

The Messenger

Wallingford
Methodist Church
May 2017 Issue 355





A message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year, our Circuit held a workshop led by Rev Robert Jones, to help us understand more about the role of a chaplain. Chaplaincy is already well established in certain fields of work and you may know of chaplains serving in the Forces, in education and young people's work, in hospitals, hospices and care homes, in agriculture, in prisons or in civic life. In more recent years there has been a growth in chaplaincy in shopping centres and businesses and in other work places. So what is a chaplain?

A chaplain offers a visible Christian presence, interacting with people in the community or in the workplace and is someone who goes out to where people are, to listen, to be alongside, to be a guest not a host. Whereas in our churches we are often seen to be a gathering community, inviting people to "join us", chaplaincy is not about "gathering in" but more about "going out". This pattern of "going out" reflects the ministry of Jesus who went out to minister wherever people were and he sent out his disciples to go and do the same.

A chaplain is available to those with faith and those who don't profess faith. Their role is not to preach but to listen and respond and if invited to do so, discuss their Christian faith.

Although workplace chaplaincy is well established, the idea of providing chaplains where people live rather than where they work seems to be new. As many of you know, our Circuit has been developing just such a vision- to offer chaplaincy in new housing areas.

We are delighted that Sarah Ifill and Libby Hawkness-Smith have been appointed as part-time community chaplains to work at Great Western Park in Didcot.

Sarah, is well known here as she is a member of this church and currently our Senior Steward. Libby is an Anglican and is looking forward

to getting to know people in our Circuit. They will start during May and will use a chaplaincy “van” (a small motorhome) as their mobile base and visible presence.

Please pray for Sarah and Libby and those who will work with them as they take on their new roles. May they be assured of the prayers and encouragement of everyone here as they seek to serve God in this new and exciting way. I look forward to working with them.

Every blessing,
Katherine



Dates for your Diary

General Church Meeting

Sunday 14 May 1.15-3.30pm

You are invited to bring your lunch and eat together beforehand.

Church Anniversary

Sunday 11th June with Rev Alan Grist followed by church lunch

Sunday 25th June

Ordination of Deacon Selina Nisbett, 4pm Darlington St Methodist Church, Wolverhampton. Entry is free but a ticket is needed. If you want to go, please contact Katherine Pickering or Keith Underhill.

Privilege and Responsibility

Recently the Local Preachers of the Circuit had the opportunity to spend the day with John Bell from the Iona Community.

It was a most inspiring day, with many words of wisdom from John for our consideration.

One of them spoke to me very clearly, so that I feel I want to share it with you.

John was speaking about hearing the Bible read aloud during an act of worship and how important a part of each service that is.

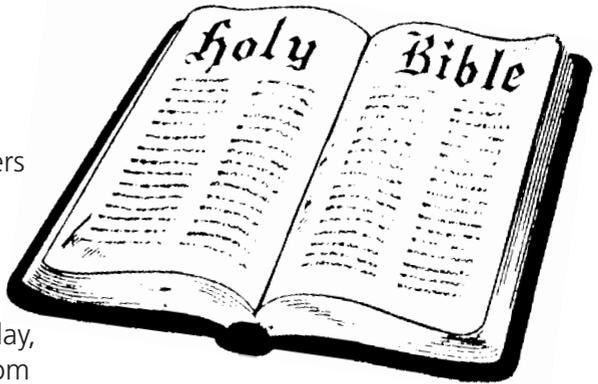
He said something like this, "The Bible has the capacity to convert. If read with conviction it is the mouth of God for people with open ears."

That being so, what a privilege it is to be asked to read, and what a tremendous responsibility is put on the reader. For who knows whether this is the service in which the Spirit will choose to use the words of the Bible to bring conversion or some other blessing to someone in the congregation.

But it seems to me that the responsibility for the readings rests on us all. How necessary it is for the readers to know that when they stand up and open the Bible to read the word of God to us, we are praying for them and for the words to be effective in our hearts.

This is a new concept to me, and because I feel it to be very important I share it with you in the hope that we shall all be moved to do our best to enable our readers to bring God's word home to us, and that we shall also do our best to listen with open ears.

If this happens then surely the readings will become one of the most important parts of the service - for what can be more important than carefully hearing the word of God?



Brenda Boyer

Safeguarding

If you undertook safeguarding training several years ago, led by David Rankin and myself, then you are due to attend a refresher evening. A refresher session, which is obligatory for church and circuit stewards, local preachers, worship leaders, pastoral visitors and those working with children and young people, is being held in our church on Tuesday June 27th, at 7.30 pm. If you are unable to attend this session, an alternative event is being held this month, on Thursday May 4th at Wantage Methodist Church, also at 7.30 pm.

The Methodist Church has decided that it is good practice for everyone to complete a two hour refresher four years after completing the 'Creating Safer Spaces' training.

Please sign the sheet in the atrium to show which refresher evening you will be attending.

