



Newsletter
February 2015



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Please recycle this Newsletter when you have finished with it.

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

“The king is dead; long live the king!”; a phrase that resonates through our history and which has found an echo recently in Saudi Arabia with the death of King Abdullah and the succession of his half-brother King Salman. However, the situation in Saudi Arabia is far from straightforward and there are those who fear that, in the future, there may not be a smooth transfer of power, with all the implications of that for the current situation in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy, but I write on the day after the people of Greece – the birthplace of democracy - went to the polls and made a decision the effects of which are also uncertain. In 2015 there will be many countries around the globe who will also be taking part in elections – some presidential, some parliamentary – and that of course includes us. We do need to remember though that there are many countries where there are either no elections because people have no say in the ruling of their country, like Saudi Arabia, or where the outcome of the elections that are held is dubious to say the least; and we remember too that in too many places who holds power is decided by force and terror.

How our country relates to other political situations through Foreign Policy and trade is one of the things that should concern us as we approach the election in May. We all have a part to play in the governing of our country – and we give thanks to God that we do – and as a church community we will be engaging with those issues which we believe as Christians our politicians should be concerned with through our *Good Society* events and conversations.

Alongside those conversations and concerns though, we – as people all over the world do, whatever their political context – also continue with the daily round of human life and, for us, Christian discipleship. As a Circuit staff we are aware that we have been involved in more funerals than usual since Christmas and I would ask you to hold in your prayers those who have been recently bereaved.

Bereavement is a difficult journey which we are all called to make at different times throughout our lives and we are privileged to be hosting a collection of sculptures by Jean Parker which explores that journey. We are also going to reflect on some of those themes and link them to the journey the disciples made as they slowly came to understand what following Jesus would mean as part of our Lenten studies.

Jean's sculptures are a journey of hope and end in a place of peace; so too with our Lenten studies. Many people struggle with Lent, especially Holy Week, but we need always to remember that it is not just a journey towards darkness, but a

journey through darkness that leads to light and life; a journey that leads to Easter Day when we can proclaim that our King is not dead, but alive for evermore!

Yours in Christ,

Mandy

Ash Wednesday

Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

February 18th at 7.30pm

A Service of Penitence, Preparation & Holy Communion.

Good Grief – Bald Statements

An Exhibition by Jean Parker

A Study in Grief and Personal Loss...

... and a journey of Hope.

- Sculptures that present a powerful and unique visual exploration of the grief process.
- An exhibition that stimulates reflection and discussion about the powerful and sometimes overwhelming emotions that accompany personal loss.
- Images that help us understand the transitional stages experienced by many as part of a natural process... offering glimpses of hope when all seems lost.

Exhibition open

February 18th – March 16

Wednesdays 10am – 2pm on February 18th & 25, March 4th & 11th

and Saturdays 10am – 1pm On February 21st & March 7th

Other times by prior arrangement.

Help is needed to make coffee during the Good Grief Exhibition opening hours.

Please contact the stewards if you are able to help.

Lent 2015

2pm at 114 Mile End Lane

Tuesdays: February 24, March 3rd, 10th & 17th

7.30pm at 41 Canada Street

Tuesdays: March 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

Week 1

Journeying with the disciples: Confusion

Week 2

Journeying with the disciples: Anger

Week 3

Journeying with the disciples: Numbness

Week 4

Journeying with the disciples: Peace

Appointment of a Steward

We need nominations for a new steward to replace Ted Dawber, who completes his 6 year term of office at the end of April, to be appointed at the Annual General Meeting on 14th March. Nominations should be proposed and seconded. The person nominated must agree to the nomination and both she/he and the persons proposing and seconding need to be Church members. Nominations should be given to The Minister, Rev Mandy Boon as soon as possible.

Anyone thinking about whether they can serve in this position can speak to one of the current stewards to find out what is involved. There is no minimum term of service, but the maximum term is six years.

In Our Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are unwell at home or in hospital at this time or have been bereaved, also those housebound through age and those awaiting or recovering from operations.

