

Stones Methodist Church

~ Newsletter October 2014 ~

Dear Friends,

These bright and crisp autumnal mornings signal that we are at the beginning of a new season and a new academic year. As our children return to full time education at school and 6th Form college I am reminded about my own journey of learning over the years.

Of course learning isn't limited to our time in formal education we can learn in all sort of ways and at different times over the fullness of our lives. As Christians we are called to be disciples of Jesus. The word disciple means learner though another understanding expresses discipleship in terms of apprenticeship and being an apprentice of Christ. Interestingly, John Ortberg writes; 'Learning can be an act of worship'. I wonder do we seek to be a learner or apprentice of Jesus in an intentional way offered as an act of worship?

I was reading the Methodist Recorder this week where Martyn Atkins writes about the development of a new course entitled 'Worship – Leading and Preaching' which he describes as the heralding of a 'new era in local preacher and worship leader training.' He explains, 'the course will be primarily available through a secure, user friendly, media rich "Virtual Learning Environment".....with hard copies for those who request it or can't access the material on-line.... The format is a refreshing and potent mix of individual study and reflection, group discussion and practical application of what is learned'. The course is being piloted in a few Districts before being made more widely available.

The deepening of our discipleship can take place in many ways and one way available in our own Circuit is through the 'Encounter' course which is 'An opportunity to join with a group of Christians to reflect on Christian living and to discern what God may be calling you to do'. The current Encounter course is drawing to a close and the Circuit are looking to offer this opportunity for learning and sharing together in the coming year.

I wonder what learning opportunities God might be calling you to in the year ahead. I'd be happy to speak with you about any of the above or other opportunities that you may wish to explore as we each seek to deepen our discipleship as a discipleship movement shaped for mission.

And words from George Herbert as a prayer for us all:

Teach me my God and King, in all things thee to see, and what I do in anything, to do is as for thee.

Love Francis

Readings

5th	12th	19th	26th
Isaiah 5:1-7	Isaiah 25:1-9	Isaiah 45:1-7	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalms 80:7-15	Psalms 23	Psalms 96:1-9, 10-13	Psalms 1
Philippians 3:4b-14	Philippians 4:1-9	1 Thes. 1:1-10	1 Thes. 2:1-8
Matthew 21:33-46	Matthew 22:1-14	Matthew 22:15-22	Matthew 22:34-46

Rotas

	October				November
Date	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th	2 nd
Preacher	Alison Dobson	Ian Slim	Rev Francis Neil	TBA	Rev Paul Welch
Steward	Irene Wilkinson	Jane Godfrey	Sue Rosborough	Linda Ellis	Jane Godfrey
Reader	David Normanton	Linda Ellis	Ellie Neil	Andrew Smith	Gwen Smith
Prayers	Sue Rosborough	Jenny Crane	Matthew Neil	Mark Travis	David Normanton
Welcome	Nona Hirst	Jean Slim	David Normanton	Louise Littlewood	Caroline Smith
Flowers	K&T Heptinstall	K&K Brierley	D Hooper	J&G Webber	J&B Little
Coffee	Linda & Sandra	Hillary & Jill	John & Jane	Nona, Kathleen & Maureen	Mike & Sue

October Diary

17th Luncheon Club

19th The Family service on this Sunday will include a Thanksgiving/Dedication for Ros and Alistair Denton's baby Joshua.

31st Friday Get Together – 2:30pm

Paul Jones from Community Transport Calderdale will tell us about this independent charitable organisation. Many of you may be unaware of this wonderful service provided in the main by volunteer drivers who operate across Calderdale for those who cannot access other forms of transport. The talk will be followed by afternoon tea as usual. Everyone welcome.

8th November Autumn Fayre

Sunday School History

Research into the origins of our Sunday School has begun in the archives of Calderdale library. I am told it has already begun to yield some gems of information about events in the late 19th Century. Unfortunately it does not look as if we will be able to go back to the very beginning (ie the time of the Battle of Waterloo and Napoleon's departure to St Helena) because those records have either been lost or destroyed. Some later records are also mislaid and efforts are being made to trace them. On the basis that they will eventually turn up it is hoped to flesh them out with other material. I have been asked to put out a general request for help. We know that people at Stones have in some cases worshipped here for several generations and it may be that somewhere in an attic or old trunk there lurks some item of memorabilia from your Sunday School days. If so it will be much appreciated if you can dust it off and let us see it. If there is anything you feel may be of interest please contact Katharine Normanton or email Matthew at matty-normy@hotmail.co.uk

FURTHER CONGRATULATIONS

Last month we congratulated three of our younger members on their achievements at University. This month we are thinking of two who are still progressing in their school careers. After successfully negotiating their GCSEs, Maddy Teshola and Matthew Neil are moving into the 6th form for their A levels. Maddy will study Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Music, while Matthew will take English Literature, Geography, Art & Design and Business Studies. We wish them both well for the future.

DONATIONS FOR REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Another Methodist year has ended and I am pleased to report that the amount raised from the beginning of September 2013 to the end of August 2014 by the donations for tea and coffee after Sunday Services was £493. I would like to thank all those who contributed to this total and so helped Church funds at Stones.

Gwen