

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON METHODIST CHURCH

R E P O R T I N G

SEPTEMBER 2016

AN AUTUMN MEDLEY

For Action for Children

Saturday 15th October at 7:30pm

At Stratford Methodist Church Centre
Old Town Stratford Upon Avon CV37 6BG



The Ballard Singers are an experienced 3 part ladies choir from Inkberrow. Their repertoire is wide and suits most tastes including songs from films and shows, folk songs and sacred music.

Tickets £10 are available at the door or from 01789 292102



Dear Friends

A huge thank you to David and Gillian Loader and all those involved in planning and running the Holiday at Home. What a wonderful and worthwhile event valued greatly by those who attended.

September is the start of the Methodist year. As a church this year we are going to follow a study course devised by Bishop Robert Schnase of the United Methodist Church. The course encourages us to re-evaluate our welcome, worship, faith development opportunities, mission and service and generosity. I believe that in doing so we will be enriched as followers of Jesus and as church.

During September the sermon notes from the service about 'Radical Hospitality' will be available in the Welcome Foyer and on the church website. The notes include a question sheet that asks for your ideas how we can reach out to and welcome people new to our community. I have found Stratford Methodist Church to be very welcoming – in what ways could we develop this strength? Please write down your ideas and put them in the shoe box in the Welcome Area. I will open the box in church on Monday 19/09/16 at 10.30 am. I would welcome your company if you would like to come and discuss the thoughts and ideas on the return slips. I will then write a report for next month's Reporting.

The theme for the service on 25 September will be 'Passionate worship'. Sermon notes and a sheet asking for your input will be available after worship, in the Welcome Foyer and on the website.

Yours sincerely

Audrey



Hear the call of the Kingdom, lift your eyes to the King;
Let his song rise within you as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in his unfailing grace *StF 407*



Second Anniversary of our newly refurbished Church is on Sunday, September 18th when the Preacher will be Rev, Bob Powell.

The service will be followed by a Knife and Fork Celebration lunch.

The Stewards ask you to please sign the form in Wesley Hall if you are coming.

The Stewards are also planning the Harvest Weekend on October 1st and 2nd.

The Saturday evening will take the form of a Talent Evening.

Some volunteers have already offered to take part so if you would like to join them please let a steward know as soon as possible so that the programme can be finalised. We hope you will all support this event.

Harvest Festival on Sunday, 2nd October which will be a traditional one this year, so please bring fruit and vegetables to the service. During coffee we will auction these items and the proceeds will go to 'All We Can' to help world poverty. If you have any greenery or flowers to decorate the church please bring these on the Saturday morning.

We will finish our celebrations with a friendship Iona style lunch and the list for this will be put up later.



We restart on September 26th at 12 in the Church.

With so much going on, it seems a good time to sing some Celebration Hymns.

Come and join us. It is a very informal relaxed hour and singing is known to be very good for you.

You can enjoy some chat and tea and soup after for a bit more relaxation. Look forward to seeing you. Sheila

A MEET –up of Two “Holiday at Home Groups “

The Stratford Group now in its 8th year enjoyed a theme this year entitled “All Sorts” which included two craft workshops “Making Christmas Decorations using Mosaics and Silk Painting Sun Catchers and amongst the 30 plus participants welcomed 11 new faces.

The Methodist Church in Droitwich, home now of Rev Robert and Joyce Powell who originated the first Holiday at Home here at Stratford held their first Holiday at Home Programme with a theme of “Canals and Rivers’ which coincided with Holiday at Home the same week as the Stratford-upon Avon Programme.

What better place to visit than Stratford so the group could partake of a summer morning cruise experience on the River Avon in keeping with their programme theme.

On the final day of both programmes the two groups met together here at The Methodist Centre in Stratford for an Afternoon Cream Tea sharing fun and conversation and a sing a long together with music provided by “The Sunnyside’s” a locally formed Community Group of 22 Ukulele Players aged from 60 Plus! who had also played at the recent Stratford River Festival.

Some 80 elders, volunteer helpers, and drivers shared a memorable Holiday afternoon.

