

# **Buxton Circuit Newsletter**

## **February/March 2010**

Dear Friends,

We move into the Holy Season of Lent.

Before we begin Lent, we gather for a Bring and Share lunch at 12.30 for Lunch on Shrove Tuesday, Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February at Harpur Hill.

The following day, 17<sup>th</sup>, we meet for our Ash Wednesday Communion at Fairfield at 10.30 am.

So we begin our walk with Christ to Calvary. For many people it seems appropriate that this should be a period which we mark in a way that involves some personal cost:

- A weekly fast from our evening meal till after sun-down the following day.
- Reading a special book or a book of the Bible
- Joining with others for prayer or taking more care over your daily quiet time with God
- Giving up something which is costly to you.
- Taking a new care of God's creation and living simply and without waste.
- Putting money aside in thankfulness for each meal you've enjoyed and giving it to Christian Aid or the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.
- Attend "The Narrow Road", a performance by Riding Lights (the Christian Theatre Company). See further on.

I would warmly invite you to come to Hollinsclough at 10.00 – 12.00 on the **4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March** to reflect together on passages in Mark's Gospel which speak of Jesus' journey to

the cross. There will be time for quiet and space as well as listening and conversation.

As always, let me know how I can be of help to you.

Christ's peace be with you,

Colin

### **KEN LOWNDES**

Ken was a circuit man. His roots were in Fairfield and for many years he worshipped in Buxton but he was concerned for all our chapels and their life and witness. He also served many of our churches as the examiner of our accounts and was doing this for us this last autumn, helpful and friendly to the last.

He was one of the first people to visit the manse when we moved in and he brought with him a plant. Many people have spoken of how Ken welcomed them when they first came to Buxton and how he remembered visitors by name.

Above all, Ken walked this earth with his Lord. He wasn't pious, but his thoughts and words, his generosity and practical kindness, his worship and encouragement to those who led it, his stories and his humour, all reflected a man who loved his Lord and loved his neighbours.

He leaves us with a fine example to follow. I can almost see him cheering us on and encouraging us to stick close to Christ and not to give up, but to live faithfully day by day.

### **CIRCUIT WALK**

This will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, meeting at Buxton Methodist Church. If you are coming from outside Buxton, please contact me as to where it might be more convenient for us to meet up! Colin 23556

## **CIRCUIT MEETING**

This will be held at Buxton on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 at Buxton. If you are a member of the Circuit Meeting, please try and be present as there will important matters to discuss.

## **CHURCH COUNCILS**

Our Spring Church Councils will be an opportunity to look at where we are, our resources, and what God wants of us.

I want us to make at least one creative decision in each council, a decision which enables us to worship, grow in our faith, serve our communities or make new Christians more effectively.

What would you like to see happening in your church? If you want to tell me, do write, phone or email me. However ambitious, however much of a dream, share it with me or one of the members of your Church Council!

Colin Smith: 1, St. James Terrace, Buxton SK17 6HS.  
Phone: 23556                      Email: revjcs@aol.com

## **ECO-CONGREGATIONS**

If the "Earth is the Lord's" we have a responsibility to care for it. Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical programme helping churches make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith, and respond in practical action in the church, in the lives of individuals, and in the local and global community.

For more information, look up <http://www.ecocongregation.org> or ask me to print out some information for you.

## **A JAUNT ROUND THE MIDDLE EAST**

Come and see pictures of Colin and Caroline's Sabbatical from Egypt to Greece: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00 pm. Light refreshments.

Ask Colin if you'd like the slides brought to your own chapel.

## **THE NARROW ROAD**

**March 19<sup>th</sup>: St. John's Church at 7.30 pm**

The "Narrow Road" will be performed by the professional company of Riding Lights in York Minster on Good Friday.

Before that, we have an opportunity to share in a performance at St. John's Church, Buxton, on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm.

The last two performances have been extremely moving, both concentrating on Christ's journey to the cross.

I have accepted responsibility for this performance and for raising our booking fee because I believe drama can give us a deeper insight into what the death of Jesus means for us and the world.

Tickets will be on sale: £10.00 full price, £8.00 concessions or £3.00 for young people or students.

## **FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT**

In 2009 Buxton achieved Fairtrade Town Status because of the number of places where Fairtrade products were sold or used: churches, schools, shops and work-places.

Fairtrade Fortnight is about getting more people talking about and buying Fairtrade products. The theme this year is "**THE BIG SWAP**" and the Fairtrade Foundation is challenging everyone to swap 5 of their regular purchases to Fairtrade products - it could be drinking chocolate, rice, sugar, dried fruit, cotton socks, wine, muesli and of course tea, coffee and bananas.

To encourage us to use Fairtrade Products, may I invite you to a **Fairtrade Drinks and Local Cheese evening**: The Manse on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February** from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Donations will be welcome.