



**Newsletter**  
**March 2015**



[www.DialstoneLaneMethodistChurch.co.uk](http://www.DialstoneLaneMethodistChurch.co.uk)



Please recycle this Newsletter when you have finished with it.

## Minister's Letter

**Dear Friends,**

This year February and March have been – and still are – busy months in the life of our church community; we have already had one of our Good Society events with another planned for April; we have welcomed visitors to the exhibition of sculptures by Jean Parker and some of us are already engaged in Lenten study groups. Busy though we are it is important to remember that Lent should also be a quiet time of preparation.

At the beginning of the Ash Wednesday service we read these words: “Since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord’s passion, death and resurrection. It is the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and self-denial ... In the name of Christ, therefore, I invite you to observe this holy season of Lent, by prayer, self-denial and charitable giving; by self-examination and repentance; and by reading and meditating on God’s word.”

Many people happily give something up for Lent – some even give what they would have spent on whatever it is they’ve given up to a charity of their choice; and that is good – both are an important part of our Lenten discipline. But perhaps because we find it easier to be active and “do something” rather than spending time quietly with God, we don’t always find it as easy to find time, let alone extra time, for bible study, meditation and prayer.

I have had several conversations about prayer with people recently and one thing that has come up more than once is the importance of the Church being a prayerful community. Never underestimate the power of prayer to bring wholeness and peace into the lives of the ones who pray and those individuals and situations that are prayed for. On a personal note, both Garry and I are deeply grateful for the tremendous prayer support by which we have been surrounded recently: thank you.

For those who are perhaps not as “active” in the day to day busy-ness of Church life as they used to be, I would especially ask that you support all the multi-faceted mission of our church life in prayer: it’s the bedrock of all we strive to do in Christ’s name. But all of us need to re-examine our commitment to our spiritual life as part of our Lenten journey. As we read in Isaiah 30:15 “For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: in returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

**Your sister in Christ,**

*Mandy*

## Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is the Saturday after Good Friday and the Easter vigil service takes place on the night of Holy Saturday. The idea behind the service is for faithful Christians to wait and watch, hopeful and confident in Christ's resurrection; most services these days take place in the evening rather than late at night!

The service begins outside the church building with the congregation gathered round a fire – which may vary from a garden flare to a sizeable bonfire, depending on where the service is taking place.

From the bonfire, we light the first of a series of candles and share a prayer. The lit candle is now a symbol of the risen Christ, the light of the world, who has come into the midst of the people. After being lit the candle is carried into the darkened church, which symbolises the darkness of Christ's tomb.

The service continues with prayers and readings, and the lighting of further candles. The readings at the service tell of the creation of humanity and of how humanity fell from grace and was repeatedly rescued by God, ultimately by Christ's death on the cross; the readings remind people of God's promise to be with them always.

After the singing of a hymn, candles are distributed and the congregation invited to reaffirm their baptismal faith; the service closes with prayer.

This is a fairly short but dramatic service and I look forward to sharing it with you on **April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30p.m.**

## Lent 2015

**2pm at 114 Mile End Lane**

Tuesdays: March 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

**7.30pm at 41 Canada Street**

Tuesdays: March 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

**Week 2**

Journeying with the disciples: Anger

**Week 3**

Journeying with the disciples: Numbness

**Week 4**

Journeying with the disciples: Peace

## Holy Week 2015

at Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

**Maundy Thursday**, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service** April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm

**Easter Vigil** April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

## Easter Sunday

9am - Holy Communion. – Rev. Mandy Boon

10.45am - Family Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Mandy Boon

6pm service led by Mr Stephan Rudolfer

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> – March 16**

Wednesday 10am – 2pm on March 11<sup>th</sup>

And Saturday 10am – 1pm on March 7<sup>th</sup>

**Help is needed to make coffee during the Good Grief Exhibition opening hours. Please contact the stewards if you are able to help.**

## Mid-week Communion Services

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

All welcome.

