

# BIDEFORD/SHEBBEAR METHODIST CIRCUITS

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### August 2011 - Issue 112

Welcome to Edition Number 112

**Please note my e-mail address bucklanddave@btinternet.com**

The Newsletter is now being distributed to churches in the Shebbear Circuit as well as those in the Bideford Circuit. I would like to urge all churches to send me anything for this Newsletter.

Please continue to send details of future events, activities or 'anything', you wish to share with the Circuit to Dave Watson by e-mail; phone 01237 451437 or to 6 Greenings Road, Buckland Brewer, Bideford, EX39 5LU. Please send them before the 20th of each month if possible.

This Circuit Newsletter is free & therefore could you please 'dish them out' to as many people as possible, inside and outside of our buildings – be adventurous. If this means more are needed by each church, then please let me know.

Thanks - Dave Watson

From the Superintendent Minister – Rev David Morris

Dear Friends,

I'm back from my sabbatical and grateful to Paul Martin for looking after things so well in my absence. As you will know, Paul, Andrea, James and Kay leave us this month to go to the suburban climes of Nottingham. I grew up in that general area and I'm sure that they will have a good time discovering all the hidden gems of the city and the surrounding countryside. We wish them well in their family life and their church life and pray God's care and guidance now and in the future on all of them.

I spent the first three weeks of my sabbatical on retreat, living in a sort of cabin at the bottom of an estate which is the home of a group of Roman Catholic lay women known as the Grail Community. I chose the place because I knew I would be left to my own devices so apart from venturing out to support my daughter when she was running in the London marathon I was able to spend the time without interruption from the outside world. I have always found it necessary to make time periodically to be alone with God and this time generously afforded me by the Methodist church was very valuable. What always surprises me – and by now shouldn't – is how these times bring me back to a renewed and enhanced sense of the overwhelming mystery of God. I'm a person who readily falls into patterns of order and discipline in what I do, which is perhaps one reason that I'm a Methodist. I find myself imposing order on the variety of my experience because I find it hard to live with disorder so it does me no harm to be faced with the sheer impossibility and yet the stark reality of God. I can bring only limited order to my experience of God and I find myself rediscovering how little we really know of God, how much more there is than any categories I can devise, how little I at least can say of what I think I know and how limited and provisional my knowledge is. It's too easy to fall into the trap of protecting myself from my experience of God with layers of daily life, inside the church as well as outside it; periodically I need to peel back my shell and let God get to me.

That's why it's so important that we do all we can to understand our faith, not in any sense of arriving at a complete understanding but in the sense we find in 1 Peter 3, so that we can give a good

account of the hope that is in us. Unless we in our own spiritual lives learn something of the mystery of the reality of God, whether we can articulate it or not, our lives as disciples of the Christ who embodied that mystery will be seriously compromised. We need to know in our own personal experience the truths of the faith before we can effectively commend the faith to others. In this sense, knowing the truths of our faith as well as we can always precedes the living out of the faith. Mission will only be successful if it is well grounded in the experience, understanding, life and proper hope of the disciple. So please, do your best to take up the Disciple course we are hoping to run from September or adopt some other way of deepening your personal discipleship. It's not just your own future that depends on it – the world needs you too.

May God bless us all – David

#### Presidential Visit

There will be a Visit of Rev Leo Osborne [President of the Methodist Conference] to Bude Methodist Church on Saturday 24th September at 7.00pm, for a Celebration Service, when Leo will preach.

The event is being hosted by both the Cornwall and the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist Districts, Rev Steve Wild and Rev Pete Pillinger [District Chairs] are encouraging support for this ecumenical and cross District event.

#### Bideford & Shebbear Circuit Website

All being well the new circuit website should be up and running when the circuits merge. The address will be: - <http://bidefordandshebbearcircuit.co.uk/>

#### From Rev Paul Martin

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the family I would very much like to thank you for the send off on Sunday July 31st. Your kindness is much appreciated and we leave North Devon with warm memories.

