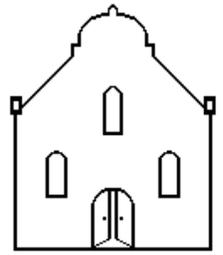




THE SOCIETY  
Stirling Methodist Church  
Newsletter  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Issue 1259



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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 & Holy Communion**

Our service today is led by Revd Dr Mark Jason

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

Genesis 2 : 15 – 17, 3 : 1 - 7; Psalm 32;

Romans 5 : 12 – 19;                      Matthew 4 : 1 - 11.

***The benevolent collection today is for Direct Link. All loose cash placed in the offertory this morning will be treated as the Benevolent Collection.***

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**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March**    10.30am    **Morning Worship**  
Service led by : Revd Hilda Warwick

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

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ  
fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves  
in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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***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.

***Janet Baker***

***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***

## ***Julia Edward's visit***

Julia was asked to speak with the Riverside pupils of P6 on climate change and Fiji. P6 have just finished a block of learning on climate change. Julia reinforced the reasons behind climate change without being too technical.

She illustrated her talk with stories and pictures about the people of the islands. The necessity of relocating a village away from the coast and the devastation caused by cyclone Winston.

What was the effect of climate change on the young people in Fiji? Pupils had to wade some miles to school from villages which are regularly inundated by the sea. Many of these pupils, some as young as 4, would be away from home from Sunday afternoon to early Friday evening. Although they were provided with accommodation the families had to make provision to feed and care for them. This meant that the mothers organized a rota between themselves to accompany the village children to school and care for them.

Julia also spoke about the lack of electricity in the villages. The response from some of the pupils was very quick as they had experienced a blackout the evening before. Julia got the children to speak about their experiences, doing homework by candlelight, playing board games, having family quizzes, trying to read using light from mobile phones and going to bed early. Julia was able to tell the children that this was an everyday experience in rural Fiji.

I hope that the young people were as fascinated by what they heard as I was. By the number of questions asked and their participation in the discussion they were. If the number of raised hands to ask questions at the end were anything to by we could have been there a lot longer. A very good event for Julia's visit.

On the Tuesday morning of Julia's visit she and I visited Transition Stirling to discover what they were doing. The tool library was discussed at some length. Julia asked if that concept had been extended to kitchen utensils and we discovered that Transition Stirling has a range of catering equipment that can be borrowed.

In the sharing of ideas it soon became clear that there was a lot of common ground between Fiji and Stirling.

***Walter Attwood***

# Join us between 20 - 26 March 2017 for Action for Children and The Very Hungry Caterpillar wiggling together!

The Giant Wiggle is a fun-filled walk for children raising valuable funds for disadvantaged children. It takes its inspiration from the UK's most read and much loved storybook, The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Children's groups, schools, libraries, and friends and family across the UK hold Giant Wiggle events of every size, taking part in lots of fun activities including storytelling, arts and crafts and a caterpillar conga line.

Since 2014, an incredible 110,500 children have taken part in more than 2,400 Giant Wiggle events. To join in the caterpillar fun, fill out our [simple online registration form](#) and we will send you your free fundraising and activity pack to help you organise your event, complete with lots of lovely activity ideas, materials and props.

If you can't hold your wiggle between 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March (Very Hungry Caterpillars Birthday week) then just let us know – you can hold it at any time and we'll do all we can to help you get set up.

If you have any difficulty registering, please [contact us directly](#)  
or call 0300 123 2112.

More info on the event can be found here:

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-to-help/fundraising-events/the-giant-wiggle/>

### ***A Coffee Morning.....***

.....will be held on Saturday 11th March 2017 between 10.00am and 12noon in the Chalmers Hall at Bridge of Allan Parish Church to support the work of the Family Help Hub at Cornton Vale Prison and the proposed Hub at HMP Glenochil.

Tickets: £3.00 per ticket at the door. (At the time of going to press we have not received any for sale beforehand.)

***Janet Baker***

### ***Scottish Memorial Service for Rev. Canon Kenyon Wright***

This will be held at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh on Friday next, 10th March at 5.30 p.m. All who knew Kenyon will be welcome. A similar service was held in Coventry Cathedral last Friday. Details are on the ACTS website.

***Janet Baker***

### ***Fair Trade events***

- (i) Just a week to go now to the Stirling Fair Trade Ceilidh with the Stirling Riverside Ceilidh Band, 730n on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March in Bridge of Allan - the Parish Church Hall opposite the Coop. Tickets can be bought from Gill or Jon or online this year for the first time. Go to the link below or search Fair Trade Stirling at [www.eventrbrite.com](http://www.eventrbrite.com) search Fair Trade Stirling.
- (ii) Dunblane Arts Guild's annual Fairtrade Afternoon Tea with music; this year it's taking place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March starting at 3pm. It's in the Cathedral Hall as usual, but what makes it special is that they are having a visit from one of Scottish Fair Trade Forum's guests for FT Fortnight. ❖ Lousi Albadawi is a fair trade producer from Palestine. She represents the Oasis Centre, an organisation that produces a range of craft and gift items, and provides employment for people with disabilities in the Palestinian town of Beit Sahour. With Lousi will be her husband Mohammed, Community Engagement Officer with SFTF Colleen Tait, and SFTF volunteer Fabiola Vega. She will talk around 4pm.

***Jon Cape***

## ***Making Peace with our Planet***

Over 40 people attended the inspiring evening held jointly with the Friends of the Earth on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 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***

This is the first Sunday in Lent. If, by any chance, you missed getting 'a Jar of Change' for WaterAid last week, it is not too late. Plenty of Jars are still available after the Service today. Grateful thanks to all participating.

***Ann Seymour and Joan McCulloch***