We also pray for anyone experiencing difficult times.

Mid-week Communion Services

Mid-week communion services will take place at Dialstone Lane on **February 25th, March 11th & 25th, April 8th & 22nd at 12.30pm.**

All welcome.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March Newsletter is **Sunday 22nd February, 2015**. Please leave items in the letter rack **NO LATER THAN 12noon**.

Borrowing Church Property

Will anyone wishing to borrow items of Church property please speak to Margaret Bryant or Sue Judson before removing anything from the premises.

Thank you for your co-operation.

The Property Committee

Tape Ministry

If you would like to hear the service on tape, please contact Lesley for a copy.

Book Club

The next Book Club will meet on Thursday 5th March at 11.00am.

With Sympathy

We are sorry to report the deaths of **Norman Card**, who until recently worshipped at Dialstone Lane, and

Evelyn Hillier, who was a member for many years until she and Norman moved to be nearer their family a number of years ago.

We also send our sympathies to **Michele & Bob Clegg, Nichola, Ian, Willow & Esme, Janine & Natalie** on the death of Michele's Mother.

Our thoughts and prayers go to all their families and friends.

Norman Card

We are sorry to say Norman died on 1st January aged 89. A familiar figure at Dialstone Lane Church morning services for many years where his quiet kind personality was much appreciated. A Stockport man, he married the young lady who nursed him in hospital long ago, & where they had a large family. He loved his very wide family & was a popular friend to so many. He supported many charities including wildlife, Help the Aged etc. and was a keen Stockport County supporter.

His support for this church was also shown by his kindness in bringing his mechanical musical organ to play on the Church front path to attract people passing by into the fairs. On those occasions a very colourful figure in striped suit with very many medals and

badges won at events such as Traction Engine Rallies which he also supported. (Photo on Church noticeboard).

The funeral at Dialstone Lane Church was on 21st January attended by the very large family and many friends including members of the church. The family request any donations to his memory should be to Dialstone Lane Church.

Margaret Adshead

Birthday Greetings

Best Wishes to **Lesley Fennell** who celebrated her 60th birthday on January 25th

Thanks

Olive Williamson would like to thank everyone for the church flowers sent to her and also for the Christmas gift. These were most appreciated.

Michele, Bob, Nichola, Ian & family would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy received by them on the death of a beloved mother, grandmother & great-grandmother.

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your kindness and thoughtfulness. Your prayers, flowers, cards, phone calls and visits during the last few weeks have been very much appreciated. I had a beautifully handmade card from Beth who wanted to know how that would make me better. I assure you it did.

We are well on the way to recovery although Ted is still finding life difficult getting back to a car that depends on a Key not a computer! Bring back the pony and trap (or Donkey) I say.

Thank you all once again,

Ann & Ted

It was a lovely surprise to receive the gift from Rev Mandy and the people at Dialstone Lane Methodist Church. Thank you, it was very kind.

Love from **Mavis C**

I would like to send thanks for the gift and card which Carole brought for me at Christmas. Also, Rev Mandy's visit which was much appreciated.

Good wishes to you all for the coming year.

Margaret Holmes

Thank you to all our friends in the Circuit

We want to thank you for your thoughts, prayers and help since Peter's accident in April 2013.

Peter is now living in his own flat in Cheadle Hulme with some dedicated support workers, something we would not have believed possible even a year ago. The NHS has been brilliant right throughout from intensive care, neuro rehabilitation and cancer treatment to his current support in the community. We know there is still a very long path ahead but the family are thankful for all Peter has achieved so far. Miracles do happen and we want to thank everyone throughout the Circuit for the very many acts of kindness and prayers over so many long months.

Love and best wishes

Val, Bernie and all the Rowlands family

Practical Action

CHARITY BOOK SALE

We have decided through the relevant committees to start a charity book sale to raise money for Practical Action and to recycle books.

Suitable books of all sorts will be welcome as gifts and these will be on the shelves of the new book case in the coffee lounge.

