



Newsletter
April 2015



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Please recycle this Newsletter when you have finished with it.

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

In February's letter I referred to the death of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and the succession of his half-brother King Salman, commenting that "the situation in Saudi Arabia is far from straightforward". A period in the history in our own country that was "far from straightforward" was the end of the Plantagenet era and the start of the Tudor dynasty. That period of history has taken a strange twist latterly with the discovery of the remains of Richard III, not least because scientists who studied genetic material from his remains found evidence of infidelity in the family tree which, depending on where it occurred, casts doubt on the Tudor claim to the English throne, and, possibly, Richard's as well!

Who we are and where we come from fascinates many people, including not just those with a passion for history generally but also those who diligently research their own family trees; my eldest sister is the keeper of our family archive (and has discovered some unexpected situations there as well!) and one of the great privileges of taking a funeral service is the time spent with families hearing their "family stories". You will all, no doubt, have treasured memories within your own families.

Another man who had questions raised about his parentage was Jesus of Nazareth. Both Matthew's and Luke's gospels include genealogies for Jesus (Matt. 1: 1-17 & Luke 3:23-38), tracing his lineage through Joseph, but then making it quite clear in their telling of the Nativity that Jesus was not Joseph's son.

Matthew begins, "An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham" and is at pains to establish Jesus' "credentials" as the Jewish Messiah; he starts with Abraham and works forwards.

Luke, on the other hand, begins "Jesus ... was the son (as was thought) of Joseph": please note, "as was thought". However, Luke doesn't start with Abraham and work forwards; he starts with Jesus and works back – and not just to Abraham but to "son of Adam, son of God". For Luke, Jesus isn't just the Messiah of the Jews, but the Christ for *all* people whatever their country, race or culture.

It is interesting to note that Richard III lived from 1452-1485 and so was only 33 when he was killed at Bosworth; the same age as Jesus, or thereabouts, when he died upon the cross. Thousands of people quietly and respectfully lined the processional route when Richard's coffin passed, and in his address during the funeral service, the Rt. Rev. Tim Stevens, Bishop of Leicester, said: "People have come in their thousands from around the world to this place of honour, not to judge or condemn but to stand humble and reverent." Those words about lack of judgement and condemnation echo those found in John 3:17: "Indeed, God did

not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The crowds didn't respectfully line the route when Jesus carried his cross to Golgotha; the Christ who came to save the world was rejected, mocked and crucified. But there never was, never has been and never will be any condemnation – only the offer of eternal life in the Kingdom of God “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16).

The child of doubtful parentage grew to be the man who destroyed all the barriers of condemnation and judgement erected by people who think that they are defined by their human origins; he destroyed the vanity of the proud and raised the lowly, for as we read in Galatians 3.26, 28-29 : “... in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith ... There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.”

Jesus died and rose again for *all* people whatever their country, race or culture. Pray that, this Easter, we too may come “not to judge or condemn but to stand humble and reverent” and rejoice in the resurrection life that is offered to us and to all people.

Your sister in Christ,

Mandy

Mid-week Communion Services

Mid-week communion services will take place at Dialstone Lane on **April 22nd 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.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May Newsletter is **Sunday 26th April 2015.**

Please leave items in the letter rack **NO LATER THAN 12noon.**

Thanks

I would like to thank Sue Judson for her recent visit and the gift of flowers and a lovely little lavender bag. It was lovely to see her and to catch up with the Church news.

Margaret Holmes

Thank you to all who gave donations to our Gift Day Appeal. We raised just under £2000.

Jane

Message of thanks to Dialstone Lane

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone for the kindness I have received from folk at Dialstone since Tim died suddenly on 31st January. We as a family have been overwhelmed with the messages of sympathy, wonderful letters and cards - so many precious ways in which we have been shown love, understanding and support. Thank you especially to Gill Dascombe for her moving tribute to Tim's ministry here in the Hazel Grove and Poynton Circuit. I wish I could thank each person personally and I pray God's blessings upon you all.

