

Stones Methodist Church

~ Newsletter September 2014 ~

Dear Friends,

I hope you have enjoyed a time of refreshment and renewal over the summer, which, though eagerly anticipated, seems to have passed very quickly as autumn now beckons. As I write this I am waiting, waiting for my eldest son who has gone to school to receive his GCSE results which he has been waiting for. He seems to have been waiting for months but in reality it was weeks. We were watching 'The Great British Bake Off' recently where the theme of 'waiting' featured once more as the competitors had mixed their 'dough' and placed it in the 'proofing drawer' while they waited for it to rise; no amount of pacing or checking could alter the fact that they had to wait. I don't know about you but I don't find waiting that easy and sometimes the waiting is tinged with an amalgam of feelings, hope, excitement, anxiety, uncertainty?

The Psalmist reminds us that:

- 20 Our soul waits for the Lord;
 he is our help and our shield.
21 For our heart is glad in him,
 because we trust in his holy name.
22 Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
 even as we hope in you.

Psalm 33:20-22 (ESV)

Maybe we are waiting now; for the beginning of a new Connexional year, or results of one kind or another, a new school term or a new school year, new jobs, new challenges, or long awaited appointments. In our waiting may the words of the Psalmist remind us of the sure and certain hope that we have in Jesus and that the steadfast love of the Lord is with us in and through all things and will never let us go.

Love,

Francis

Readings

7th	14th	21st	28th
Ezekiel 33:7-11	Genesis 50:15-21	Jonah 3:10 – 4:11	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalms 119:33-40	Psalms 103:(1-7) 8-13	Psalms 145:1-8	Psalms 25:1-9
Romans 13:8-14	Romans 14:1-12	Philippians 1:21-30	Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 18:15-20	Matthew 18:21-35	Matthew 20:1-16	Matthew 21:23-32

Rotas

	September				October
Date	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	5 th
Preacher	Rev. Francis Neil	John Travis	Rev. Alistair Newton	Margaret Collinge	Alison Dobson
Steward	Linda Ellis	Jean Slim	Sue Rosborough	Craig Brown	Irene Wilkinson
Reader	Jenny Crane	Jean Little	Sunday School	Irene Wilkinson	David Normanton
Prayers	Joan Cross	Craig Brown	Sunday School	David Wilkinson	Sue Rosborough
Welcome	Mark Travis	Roy Galloway	Jackie Heywood	Ian Slim	Nona Hirst
Flowers	J&J Teshola	F Fielding	Harvest	H Briggs	K&T Heptinstall
Coffee	Ian & Jean	Caroline & Jackie	Irene & Jenny	Sue & Louise	Linda & Sandra

September Diary

- 5th Circuit Quiz
- 21st Harvest Festival
- 26th Friday afternoon Get-together at 2:30pm
 Louise Littlewood will give a talk with the title 'Eat, pray and ride; a mountain bike trip in Nepal'
 It will be followed by afternoon tea as usual. Everyone is welcome.
- 29th Stewards Meeting

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 matt-normy@hotmail.co.uk

The Congratulations Page

One outcome of the Tour de France Street Party was that we finished up with £840 to distribute. This was more than the £633 we had already shown on the balance sheet because money from the auction of two of the bikes was put back into the purse for us to decide on its destination and an additional £40 arrived through donations. The rest of the bikes from the front of the church have been given to a local group who will renovate them before shipping them to Africa to be used by midwives on their travels to mothers in the bush. At the final meeting after people had spoken up for deserving causes a vote was taken and the following 4 groups were identified to receive their share of our surplus.

The Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Ravenscliffe School,
Overgate Hospice and The Stones Baby and Toddler Group.

Ravenscliffe is a special needs school (formerly known as Bermerside) who are raising funds to set up a 6th form unit while the Baby and Toddler group intend to buy themselves and other local pre-school providers a bike each for outdoor play.

David Wilkinson writes:-

“On a personal note I think this may well be my last message concerning Le Tour and I thank everyone for their contribution and support to what turned out to be such a memorable experience. At the final meeting Irene and I received a lovely photographic card from the group which we shall treasure because the images of the day are a wonderful reminder of the event. Speaking for our the church we are extremely grateful to the Community for their involvement in this project and hope it may not be the last time we do something together.”

Some Exam Successes

Doesn't time pass quickly! It is four years since three of our young people left to go to University.

Catrin Pryce-Jones graduated from the Royal Scottish Conservatoire as a violinist in July. She is hoping to do a Masters degree in singing either in London or in her first choice, in Amsterdam. She will audition this autumn for a course starting next September. Meanwhile, she will continue as a professional chorister at Glasgow Cathedral and undertake other singing and playing work. She has had quite a few gigs recently with a string trio, replacing the violinist who is on maternity leave, and has two concerts in London this summer, one in St. John's Smith Square in Westminster.

Alex Littlewood was thrilled to graduate with a first class degree in Law and has been encouraged to stay on for another year to do a Masters. Who knows what after that? We will wait and see! At the end of August when she finally returns from working at Brasenose College helping with the conference guests we may see something of her.

Kate Rosborough has just graduated from the University of Nottingham with a 2.1 Honours Degree in French and History. Kate starts as a Graduate Trainee on the Store Management Programme with Tesco on 8th September. She will be based in Edmonton in North London and will spend time in other local stores during her 2 year training.

We want to congratulate all three of them on their achievements and would like to give them our best wishes for success in their future careers.