This is not to be confused with the existing book library on smaller shelves in the coffee lounge and is clearly labelled.

The books will be available for purchase at the following prices:

Paper back – 30p

Hard back – small 50p, large £1.00.

A trust cash box will be placed on the shelves.

When our year for Practical Action is over we hope this will continue for the next church charities down the years.

If you have any suitable books to help this project, can you leave them on the book case, or speak to Margaret and /or Dave Bryant.

Many thanks

Margaret B

Pancake Coffee Morning

Tuesday, 3rd March 10.00 am to 12 noon

In the Coffee Lounge

Coffee/Tea and Pancakes will be served and there will be a Bring & Buy Stall and Raffle.

Offers of help and/or raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. Please see Pat or Susie if you can help in any way.

Proceeds will go towards upgrading sound/vision in the Church.

All welcome.

Safari Supper

Hopefully our Safari Supper will take place on the evening of Friday 6th March. At this moment in time we only have two hosts and one possible for the main course. This would allow twelve other people to take part. We have one offer for desserts. Last year two people joined together and hosted desserts at church. Perhaps someone who is unable to host in their own home might like to do this again.

After desserts everyone meets together at church for coffee and a time of fellowship. The cost of the meal is £6.50 per head and hosts claim back the cost of their ingredients. Any money remaining will be donated to the Church charity.

So have a think. If you want to join in let me know as soon as you can and if you can provide a meal for six people even better.

Thanks **Andrew**.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to **Joan Stoker** (Andy's Mother) on her MBE honour announced in the New Year's Honours list. We look forward to hearing from Andy and Catriona when they accompany Joan to collect her honour later this year.

New Year's Resolution

In January 2013 my New Year's Resolution was to commit some bible texts to memory. I think I started off very ambitiously thinking I could learn one a week - I am still trying to continue the idea but some passages take me a lot longer than that!

Some are favourite verses and some God suggests, those are the ones I always find most useful. He knows what I need and when I need it - more faith, more patience, more trust - more of everything really.

So I thought, or maybe He thought, that I should share this idea and if your resolution has fallen by the wayside or you never got round to making one you might like to give it a try?

An apt verse to start with seems to be Proverbs chapter 16 verse 9 - **'In his heart a man plans his course but the Lord determines his steps'**

I don't know whether this could be the start of a shared journey?

Please let me know.

Susan Conlon

Soup and Sweet Lunch

We will be having a soup and sweet lunch after the morning service on Sunday 8th March to celebrate our church anniversary.

There will be no charge but donations will be gratefully received for Christian Aid.

Please fill in the tear off slip in this newsletter if you would like to come, if you are able to help at the lunch or if you can provide soup or a sweet and return it **to one of the stewards by March 1st.**

Toy & Gift Service

16th November 2014

Thanks have come from the two organisations involved in passing on your gifts to children & teenagers (0-19 years).

There were lots of lovely Christmas presents and money.

Stockport Social Services Family Unit

We cannot thank you enough for the presents & money donated for the children and young people we work with. We shared out the presents and bought vouchers for the teenagers and are so grateful for your church's kind generosity and support which made sure local disadvantaged families had a happier Christmas time.

(Note: £58 was sent to the Stockport Family Unit)

Wood Street Mission Manchester

Thank you for the donation of toys and money towards this year's Christmas project – please pass on our sincere thanks to everyone involved. This year we have over 4,000 children from over 2,000 local families referred for help. Each child receives a new toy and every family a large food hamper (with treats). This helps to alleviate the sense of social exclusion felt by many disadvantaged families especially at Christmas. Your contributions will make a big difference and we thank you on their behalf.

Note: £84 was sent to Wood St. Mission. They have an arrangement for discounted toys from a local firm).

Sunday School

A Good Society? Britain decides 2015.

On 7th May this year will be a General Election. The people of Britain are charged with an important decision, regarding who should represent us in parliament for the next five years.

This event gives us an opportunity to reflect, with our local communities, about what we want for our society.

- What makes a good society?
- What does "success" look like in a good society?

