

Buxton Circuit Newsletter

August/September 2010

Dear Friends,

Many of you will be receiving this on Sunday, 1st August. ***I do hope that, if you are able, you will come and join us for our Circuit Service this evening at Fairfield at 6.00 pm.*** We will celebrate the ministry of preaching and give thanks for Joyce Lawton's fifty plus years as a preacher, forty-nine of them on Full Plan.

God gives to certain people the desire and the gift to lead people in worship and to publicly proclaim the Christian Gospel. Each generation has to hear that Gospel proclaimed in words that speak directly to them, to their own situation and needs.

Yet, it's not just preachers who are given these opportunities. We all have times when we need to share, with our fellow Christians and with others, the faith that motivates our lives. I'm hoping that in the small groups (which you'll read about elsewhere in this Newsletter) we will grow in our confidence to talk about our faith, to share what we have found to be true and learn from the insights of others.

Sometimes, we proclaim the Gospel just by being who we are – the way we treat people, our willingness to live for others even when it's costly, our pattern of life centred in Christ. One benefit of small groups is that they encourage us live closer to Christ and so to reflect both his love and his power into the world.

Christ's joy and peace be with you!

Colin

WANTED: THOSE WHO CAN OFFER THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY AND LEADERSHIP

From October, I hope to lead small groups of about eight people once a month, preferably in a home. I'm hoping to link together Flagg and Monyash, Earl Sterndale and Hollinsclough, Harpur Hill and Buxton.

Would you be willing to let us use your home for a monthly meeting? The format of the groups will be a welcome, some brief worship, looking

together at a passage from the Bible, conversation and closing prayers. It would be good to finish with a drink.

If you'd like to talk further with me about this, please do so ASAP! Tel: 01298 23556, revjcs@aol.com or just chat! **Colin.**

WELCOME TO HOLLINSCLOUGH

Into Hollinsclough have moved John and Rachel Ruddy and their membership has been transferred. With them have come their two young daughters, Skyla and Casia. We warmly welcome them!

MAPPING

I'm grateful to Flagg, Harpur Hill, Fairfield and Buxton who have shared with me in thinking through their hopes for the future.

Monyash continues to talk about the future with friends from the village. Good things are happening there – the completion of the first phase of the property renewal programme, a successful Songs of Praise and its contribution to the village "Open Garden Weekend".

I look forward to sharing with friends at Peak Dale, Earl Sterndale and Hollinsclough about "Mapping the Future".

"CAFE FX" AND FRESH EXPRESSIONS

Someone asked me what the "FX" means. It stands for "Fresh Expressions" which is a movement within the Methodist, Anglican and URC churches to express the faith in ways that people in our society, who will never darken the doors of our conventional churches, can find accessible. It receives strong support from, amongst others, Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury.

It begins with the simple truth that Jesus went to where people were. He didn't assume they would flock to him! It got him into trouble because some good, religious folk thought he was going to places and mixing with people he ought to have avoided!

Fresh Expressions assumes that, if people who have never been near a church are ever to hear the Gospel, the church has to be where they are and meet them in ways with which they feel comfortable. It's not just about young people. Many older people have had no more links with the church than those who are younger.

In the basement of the Manchester Central Hall a club has become the meeting point with some who come into the city centre at night. It provides, for those who want it, times when people can explore both the Christian faith and what it means to belong with the family of Christ.

It is a “Fresh Expression” of the church and its message to a society which often has no link with church either as a building or people. For those of us rooted in the traditional life of the church it may seem very challenging – but, remembering the pattern of Jesus, it’s also something we must accept as “authentically” Christ-like!

NEW HYMN BOOK

The Methodist Church has agreed to publish a new hymn book which will be known as “Singing the Faith”.

The new hymn book will contain hymns both the hymns which are a rich part of our tradition and those from more recent times. It is also intended to update this collection electronically for those (increasing number) of churches which display hymns words on a screen.

The price of the full music edition of Singing the Faith will be £30, the words edition £9 and the large print words edition £15.

METHODIST CHURCH ADOPTS CARBON REDUCTION POLICY

The Methodist Conference confirmed a pledge to reduce the Church's carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 in line with government targets after adopting resolutions set out in a carbon reduction report.

The Methodist Church in Britain has a carbon footprint of around 120,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum for approximately 8,000 of its buildings. The annual energy bill to the Church and individual ministers is about £19 million a year. Cutting the carbon footprint has the potential to free up money that can be used for mission.

Colin writes: I’ve been wondering whether an eco-friendly electric bike – maybe the modern equivalent of John Wesley’s horse!

I would encourage each church to think seriously about how we can reduce the resources we use, both in fuel and in other ways, within the constraints of what we are fundamentally about. Old boilers and thick, iron radiators, for instance, are notoriously inefficient!

THANK YOU: CHURCH TREASURERS & PROPERTY STEWARDS

The 31st August marks the end of the Methodist Church year and Church Treasurers and property Stewards know that there are schedules to be filled in. So, it's a good time to say in print "Thank you" to these splendid people – but also to say it to them in person!

Property Stewards will often be grateful for any offers of help as well!

GIVING TO CHURCH AND TO CHARITY

As a new church year begins there has been an increase in the amount each church pays the Circuit as their contribution towards the total circuit expenses. May I encourage us all, if we haven't thought about this for twelve months, to consider what we ought to be giving as our contribution in the coming twelve months.

Many churches have a Gift Aid Scheme. If your church doesn't, you might want to consider giving to the church via the "Charity Aid Foundation" or CAF. For Income Tax payers, a regular contribution enables CAF to claim back the tax you've paid. You can then give both to the church and other charities, by standing order if desired.

It is an efficient and useful service and CAF can be contacted at:

***Charity Accounts Department, CAF, 25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA.***

LOOK OUT FOR "MESSY CHURCH"

Over the coming months "Messy Church" will be coming on a weekday to a church near you. It's for everyone in the church but especially for children and carers (whether parents, grans, or friends).

We will also need help – so please be prepared! For more information please talk to Roger Mallard or phone 27065

CIRCUIT SERVICE WITH PAULINE WEBB – 26th September at 6.00

Pauline Webb is one of the great Methodist and Ecumenical figures of the last 50 years. She will preach at Buxton on 26th September at 6.00.

She worked for the Methodist Missionary Society, was the youngest ever Vice President of the Methodist Conference and the first woman elected to be Vice-Chair of the World Council of Churches. She championed the ordination of women and organised the Religious Broadcasting on the BBC World Service. Until her late 70's she led the Radio 4 Daily Service and spoke on "Thought For The Day".