As I said following the presentation I am no longer your minister but remain your friend. That means I am divorced from any debates within the circuit. It no longer concerns me. I simply trust the wisdom of your ministers and circuit stewards and continue to pray for them as well as for each of you as you seek to serve God as a community.

I am your friend as one who has come to feel great affection for the people of the circuit. I hope that in due course we will meet many of you again. Please get in touch if ever in the Nottingham area as we would be delighted to welcome you to our home.

Our contact details are from August 19th; 1 Overstrand Close, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6PT  
Telephone 0115 9201992

Andrea, James and Kaye join me in sending our best wishes to each of you.  
May God bless you, Paul Martin

#### Circuit Youth Work Project

On Saturday 13th August members of STUFF (the circuits youth group) are attempting to cycle around every one of Bideford and Shebbear's chapels/churches. It's a huge challenge. The idea is to

do an event that will encompass the new look circuit, and to raise money towards edukid - one of the circuits mission charities. Three of the cyclists will also be doing this event to help fund their trip to Cambodia next year.

We would really appreciate anything you can do to help find sponsors and plug this event. It would be lovely if you would be kind enough to read this letter out at any service you are involved in before the 13th August and to leave a sponsorship form in each chapel.

"Chris is currently working with a number of young people out of work. One is due to become a dad in the next 3 months and is trying to find odd jobs to save up money for a deposit on a flat for baby and girlfriend. If you have any odd jobs need doing please contact Chris. It can be anything from washing your car, mowing a lawn, painting a fence ....."

THANK YOU! - Chris Turner – 0791 361 1544

### Shebbear Circuit Rally

Shebbear Circuit Summer Rally - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August at Rowden Methodist Chapel at 11am. The Speaker is Simon Price from Slough & will be followed by a Bring & Share Finger Buffet & Dessert Lunch.

### Visit from St Paul's Anglican Church, Slough

For about the past seven years, Shebbear Circuit has had a Friendship Link with St Paul's Church in Slough, Berkshire, and many have had the privilege of both giving and receiving hospitality, here in Devon and in Slough. On the weekend of the Shebbear Circuit Rally 12th - 14th August, about thirty folk from St Paul's will be staying in the area and joining in with many activities in villages, churches and on farms. Many will be visiting us for the first time. We have gained much from the 'twinning' of our rural Methodist Chapels and this multi-cultural, urban Anglican Church. One of their youth leaders, Simon Price who is a paramedic, will be speaking at the Rally Service at Rowden Chapel on Sunday 14th.

### Rev Meg Slingo

This time in the magazine I wanted to share with you my reflections from my testimony and ordination services. I pray you will be encouraged and blessed. May all of us learn to Trust you more Lord and to remember our times are in Your Hands. Thank You Lord for Your Wonderful Grace found in Jesus Christ.

So, to begin well, those of you who attended my testimony service will know I was very well supported. I felt quite overwhelmed. The chapel at Lake, Shebbear was nearly full. *Our God is Amazing*. I certainly felt affirmed. For me everything about the day was perfect! The food and fellowship. The Worship and the Word. My prayer was, and is ,that all who attended physically were blessed. I also pray that those who were with me in spirit were also blessed. I felt very humbled and for a moment at the start before I began to share my testimony. I felt speechless. Which I shared, this does not happen very often!

The whole afternoon - evening can be summed up by Ephesians 3:20-21.

Liverpool Cathedral was the venue for the Ordination service. This building is the largest in Britain, which I was not aware of until I arrived there. For me perhaps not the most attractive building from the outside, but wonderful inside. An amazing place, beautiful is a word for me that sums up what I am trying to say. The size of the Cathedral conveyed to me something of the Awesomeness of God. Maybe the designer of this building was trying to imagine the throne room of heaven? Who knows. I,

yet again felt very humbled and very small. Hannah from the Old Testament came to mind. I felt like Hannah coming into the temple to speak to God. We know that God is everywhere but he is also in this place. The service for me was very powerful. Hearing around a thousand people worshipping and professing the Nicene Creed, is quite something.