Thank you to everyone who gave donations in Tim's memory to British Heart Foundation and to Compassion UK. I heard from Compassion UK that the donations will go towards 50 children being able to attend a better resourced school and therefore improve their chances of being able to get higher grades. Last year, Tim took out a monthly subscription to the British Heart Foundation as he was worried about my heart problems. It is a cause very dear to us and I pray it many may benefit from your gifts. I am so sorry I cannot thank people personally for their gifts as I am afraid the Circuit Treasurer paid in the cheques without keeping the details for me.

We were so loved and welcomed by your church and Tim absolutely loved being your Minister, and we had been so thrilled to see the church growing again in recent years and drawing closer together. Above all thank you for your prayers and your tears. I have been deeply moved by the way people are grieving for Tim and how much he meant to you all. Tim's work here on earth may be finished but his ministry continues through the seeds sown here. I know you and I and my family are being sustained by the Lord and renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit in this season of mourning.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, on the road marked with suffering, he pours out his blessings on us. Thank God and thank you.

Ann Hall and family

Book Club

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

SAFARI SUPPER

Twenty four people joined in the Safari Supper in March and judging from the comments we received, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Fortunately the weather was good making travelling between venues much easier. Although the main aim of the event was not to raise money, due to the generosity of those taking part we were able to donate £115 to our chosen charity, Practical Action. The success of the evening was down to our hosts who provided a tempting selection of main courses and desserts, served in their own homes and at church. We all joined together for coffee, mints and fellowship at church after we had eaten, which gave us time to catch up on news. During the evening we were able to spend time with and get to know other church members some of whom we may have only said hello to previously.

Interested ? Think about joining us if we hold another one next year, you won't regret it.

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.

Sunday School 1p & 2p (etc.) Collection for Church Funds

£41.10 has been given to Church Funds over the last few months from Church members and friends. Thank you to all the kind people who have helped since the start in 1997 – the total is now £841.10. Please still keep collecting – we are very grateful.

Sunday School

Open Space

- At Dialstone Lane Methodist Church For all ages
- **Sunday afternoons once a month: 4-5pm**
- **Forthcoming dates: 10th May, 21st June, 19th July.**
- Active, interactive and flexible.
- Arts and crafts, Games, Stories, Singing.
- Juice, tea, coffee and biscuits.
- Explore faith in different ways.
- Open Space is everyone's space. Let us know your ideas.
- All are welcome!

Like Us on Facebook or contact dialstonelanemessychurch.co.uk for more details.
(Or just turn up on the day!)

MWiB coffee morning on 21st March at Poynton

Thank you to everyone who kindly contributed items for the stall and those who attended. Dialstone Lane members helped with a very good supply of grocery – tins, jars, packets etc. & most goods were helpfully ready priced. “Hurray” and many thanks.

A very pleasant sunny morning brought customers out to enjoy the company and the various stalls – especially the lovely home-made cakes! The result of the grocery stall was £38.60 and the total was £316, so gratefully received by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund charity projects.

Catriona & Margaret A

Marriage

Congratulations to **Natalie Michele Clegg and Ben Pollard** who were married at Callow Hall, Ashbourne, Derbyshire on Saturday 28th March 2015. We send them our Best Wishes for their future life together.

Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to **Michele & Bob Clegg** who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 31st March 2015.

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

Good News

On Easter Sunday we gave a special welcome to **Sophia & Barbara Pape** who have transferred their membership to Dialstone Lane.

During the service **Andrew Mason** was commissioned as Worship Leader.

Congratulations to Sophia, Barbara and Andrew.

Traidcraft

The next Traidcraft stalls will be on **Sunday April 19th**, and **Sunday May 17th** after the morning service, at the Good Society Hustings Event on **Saturday 18th April** and all day in the Church foyer on **Thursday May 7th**.

As always, your continuing support for Traidcraft is much appreciated and if you wish to order from the catalogue or see if an item is available from the cupboard between stalls, please don't hesitate to ask.

Catrina Stoker, Traidcraft Rep.

World Church Coffee Morning

There will be a Circuit coffee morning held at Hazel Grove Methodist Church on Saturday **May 9th 11.00-2.00**. Lunches will be served from 12.00pm. Please use the back entrance into the Sunday School buildings as the event will be held downstairs in the Primary Room (level access from rear).

Money raised will go towards the continuing Circuit project in aid of rebuilding the Methodist Church and its people in North Sri Lanka. Tickets will be available in advance, price £1 which will go towards whatever refreshments you choose.

