

BUXTON CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

Dear Friends,

Caroline and I would like to thank you for the enthusiasm with which you sent us off on my sabbatical(!) and the kindness with which you welcomed us on our return. We are also indebted to Richard and Roger and all who led our worship and ensured that the mission of the church continued whilst I was away.

I am very conscious that we were privileged to have time away. It was a gift of time for which we are both very grateful. It was enriching in many ways as we enjoyed time together, learnt more about God's world in all its rich diversity, and worshipped and prayed in many different settings.

Now, I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead.

We look forward to welcoming Deacon Janet Heys into our circuit. At the same time, we will miss Richard Mottershead as he works in Manchester rather than amongst us – though he will still lead our worship occasionally. We are grateful for all the wisdom and love he's shared with us in his own distinctive way!

The great challenge before us, as I see it, is to grow in our life with Christ so that God can work through us to bring about change: change in us, change in our churches, change in the lives of those around us, change in our communities and world.

I was once told by a doctor, "The only things that don't change are dead!" So, how do we help each other and help ourselves to change in ways that reflect the love of Christ and those Kingdom qualities of insight and understanding, compassion, self-giving, forgiveness, peace-making, faithfulness and hope?

With warm greetings,

Colin

Welcome to Janet Heys

Our Welcome Service to Deacon Janet Heys will be held on Thursday, 3rd September at 7.30.at Fairfield Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Keith Davies, Chair of the Manchester and Stockport District, will be our preacher. It would be splendid if all our churches could be represented to give her a warm Peak District welcome!

If you want to send Janet a note to welcome her, she arrives on August 7th and begins work in September. Her address will be 42 Milnbank Avenue, Fairfield, Buxton, SK17 7PS.

We are grateful to all those who have made Janet's appointment possible and are thankful that she's coming amongst as a friend and fellow-servant of Christ. She will need and value our prayers – both in our worship and our private devotions.

New Anglican Clergy

Rev. Karl Edwards at St. Peter's

Karl is the new vicar at St. Peter's Church Fairfield. He arrived whilst I was away but we've had a friendly and useful meeting and I look forward to Janet and myself working with him. We keep him, his wife and four children in our prayers.

Rev. Chris Logan in Buxton

In September Rev. Chris Logan will be installed in Buxton Parish and we look forward to working with him.

Longnor Benefice

I occasionally remind Keith Davies, our District Chair, that he has one Methodist Chapel in the Litchfield Diocese – Hollinsclough, which is just a couple of hundred yards inside the Staffordshire border.

The parish of Longnor includes Hollinsclough and we have been without a vicar for some months. I have enjoyed going into Hollinsclough School and taking some assemblies during this time. However, in November a new vicar will be installed in Longnor and we look forward to welcoming him.

Three Week Course - What on earth is the church for?

This course will take place at Peak Dale at 2.30 – 3.45 on Tuesdays 11th, 18th, and 25th August. It's an opportunity for us to think and talk together about the insights the Bible gives us about the nature of the church. We shall try and see if there are practical consequences coming out of our meeting:

- 11th Community of faith and worship
- 18th Community in service
- 25th Community of Christ

Harvest Festivals

There are many ways we can use harvest to enrich the life of our churches. Here are three ideas:

- make a personal invitation to people who don't usually attend our worship
- learn about a particular need and raise money for it. MRDF (Methodist Relief and Development Fund) and Christian Aid and many others have useful websites.
- talk with the person who is leading worship about having a special theme. (Christian charities often have suggestions for worship at harvest.)

Meeting with all Church Stewards

I would be very grateful if as many church stewards (and kindred spirits) could meet with me on ***Monday 17th August at 2.00pm at Buxton Methodist Church.*** Our Church Stewards play a central role in encouraging the church in her local mission. It will be an opportunity both to thank you and to see how we can help our churches as they face the exciting challenges before us.

United Service at Fairfield: Sunday 6th September at 6.00 pm.

This is our usual date for a united service with St. Peter's, our local parish church. I'm hoping that Janet Heys and Karl Edwards will both be able to tell us a bit about themselves – but who will be our Michael Parkinson?

The service will also celebrate the beginning of a new church year as we renew our commitment to Christ and to serving him in the whole life of the church and world.

Circuit Websites

Russ Baker (to whom we owe our thanks) looks after three circuit websites and he kindly provides me with the number of “hits” on them each month.

| | July '08 | July 2009 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Buxton Circuit | 81 | 162 |
| Fairfield Methodist Church | 115 | 150 |
| Buxton Methodist Church | 171 | 256 |

That's over 550 people looking at our church and circuit websites. Have you had a look yet?

Buxton, Peak Dale & Monyash youngsters win Tug of War

It was July 4th when young people from Buxton, Peak Dale & Monyash Methodist travelled to Salford City Academy for 5 hours of fun including Street Dancing, Graffiti painting, a tug of war competition, a barbeque and a live gig with top UK band 'YFriday'.

We entered a team into the tug of war and we beat all the competition taking 1st and runners up positions. Clearly the city kids are no match for us country folk.

Our thanks to Marc at Lathkill Coaches for taking us there and if you ever need a coach try Lathkill – competitive and friendly.

On September 13th at Monyash Methodist we are having another open air songs of praise type service (called the 'big sing') at 10.15am with barbequed bacon rolls for breakfast from 9.30am. Come along and join us.

In Peak Dale we held the first of our Big Film Matinee events and 25 children and young people joined us for popcorn, ice cream and a film. We watched a film called BOLT that has recently been released on DVD. If you've not seen it yet, it's worth it. We hope to do more of this across the circuit. ***Roger Mallard***

PS to all Church Stewards

Please will you make sure that the items of forthcoming events in this newsletter are announced at each of our services.