## 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.

## Congratulations

We congratulate Andrew Mason who has now completed his Worship Leader training and will be commissioned at the family service on Easter Sunday morning. We look forward to him leading us at more services from now on.

Well done, Andrew.

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April Newsletter is **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 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**

## With Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go to Ann Hall, Charlotte, James, Andrew, Christine & Elizabeth and their families, on the sudden death of Tim. We were all shocked by the untimely death of our former, well-loved Minister.

## Rev Tim Hall

*The following are some thoughts by members:*

We learnt with sadness that Tim had a heart attack while on holiday with Ann in South Africa. The thought of Ann being on her own, away from home was distressing. The Christian paramedics treating Tim, and the ladies in the small chapel supported Ann.

Tim came to us at Dialstone Lane in 1990 and stayed with us until 1997 during which time Ann felt that God wanted her to be a minister – so we were doubly blessed. As always, it was Tim and Ann – their togetherness was perfect.

Tim was a kind, caring person who always had time for other people, even when he himself had pneumonia – he had such a faith for God that he wanted other people to have the same joy. He was enthusiastic and loving – his desire was that we would have the same faith.

We were privileged to have Tim & Ann to be with us.

On the front page of the 'Order of Service' at the celebration of the life of Tim we read:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day. (2 Timothy chapter 4 v7-8) NIV

We send our love to Ann, to the family and pray that God will comfort her.

Tim gave enthusiastic support to D.A.T.E. from stage crew to starring roles with memorable performances. He seized the opportunity to work with the children and young people and transmit not just fun, but faith. Amongst all the laughter, there was also reflection. As 'Scarecrow' he was draped over his support, motionless on stage for twenty minutes. He commented that he found it very difficult so couldn't imagine what Good Friday must have been like for Jesus. His greatest emotional challenge was singing 'Surely this is Stony Ground' when playing 'Peter' in 'Daybreak'. He inspired us all.

There are a number of envelopes in the church foyer for anyone wishing to donate to British Heart Foundation or Compassion International in memory of Tim Hall. Can you please hand these to either **Jane Hollins** or **one of the stewards**

## Tape Ministry

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

## Birthday Greetings

Best Wishes to **Dave Bryant** who celebrates his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 19<sup>th</sup> and **Gill Ramsbottom** who celebrates her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Four Seasons

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February we had our usual monthly meeting. Because we had the sad news of Tim Hall's death we had a short prayer meeting in church. We had the opportunity to pray, to sit quietly or to speak of our association with Tim and Ann when they were with us at Dialstone Lane.

Following this we had a musical half hour – Liza (Mrs Austin Strange) organised this – we heard music, played by five Fosbrooks, from all around the world. It was very soothing. Then Mr Mistry talked to us about difficulties in India – his mother died seven years ago and he is responsible for the Kamla charity (set up in her memory) which tries to provide clean water and to correct "cleft palates". The music and the talk spoke to us personally – consequently some of the Thursday group are hoping to have a monthly charity to provide new pumps to purify the water.

## Treasurer's Report

I know that people have given very generously to the various appeals we have had at church lately but I am asking everyone to give as generously as possible to our Gift Day Appeal and with their regular giving.

We have a lot of necessary expenditure on the church building: Repointing, improvements to the sound system, new photocopier, tree work and work needed doing to the joists in the main hall. We are also looking at the possibility of employing a children's worker which would need financing.

I have received details of our circuit assessment from next September and this will increase by 8.5% next September to £26570 a year.

I was asked by a member of the congregation to share this from Word for Today –

So when you "make up your ... mind what you will give" consider God's goodness to you, decide what you should give, and do it with a heart of joy.

**Jane**

## Book Club

The date of the next Book Club has not yet been decided. Please speak to Margaret or Gordon for details.

## Thanks

I would like to thank Mandy, Wilf & June and Ann & Ted for their visits during my stay in hospital.

