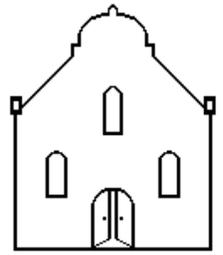




THE SOCIETY  
Stirling Methodist Church  
Newsletter  
March 19<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Issue 1261



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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.

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10.30am **Morning Worship**

Our service today is led by Julia Reid

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

Exodus 17 : 1 - 7;

Psalm 95;

Romans 5 : 1 – 11;

John 4 : 5 - 42.

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**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March** 10.30am

**Morning Worship**

Service led by : Revd Dr Mark Jason

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

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy  
but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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***Gift Aid***

Last year we received from the taxman £7,920 from the tax paid by members who Gift Aid their contributions to church funds. This represents a very significant part of the income of the church thanks to those who participate in this scheme. All of this in the past has come from gifts made through the envelope scheme or through standing orders. We can also claim tax refunds on gifts provided in other ways such as:

1. Vision Fund set up recently to resource the Mission Review Group.
2. Methodist Fund for World Mission
3. Methodist Fund for Home Mission

To claim tax refunds we have to inform HMRC of the donations made and maintain records which are open to possible inspection by HMRC although I have to say that during my 14 years as treasurer no inspection has been carried out.! So if you make extra gifts do let me know and your donation will be duly recorded. Existing users of the Gift Aid scheme are already covered by the declaration made on joining.

I stress that this extra income comes at no extra cost to donors and also that the tax paid in a tax year by the donor must be greater than is made through all gift aid donations.

Our Gift Aid Secretary, Bill Seymour, will be happy to answer any of your queries.

With my grateful thanks,

***Brian Baker***

## ***Pass It On***

This week is Pass It On Week. The idea is to dig out usable electrical items (in working condition) that you no longer have a use for, so that they can get passed on to someone else. The Church is taking part and you are invited to bring items along on 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> March. Any small electrical item in working condition will do. Just put it in the box in the hall after the service. The box will be passed to Zero Waste Scotland- but feel free to take anything that you could use yourself!

The types of items that you can pass on include computers, laptops, printers, tablets, phones, small household electricals like hairdryers and hair straighteners, kitchen appliances like blenders, mixers and juicers, games consoles, set top boxes and any other small household electrical items. Any data on laptops will be securely wiped. Those wishing to pass on phones should ensure they have reset the phone to factory settings – all phones are different but should have an ‘erase all data’ or ‘restore to factory settings’ option. You should do this, and then remove the SIM card before passing on phones.

I will take the box away after the service on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

And remember:

- (i) old ink cartridges (except Epson) and broken phones and PCs can be left anytime in the recycling box also in the hall
- (ii) Walter has asked for old containers to sue in the pallet garden

***Jon Cape***

## ***Start-Up/Food Bank***

The boxes will be out next week and the most wanted goods are cereals (supplies are VERY low), cereal bars, jam, jars of pasta sauce and instant meals.

Many thanks for last month's contributions which were very much appreciated.

***Janet Baker***

***Readers please***

If possible can you add your name to the 'reader rota' in the vestibule? At this time we are particularly in need for the month of April. Thank you,

***Jim Roberts***

***Open meeting re Circuit merger proposal***

I was informed by the stewards that some of you feel that you will benefit from another opportunity to talk about the Circuit Merger Proposal. In the light of this, there will be open evening on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm in the church. All are welcome.

***Mark Jason***

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***God's love (to the tune of the Flintstones theme song)***

God's love is the best love,  
that the world has ever, ever known.  
Deeper than the deep sea,  
is the love that only god has shown.  
Higher than the rockets up in space;  
Wider than the entire human race.  
Gods love is the best love that the world will ever,  
can ever ever, will ever ever know.