

THE MESSENGER



Dear Friends,

The Methodist Church used to have a reputation of being able to spread news very quickly amongst the congregation. A quiet word in the ear of one or two well chosen folk would ensure that by the end of the day almost the whole church would have received the information! Unfortunately, as often happens in the game “Chinese Whispers” the news reaching the last person might be quite different from when it began and confusion and misunderstanding can be the result.

Sometimes news can be misunderstood, like in these apparently genuine newspaper headlines ...

“Local Secondary School Truants Cut in Half”
“Miners Refuse To Work After Death”
“Two Sisters Reunited After 18 years in Tesco”
“Kids Make Nutritious Snacks”

I was really pleased though when, during our covenant services to begin a New Year, I shared some good news stories and afterwards people told me, “We already knew about that, but good news is worth hearing again”. I’m aware that not all those reading the Messenger were at the Covenant Services, and may not have heard the news via the “Methodist Grapevine” route, so allow me to share it again.

The first piece of Good News is that we are now in a position to pay off all our outstanding debt for our refurbishment project, Target 21. This is two years ahead of schedule! Our fundraising for T21 can come to an end. We can be genuinely pleased with ourselves for all the hard work and effort we have put into making this possible, for the way in which people have sacrificially given their time and energy and gifts and talents, and of course generously given their money, to make this possible. Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution of whatever kind and however large or small.

The second piece of good news is that our work amongst young children and their 2 families continues to grow. We had four different schools in church for carol services of different kinds before Christmas, the Noisy Nativity was noisier than ever and our Junior Church remains in need of more helpers and leaders in order to cater for the increasing number of children attending. Whilst it is sad news that Sue Rowell, our much loved and appreciated Pastoral Lay Worker, has moved on, this has given us the opportunity to now seek to employ a lay worker to support and encourage this growing area of the life of the church. We hope to make an appointment in the coming months.

This is Good News as our lay worker post will become more outreach and mission orientated. However, it will involve a change and a challenge for us. The need for good

pastoral care has not diminished and Sue's pastoral ministry has been deeply valued. It will be up to all of us to increase our pastoral care of one another. Not everyone in our church family has the energy or gifts to work amongst children and their families, but many of us would quite enjoy befriending another member of the congregation and paying them a visit from time to time. In this way we're all making a contribution to the mission of the Church to care and reach out to one another and the community we serve.

It is good for us that these two pieces of Good News come together. It would be tempting, having heard that Target 21 is now finished AND paid for, to sit back, pat ourselves on the back and think that we have nothing to do. The purpose of T21 was to provide us with a suite of premises that would allow us to fulfil our mission, provide services to the community, and be a relevant, welcoming and attractive place of worship. The time and effort expended on T21 can now be redirected into other areas of the Church's life.

It really is an exciting time in the life of our Church and the Good News is worth sharing, never forgetting that our purpose as a church is to celebrate and proclaim the Good News of God's love for all. And that is certainly worth repeating again; and again; and again ...

Andy

TO THE CHURCH FAMILY AT TILEHURST METHODIST CHURCH

For the last nearly ten years I have been part of this church here at Tilehurst employed as your Lay Worker. It has been an immense privilege for me and as I look back over those years I want to say a very big thank you to you all. To Andy and Church Stewards past and present. For everyone who has invited me to share in their experiences, the good, the difficult and often joyful times. I have gained so much from so many people and seen God's care, guidance and love in action through the love and faith of so many of you.

It's very hard for me to say goodbye because I have felt at home here, very loved and valued. Even when I have made mistakes (which I have often) I have always found a hug and words of "never mind we still love you". You have given me confidence to try new things especially to take part and then lead our annual retreats at Ascot and Silchester. They were such a privilege and I will leave with so many wonderful and special memories.

As you read this I will hopefully be in New Zealand. We will be spending a month there, and then we will be going to Australia, Tasmania and then Fiji where my niece will be getting married. We will then spend some time with my brother and his family in Adelaide. The plan then is to fly back in April and stay with our son and family who will by then have moved to Basingstoke. We will then begin to look for a house to buy

and to settle in maybe Dorset or Somerset. I will let you know my new address when we are settled. For the moment I will look forward to hearing from you and will keep in touch by e-mail.