Am I different? Well, I am still me. But of course all of the prayers over the years. The encouragement, over the years. My faith and the faith of others. All led to this day. This time. This place. All the worship on the day. All the prayers on the day. And yes, God is in this place.

Holsworthy Agricultural Show – Churches Together Tent – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August

From Rev Peter & Ann Whatton

7 Churches of Asia Minor Tour with Istanbul option from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2012 with an Istanbul extension from Monday 9<sup>th</sup>- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012 - Led by Rev. Peter and Ann Whatton – There are still some places available so please phone any enquiries or requests for brochures to 01237 421420.

This is a really lovely tour, as we are located initially at Kusadasi, then overnight at another beautiful seaside resort, before making our way to the hot springs at Pamukkale, where we have 2 nights looking at the Calcium Deposits and various other sites of interest, with the option of wallowing in the wonderful healing hot springs. The Istanbul options includes a boat trip on the Bosphorous and a tour of the city.

Alwington Methodist Church

Our next Coffee Morning will be held at Alwington Methodist Church on Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> between 10.30am & 12noon. Coffee& biscuits £1, bring& buy and plenty of home cooking.

In September our coffee morning will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at Alwington Hall and all proceeds will be for the North Devon Hospice.

Our Tuesday afternoon 'TAKE A BREAK' will start on Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> between 2.30pm & 4.30pm at Alwington Methodist Church. Full details next month.

We look forward to meeting you at all these events

Shebbear Study Day

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at Shebbear College – the speaker will be Revd David Hull – topic is 'The Preacher and his Message'. This takes place from 9.30am – 4pm with a cost of £15 including lunch & coffee. To book please contact Mary Goaman on 01805 601350; David Ley on 01805 601247; Ted Lott on 01409 281262 & Peter Ellis on 01409 231309. Cheques payable to 'Shebbear Study Day' can be sent to David Ley, Lower Withacott, Langtree, Torrington EX38 8NL. Please book by 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Clovelly Methodist Church – Maureen Farley

There will be another exhibition at the Chapel from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August with a Service on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 4pm, with hopefully the help of people from the circuit as

exhibitors and stewards. If anyone has a hidden talent, such as photography, needlework, flower arranging, poetry, art or craft and would like to exhibit some of their items, possibly for sale.

The theme is "Colours of Hope". If anyone has any ideas or wishes to support this event please contact me on 01237 431451

Also we would like to form a committee to arrange to keep the Chapel in good order. If there was a rota in place then the work could be shared around.

#### Clovelly Prayer Cards

More details please contact Roy Harris on 01805 623043

#### Buckland Brewer Methodist Church

Many thanks to all who attended the Annual Fete on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July. A total profit of £1 834.41 was raised and will be split between the Methodist & Parish Churches, Parish Hall and Churchyard.

Our Annual Sankey Evening will take place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 7pm led by the Newton St Petrock Male Voice Choir. All welcome with Supper to follow.

#### Torrington Methodist Church

Skittle Evening with BBQ on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at Glen & Della Bealey's Week Farm, Torrington from 6pm. Teams of six to include 2 females. Details & teams to be booked with John Babb on 01805 622949 or Richard Watson on 01805 624393.

The Next 'INSPIRE' is on Sunday 28th August @ 7.00pm. The Speaker will be Pastor Dave Wilson and his team from Roundswell Ecumenical Church

#### Rachel Curtis

I have gained a university foundation certificate in supporting people while working with Oasis in London. I would like to thank all the people who helped me to get there and supported me

'Panamart' Community Information Centre - 14 South Street, Torrington. 07818847342

Is there a group or club you would like to hold at the Community Information Centre?

Drop in to '*Panamart*' to discuss with Kiz, or email kizangell@talktalk.net

Community Information Centre, '*Panamart*', 14 South Street, Torrington, Devon. EX38 8AF

#### Thelma's Cream Tea

Thank you to everyone who supported the Cream Tea. A special thanks to all the helpers who worked so hard. The Grand Total of £700 was collected, to be shared between the Devon Air Ambulance and Tarka Childrens Contact Centre. Our prayers were answered with the perfect weather.