Thanks,

Nicky Lidstone

The Three Pressed Men

7.30pm Saturday 20th May £10 including light refreshments

Popular folk group the Three Pressed Men will be returning to our church for the third time in May.

Known as English folk music's hidden talent, the Oxfordshire based group play a wide array of instruments from harmonica and guitar to accordions and many different concertinas. The band members Dick Wolff, Mark Fry and Ian Wheeler compose, arrange and sing traditional English folk music and promise to include plenty of lively choruses for audience participation.

Tickets available from fund raising committee members or by putting your name on the list in the atrium. Please let your friends know and invite them along too.

Proceeds from the concert will go towards church funds.

NB If you would be able to help on the evening, please see Nicky or sign up on the sheet in the atrium.

Nicky Lidstone

Words for thought

A meditation which Alec Goldsmith would like share.

A Rebuke

Lord, I have received a rebuke.
Not from You, Master, although I might well deserve it.
But from a young man.
He said nothing to me: he did nothing to me;
but I saw him, and seeing, I was humbled and contrite.

He sat in a restaurant, his plate before him
He ate like a dog, Master, just like a dog.
Lapping up ice-cream with his lips and tongue,
direct from the plate.

My inward reaction was swift... and unforgivable.
Modern youth!
What new monstrosity will they invent?
And then I watched and understood.

His twisted arms hung uselessly on his knees.
He was a cripple, a young cripple;
going through life with a terrible defect.

And in my heart I had blamed him,
blamed him for unseemly behaviour, this fine, brave lad,
suffering people's pitying gaze each day of his life;
living differently because he must;
each day a new crucifixion.
Forgive me Master, I take this rebuke as from you.

+ Help me not to judge without knowing,
not to jump to conclusions,
not to condemn without evidence,
nor to hurt any of my fellow men needlessly,
remembering that to know all is to forgive all.

Taken from 'Just a moment, Lord' by Thora Larsson, Salvation Army

A Good Friday Journey - James Wilson

Many people in Wallingford must have felt a gap in their lives during Passiontide this year since there was no performance of Stainer's Crucifixion. This cantata had become ingrained into many of us so that we looked forward to its performance during Holy Week.

It was my good fortune to fill this 'gap' by going to a performance of the 'Crucifixion' at the church of St Bride's, Fleet Street in London. At 1.12pm I boarded a Circle Line train heading for Blackfriars and I entered the church on the stroke of 2pm just as the choir were processing into their places.

St Bride's is renowned for its choir who give regular recitals and who have produced several CD's. They were superb in singing 'Crucifixion' and the two soloists were excellent. John Stainer who composed the music and WJ Sparrow Simpson who wrote the words were shrewd collaborators who included congregational hymns so this cantata becomes a Service of Worship. You are missing the point if you arrive for a performance of this work thinking you are there just to listen to beautiful music.

Stainer's Crucifixion is a masterpiece in its exposition of the saving work of Jesus on the cross. It has echoes of St Paul's great hymn on the person of Christ, recorded in Philippians Chapter 2 verses 5-10. You will remember the words: 'And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.'

Sparrow Simpson was bold and penetrating when he wrote:

'This - all human thought surpassing
This is earth's most awful hour,
God has taken mortal weakness!
God has laid aside His power!'

He reminds us that the death of Jesus didn't happen because he was a victim of his circumstances, it was our sins that drove Jesus to the cross:

'Here the king of all the ages,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
Robed in mortal flesh is dying,
Crucified by sin for me,'

The cantata moves to the point where the penitent sinner kneels at the foot of the cross just like Doubting Thomas knelt at the feet of the Saviour and uttered the memorable cry of surrender: 'My Lord and my God!'

The penitent sinner expresses his heartfelt commitment to his Saviour when he sings:

‘I adore thee, I adore thee!
Thankful at thy feet to be;
I have heard thy accents thrilling,
Lo! I come for thou art willing
Me to pardon, even me.’

The climax of the cantata comes at the end when choir and congregation combine to respond to the love and passion of Jesus as they sing the hymn ‘All for Jesus, thou hast loved us...’

It is my conviction that nobody can genuinely participate in a performance of Stainer’s Crucifixion without becoming a changed person. The work is so scriptural, so personal and so challenging. I would gladly travel 40 miles again to become so immersed in this great spiritual experience.

Art & Photographic Exhibition April 2017

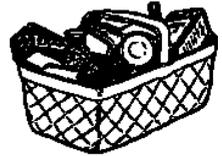
The fundraising team would like to thank all those who helped at and supported the recent art and photographic exhibition.

Despite fewer visitors than in recent years, a gratifying £430.42 was raised which will be split between our two charities, Karibuni Trust, which educates poor and orphaned children in Kenya, and the Didcot based Balsam Family Project, which provides support and education to families in need locally. The stall selling Karibuni crafts raised a further £39.50 for the charity.