- How do we address issues about health, well-being and care?
- What are our responsibilities?
- What about money, tax, debt, wealth and poverty?
- Does faith contribute to a good society?
- How far are the priorities of the candidates standing in the General election consistent with our vision?

Churches together in Britain and Ireland have produced resources to enable communities to get together and consider these issues, in the run up to the general election. At Dialstone Lane we are planning two open meetings. The first (on Saturday 28th February 10-12:30) will include a key note speech to introduce these ideas. Niall Cooper, the Director of Church Action on Poverty, has been invited. This will give us an opportunity to reflect on the issues about a good society, and set out our priorities and values.

We plan to have a second meeting, close to the election, when we will invite candidates to respond to our ideas about a Good Society (date to be decided). There would be an opportunity to ask questions, and further discuss our values, in the light of the stance taken by the various parties.

These will be open meetings, so everyone is very welcome to attend. Further information, and confirmation of dates/times, will be available from Dialstone Lane nearer the time. Like our Facebook page, or look out for our printed notices for up to date information. Contact Liz Delafield or Andy Stoker for further details.

Practical Action

Our Church Charity this year is Practical Action. This charity works in some of the world's poorest countries. They work with communities to find sustainable solutions to their problems. In flood hit areas of Bangladesh, for example, they are helping communities to find ways to grow crops using floating gardens.

We have invited a representative from Practical Action to our morning service at 10:45am on Sunday 22nd February. Come along and find out more.

Four Seasons

Our meeting in March is on Thursday 5th March at 8.00pm. The speaker will be my brother, Rod Porter, talking (with pictures) about his trip to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan last August. He'd always been interested in visiting places on the old Silk Route from China to the Mediterranean and this was a chance to visit two contrasting countries next

door to one another. So join him in visiting Tash Rabat and Osh, Samarkand and Tashkent, fabled towns of the old Silk Route. Maps can be provided!

All are welcome.

Catriona Stoker

Created

Forty years since it opened for business as “Tearcraft”, pioneering the fair trade agenda as a Christian responsibility, the decision has been taken to close “Created” in 2015. I can only relay the information given in the autumn 2014 Tear Times as to the reasons.

Firstly, a recognition that awareness of fair trade and trade justice has moved steadily into the public and political consciousness and products are more widely available so their role as sole pioneers has changed. But secondly, they add, “the retail industry has changed hugely, and costs and competition mean that Created will struggle to remain viable as a business. We want to be able to end well and support our partners through the change”.

This means that Created staff are working closely with Traidcraft, transferring relationships wherever possible to ensure that partners, volunteers and buyers can still be involved in building a fairer world. There is a definite legacy in the stories told of lives transformed by being involved in producing goods for Created.

There are still goods available through their website at createdgifts.org but the warehouse is emptying fast.

Catriona Stoker

Traidcraft

- The next Traidcraft stalls will be held on February 28th at the Good Society event, March 1st after morning service (in the middle of Fairtrade Fortnight), and Sunday March 22nd, again after morning service. In between stalls there is the small “treats” box in the Church foyer, which I keep stocked up and empty the money box regularly. I will put some Valentines cards and small gifts into that before Feb 14th as well as the usual food items.
- Real Easter Eggs – Traidcraft is again selling these eggs and I am happy to take orders on the form that will be displayed on the Church noticeboard in the foyer. So please sign up by Sunday March 8th, just to be sure we can get them. The standard eggs cost £3.99, as last year, and have had a bit of a makeover – as well as the large milk chocolate egg and a pack of chocolate buttons, there is a 24 page Easter story book with quiz and 3ft “Happy Easter” banner. There are also Dark chocolate eggs (£5.50 each) and special Peace Eggs, (£9.99), which are a limited edition including an olive wood dove key ring from Bethlehem.