**Harry Hudson**

## 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**

## **Methodist Women in Britain**

### **Spring Coffee morning**

There will be a Spring Coffee Morning for the whole circuit to raise funds for the World Mission Fund. It will be held at Poynton Methodist Church on **Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> from 10.00-12.00.**

Tickets, priced at £1.50, will be on sale prior to the event and that covers the cost of your first cuppa. There will be a raffle and stalls including cakes and preserves, groceries, Traidcraft and handicrafts. Dialstone Lane will be collecting groceries – please give any donations to Miss Margaret Adshead. Tickets will be on sale from Miss Adshead or Catriona Stoker

## **The Circuit Choir**

The next Circuit Choir Service will be at our **Poynton Church** on **29<sup>th</sup> March**, Palm Sunday, starting **at 6pm**, when the choir will be offering **“Sing Good News”** to the Circuit. The work is a collection of texts taken from The Good News Bible set to music by modern songwriters, linked together with narration.

We look forward to having a full church at the start of Holy Week.

At Hazel Grove, the Good News Choir sang this work three times between 1985 & 1995, and a number of friends are enjoying singing it again!

**Stella M**

## **Easter Offering**

Easter Offering envelopes will be distributed on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday for your kind gifts to the work of the Methodist World Mission Fund. The money collected will be presented at a Circuit Easter Offering Service at Poynton Methodist Church at 6.00pm on Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>.

The service has been written by a small task group of Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB), led by former MWiB President, Jill Baker. “It has been exciting to work on this year’s service,” said Jill. “We have three stories of remarkable work of healing and reconciliation going on. The service starts at 6pm and we look forward to having a full church at the start of Holy Week around the world, enabled through the World Mission



Fund, coupled with a mixture of old and new hymns and stirring Bible passages. It would be wonderful if every Methodist was able to share in this act of worship, which will also be shared through Twitter in the week after Easter.”

MWiB has also produced a series of reflections for each week in Lent, linked to the Easter Offering and each based on the image of a different tree at [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

## Traidcraft

I enjoyed my trip to the Traidcraft Roadshow in Wolverhampton in the middle of last month, giving me an opportunity to sample some of the new foodstuffs – which chilli sauce is the hottest? – and hear about some of the new partnerships developing between Traidcraft and other Fairtraders, like Liberation nuts. The campaigning aspect of Traidcraft will be producing some interesting questions for our politicians in the run-up to the general election.

Don't forget to order your Easter eggs – the order form on the Church lobby noticeboards (Eco-Group), needs to be completed by March 9<sup>th</sup> at the very latest so that I can be sure of getting your orders filled.

**Catriona Stoker, Traidcraft Rep**

## Wood St. Mission

**Congratulations to them!** Last August they won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (the MBE for Charities). Well done!

### **Books are Grrreat!**

Wood St. Mission book clubs are held during holidays & half term breaks. They promote reading to children (& parents). Over 40 families and 80 mostly young children attended the last book club – listening to story time, browsing & choosing from a large selection & using a computer with literacy sources. Over 1000 books were chosen to take home. Children in poor homes often have few, if any, books which means poor literacy & poor achievement at school and in life. Wood St. plan more clubs this year so have a major new appeal for good quality children & young teen books (clean & good quality please).

If anyone can provide such books would they please let Margaret A know so that a co-ordinated date can be arranged for a first collection by the Wood St. van – probably from Church (always Tuesday mornings in this area).

A poster with requests for other goods for poor families is on the noticeboard. Money donations can always be sent by cheque, of course.

**Nora & Margaret A**

## Barbara's Thoughts

Years ago I belonged to a Bible Group & was so blessed to study, explore & retain the truths that these spiritual brothers and sisters passed on to me. Their deep love for the Lord was a lasting example to me and the knowledge I took in has stayed as a witness all my life.