The main exhibition, which was opened by the mayor Ros Lester, after she presented prizes to the talented winners of the school competition, featured 116 entries, of which eight were sold, plus various cards. During the Friday evening and Saturday 114 paying visitors came to view and enjoy refreshments in addition to the many artists and photographers, who received a free pass to look at the exhibits.

The certificate for the painting with the highest number of votes went to Robert Hillier, a previous winner, for his picture of The Clumps under snow. The votes for best photo were tied between Wendy Reed’s atmospheric Misty morning in Nott Wood and David Griffith’s striking picture of a storm over Brightwell Barrow.

Food Bank Analysis For March 2017



The days may be getting longer but so, unfortunately, is the list of people making use of the Food Bank - 112 this month, 60 adults and 52 children. Most of those making use of this service tell us that their benefits have been changed and there is a 6 week wait before they can receive any money again.

With the large turnover of clients that we have had recently, this has meant several large shopping trips to stock up. This is quite hard work and is why we are really anxious to find suitable accommodation for storage on a permanent basis. It would mean that we could have the supplies delivered and would save a lot of bending and lifting - none of us are getting any younger!

Whilst not accepting home made produce we have been given a large number of fresh eggs which have been surplus to requirements and these have been very gratefully received by the clients. It would be great if we could give more fresh food but unfortunately we just don't have the space to accommodate a fridge or freezer in the CAB kitchen.

As mentioned before, we are always pleased to receive cereal, fruit juice, milk, custard, rice pudding and just some ordinary packets of biscuits - we have plenty of chocolate bars like kit-kat.

My thanks to you all once again for your interest and support.

Jean Burt



The Messenger

I often receive comments and thanks for putting this newsletter together and I am very conscious that some may be unaware that the work of printing, colating and stapling is done by Alec Goldsmith. So many thanks Alec for your continued support to me and for your time and efforts, especially for the colouring!

Please let me have any items for the June issue by Monday May 22nd at the latest.

Weekday Activities

Tuesday

Lunches	12.30 -1.30pm
Friendship Group	2pm (Alternate Tuesdays)
The Guild	7.30pm (Alternate Tuesday)
ECG Housegroup fortnightly	7.30pm various venues, contact Suzy Smith

Wednesday

Tots Time (term time)	9.30-11am weekly
Loving Hands - Crafty knitters	2-4pm
BB&GA	Anchors 6pm Juniors 6.45pm
Company & Seniors	7.30pm
The Gap	8pm (Fortnightly)
House Groups	weekly at: 8pm - 22 Borough Avenue alternate weeks 8pm - 3 Shillingford Court

Thursday

Coffee Morning and chat	10.30-12noon
Choir Practice (Special occasions, see notices)	8pm

Minister Rev Katherine Pickering 01235 813242
katherine.pickering@methodist.org.uk

www.wallingfordmethodistchurch.org.uk
Registered Charity X65308

The Tuesday Guild

(7.20pm for 7.30pm start)

May 2nd - SmartWorks

A charity which helps unemployed women back to work

May 16th Hooray - it's 'Them' again!

Gill and friends' Wind Quartet

May 30th - A Man-made marvel

An Audio/Visual presentation on the damming and reclamation of the Dutch Zuyder Zee

PA Operatives

May 7th	10.30am 6.30pm	G Ifill A Goldsmith
May 14th	10.30am 6.30pm	I Scrivener I Scrivener
May 21st	10.30am 6.30pm	I Revell No Service
May 28th	10.30am 6.30pm	A Goldsmith JN Atkinson

Coffee Rota (Sunday Morning)

May 7th	Angela/Belinda
May 14th	Nicky/Sarah
May 21st	Pauline A/ Shirley
May 28th	Sue/Mary



Church Stewards

May 7th	A Baudry
May 14th	S Scrivener
May 21st	B Kershaw
May 28th	B Kaur

Door Stewards

May 7th	10.30am 6.30pm	M & J Chalkley L Bolton
May 14th	10.30am 6.30pm	P Maskrey/H Brown B Boyer
May 21st	10.30am 6.30pm	I Scrivener/E Woodward No Service
May 28th	10.30am 6.30pm	A & A Lowe R Atkinson

Organists

May 7th	10.30am 6.30pm	Libby Bolton Libby Bolton
May 14th	10.30am 6.30pm	Gill Hall James Garnett
May 21st	10.30am 6.30pm	Gill Hall No Service
May 28th	10.30am 6.30pm	Libby Bolton James Garnett

Lectionary

May 2017

May 7th Vocations Sunday	Acts 2:55-60 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10
May 14th Christian Aid	Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 32:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14
May 21st Aldersgate	Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21
May 28th	Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11

Sunday Worship 10.30am & 6.30pm

May 7th	10.30am 6.30pm	Paul Williams Rev Katherine Pickering C
May 14th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev Katherine Pickering C Rev I Griffiths
May 21st	10.30am 6.30pm	Barbara Sexton At Trinity
May 28th	10.30am 6.30pm	Brenda Boyer Elizabeth Wood