#### Local Preachers

Local Preachers Meetings – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September – 7.30pm at Langtree Methodist Chapel

Local Preachers Support Group – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September at Julia Spencer's home & Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October at Elsie & David Potter's

### Alverdiscott Methodist Church

Last month's Coffee Morning was for our stand at the North Devon Show and we raised £47.80.

Our next Coffee Morning on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August will be for the Circuit Project - Edukid Cambodia. Come and enjoy Good Company, Good Coffee and help a worthwhile cause. From 10.00 am - 12 noon.

Café Worship on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 5.00 pm led by Mrs Elsie Potter - Singing - discussion and your tea. Suitable for children and young people. This an alternative to "Normal Church" come and see if there's anything in it for you.

### Milton Damerel Methodist Church

"OPEN CHAPEL" – Do you walk or drive pass the chapel and wonder what it is like inside? Do you walk or drive pass and sometimes wish the chapel was open so that you could pop in for a few minutes of quiet-time or prayer or perhaps a cuppa and chat? The chapel will be open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday afternoon of the month from 2.30pm to 5pm for any-one wishing just to do any of these.

Milton Damerel Bible Study Group wish to express grateful thanks to all who took part in the recent celebration of the King James Bible Anniversary event, held in Milton Methodist Church & Schoolroom.

The Bible was read for about 7 hours continuously and almost 40 readers took part. We appreciate that some had travelled quite a distance to get here! It was a very successful day in many ways, it also raised £160.30 for Shelter Box.

### Sheepwash Methodist Chapel

#### Monthly United Worship in Sheepwash

At the July Service, Sarah Cheers from the Holsworthy area came along to talk about her time spent in Goa working with 'ChildRescue'. ChildRescue is a registered, non-profit Charity under the name El Shaddai Charitable Trust and it provides food, clothing, shelter and education for orphans, street and slum children, and children from under-privileged sections of Indian society. Alongside a very vivid account of how life is for so many children, and the difference El Shaddai is making to those lives, Sarah showed a very moving dvd and photographs she had taken at some of the residential homes, day care and night shelters, in the work of food distribution, and in her involvement in a child abuse awareness campaign in Goa. For further information please visit: [www.childrescue.net](http://www.childrescue.net)

The next united Worship will be the Open Air Service on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 3.00pm in the Jubilee Park (behind the village hall in East Street). Reuben and Katie Martin of the Baptist Missionary Society will be speaking about their work of church planting in Rouen, France. All are welcome, and there will be refreshments in the village hall afterwards.

### Methodist Homes

Thanks to those who have sent their contributions, including one from Langtree Chapel. If there are any others from the Shebbear Circuit who would like to send contributions.

My address is Mrs Muriel Moore, Lovacott Green Farm, Newton Tracey, Barnstaple, EX31 3QB  
(Circuit Representative for the Bideford Section)

### Mission Focus Meeting, July 2011 with Janet Webb URC

This was a really stimulating evening and so because I felt many would have liked to have shared in this, and may be discussed it in and with your churches,  
The Readings for study were: Matthew 28:19-20 The Great Commission and Acts 2:41-47 The day of Pentecost

Introduction, outline of evening, prayer

Initial discussion - What is the best thing about your church?

- What is the worst thing about your church?
- What have you achieved of which you are most proud?
- What is the greatest challenge you face?

Bible study questions: - What five things does Jesus command the disciples to do?

- What are the day to day activities of the first churches?
- Does this reflect the church of which you are a member?

The world today: primary school as an example - The Church today  
Examples of churches seeking to do things differently

The challenge for the church - What are you doing to focus on mission in your church, community/circuit? - Is there anything you need to change? What might it be?