Both groups had received small grants Droitwich from their Town Council and Stratford from Stratford Town Trust who also support “The Sunnysiders

Report from David & Gillian Loader & Margaret Smith
Organisers

As a Church, we raise an amazing amount through regular giving in support of charities around the world. Here are three examples of this church at work in the wider community.



J.M.A

Once again you have raised more than last year.

Thank you very much

The total this year is £2,823. 83p which together with the added Gift Aid of £381.75 gives a total of £3,205.58 .

THAT IS AMAZING

Even probably, more amazing is that since 1992, you have helped through personal giving; special events; penny collections and in recent years, Brunches. to raise over £54,000 for J.M.A

The envelopes for the coming year are available from Sheila Giles today. If you feel this is something you are willing to support then please have a word with Sheila. Methodist Missions support projects all over the world.

Action for Children.....Another worthy cause

We are having a bucket collection on Friday 30th September at Morrisons. If you can spare an hour and would like to help, please have a word with any member of the support group; Evelyn, Gillian Bowers, Jane, Kathleen, or ring Eppie on 292102. Thank you.

We are also organising a concert on Oct 15th – see front cover.

Graham and Jan continue to organise the giving to Action Aid now in the 24th year of support from us and this month we have news of how one step of help extends to more than one person.

On the opposite page is the story of Hemlata and her family



Hemlata, 19, lives in a remote village in Northern India. Her family are Dalits who are considered as inferior and struggle daily to keep their dignity. In 2013, the village was hit by floods and landslides and the only bridge connecting the village to the outside world was washed away. Homes were washed away and Hemlata's parents lost their home and land.

Action Aid and Arpan came to the villages to provide emergency relief and support. They helped with temporary shelters and emergency supplies. They also lent support to demand the government build check dams and retention walls to prevent further flooding. Due to the critical situation,

Hemlata had to leave school but the

two charities encouraged the young people to form a support group giving information to keep them safe. Her family has been able to use the information given them, to get paid work in building dams, wells and toilets. Through the support group, she was able to learn about a government scheme that could help her continue her education. At the first time of applying she did not get a response but perseverance paid off and she has recently heard she has been awarded 50,000 rupees to pursue higher education. For her, it is such great news.



She is now in her 2nd year studying a Bachelors Degree in English, Geography and Political Science and has been able to help 7 other girls to apply for grants. The future now looks rosy. She says.....

Thank you for making this possible.



PART-TIME Youth & Family Networker (12hrs/week) required for Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church

This position will involve working with children, young people and families and the successful candidate will be required:

- To be creative
- To relate to a wide spectrum of people
- To be in sympathy with the aims of the Christian Church
- To develop new ideas

Salary £5,460 (£455 per month) plus reasonable expenses.

Fixed 3 year term from 17 Oct 2016 to 16 Sept 2019

DBS Disclosure required.

Further information and application packs available by;

Email: revaes@gmail.com

Post:

Revd. Audrey Simpson

1a Hillside Rd Stratford upon Avon, CV37 9EB

Phone: 01789 267971

Closing date for applications Friday 16 Sept 2016

The Green Corner – Harvest 2016

With harvest 2016 in full swing it seems a good time of year to focus on the positive role of agriculture in protecting and enhancing our environment. We often hear negative stories in the press about farming linked to CO₂ emissions, water pollution and the impact of pesticides on wildlife and as a result the positive contribution of agriculture is often overlooked.

Many farmers in the UK are involved in voluntary agri-environmental schemes such as LEAF (www.leafuk.org) which are aimed at improving sustainability and protecting our natural resources. Recent changes to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) also mean that 30% of EU direct payments to farmers are now based on ‘greening’ measures linked to supporting biodiversity, protecting soil and water resources and enhancing eco-systems.

While EU levels of funding for farming have been guaranteed by the government post Brexit (at least until 2020) it is not clear if the ‘greening’ elements currently contained in the Common Agricultural Policy will be retained. It is therefore important that we continue to support the efforts of farmers in maintaining and enhancing our environment as well as holding the government to account for any changes in agri-environmental policy.

Greenpeace have already launched a ‘Protect the Laws of Nature’ campaign highlighting the potential threats to nature, wildlife and our environment from leaving the EU. If you would like to sign the pledge please follow the link at – www.greenpeace.org.uk.