Let me tell you of one:

A devout couple returned home from a meeting to find their home engulfed in flames. They stood on their lawn & watched as everything they had worked for burned to the ground. Afterwards these good people standing before the congregation said "We stood on our lawn looking at the ruins of our bungalow & prayed 'Dear Lord we thank you that we have you, we have lost so much but we have not lost your love, we know we are safe with You'"

And they were. That congregation in God's love provided all that they needed.

As I thought of these true Christians my mind turned to Psalm 125 – those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountain surrounds Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people.

And to bring a smile:

Two grandchildren are watching Grannie studying the Bible. "Why is she doing that" one asked "O", said the elder one, "I expect she is studying for her final exam!"

Will we pass our final exam?

Will Jesus say to us "Well done, true & faithful servant".

**Barbara Hallworth**

## Methodist Church News

Here is a summary of some items of news affecting Methodists throughout Britain – including us. For more information about any item, please see **Andy Stoker**.

### **Churches launch major credit union**

In February, Church leaders united to promote access to responsible credit and savings with the launch of the Churches Mutual Credit Union (CMCU). The Archbishop of Canterbury joined the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the President of the Methodist Conference in London, to celebrate their Churches' collaboration in forming the flagship credit union.

Mr Howcroft said, "Methodists are glad to support the launch of CMCU. The gap between rich and poor seems to be widening and leaving people without the resources to do new things, or even pushing them into crippling debt.

"When we recognise our interdependence we can share our resources to help each of us meet our needs. That is how we can all live life more fully. We wish the CMCU well."

The CMCU, which also includes the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the Church in Wales, will offer a range of savings and loan products. Fairness will be at the heart of the CMCU's values. Initially members will be able to invest in the 'Founder Member's Bond' with ordinary savers accounts and loans becoming available in March. In due course CMCU will offer ISA savings accounts.

### **Rethink Sanctions**

New data from Freedom of Information Requests to the Department of Work and Pensions shows that people who receive the sickness and disability benefit Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) because of a long-term mental health problem are more likely to have their benefits stopped by sanctions than those suffering from other conditions. These people are currently being sanctioned at a rate of more than 100 per day. You can find more information about the coming report from Andy, as well as listen to the story of someone whose mental health was affected by being sanctioned.

"Sanctioning someone with a mental health problem for being late for a meeting is like sanctioning someone with a broken leg for limping. The fact that this system punishes people for the symptoms of their illness is a clear and worrying sign that it is fundamentally flawed," said Paul Morrison from the Joint Public Issues Team. "Churches have increasingly seen people in desperate need because they have been sanctioned. The suffering and injustice we have seen caused by the sanctions system deserves serious scrutiny."

Paul also appeared on BBC Radio 4's File on 4 to talk about these findings and how sanctions are too often penalising the vulnerable. If you have access to the internet, Andy can give you details of how you can hear this report.

### **Now showing at a screen near you**

Singing the Faith plus (StF+) has looked at the Oscar nominations again this year and picked out four films for discussion from a unique hymn-led perspective. Hymns and Hollywood reflects on movies that both echo and challenge Christian thinking, and we ask what hymn writers offer by way of response.

StF+ has also refreshed its online lent reflections and resources with suggestions for using Singing the Faith during Lent – hymns for worship plus resources for study, prayer and action. And Lent in other places explores beyond the Lent section of the hymn book to discover additional hymns suitable for this season – Andy has more details.

### **What happened at the last Methodist Council?**

In January, the Methodist Council met at the High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon. It discussed political extremism, releasing money for mission and the connexional budget. Andy has more details.

**Ebola: a Methodist response**

All We Can has announced a new partnership with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone. The charity is supporting the Church to establish a new Ebola survivor support centre, based at Nixon Memorial Hospital in Segbwema, Kailahun District. For more information and to donate to their appeal, please see Andy.