Open discussion time & Prayer and close

Thanks to Janet and to Langtree Methodist Church for the use of their hall,

### Rowden Methodist Church

Charity Fun Evening on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August from 7pm. This is aid of Africa with Barbecue, Skittles, Competitions, Bring & Buy Stall and a Car Treasure Hunt at £3.50 per car.

### FRIENDS OF LAVINGTON

At Lavington URC (Bridgeland Street, Bideford) we are launching a new scheme called 'Friends of Lavington' to raise money for the upkeep of our historic, grade II\* listed building, whose twin spires are a famous landmark on the Bideford skyline.

The official launch of this new initiative is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August. From 10.00am to 4.00pm there will be a number of 'static' displays from the different groups that either belong to Lavington or hire its premises; there will be photographs of Lavington past and present; there will be other displays of dance and gymnastics, various musical performances and lots of refreshments all day... and of course an opportunity to join up and become an official 'Friend of Lavington.' More details will be available in the Launch Day programme which will be coming out shortly!

Then at 7.30pm we have a concert given by 'Peculiar Folk' an extremely good and entertaining folk group. The concert is £5 (pay at the door) but FREE to all those who join up as 'Friends.'

Do come along and support us if you can, we should love to see you all. We also ask for your prayers as we prepare for this new venture in the life of our Church.

With best wishes to you all, Tom Bayliss

### Reading the Bible in One Year

The Bible in One Year readings are available daily from the District website <http://pemd.org.uk/1year> with some commentary and a place for you to 'blog' your comments too. I do hope that you will join me in making 2011 the Year of your Bible reading. Yours in Christ - Pete Pillinger, Chair of District

## **BIBLE IN ONE YEAR READING PLAN**

August 1	1 Chronicles 11; 1 Chronicles 12:1-22	Romans 14:19-23; Romans 15:1-13	Psalms 89:46-52
August 2	1 Chronicles 12:23-40; 1 Chronicles 13; 1 Chronicles 14	Romans 15:14-33	Psalms 90:1-10
August 3	1 Chronicles 15; 1 Chronicles 16:1-36	Romans 16	Psalms 90:11-17
August 4	1 Chronicles 16:37-43; 1 Chronicles 17; 1 Chronicles 18	1 Corinthians 1:1-17	Proverbs 19:3-12
August 5	1 Chronicles 19; 1 Chronicles 20; 1 Chronicles 21	1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5	Psalms 91:1-8
August 6	1 Chronicles 22; 1 Chronicles 23	1 Corinthians 2:6-16	Psalms 91:9-16
August 7	1 Chronicles 24; 1 Chronicles 25; 1 Chronicles 26:1-19	1 Corinthians 3	Psalms 92:1-15
August 8	1 Chronicles 26:20-32; 1 Chronicles 27	1 Corinthians 4	Proverbs 19:13-22
August 9	1 Chronicles 28; 1 Chronicles 29	1 Corinthians 5	Psalms 93:1-5
August 10	2 Chronicles 1:1-17	1 Corinthians 6	Psalms 94:1-11
August 11	Ecclesiastes 1; Ecclesiastes 2; Ecclesiastes 3:1-22	1 Corinthians 7:1-16	Psalms 94:12-23
August 12	Ecclesiastes 4; Ecclesiastes 5; Ecclesiastes 6	1 Corinthians 7:17-35	Proverbs 19:23-29; Proverbs 20:1-4
August 13	Ecclesiastes 7; Ecclesiastes 8; Ecclesiastes 9:1-12	1 Corinthians 7:36-40; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Psalms 95:1-11
August 14	Ecclesiastes 9:13-18; Ecclesiastes 10, 11 & 12	1 Corinthians 9:1-18	Psalms 96:1-13
August 15	2 Chronicles 2 to 2 Chronicles 5:1	1 Corinthians 9:19-27; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Psalms 97:1-12
August 16	2 Chronicles 5:2-14; 2 Chron 6; 2 Chronicles 7:1-10	1 Corinthians 10:14-33; 1 Corinthians 11:1	Proverbs 20:5-14
August 17	2 Chronicles 7:11-22; 2 Chron 8; 2 Chronicles 9	1 Corinthians 11:2-34	Psalms 98:1-9
August 18	Song 1; Song 2; Song 3; Song 4	1 Corinthians 12:1-26	Psalms 99:1-9
August 19	Song 5; Song 6; Song 7; Song 8	1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Psalms 100:1-5
August 20	2 Chronicles 10; 2 Chronicles 11; 2 Chronicles 12	1 Corinthians 14:1-19	Proverbs 20:15-24
August 21	2 Chronicles 13; 2 Chronicles 14; 2 Chronicles 15	1 Corinthians 14:20-40	Psalms 101:1-8
August 22	2 Chronicles 16; 2 Chronicles 17; 2 Chronicles 18:1-27	1 Corinthians 15:1-34	Psalms 102:1-11

