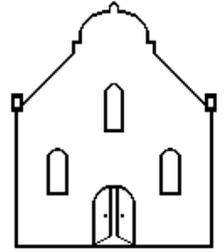




THE SOCIETY
Stirling Methodist Church
Newsletter
February 26th 2017
Issue 1258



Welcome to everyone sharing in worship here today, we trust that you will find it to be an enriching experience.

If you are visiting us, we invite you to sign the Visitors' Book which is on top of the organ.

Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee in the hall after the service.

At the beginning of our service, after the intimations are given by the steward, the Peace candle is lit and there is a short period of silence for you to prepare yourself for worship.

10.30am **Morning Worship**

Our service today is led by Revd W F Seymour

The full lectionary readings for this Sunday morning (any of which may or may not be used by the preacher) are:

Isaiah 49 : 8 – 16a;

Psalm 131;

1 Corinthians 4 : 1 – 5;

Matthew 6 : 24 - 34.

Also being used today :

Matthew 6 : 5 - 14

Sunday 5th Mar 10.30am Morning Worship & Holy Communion
Service led by : Revd Dr Mark Jason

The benevolent collection next week will be for Direct Link.

A collect for this week (from Methodist Worship Book):

Grant to us, Lord, we pray,
the spirit to think and do always those things that are right;
that we, who can do no good thing without you,
may by you be enabled to live according to your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BBC Songs of Praise recordings

We are invited to participate in recordings of traditional hymns for use in BBC One's Songs of Praise in St Ninian's Cathedral on the afternoons of Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th of March. Members are welcome to take part in one or both recordings.

The producer is especially keen for enthusiastic singers to form a specially formed choir massed choir from different churches and from a wide area. There is a special choir rehearsal on the afternoon of Saturday 11th March.

Applications for tickets must be made by Tuesday 28th February.

For further information email songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk or ring 0161 335 8429. Details are also on the church notice board.

Brian Baker

Circuit Plans

Everyone should have received a plan for the new quarter by now. Some hard copies are in the rack in the vestibule in case anyone has slipped through the net. Please help yourself.

Condolences to the Anderson Family

You will all be sorry to hear that Alice's mother, who has been in failing health for some time, had a very severe stroke last Sunday and died the following day. Ian and Alice drove down to the south of England overnight. Alice, in particular, is very distressed. Please remember all the family in your prayers.

Janet Baker

"Let's walk together!"



Jesus New Life New Hope

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Please find this as an invitation to come to the walk of witness on Good Friday. We plan this year to have songs, reading through the events of Holy week from Matthew's gospel and a drama.

If anyone wishes to join in the music, please contact Jim Steel from Allan Park South Church whose offered to help by organising this for us (jim@dataspacescotland.co.uk)

This year instead of a speaker as such we plan to put on a short mime at the King Street stop - if you wish to be involved in this - can you contact Rev Alistair Cowper minister at Allan Park South Church (ACowper@churchofscotland.org.uk) who has offered to bring this together with others.

A version of what is being proposed can be seen on You Tube - follow this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISwCOs-uXzU>

If anyone is willing to read and/or steward please contact myself for more information.

We also have a Large new banner to use up front (behind the cross) – See above!

And if your Church would like to bring its own Easter Banner to carry during the walk – please do so – the theme obviously being Easter. (you can have contact details or whatever on it)

**Stuart Davidson, Tel 01786-609237,
SDavidson@churchofscotland.org.uk**

In Touch

Anyone hoping to have an article in the next edition of the District Newsletter, "In Touch", please submit to **Fiona Inglis, 01786 820295, fiona@methodistchurch.plus.com** by 27th March 2017 at the very latest.

NWMC Talent and Craft Auction Sunday 19th March

Over the next few weeks, Ruth and a few helpers will be handing out a slip to each member of the congregation on which to record any 'talent' that you would like to offer for auction. This is just a way of focussing our minds and getting us to start thinking about the event!

If you are able to offer something, please complete the slip and hand back to a member of the Committee, preferably before 5th March. This will enable me to compile a list of Talents for the 12th March so that people can have some notice of the wonderful possibilities on offer.