Catriona Stoker, World Church rep

Easter Offering Service.

The Circuit Service at Poynton on the evening of **Sunday May 24th** will take the form of the annual Easter Offering Service when the money raised by the Easter Offering at each Church will be dedicated and we can learn more of the purposes to which the money is put. All are welcome.

Please note that there will not be an evening service at Dialstone Lane.

Barbara's Thoughts

As I write, our last Lent Meeting with Mandy is over. How Henry and I have enjoyed the last four weeks looking at how we approach, go through, deal and accept Grief and looking at how difficult it must have been for the disciples. I have, many times, said how easy it is for us to read the scripture accounts knowing the truth and fulfilments. How different it was for the disciples to follow and accept what was happening and remain true to this Jesus who was not to immediately establish his kingdom as they expected, but was to leave them in such a dramatic and traumatic way.

As we approach Easter may I encourage you, my brothers and sisters, to read study and appreciate this, I believe, the most wonderful, if painful, time with love and heartfelt gratitude.

And one for a smile:

Quite an ordinary day I recall as we sat at breakfast, so leaving Henry who thinks shopping should be undertaken when absolutely necessary & as quickly as possible, in charge, I go for a good browse in town.

Apart from feeling pleased with my birthday cards, I hadn't bought much when twelve o'clock found me outside "Gabbots Farm", an open fronted shop sending out mouth-watering smells from their cooked produce, cooked chicken with beautiful glazed skins, pork in barbecue sauce. The aroma of chicken roasting always tempts me. I have been known to buy a chicken leg, race to one of the benches in the square & oblivious to all, there to devour this delight with relish (how gross is that?)

But I digress. On seeing the sausages my H loves, I buy him a few of these. This gift will thank him for all the ironing he will hopefully have done (& he had – bless him). Oh, the delights of a good man!

It must have been at this point that I lose the plot. Picturing H sat in his chair reading his paper, eating, like sweets, these pleasures, all else leaves my senses. Seeing a bus about to leave & thinking to get home whilst my purchase is still hot, I fly like the wind across

the square & throw myself like a demented lemming on and onto the nearest seat. I sit feeling pleased & clutching by bounty like a 'hunter gatherer' bringing home the spoils. The bus climbs the hill – one stop – two stops. It is as we approach the third stop that a slight sanity returns “Why am I on this bus?” I ask myself. At bus stop three I leap off. Standing on the pavement, I catch my breath before beginning the walk back into town, there to pick up my car, the car I had decided to come in when it had looked like rain. With love to all,

Barbara

All We Can -

The Methodist Relief and Development Organisation

Every month the mailing I receive from All We can includes information on particular areas of their work we can pray for. This month they pick up on the theme of the newsletter as a whole – inspirational women.

Prayer points: 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.

This month, we pray together for women all over the world and focus in particular on All We Can's partners who are working with vulnerable and marginalised women.

India

Pray for our partners in India, READ (Rural Education Activities for Development) and Srijan Foundation who support women through Self-Help Groups. The women benefit from skills training and are given what they need to start small businesses. The partners raise awareness of women's rights and support women in taking positions of leadership.

Prayer points: Pray for the women supported by our partners in India, that they have the strength they need to develop their potential.

Cameroon

In Cameroon, our partner Nkong Hill Top Association for Development (NADEV) works to transform the lives of vulnerable women through business training, micro-finance initiatives, and raising awareness of their rights.

Prayer points: Pray for the women supported by NADEV, that they will have the confidence they need to take steps to improve their lives.

Nepal

In Nepal our partners support women in many different ways. Treveni Bikas Samaj (TBS) works to improve maternal and child health and promote good hygiene and sanitation in remote communities. Educational Resource Development Centre Nepal (ERDCN) provides leadership and advocacy training for women. Kopila works to equip marginalised women and children to access education, tackle discrimination and claim their rights.

Prayer points: Pray for our partners, that they will have the wisdom and courage they need to address sensitive issues in remote communities in Nepal.

We join our voices with the oppressed women in Nepal, and ask that their status and the value that you have bestowed is upheld.

We give thanks for these inspirational women who, despite their circumstances, are forging a better life, challenging the norms of their society and developing their potential.

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**.