August 23	2 Chronicles 18:28-34; Chronicles 19; 2 Chronicles 20	2	1 Corinthians 15:35-49	Psalm 102:12-17
August 24	2 Chronicles 21; 2 Chronicles 22; 2 Chronicles 23	2	1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4	Proverbs 20:25-30; Proverbs 21:1-4
August 25	2 Chronicles 24; 2 Chronicles 25		1 Corinthians 16:5-24	Psalm 102:18-28
August 26	2 Chronicles 26; 2 Chronicles 27; 2 Chronicles 28		2 Corinthians 1:1-11	Psalm 103:1-12
August 27	2 Chronicles 29; 2 Chronicles 30; 2 Chronicles 31:1		2 Corinthians 1:12-22	Psalm 103:13-22
August 28	2 Chronicles 31:2-21; 2 Chron 32; 2 Chronicles 33:1-20		2 Corinthians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 2:1- 11	Proverbs 21:5-16
August 29	2 Chronicles 33:21-24; 2 Chron 34; 2 Chronicles 35:1-19		2 Corinthians 2:12-17; 2 Corinthians 3:1-6	Psalm 104:1-18
August 30	2 Chronicles 35:20-27; 2 Chronicles 36		2 Corinthians 3:7-18	Psalm 104:19-30
August 31	Micah 1; Micah 2; Micah 3; Micah 4		2 Corinthians 4	Psalm 104:31-35

### Being Methodist Today

A day looking at the hidden gems of Wesleyan spirituality with Rev Dr Phil Meadows & Rev Paul Smith on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at Plymouth Central Hall from 10am-4pm. Book through District Mission Resource Centre, The Mint, Exeter 01392 211624 or with [steve.jones@methodist.org.uk](mailto:steve.jones@methodist.org.uk)

A free refresher weekend in Plymouth! 25-27th November 2011 for all involved in local preaching and worship. Built around the 'Being Methodist Today' event on Saturday 26th November we are building a refreshment weekend for all those involved in Local Preaching and leading worship within the district.

The wonderful folks at Plymouth Central Hall have offered to host, for free, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and Mentors/Tutors for the whole weekend. Beginning with a free cooked meal at the PCH Cafe on the Friday evening we have input from Rev Dr Phil Meadows (Cliff College) and Rev Paul Smith together with members of the district team. You are welcome to stay Friday and/or Saturday night or just attend the Saturday Conference focused on Wesleyan Spirituality for today's world.

The weekend will also include dedicated input and interaction in the following workshops, led by the district team

- Local Preachers - accredited
- Local Preachers - in training
- Worship Leaders
- Tutor and Mentors

### Initial Training for Local Preachers

As you may be aware we have explored alternative training tracks for Faith and Worship delivery in the district - after wide consultation we have concluded that we can currently only offer an online web-based 'faith and worship' training track in partnership with surrounding districts. If you know of an up and coming LP who would enjoy the flexibility of an online experience do contact Steve Jones

### Tutors and Mentors:

We are looking for a 'faith and worship' tutor willing to be trained as an online tutor. The tutor will hopefully be working with a group of training LPs from our district. If you would be interested in this innovative role do contact Steve Jones

## District 'Biblefresh' Celebration

A Festival of Celebration linked to 'Biblefresh' will take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October at The Mint Methodist Church, Exeter from 9.30am-5.30pm. Cost £5 including tea/coffee/soup. Free for those in Full Time Education. Please use Park & Ride or Mary Arches Car Park. Book through Fiona Budd on 01363 877281 or PEBiblefreshFestival@gmail.com – more details from Rev Mark Gilborson on 01392 256716.