Hannah Dumper

A Prayer for Creation

**Let it be, loving creator,
that the prayers we offer and the work we do,
our creative powers of hand, and heart and imagination,
our shared responsibilities across the globe,
our politics and planning, our effort and endeavour,
become resources for our partnership in the purpose of your creation.**

Avonside
Players



Following the success of the Spring Supper evenings, the drama group have decided that the final production for Avonside Players should be of a similar nature provided we can cast the plays chosen and we are having our first read through of the plays on Mon Sept. 5th and Thurs Sept 8th.

We also need to find enough people to help with the supper and the serving and clearing up during the evening. Sheila and Maureen have to admit that they found the March evenings very tiring so we are asking if you can help us out for the final time. Presuming tickets will be £10 again, we are offering anyone who can help on all three evenings – free meals and sitting at the table with paid guests. (Sorry the plays are the same each evening.)

If you can help on two nights, we offer one night free and the other £5 and those doing 1 night, again just £5. The dates for the play evenings are November 24: 25: 26. If you can help us in this way it would be so appreciated. Please talk with Sheila or Maureen if you are willing to help.

Good News from our Circuit Church at Henley

After much hard work Henley's alterations are just about complete. The pews have been taken out and the new, level floor has been laid. It all looks amazing and we would like you to come and see for yourself.

Please come and join us on Sunday 11th September for a Strawberry Tea followed by some music (we don't quite know what yet, but it will be live is about all I know!). It promises to be a fun afternoon and will go a long way to helping support this brave initiative.

Tickets are £5.00 from Sheila Brown or email Katy Steele at katy_steele@hotmail.co.uk

*At the Church Anniversary on
18th September 2016*

Your chance to purchase a celebration Tea Towel

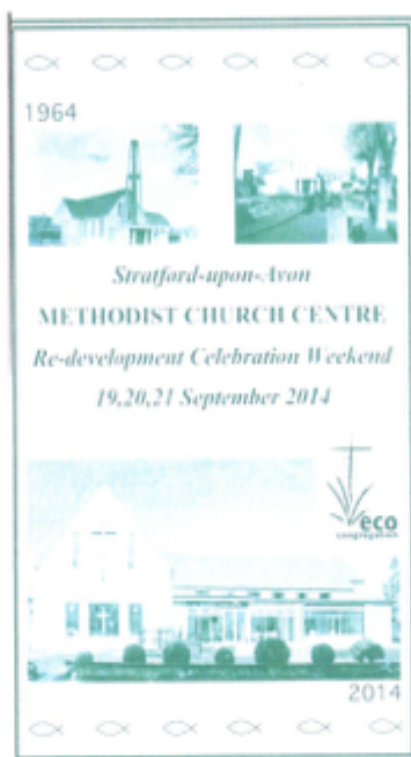
Specially designed for
the completion of the
Re-development of the
Church premises

Special

Price

£2 each or

3 for £5.



The **Methodist** Conference



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO
SUPPORT THE METHODIST
CONFERENCE 2017**

Birmingham (Hilton Metropole Hotel, NEC)

22nd June – 29th June

You are needed for the following

Stewards	Help Desk
Collators and paper distributors	
Creche	Drivers

**Please make initial contact with
Deborah Webb**

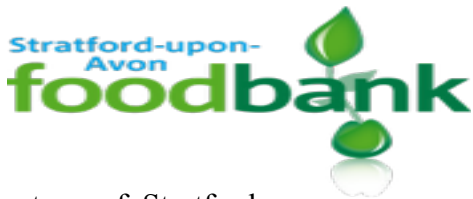
E-mail: office@birminghammethodist.org.uk

2014 was a good year. Make it even better in 2017

A prayer by Ruth Yorke, a deacon in Birmingham District.

God of us all, we thank you that you place us in community, to enable and encourage each other, to share and grow together. Help those who are usually silent or silenced, to speak and be heard. Help those of us who are always heard, learn to make space for others to have a voice. Help us all to be people who listen with our hearts, value each other's differences, and work together as we listen to your word and your wisdom. Please broaden our minds and hearts to be in tune with yours that we may see as you see, and love as you love. Help us to recognise that, in enabling and encouraging each other with your kindness, our communities, and each of us in them, may flourish and grow. Amen

4 August 2016



Dear Donors

On behalf of the Trustees and volunteers of Stratford Foodbank, I should like to thank the members of the Methodist Church for their generous donations of food over the past few months.