This really is a time of great change for us because it's a time of letting go of familiar places and friends. A new beginning, where Roy and I will have time to experience new places, new horizons and also to spend time with my brother and his wife who live in Adelaide, Australia.

My love and prayers for you all for this New Year 2011 and for all you do to show God's love and presence in this community. May God bless you all as you seek his guidance in your lives.

Sue Rowell

TRAINING FOR THE PRESBYTERAL MINISTRY - an update from Andrew & Trudie Wigley

We are both now almost half-way through our second and final year of training for Presbyterian Ministry. Most recently, we have just heard that Andrew is to be stationed in Swindon from September, serving as part of an Anglican/Methodist LEP at the Dorcan Church in Covingham, and with further responsibility for Queen's Drive Methodist Church. We have spent two days meeting the Superintendent Minister, visiting the churches and meeting some of the members there, and looking at schools for Ben and Grace. We were made to feel very welcome, and we look forward to serving there.

Trudie is progressing discussions about a suitable appointment for her within the Anglican church and we hope and pray for the right opportunity for her. In the meantime, it is back to college studies. Term has started again, along with the pattern of Andrew commuting weekly to the Queens Foundation in Birmingham and Trudie continuing her studies at Ripon College, Cuddesdon near Oxford - Mummy and Daddy are at 'big school', as we tell our children. (We will wait to share with them about moving house and schools till nearer the time.)

Soon the summer will be upon us, along with the upheaval of moving house, changing churches and schools, whilst both of us are starting new 'jobs'. It will then be a time to say farewell to our many good friends in Tilehurst and at St Mary's Purley, but at least we won't be too far away down the M4. With thanks for all your prayers and support, which we will appreciate particularly in these last few months with you.

ANDREW & TRUDIE WIGLEY

AN AUCTION OF PROMISES - 4 June 2011

Liz and Keith Aldersley plan to organise **An Auction of Promises** in memory of June Harris who died in July 2010 and was a very active member of the church to raise funds for the charity **Ovacome**.

These are some ideas for lots using your own personal talents:

- Give some lessons using your music talent, e.g. piano lessons
- Give some computer sessions using your IT skills
- Give some foreign language lessons
- Offer to do some cleaning, ironing, gardening for a number of hours
- Offer to bake a cake or cook a special meal for a few people
- Donate a gift or the offer of tickets for a special event
- Offer to make something using the creative gifts you have, e.g. card making, painting,
- knitting, cross stitch etc
- Offer to clean a car
- Dog walking
- Babysitting
- Provide a taxi service to an airport
- Purchase and deliver a Sunday newspaper for a month

These are only a few suggestions, you may have more exciting ideas to offer!

Do you have personal contacts with companies or organisations that might donate an exciting offer?

Please, please help us to make this event happen by contacting us as soon as possible by email or phone with your offers. Thank you

Liz Aldersley

Phone: 942 2236

Email: liz.aldersley@btinternet.com or keith.aldersley@btinternet.com

**THE JOHN WESLEY CHAPEL.
THE NEW ROOM, BRISTOL**

Step back in time

The New Room in Bristol is the oldest Methodist Chapel in the world (originally built in 1739) and the cradle of the early Methodist movement. It was built and used by John Wesley and the early Methodists as a meeting and preaching place and the centre for helping and educating the needy members of the community.

The chapel itself is on the ground floor (where there is also a shop) and is accessible from either the Broadmead or Horsefair courtyards. Upstairs, are the Preachers' Rooms where the MLA accredited museum is located. This contains a unique collection of papers and artifacts and tells the story of John and Charles Wesley and their life and work in Bristol.