### Workshops

Brian Hoare – 'Music & the Bible'

Paul Smith – 'Getting inside the Bible'

Andrew Carter – 'Popcorn studies: Bible & Film'

Jenny Ellis – 'Creating a Biblical Labyrinth'

Esther Reed – 'Ethics & the Bible'

Valerie Price – 'The Jewishness of Jesus; a biblical perspective'

Andrew Brazier – 'Drama & the Bible'

Father Abbot David – 'Spiritual life & the Bible'

Joanne Cox – 'The Bible & Outreach'

One Way Up – 'Getting the Bible across (puppetry)'

Peter Cole – 'Perseverance in the Bible (Juggling/Storytelling)'

Wycliffe Bible Translation – 'Attempting the Impossible in Bible Transition by 2025'

Bible – Worship – Fun – Learning – Drama – Experience

## SUMMER WALKS ON DARTMOOR 2011

### Saturday 17 September

At St Raphael's Huccaby, Hexworthy - meet at St Raphael's. From Dartmeet take next turning on left to Hexworthy. St. Raphael's is about ½ mile on left or via Holne and across the moor via Venford Reservoir and Hexworthy.

Walks commence at 1.00 pm, are approximately 5 miles and are led by local walkers.

1.00 pm meet for 1.15 pm start - 3.30 pm onwards 'Coffee and cake' at Chapel for all

4.15 pm informal 'Songs of Praise' - 5.00 pm depart

There is no charge but you may wish to make a small donation to the Church/Chapel organising the walk and refreshments. Open to all walkers and passing motorists, you don't have to walk to join us for refreshments and the Songs of Praise!

## Our Calling's glorious hope

The newly-inducted president and vice-president of the Conference took elements of Our Calling for their Conference addresses.

The Revd Leo Osborn challenged the assumption that the Methodist Church was welcoming, and emphasised the need for pastoral relationships in the church that go beyond a 30 second chat at the door on the way out. "A relationship that does not have a pastoral element to it is hardly worthy of the name," he said. He commended churches that organised welcoming teams to greet newcomers and praised the new vicar of a neighbouring Anglican church who began opening the doors every day.

Ruth Pickles chose “learning as disciples of Jesus” as the theme of her vice-presidential year. At its best, she said, “The Methodist Church has been at the forefront of helping ordinary people to develop into extra-ordinary people. Miners, fishermen, shop assistants, housewives ... learnt how to read, to speak in public, to get engaged in community affairs, trades unions, politics ... all through membership of the chapel and their class meetings. Knowing God’s love, they felt valued as individuals; their learning needs were recognised and addressed.”

Ruth concluded her address by asking those present what the future might hold for them and the Church, “I have my filled-in diary for the coming year, but don’t really know what lies ahead. It looks immense, exciting, daunting. How about you? Where do you find yourself on your journey? Will you too look with hope to the future? What exciting, but risky and costly, opportunities lie ahead for us as a discipleship movement?”

### CHURCH LIFE REFLECTIONS

The following was written by Margaret and John Bealey on Sunday 7 September 2008 at 10.30pm.....probably after discussing the sermon they had listened to that morning.

Christian Faith and Love - To express a few words by way of explanation of how one feels about something we cannot see or touch.

Faith and Trust has been compared with holding out ones hand, in the dark and finding someone holding it, to guide you when nothing can be seen

This is where belonging to this Church (at Torrington) plays such an important role and because of the friendship and love we can share, and indeed we are able to recharge our batteries by receiving a welcome each week, and sometimes more frequently, when something special is going on.

