Network)

CATA signed up to be part of the social action audit that Cinnamon is running across 75 areas in the UK. It is a professional audit and the results will be compiled into a report that will show us, local councils and the government how much valuable voluntary work is done by faith groups.

We hope that all our churches and other Christian groups will see how important this audit is and fill in the survey when it is sent out in February.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – HOME FROM HOSPITAL

AGE UK are looking for people who have a few hours to give to visit people who come home from hospital and just need someone to pop in 2 -3 times to make sure they are coping.

They are also looking for **BE-FRIENDERS** people who can visit someone who is lonely and spend a little time with them. David Ellis at United Church would love to hear from you!