Time to rethink sanctions

In 2014, one million benefit sanctions were imposed on people. This means their payments stopped for a period of between one month and three years. The most common reason for being sanctioned is being late or not turning up for an appointment. The result is often needing to turn to a foodbank.

The report, **Time to rethink benefit sanctions** published by a large coalition of churches, including the Methodist Church, looks at the sanctions regime and argues strongly that it is not working and is damaging some of the most vulnerable people in society.

Andy has more information – including the detailed report and a link to the video of a TV report.

Calling all photographers

The Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Photo Competition aims to showcase the diversity of worship leaders and local preachers across the Church.

Entrants will be asked to submit two photos for their entry. The first should be of the local preacher or worship leader engaging a congregation through worship or preaching.

The other should depict the subject in an aspect of their daily life that informs their ministry - perhaps in their day job, enjoying a hobby or engaging with a community project.

The competition is open to all (there are separate categories from entrants below and above 18) and the closing date for entries is Sunday 31 May. **See Andy for more information.**

**Inspirational women:
from victim to activist**

Hari Kumari Sahi married her husband when she was just 13 years old. "From the beginning, he was very abusive, and used to hit me and beat me."

For Hari, support from All We Can's local partner Kopila Nepal has been a life-line. "I have learnt about domestic violence, abuse and how to talk about that. I've gained lots of self-confidence. It is a big change in my life."

By supporting All We Can's Inspirational Women Appeal, you can help more women like Hari to escape poverty, discrimination and violence.

To see the film and have the opportunity to donate, please see Andy.

A church for everyone - 18 and 25 April 2015

Organised and endorsed by 23 denominations and organisations in Wales, these are exciting days for church leaders, worship leaders, children's' & youth leaders and anyone with a heart to reach out to families and create a church for all ages.

The days will include great speakers, practical exercises, workshops/seminars, models of all-age worship and prayer, inspirational video examples, resources exhibition, opportunity to talk with experienced practitioners and of course ... coffee!

Held on different Saturdays they take place in North Wales (Blaenau Ffestiniog) on 18 April and in South Wales (Swansea) on 25 April.

The day costs £15 and includes lunch for all those who book in before 11 April.

See Andy for more details.

Love your neighbour: think, pray, vote

Our identity as disciples of Jesus is something that should impact every aspect of our being – including the way we vote. This new book from the Joint Public Issues Team will

help you and your church community to reflect on how being a follower of Jesus will affect your behaviour at election time.

Love Your Neighbour: think, pray, vote offers four short videos on the themes of truth, justice, peace and well-being; prayers linked to these themes; postcards which link these themes to questions for hustings or for your own reflection; and four short Bible studies. This pack can be used during worship or to inform Bible-study and house groups. It is available from the Methodist Publishing House and it costs £7.50 (plus postage and packing).

Faith and politics

Through JPIT (the Joint Public Issues Team) the Methodist Church has produced "**Faith in Politics**", a free downloadable guide to 16 issues central to political debate, including the economy, immigration and asylum, human trafficking and the environment. This briefing contains one page summaries of each issue and questions for MPs or personal reflection. See Andy if you would like a copy

One Mission Bible study resource

The **One Mission Bible study** will help house groups to engage and explore One Mission in today's context, bringing together the local and global aspects of mission. The five-session study series uses a short film based on the final journey of the Revd Thomas Coke in 1813. As the drama unfolds we gain an insight to those going on the journey overseas and those left behind to look after the work at home. The material is available online and without charge – see Andy for details.

Prayers following attack in Pakistan

The Church of Scotland, the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church came together to issue a joint statement following the recent terrorist bombings in Lahore. For details of the statement and a prayer, please see Andy.

The good and the beautiful: living as apprentices in the kingdom of God

The Bible Society is hosting two seminars at Westminster Central Hall on Friday 5 June.

Both led by James Bryan Smith the first (10.30am-11.15am) explores the inner life of leaders and key spiritual practices for their your life with God. The second, Helping

others become more like Jesus (11.45am-12.15pm) asks how does transformation happen? And how can we help others to be apprentices of Jesus?

The morning costs £15 (plus £1.55 booking fee).

For more details, see Andy.