This church, and indeed all churches for that matter, are like the Hub of a wheel, and the fellowship spreads a bit like the spokes which radiate the Christian way of life.

It is really good to see the outside events being organised, such as the 'songs of praise' and the fun evening when Skittles and French bowls were played and weren't we lucky with the weather both times.

Margaret and I (and indeed our family) have received so much from the friendship here – but that is not the only reason for wanting to come – we both wish to give back so much because of the blessings and help we have had here.

I guess it goes without saying, that leadership and stewardship are so important in church life but we all need to share the up's and the downs freely.

Singing is an act of expression and praise, and it is good to hear voices in harmony blending with music for the hymns.

Looking ahead, it is extremely encouraging to know some younger folk are helping to contribute thoughts and presentations to move the church life forward and we must take notice and listen and not dismiss new ideas. (not wishing for cotton wool in our ears either!).

Sunday, has in this area, been traditionally the day for church, but like it or not, change does happen... ie farmers may have cows to milk and animals to look after; coach companies go on holiday tours; sports fixtures and training take place; car park attendants put tickets on cars that are wrongly parked! and police officers, doctors and nurses are helping those in need – somehow we have to smile and embrace the situation whatever it is for us all, rather than being critical, condemning and grumpy about it.

Postscript: February 2011

We can never know what the future holds but where-ever we find ourselves in this world, we find that the church fellowship is still there to support us. (even though we may not always recognise it). We see changes with ever more usage of modern technology (mobile phones, computer images, powerpoint, etc) and changes are also afoot, for the circuit boundries – but we must embrace all change with an open mind as this will hopefully expand our church fellowship and friendship.

### EVANGELISM - Beach labyrinth draws the crowds From: Southport, Lancashire

How do you begin to sum up the experience of more than 450 people walking a beach labyrinth over three days? "It's not possible", writes Andrew, Cornwall Methodist youth enabler and beach labyrinth man! "What I do know," he says "is that something remarkable was going on."

Marshside Road Methodist Church provided a base for the team of 12, who came from all parts of the country to build the labyrinth, talk and pray with people, provide information for those who wanted to take their journey with God further and to support each other and the event through prayer, praise and great fellowship.

Digging the labyrinth and witnessing its dedication and use were all powerful visual aids to those in the vicinity. Hundreds of people stopped, either beside the labyrinth on the beach or on the pier above, to ask what was happening. People were told that the pathway through the labyrinth represented part of our journey through life. At the entrance people were invited to pick up a piece of litter which symbolised rubbish in their life that they would be freer without and during their walk to the centre to talk to God about this and listen for his help and guidance. Those who had no belief or relationship with God were invited to use the time and space to reflect on any situation which was causing them concern. At the centre was a large simple cross, made of driftwood, where people were invited bury their litter and pick up a stone.

Andrew continues, "People engaged with an invitation to walk this path on the beach on an extraordinary scale. On one day alone, we counted 237 pieces of rubbish left at the cross in the centre - 237 journeys made by people letting go of the rubbish in their lives, leaving it behind for God to deal with, and walking out in hope, holding a stone; a solid reminder of a fresh start.

"One group for me epitomised the breadth of appeal for walking the labyrinth, and the breadth of God's love for all. A Hindu, a Sikh and a Muslim were all part of a group chatting with a Christian (member of the team) who invited them to walk the labyrinth, which they all did and then encouraged the rest of their party to join in too. Does this kind of thing happen in your church? Mine neither! "The final afternoon was like the United Nations. Within a few minutes I had spoken to people from the USA, New Zealand, Poland and Costa Rica. The lady from Costa Rica said, 'It was such a wonderful experience, I cried'. She had been praying the day before asking God to show her a way of helping those in her country to know more of God's love. She took a team member's email address so that she could get information about organising a labyrinth and is hoping to do that in Costa Rica, a place with an abundance of beaches."

At the end of the three days, the team dispersed and the labyrinth was washed away by the tide but God will continue his work among those who met him on the beach in Southport.