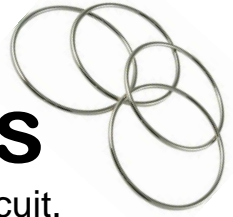


The **Methodist** Church



Circuit Links

News from around the Buxton Circuit.

Summer 2016

A few items from around our circuit...

Monyash.

On the second Sunday of the month it is all change at Monyash Chapel, instead of a traditional service in the afternoon, there is a family friendly service in the morning which includes video, crafts, songs and 'mini sermon'. It is great to see all ages in church and although numbers attending have varied, the aim is to continue and, along with the Messy Church, build up relations with families in the village.

Flagg.

On Sunday 27th November, 2:30pm, the congregation at Flagg will hold their annual 'Toy Service'. Congregations at both Flagg and Monyash collect toys for children at Charis House and also make up parcels for the mothers. The service is led by Beryl Axcell who has had long association with Charis House. You can support this by taking gifts to Flagg before the Sunday or join the service on 27th November.

Hollinsclough.

The congregation got a surprise on Sunday 12th June when Nigel and Abigail invited family and friends to a baptism for their son. The baptism went as planned, but what they hadn't told anyone was what was going to happen next... in secret to all but a couple of people they had made preparations to get married. So after the baptism there was the unexpected announcement that Nigel and Abigail were going to get married, this brought an audible gasp of delight and when the congregation were told they were getting married in the service, there was an even greater gasp!

Audrey and Ray Getliffe.

Many people know Audrey due to her serving as a local preacher. In May we said farewell to Audrey and Ray as they prepared for their move to Peterborough. During the service many people said a word of thanks and this reflected their involvement in so many groups in the town.

Conference news....

Understanding marriage in a changing society

As well as many other items of business, perhaps the item that 'made the headlines' was the decision for the Methodist Church to review its understanding of marriage and relationships.

The background to this, is that since the Conference in 2014, people across the Methodist Church have been considering marriage and relationships as part of a process overseen by a task group. The discussions show that there is a broad range of opinions held by Methodists on these matters.

The Conference this year decided that there is enough variety of opinion for there to be a process where the Methodist Church is to reconsider how its understanding of marriage should be expressed.

This does not necessarily mean that there will be a change of definition, but that the Church wishes to re-examine the definition through a period of theological and scriptural reflection.

At present the Methodist Church reiterates its view that marriage is "the lifelong union of one man and one woman". However, whilst many Methodists support this definition as it stands, there is a range of reasons to revisit it. For example, some people feel the Church's definition should be extended to include the marriage of same sex couples. Some people feel that the definition only describes the status of marriage, not its purpose and responsibilities and revisiting the definition is important part of the process even if it remains unchanged. The Conference directed that a new Statement on marriage and relationships should now be prepared and that, as part of that process, the definition of marriage should be revisited.

This decision taken at Methodist Conference on the 5th July 2016, was followed a few days later on 9th July when the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church (URC) voted in favour of allowing its local churches to conduct and register marriages for same-sex couples.

Discussion material around this subject will be made available and people in the Buxton Circuit will be invited to participate in sharing what I am sure will be diverse opinions. It is recognised that this is a very sensitive matter and the process of finding a way forward is as important as reaching a decision.

Comfortable with Computers.

This project initiated by Russ Baker has been very popular with Russ and his small team of trainers / mentors helping more than 120 people over its 30 month life. Russ now feels the project has run it's course and the weekly meetings at Fairfield have stopped. However, the small team of mentors/trainers have committed to continue to support these people in the future by offering help by telephone, email or even ad hoc small group meetings. On a more general basis, Russ says, 'if I can help anyone reading this with a computer, tablet or iPad issue I am happy to do so'. To all those involved with running 'Comfortable with Computers' well done on the help you have given through such a worthwhile project.

Website help from Russ.... If anyone in our church family is wanting to have a website for any good cause, organisation, group or interest I would be happy to help within the boundaries of my experience. Further details can be found at <http://www.andycrafts.co.uk/russ.html>

District Day of Prayer and Fasting

1pm on Sat 10th Sept until 1pm on Sun 11th Sept

As last year, circuits, churches and individuals are invited to join in a day on which we will focus particularly on prayer together. Everyone will join in different ways, but you are invited to plan something in your own context. It might be:

- Prayer stations in your church
 - A prayer walk around your neighbourhood
 - Commit to pray individually 5 times during the day
 - A Sunday service focusing on prayer
 - A prayer meeting
 - Inviting friends to pray in your home
 - A 24 hour prayer event

Our theme will be - **Praying for All-Sorts**

We will turn our prayers outwards to pray for the many and diverse people who live around us, in our neighbourhoods, and in the global village. The focus of prayer could include:

- Racial Justice Sunday
 - Refugee Action
 - World Church connections
 - Inter-faith relationships
 - People who are excluded within our own neighbourhoods
 - For our churches to be open and inclusive

Rev'd Dr Andrew J. Lunn (District Chair)

What's on around the circuit...

September

Wed 7 th	10:30 – 12:00	Earl Sterndale Coffee morning
Sat 10 th – Sun 11 th		24 hours District Day of Prayer
Thur 15 th	10:30 – 12:00	Harpur Hill coffee morning
Thur 15 th	7:30pm	Circuit Meeting at Buxton
Sun 18 th	2:30pm	Flagg harvest festival
Sun 25 th	10:30 & 6:00	Fairfield harvest festival
Sun 25 th	10:30am	Harpur Hill harvest festival
Mon 26 th	5:30pm	Harpur Hill harvest tea and sale
Sun 25 th	2:30pm	Earl Sterndale harvest festival

October

Sun 2 nd	10:30am	Buxton harvest festival
Sun 2 nd	10am	Monyash harvest festival
Mon 3 rd	7:30pm	Monyash harvest auction
Wed 5 th	10:30 – 12:00	Earl Sterndale Coffee morning
Sun 9 th	2:30pm	Hollinsclough harvest followed by tea.
Mon 10 th	7:30pm	Hollinsclough harvest sale and tea
Thur 20 th	10:30 – 12:00	Harpur Hill coffee morning

November

Wed 2 nd	10:30 – 12:00	Earl Sterndale Coffee morning
Sat 5 th	2pm	Fairfield Autumn fair
Fri 11 th	7pm	Hollinsclough meat and potato pie supper
Sat 12 th	2pm	Harpur Hill Christmas Sale
Thur 19 th	10:30 – 12:00	Harpur Hill coffee morning
Sun 27 th	2:30pm	Flagg Toy Service

Coffee morning at Buxton every Tuesday and Saturday morning.

This news sheet is a way of linking our circuit with news about what is happening. If you have any dates or items to include please inform Andrew (01298 23556)