- The new Spring/Summer range will be launched in February and I intend to visit one of their roadshows to view it. This gives me a better idea of the actual look of an item than just seeing it in the catalogue. I will have plenty of the new catalogues available so please feel free to take one when they are displayed or ask me for one.
- Fairtrade Fortnight runs from **Monday February 23rd to March 8th**. Look out for special events during this time – supermarkets often have a special promotion on Fairtrade goods.

Catrina Stoker, Traidcraft Rep

All We Can

Ebola: A Methodist response in Sierra Leone 21 January 2015

All We Can announces new partnership with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone to support and rehabilitate a new target group of Ebola survivors.

As more and more people in West Africa are declared 'Ebola Free', the task of re-integrating survivors into their communities is presenting new challenges. The fear of infection is causing stigma, with some survivors being discriminated against or shunned by their own families.

A co-ordinated Methodist response

In response, All We Can is supporting the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone to establish a new Ebola survivor support centre, based at Nixon Memorial Hospital in Segbwema, Kailahun District.

The eight-month project is expected to reach over 1000 people in the region both face-to-face and indirectly through awareness-raising activities. All We Can has pledged a grant of £75,000 to fund the new project and is working with the World Church Relationships team of the Methodist Church in Britain to manage the partnership.

Returning home

To support the centre, All We Can is funding psycho-social training for 30 new volunteer community counsellors who will work with Ebola survivors in the communities close to the hospital. These community counsellors will provide practical and emotional support to reduce stress during the transition from treatment centre to home, accompanying Ebola survivors back to their village to ensure they feel properly supported and welcomed home. The counsellors will also meet with the families of survivors before they return home to answer questions and tackle fears to reduce any stigma they may face.

One of the main challenges for survivors on their return is that all of their possessions will have been destroyed or burned to prevent transmission. When they leave the treatment centre, the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone will provide them with a resettlement package containing clothing, shoes, and food items including rice, cooking

oil, salt and sugar, fish or meat and vegetables, to help them stay healthy and get back on their feet.

Reducing stigma

The community counsellors will also providing training in stress and stigmatisation management for traditional chiefs, women's groups, youth leaders and others, so they can better support survivors in their own communities. 100 communities will also be educated on the 'rights and privileges' of Ebola survivors and on-going risk factors through radio programmes, jingles and the distribution of banners and leaflets. This includes raising awareness of the risk of sexual transmission of the virus, given that Ebola can still be sexually transmitted up to three months after a survivor has been medically certified as 'Ebola Free'.

How you can help

All We Can is calling on individuals and Methodist churches to join them in supporting the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone and its other local partners to respond to the Ebola crisis.

Please give all you can to the Ebola Emergency Appeal today to help Ebola

£13 could pay for a community counsellor to provide support during resettlement and accompany an Ebola survivor back to their community

£62 could pay for a radio broadcast raising awareness of the rights and privileges of Ebola survivors to reduce stigma.

£100 could pay for one resettlement package containing food and clothing for an Ebola survivor.

How Precious is a Child

I waited so long for my Stephen that when I first held him in my arms I knew I would do all in my power to protect him.

I thanked the Lord that he had finally entrusted me with a life to nurture and I prayed, give me wisdom to obey the scripture in Deut 6: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. These commandments that I give to you are to be upon your hearts. Inculcate them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road. 'Inculcate' - some bibles say 'Impress' – but Inculcate has a beautiful deep meaning & one that remained with me as I strove to nurture this precious life I had been entrusted with.

We ask ourselves "How can we protect our children? There is only one thing that in this ever increasing wicked world we can do. We can teach the love of God & what he promises.

The Rev Andrew Lythall blessed us on the 14th December with a lovely sermon about what Jesus' second coming will mean for us & the world. He spoke of all the prophecies

that tell us about a new world & it was balm for my heart to hear him speak of the blessings that will come.

We use prophecies in bible groups telling us about Jesus' birth, life and death and we believe what we read. Why can we not talk about the wonderful new world that is promised in Isaiah? May I encourage all my brothers and sisters in Christ to look at the prophecies in:-

Isaiah 2: 4 No more war

Isaiah 11: 6-9 Blessings for earth

Isaiah 35: 6-8 Food for all – death done away

2 Peter 3: 13 New heaven & a new earth

Finally let me quote Isaiah 55:11 so my word that goes forth from my mouth will prove to be. It will not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that which I have delight.