It is only by the generosity of our supporters that the Foodbank is able to help those in need by providing them with emergency food. We really do appreciate your support.

Thank you,
Best wishes

Caroline Sampson
Secretary

Are you a 'Bake' Fanatic or just enjoy cooking. With apples starting their plentiful supply, I thought this sounded a good treat for a celebration pud. It is an adaptation of a 15th century recipe called Damson and Apple Tansy

8oz damsons	2 egg yolks beaten
8oz cooking apples	4 dessertspoons fresh breadcrumbs
2oz butter	Quarter pint double cream
2-3oz sugar	1 dessertspoon orange juice

Wash damsons, remove pips, core and slice apples. Melt butter in saucepan with 2 and half fl oz water. Add the fruit and boil till soft. Remove from heat & either beat or bend until smooth. Stir in enough sugar to taste. Blend in the beaten egg yolks and breadcrumbs. Stir over a low heat until quite thick. Leave to cool. Whisk the cream lightly and fold into the puree. Sharpen to taste with orange juice. Spoon into glasses and chill

STEWARDS FOR OCTOBER

2ND OLLIE EVANS
DAN EVANS

9TH DAVID DUMPER
JACKIE MAY

16TH JILL PICKLES
BILL GILES

23RD LIZ WALKER
VINCENT GLADWIN

30TH JANE ROWLY
LILIAN FITTON

FLOWER ROTA

OCTOBER 2ND -
HARVEST FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 9TH -
MAISIE FAULKNER

OCTOBER 16TH -
ELIZABETH WALKER

OCTOBER 23RD -
SHEILA BROWN

OCTOBER 30TH -
JOAN GRAHAM



COFFEE ROTA FOR OCTOBER

2nd Jackie May and Geraldine Smith
9th Brenda Birnie and Marilyn Shorey
16th Jane Rowley and Gill Pickles
23rd Kath Marriott and Judy Porter
30th Athena and James Luo

SEPTEMBER OFFERTORY ROTA

SEPT 4TH	MARGARET FARMERY	BILL GILES
SEPT 11TH	MICHAEL LEDGARD	MALCOLM SMITH
SEPT 18TH	GILLIAN EDWARD	STEVE FARMERY
SEPT 25TH	DAVID DUMPER	GILLIAN BOWERS



*To EVERYONE with a Birthday in
SEPTEMBER you are wished a very happy
day especially MAISIE FAULKNER*

OCTOBER 2016 DIARY DATES

- 1st Harvest Talent Evening.
2ns Harvest Festival Celebration followed by Lunch
4th 10.00 Holy Communion in the Church
5th 2.00pm Pastoral Committee
8th 10.00-12 noon Brunch
9th 3.00-5.00 Youphonix!
15th Concert by the Ballard Singers (See Front Page)
24th 4.30 Half Term Beetle Drive
31st SING at 12 noon in the Church

WEEKLY MEETINGS

- Sunday: 10.30am Morning Worship then a cuppa
Monday: 10.00-12.00 noon Monday Makers
10.00-12.00 noon Card Making
2.30pm Bible Group
Tuesday: 10.00-12.00am Knit, Stitch and Natter
10.00am Prayer Group
Wednesday: 9.30-11.30 Wesleys Baby and Toddler Group
Thursday: 3.30 – 4.45 Singing Spirits
Friday: 9.30-11.30 Wesleys Baby and Toddler Group
2.00pm Cake and Company

Items for October needed by **Sunday 25th September** by Sheila Giles
S/A 296789 or e.mail to sdgreporting@mypostoffice.co.uk

The second time of informing members

There has been a request that each month's 'Reporting' should be put on our website that Jim and Simon Dobson keep up to date. If you, at any time as a contributor do not wish what you send for the magazine to go on the website, please tell me at the time of sending it and I will pass on your request to the Dobson's. Otherwise the magazine will be scanned in its entirety.

Thank you Sheila Giles Editor