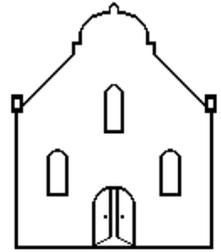




THE SOCIETY
Stirling Methodist Church
Newsletter
February 19th 2017
Issue 1257



Welcome to everyone sharing in worship here today, we trust that you will find it to be an enriching experience.

If you are visiting us, we invite you to sign the Visitors' Book which is on top of the organ.

Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee in the hall after the service.

At the beginning of our service, after the intimations are given by the steward, the Peace candle is lit and there is a short period of silence for you to prepare yourself for worship.

10.30am Morning Worship

Following a change to the original plan our service today is led by David Rogerson & Julia Reid

The full lectionary readings for this Sunday morning (any of which may or may not be used by the preacher) are:

Leviticus 19 : 9 - 18; Psalm 119 : 33 – 40;

1 Corinthians 3 : 16 – 23; Matthew 5 : 38 - 48.

Sunday 26th Feb 10.30am Morning Worship

Service led by : Revd W F Seymour

A collect for this week (from Methodist Worship Book):

God of pardon and deliverance,
your forgiving love, revealed in Christ,
has brought to birth a new creation.
Raise us from our sins to walk in your ways,
that we may witness to your power
which makes all things new,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Carbon Fast for Lent

The Moderator for the Church of South India, Most Rev. Thomas K Oommen, has suggested a new way of observing Lent: "I challenge all of you to go a step forward and deeper by initiating a 'Carbon Fast', in order to reduce the actions which damage God's Creation... I recommend forming a small group within your church to meet after worship each week for discussion and taking action. The Carbon Fast will provide myriad ways your congregation could get involved in enhancing climate justice. These ways may vary from questions for group discussion to steps your church could take to conserve energy. Across the broad range of activities, there should be no shortage of possibilities that match the initiative and interest within your congregation."

More details at www.ecocongregationscotland.org/news

Let me know if you would be interested.

Jon Cape. Green Team Leader

PS Stop Climate Chaos is promoting a campaign to wear green hearts to show our love for things at risk from climate change. Striking 3 minute video here. www.stopclimatechaos.org/campaigns

Start-Up/Food Bank

The boxes will be out next week. The most wanted goods at present are ready meals, tinned tomatoes and cereal bars. Many thanks for last month's donations which were very much appreciated.

Janet Baker

New Church Website

Following approval from the Church Council last week, the new church website (<http://www.stirlingmethodistchurch.org.uk>) has now gone live. If you have internet access, please have a look and let us know what you think. You can do this using the email form in the Contact Us page of the site (or simply by speaking to myself or Lois).

Whilst it has been a significant effort to get the website up and running, the key to its success is keeping it complete and up to date. The aim is for the website to be the primary means of communication both internally and externally, so you will find on it newsletters, details of upcoming events, reports on past events including photos, sermons and minutes of meetings. To enable this to happen, the website designer, Peter Guthrie, will be giving a training session for anyone who is interested at 6.30pm on Tuesday 7th March.

David Rogerson

Church Vision Fund

Establishing the website is one of several initiatives that was proposed last year by the church vision group, and accepted by Church Council. Other things that we would like to do are to install wifi within the church premises and potentially to upgrade the sound system so as to record sermons/services for uploading directly to the website. To enable such things to happen the Council approved the establishment of a Church Vision Fund, which will be a “ring fenced” for investments that are designed to fulfil the vision of the church. The full statement of that vision is on the About Us page of the website, but in short it is "to be an inclusive church in the heart of Stirling where we share God's love through working with and for others to transform our community and the world." The Church Council approved £1000 from the General Fund to be used to establish the Church Vision Fund, which would then (hopefully!) be supplemented by donations and fund-raising. Should you wish to make a donation directly to the Church Vision Fund, please speak with our treasurer, Brian Baker.

David Rogerson

Not in our backyard - not in their market garden

an evening with

Dr. Julia Edwards from Fiji

speaking about the affects of

Climate Change

on the Islands of the Pacific Ocean.

Dr Edwards is a climate researcher and works closely with small communities in the Pacific as they prepare to meet the challenges of global warming.

This will be followed by a question and answer session and discussion about what we can do to limit global warming. Julia will be joined by a small group of local people to help answer questions.

7.30 p.m.
Monday 20th February
The Methodist Church
Queen Street,
Stirling FK8 1HL

**Organised by Stirling Methodist Church Green Team
and Friends of the Earth - Stirling**

Stewards' Meeting

The stewards will be meeting with Mark on Thursday, March 2nd. If anyone would like topics relevant to that meeting raised please speak to me or any of the other stewards.

Janet Baker

NWMC Talent and Craft Auction Sunday 19th March

Over the next few weeks, Ruth and a few helpers will be handing out a slip to each member of the congregation on which to record any 'talent' that you would like to offer for auction. This is just a way of focussing our minds and getting us to start thinking about the event!

If you are able to offer something, please complete the slip and hand back to a member of the Committee, preferably before 5th March. This will enable me to compile a list of Talents for the 12th March so that people can have some notice of the wonderful possibilities on offer.

You will also see a Flipchart at the front of the church and you can offer a talent by writing on this, if that is easier for you.

Please feel free to state a minimum price offer and any other relevant details, if you feel that to be appropriate.

In anticipation, thank you very much for your support.

Ruth Rogerson

BBC Songs of Praise recordings

We are invited to participate in recordings of traditional hymns for use in BBC One's Songs of Praise in St Ninian's Cathedral on the afternoons of Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th of March. Members are welcome to take part in one or both recordings.

The producer is especially keen for enthusiastic singers to form a specially formed choir massed choir from different churches and from a wide area. There is a special choir rehearsal on the afternoon of Saturday 11th March.

Applications for tickets must be made by Tuesday 28th February.

For further information email songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk or ring 0161 335 8429.

Details are also on the church notice board.

Brian Baker

WaterAid

Those, who wish to take part in our annual appeal for WaterAid during Lent, can collect their 'Jars of Change' after the Service next Sunday 26th February, which is the last Sunday before Lent begins on March 1st.

Ann Seymour and Joan McCulloch

Whist Drive

Friday 24th February, 7.30-9.30pm. Test your luck and skill in a multi-table whist drive. Whether you are young or old, a rank beginner or seriously card-sharp, you should have a fun night, with prizes, coffee & cake. Entry is free and all are welcome – if possible, please bring a friend with you.

This is the first in what I hope will be an occasional series under the name "Open Space" suitable for church and non-church people alike. Future events will have more of a spiritual-social dimension, but this first evening is purely for fun.

David Rogerson

Readers please

If possible can you add your name to the 'reader rota' in the vestibule? At this time we are particularly in need for the 12th and 26th of March. Thank you,

Jim Roberts