The New Room is open - Monday to Saturday - 10am to 4pm

The trustees of the New Room are also responsible for the Charles Wesley House, which is located a short distance from the New Room. Charles was the younger brother of John and is considered one of the world's greatest hymn writers as well as being a great preacher in his own right. He lived at the house with his wife Sally and their children for several years. The property is set out as it would have been in Charles' time as a domestic family house.

The house is available to visit by groups by prior appointment only. Please visit our 'Group Visits' page of this website for further details.

The New Room Mission Statement

1. To promote the New Room and Charles Wesley's House as places of historical and contemporary significance in the spiritual and social life of Bristol, the nation and the world.
2. To tell the story of John and Charles Wesley so as to increase people's understanding of their respective contributions and their relevance to thought, belief and action today.
3. To develop the New Room as a sustainable heritage attraction, educational resource, cultural venue and community facility in the heart of the city.
4. To offer (people passing through the centre of Bristol) opportunities for reflection, challenge and spiritual encounter.

See www.newroombristol.org.uk

TARGET 21

In 2008 the Church borrowed £53,000 from Methodist Chapel Aid and £16,500 from members of the congregation to enable it to pay the builder. A retention payment is also due to the builder once the dispute over the heating in the halls is resolved.

In recent years fundraising has focused on raising the monies needed to repay these loans and the builder's retention. Funds have been raised via fundraising events, regular giving from members of the congregation and change boxes. The church has also received one off donations towards Target 21 from members of the congregation and on behalf of members who have died. We have also been able to claim gift aid on donations made by tax payers.

In the past six months the 'Target 21 fund' has received several lump sum donations, gift aid on donations made during the 2009/10 tax year from Revenues and Customs and the monies raised by the church project in addition to regular giving through standing orders, the Target 21 envelopes and change boxes.

This additional income, together with giving over the past two years, has enabled the church to accumulate sufficient funds to pay the builder's retention, Methodist Chapel Aid loan and loans from members of the congregation.

The loan from Methodist Chapel Aid was repaid on 20 December 2010. The loans from the congregation will be repaid by 31 January. The builder's retention will be paid when the dispute over the adequacy of the heating system in the halls is resolved.

Fundraising for Target 21 started approx 8 years ago. Over that period many people have invested significant time in organising, running and attending fundraising events and significant sums have been donated either as lump sums or regular giving to Target 21 over many years.

As we start a new calendar year we can now move on from Target 21 fundraising and focus on new areas of mission.

In the meantime, if you are contributing to Target 21 via standing order, please contact your bank to cancel your standing order. If you have Target 21 change boxes please return them to Sylvia House. If you had planned to run a fundraising event for Target 21 over the coming months please select another charity to receive the funds that are raised.

CHRISTINE HOLLAND
Church Treasurer

NEW SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy aims to create Christian communities of love and care, where good practice in this area becomes a way of life. To enable churches to achieve this aim, and in light of new legislation and government guidance, the Methodist Church has produced a new resource - the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook. Its policies and procedures came into effect on 1 January 2011.

The Handbook is available as a free download

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=churchlife.content&cmid=1196>

Alternatively, a printed version can be purchased here for £20 (plus postage and packing).

For more information, contact John Drabble at drabble0@btinternet.com.

JUNIOR CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Dates for you to remember

13th February JCBs practise 9.30am

20th February JCBs practise 9.30am

Family Service 10.30am

In March look out for

Family Service

JCBs rehearsals

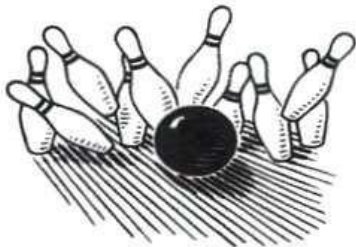
2010 Junior Church Christmas Service

Our service this year looked at the story of the church mice and how they were scared by noises made by the church organ. We also looked at how and what scares us.



Family Get Together

We are hoping to arrange a game of bowling at Calcot, for our Junior Church children and families



For further information on forthcoming events at
Tilehurst Methodist Church, please click on



Services

and / or



Church Calendar

on the home page of our website:

www.tilehurstmethodist.org.uk