**Methodist Summer Fellowship**

Booking is now open for the Methodist Summer Fellowship (MSF) week, which takes place at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick from 1-7 August.

MSF is an opportunity to bring together a worshipping Christian community of all ages for a week of holiday, friendship, prayer, listening, reflection, conversation and fun. See Andy for details

**Methodist Heritage Handbook 2015/2016**

The Heritage Handbook provides background stories and location information for over 100 Methodist heritage sites of historic importance, in a handy A5 format.

A new edition has just published and provides up-to-date visitor information and some additional entries including a new region (Isle of Man). See Andy for more information.

**Non! Non! Non! Charlie**

Freedom of speech is a very important thing but does not allow you to say anything you like – nor to draw cartoons which deeply offend the hearts and minds of perfectly reasonable religious people.

Going further, one ought to think very deeply and seriously before drawing such a cartoon which will act as a probe to stimulate a dangerous poisoned mind eagerly looking out for an enemy who insults his God & so excites him to murder & thereby qualifies himself, as he believes, for heaven.

“Je suis Charlie – No!” Charlie you were unthinking, blind to consequences, arrogant, irresponsible & you wanted to sell your newspaper. Result – many people murdered in Paris and, Copenhagen and also Jewish Europeans are even more afraid of staying in their own part of Europe.

No Charlie – no doubt you rest in peace but your irresponsibility has left behind your own & many families who live in great sorrow and distress.

**Margaret A**

## Rotas

### Cleaning Rota

<b>Mar 15</b>	Susan & Sue
<b>22</b>	Ann & Ted
<b>29</b>	Margaret & Gill
<b>Apr 5</b>	Stewart
<b>12</b>	Andrew & Ruth

### Stewards

	<b>a.m.</b>	<b>p.m.</b>
<b>Mar 15</b>	Dave	Andrew
<b>22</b>	Nichola	Ted
<b>29</b>	Andrew	No service
<b>April 2</b>		<b>7.30pm</b> - Andrew
<b>3</b>		<b>7.30pm</b> - Dave
<b>4</b>		<b>7.30pm</b> - Mike
<b>5</b>	<b>9am</b> Ted	
<b>5</b>	<b>10:45am</b> - Andrew	
<b>12</b>	Mike	Nichola

### Counting Rota

<b>Mar 15</b>	Sandra & Debbie
<b>22</b>	Michele & Susan
<b>29</b>	Sue & Jane
<b>Apr 5</b>	Dave & Barry
<b>12</b>	Peter & Pat

### Crèche

<b>Mar 15</b>	Stella & Catriona
<b>22</b>	Sandra & Debbie
<b>29</b>	Lisette & Jenny
<b>Apr 5</b>	Sue & Carol
<b>12</b>	Stella & Catriona

**Musicians**

	<b>a.m.</b>	<b>p.m.</b>
<b>Mar 15</b>	Band	tba
<b>22</b>	Margaret	tba
<b>29</b>	Anita	Service at Poynton
<b>Apr 2</b>		<b>7.30pm</b> tba
<b>3</b>		<b>7.30pm</b> Margaret
<b>4</b>		<b>7.30pm</b> tba
<b>5</b>	<b>9am</b> Margaret	
<b>5</b>	<b>10.45am</b> John	tba
<b>12</b>	Anita	tba

**Flower Distribution**

If you are unable to deliver on this date, please arrange a replacement.

<b>Mar 15</b>	Sue
<b>22</b>	Debbie
<b>29</b>	Margaret A
<b>Apr 5</b>	Lisette
<b>12</b>	Sue

**Collections**

Monthly standing orders are £376. If anyone else would like to give by standing order please see Jane Hollins.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ENVELOPE</b>	<b>LOOSE CASH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Feb 1</b>	242.55	31.11	273.66
<b>8</b>	205.50	53.76	259.26
<b>15</b>	263.50	46.02	309.52
<b>22</b>	130.50	84.75	215.25