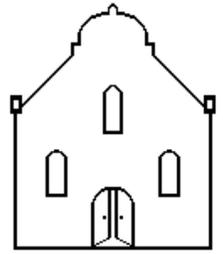




THE SOCIETY
Stirling Methodist Church
Newsletter
March 26th 2017
Issue 1262



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 - Mothering Sunday**

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:

1 Samuel 16 : 1 - 13;

Psalm 23;

Ephesians 5 : 8 – 14;

John 9 : 1 - 41.

Sunday 2nd April

10.30am

Morning Worship

Service led by : Ms Anne Lochhead

A collect for Mothering Sunday (from Methodist Worship Book):

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth:
strengthen us each day,
that in joy and sorrow
we may know your presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Pallet Garden

It has been proposed by the Green Team that we have a pallet garden at the front of the church. A pallet garden is a small growing area on top of a wooden pallet that has been used to move large volumes of goods but cannot now be used in that capacity. The garden produced is not permanent and can be moved.

To achieve this garden we are looking for containers that can be used as pots, but we are not looking for plant pots. We are looking for items such as old washing up bowls, recycling boxes that are no longer used, teapots which have lost their spouts, watering cans which have sprung leaks, wellington boots, old saucepans. In fact if you think of a container we can probably use it. The wackier and weirder the better.

The beauty of this type of quirky garden is that people stop and stare and it can become a topic of conversation. It also gives out a message about recycling. Indeed with more containers than can fit on the pallet we can have extra ones planted up and beginning to grow to replace those on the pallet when they have past their best.

Mark Allison has agreed to oversee this project and Sam Ridley has agreed to help out. We garden will be an herb garden and the produce will be available to church members to have and take home for their own use.

Comments about this quirky idea very welcome.

Walter Attwood

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

MWIB Scotland District Fellowship Day

Saturday 13 May 2017 11am - 3pm

City of Edinburgh Methodist Church

Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX

Speaker: Rev Sally Binymin

Theme: 'Story - my story, your story, God's story'.

Buffet Lunch £8

All are Welcome

Easter Debate

We haven't unfortunately managed to hold any Lent discussion or study groups within the church this year. However, why not come along to our Easter Debate on Friday 7th April at 7.30pm? This is the second in our Open Space sessions on Friday evenings, suitable for church folk and anyone else you may like to invite along. First, we will watch a filmed debate between two theologians, one conservative and one liberal, providing contrasting viewpoints on the Easter story. After a chance for comments from the floor, Rev Jim Jones will offer a synthesis of the opinions provided in the debate and discuss the impact of resurrection on the life of faith. The debate will then be opened to the floor and can, of course, be continued over refreshments. Don't expect platitudes - the evening comes with the caveat that not everything you hear may be official church policy – but it should set you thinking in advance of Holy Week. There is no charge to attend and all are welcome.

David Rogerson

Prayer Request – Candidate Selection

This week (27th to 31st) sees the Connexional/final stage of the candidate selection process for this Methodist year. Prospective candidates undergo a series of interviews, presentation, group work, etc over a 24 hour period spanning two days at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon (just outside the M25). Obviously I have a vested interest in asking for you prayers this year (my dates are 28th/29th) but I ask that you hold the whole process and all those involved in your prayers this week – both the candidates and the assessors, who give a huge amount of time to this process despite already busy lives.

Julia Reid