You will also see a Flipchart at the front of the church and you can offer a talent by writing on this, if that is easier for you.

Please feel free to state a minimum price offer and any other relevant details, if you feel that to be appropriate.

In anticipation, thank you very much for your support.

Ruth Rogerson

Carbon Fast for Lent

The Moderator for the Church of South India, Most Rev. Thomas K Oommen, has suggested a new way of observing Lent: "I challenge all of you to go a step forward and deeper by initiating a 'Carbon Fast', in order to reduce the actions which damage God's Creation... I recommend forming a small group within your church to meet after worship each week for discussion and taking action. The Carbon Fast will provide myriad ways your congregation could get involved in enhancing climate justice. These ways may vary from questions for group discussion to steps your church could take to conserve energy. Across the broad range of activities, there should be no shortage of possibilities that match the initiative and interest within your congregation."

More details at www.ecocongregationscotland.org/news

Let me know if you would be interested.

Jon Cape. Green Team Leader

Stewards' Meeting

The stewards will be meeting with Mark on Thursday, March 2nd. If anyone would like topics relevant to that meeting raised please speak to me or any of the other stewards.

Janet Baker

New Church Website

Following approval from the Church Council last week, the new church website (<http://www.stirlingmethodistchurch.org.uk>) has now gone live.

If you have internet access, please have a look and let us know what you think. You can do this using the email form in the Contact Us page of the site (or simply by speaking to myself or Lois).

Whilst it has been a significant effort to get the website up and running, the key to its success is keeping it complete and up to date. The aim is for the website to be the primary means of communication both internally and externally, so you will find on it newsletters, details of upcoming events, reports on past events including photos, sermons and minutes of meetings. To enable this to happen, the website designer, Peter Guthrie, will be giving a training session for anyone who is interested at 6.30pm on Tuesday 7th March.

David Rogerson

Church Vision Fund

Establishing the website is one of several initiatives that was proposed last year by the church vision group, and accepted by Church Council. Other things that we would like to do are to install wifi within the church premises and potentially to upgrade the sound system so as to record sermons/services for uploading directly to the website. To enable such things to happen the Council approved the establishment of a Church Vision Fund, which will be a “ring fenced” for investments that are designed to fulfil the vision of the church. The full statement of that vision is on the About Us page of the website, but in short it is “to be an inclusive church in the heart of Stirling where we share God’s love through working with and for others to transform our community and the world.” The Church Council approved £1000 from the General Fund to be used to establish the Church Vision Fund, which would then (hopefully!) be supplemented by donations and fund-raising. Should you wish to make a donation directly to the Church Vision Fund, please speak with our treasurer, Brian Baker.

David Rogerson

Making Peace with our Planet

Over 40 people attended the inspiring evening held jointly with the Friends of the Earth on Monday 20th Feb in the church. We had the privilege of hearing Dr Julia Edwards, a Methodist mission partner who has lived and worked in Fiji since 2010 . The pacific islands are at the forefront of the impact of climate change and Julia wove the facts and figures around the personal stories of individuals and communities in Fiji . One example was the village of Vunidogola who as the sea encroached on their homes were forced to move the whole village to a higher inland site and it is not just villages for whom this is a threat, whole islands are under threat of being lost as are nation states such as Kiribati. She highlighted how people who loose homes through land loss cannot claim refugee status as to be a refugee you need to identify persecution from someone. Above all she reminded us 'that it is the same water that washes our shores'. Walter Atwood then presented her with a peace candle to take back to her church in Fiji to let them know we are thinking and praying for them and hoping against hope that climate justice will prevail and as a world we will make peace with our planet.

Ric Lander Friends of Earth took some great photos of the evening so if you want to see them you will need to go and look on the church website <http://www.stirlingmethodistchurch.org.uk/>

Lois Cameron

WaterAid

WaterAid 'Jars of Change' are available today after the Service for everyone who wishes to contribute to our annual appeal during Lent. All Jars will be collected at the end of Lent, and the money sent to WaterAid. Many thanks.

Ann Seymour and Joan McCulloch