Methodists for World Mission conference- 29-31 May 2015

Hear the voices of Christians in the Pacific and listen for the still small voice speaking through the insights, stories and songs of the liquid continent. The weekend will explore Pacific culture, hear and join in stories and music, investigate Pacific theology and examine the consequences of climate change.

Speakers will include the Revd Dr Cliff Bird from Australia, and Dr Ruth Valerio from A Rocha, with other contributors including serving Methodist mission partners. There will also be singers from the Pacific. There will be a children's and youth programme too – details from Andy.

A Good Society? Britain decides 2015

The people of Britain are charged with an important decision. Who should represent us in parliament for the next five years? We care – and you do too.

We have held a meeting thinking about some big questions – which are brought into focus by the forthcoming election on 7th May:

- “What do we mean by A Good Society?”
- “What can we contribute to the development of such a society?”

Please see Andy Stoker if you would like to see a report of this first meeting

Our second meeting is on Saturday 18th April – 10:00-12:30, when we expect to hear from each of the political parties what they would do to support a good society. We look forward to seeing you then.

Contact Liz Delafield (lizdelafield@hotmail.com) or Andy Stoker (andy.stoker@btinternet.com / 07908-617313) for further details.

These are the questions we discussed at the first meeting:

Hope and Aspiration

- Where are the sources of hope and aspiration in our community?
- What does ‘success’ look like in a Good Society?

- How do we resolve competing hopes and aspirations that people may have for themselves and the wider community?
- What hopes and aspirations do our young people have for 2020?

Community

- What is our vision for our local community in 2020?
- What can we do to help bring this vision about – and who do we need to work with to make it happen?
- How do we ensure that everybody in our community feels welcomed and able to participate in community life?
- What responsibility do those with wealth and power have for building a Good Society?

Health and well-being

- What value do we place on our own health and well-being and that of the wider community?
- What can we do to promote health and well-being, in the face of the challenges that people are facing locally?
- What place do wealth, work, money and debt have in a Good Society?
- What place do foodbanks have in our vision of a Good Society?

Spirit

- Are faith and religion the same?
- Do you need faith for a Good Society? Faith in what?
- Does true faith need to be expressed in action?
- How does a “Good Society” look beyond itself? International / Global responsibilities?

We shared a “2020 Vision Statement” and people were invited to discuss whether they shared that vision

Our 2020 Vision of a Good Society

- All citizens have access to enough income to enable them to live with dignity, either through paid work or through a properly functioning welfare safety net.
- Reasonably priced homes where people can flourish are available for everyone who needs them and there is a reliable safety net for all homeless people.
- All children and young people are enabled to live fulfilling flourishing lives, their contributions are valued, and they are enabled to grow and achieve their potential.

- An economy that is in service to every person irrespective of their wealth or the market value of their labour; including robust action to clamp down on tax dodging.
- UK greenhouse gas emissions are falling rapidly, and the Government has helped to secure a global climate deal that limits global temperature rises to 2 degrees.

We look forward to seeing you on 18th April.

Rotas

Cleaning Rota

April 12	Andrew & Ruth
19	Andy & Catriona
26	Susan & Sue
May 3	Ann & Ted
10	Margaret & Gill

Stewards

	a.m.	p.m.
April 12	Mike	Nichola
19	Nichola	Ted
26	Ted	Nichola
May 3	Dave	Mike
10	Mike	Andrew

Counting Rota

Apr 12	Peter & Pat
19	Sandra & Debbie
26	Sue & Jane
May 3	Michele & Susan
10	Dave & Barry

Musicians

	a.m.	p.m.
Apr 12	Anita	tba
19	Band	tba
26	Anita	Margaret
May 3	Margaret	Tba
10	Anita	tba

Flower Distribution

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

Apr 12	Sue
19	Debbie
26	Margaret
May 3	Lisette
10	Sue

Crèche

Apr 12	Stella & Catriona
19	Sandra & Debbie
26	Lisette & Jenny
May 3	Sue & Carol
10	Stella & Catriona

Collections

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

DATE	ENVELOPE	LOOSE CASH	TOTAL
Mar 1	173.50	36.00	209.50
8	203.50	72.06	275.56
15	127.50	70.85	198.35
22	153.41	40.40	193.81
29	123.50	49.65	173.15