Taking all these promises to our hearts will fill us with hope. Surely something to talk about.

And one for a smile:-

The Sunday school teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back & turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jimmy interrupted "my mummy looked back once while she was driving" he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telegraph pole".

Barbara Hallworth

the connexion

the connexion is a new print magazine for UK Methodists (slightly confusingly, it has the same name as the Circuit magazine).

The first issue brings us news of people and projects in these islands as well as North Korea and Sri Lanka, showing how vibrant Methodism can be. It has a primary theme of evangelism (the 'e-word') and ways that Methodists can refocus on an area that many find problematic.

The magazine has been produced in response to calls from many Methodists for improved communications and more news about what is happening across the Connexion.

Two more issues will be published in 2015 - in April and September.

Print copies are available and the magazine can be downloaded – Ask Andy for details-

Paris terrorist attack

The Methodist Church fully supports the statement below, issued by the Council of Christians and Jews concerning the Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack on 7th January 2015.

"The Council of Christians and Jews wishes to express its horror at the terrorist attack on the offices of the Parisian magazine Charlie Hebdo, and joins with those organisations of all faiths which have offered deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those murdered. In these unstable times, we offer our prayers for all victims of terror throughout the world and look with hope to those working for peace and justice."

All We Can's inspirational women appeal

We are all likely to have met many women who have inspired us. Women, who have nurtured and cared for us, taught us and equipped us, and led us and encouraged us in our lives. All We Can invites us to celebrate these women and raise money in support of the many who are often overlooked.

We can learn more at All We Can's website – Andy has details.

Haiti - five years on

A special prayer has been written – five years on from the devastating earthquake in Haiti

*Our Father in heaven,
we thank you for the Haitian people and for giving them the strength to endure,
the strength to rebuild and the strength to be patient while you work all things out for
their good.*

*We ask that you will continue to grant all of Haiti's national leaders the wisdom and
desire to do what is in the best interests of the nation.*

*We ask that you help all of Haiti's external partners, including governments around the
world and NGOs, the desire and wisdom to work with Haiti in a way that benefits the
nation.*

*We lift the Methodist Church in Haiti before your throne of grace and ask that you bless
every member, from the head of the Church to the youngest child.*

*We ask that you will help every member play their part in strengthening the Church in
order that it may play a key role in rebuilding the nation.*

*We pray that you strengthen the relationships between our Churches, that we may
support and enrich one another mutually.*

*We ask that you encourage the Church with hope for the abundant life that you have
promised, and that you will continue to be their ever present help in times of trouble.*

*We ask these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, **Amen.***

Methodist Modern Art Collection reaches Wrexham

We can catch up with 40 works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection in Wrexham from 19 January to 26 March 2105.

We can see them at Wrexham Methodist Church and Glyndwr University's Oriel Sycharth Gallery.

Both venues will be open 9:30am-4:00pm Monday to Saturday. A full programme of concerts, seminars, conversations and workshops will accompany the exhibition.

Entry to the exhibition and to all events on the programme is free – more details from Andy.

Podcast: global migration

Immigration became a key issue in 2014, catapulting to the top of political and media agendas.

In the latest Methodist Church podcast, Media Officer Karen Burke explores the impact of climate change on global migration in an interview with Julia Edwards – a Methodist mission partner who was part of a Fiji government delegation at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December.

The Church's response to global migration was also the focus of two recent conferences attended by Methodist European Partnership Coordinator, Roy Crowder. Karen hears Roy's perspective on how the Church should respond to questions concerning global migration.

More details from Andy.

Andy Stoker

Green Close Management Committee

**Saturday 14th February Coffee Morning at Poynton Methodist Church
10 am - 12 noon**

Come along and enjoy a cup of coffee and have a chat with friends.

Cake Stall and Raffle