

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON METHODIST CHURCH

R E P O R T I N G

OCTOBER 2016



Not ours, O Lord, but yours;
The earth belongs to you.

We mine the copper, gold and iron
We take the minerals from the earth,
Coal, wood and water; soil and clay.
We use these gifts from day to day

BUT

Not ours, O Lord, they're yours;
The earth belongs to you.

From Orchard tree and soft brown earth,
From bush and cane, from branch and stalk,
From rivers, seas and grinding mill
We take all good things as we will



BUT

Not ours, O Lord, they're yours;
The earth belongs to you.



We marvel at the swelling sea,
We gaze into the night-time sky,
By painter's brush or poet's tongue
We think they all to us belong

BUT

Not ours, O Lord, they're yours;
The earth belongs to you.

Donald Hilton

Dear Friends

At the beginning of the summer we said farewell to our Family Networker Sarah Randall. We have changed the title and job description of our Networker to Youth and Family Networker in order to encompass Youphonix and the development of what we provide for children and young people at Brunch. A lot of children attend Brunch and over the years have had great fun playing in lounge while the adults chat with each other over their meal. Recently we have set up a table and provided crafts and games for the children. Our plan is to tailor the craft to the time of the year e.g. harvest, remembrance, Christmas, Epiphany.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Bobbi Sands has been appointed as our new Networker. If you don't already you will soon get to know Bobbi as she will make a point of introducing herself to the different groups that make up our church community.

Thank you to all those who sent in ideas relating to 'Radical Hospitality'. I have been thrilled at the number of you who shared ideas. I think there have been 30 slips returned which is over 1/3 of the average congregation. Colette is collating your ideas. I will make them available to you. Some ideas will go immediately to the Church Council for consideration and action, some to a variety of groups e.g. the Stewards, the Resources Group and the Welcome and Door stewards. Not all the ideas will be taken up but I think the majority of them will be acted on. A couple of the ideas have been put into practice already – the placing of a couple of posters near the pavement inviting people in for a cup of tea or coffee on weekday mornings while the Stewards are on the premises and a request to the Church Council to purchase welcome packs into which we can put all sorts of information about church life and faith for people new to the congregation.

I had planned that we would work our way through Schnase's Five Practices of Fruitful Churches month by month but as a result of the high level of your response I am going to halt the process for a time so that we can consider and act upon your ideas about Radical Hospitality

and Passionate Worship. I would rather forfeit a timetable than miss a good idea.

I will open the shoe box with your responses on Passionate Worship on 24 October in the church. With thanks Audrey 2



Beetle Drive on Monday 24th October at 4.30pm.
£5 adults and £2.50 for children. Hot Dogs and biscuits. Please let me know if you require vegetarian sausages.
Tickets available from Sunday 9th October.

Maureen

Beckett

AND

I will be accepting donations for the Church Family Christmas Card from Sunday 23rd October (I may be away for two Sundays in November) to Sunday 27th November. The card will be available for distribution from Sunday 4th December.

TOILET TWINNING

Fundraising for our Toilet Twinning project is going well. We're now aiming to reach £480 so we can twin one of our toilet facilities with a school block (£240) and 4 latrines. Those of you who haven't handed in your donation please do so to Lim or Evelyn Ho on or before Sunday 6 November. Thanks to everyone for their amazing generosity.

ENTERTAINING ANGELS!

*Prepare your heart to be a place where
angels would desire to visit.*

Let Jesus be a part of your life.

*Let the spirit of hopefulness, the spirit of helpfulness,
the spirit of gentleness, the spirit of Christ grow in your heart.*

*Sow the seeds of truth, sow the seeds of hope.
Let them grow over time into a garden of beauty,
that will make your home and your life into a place where -
ANGELS WOULD VISIT!*

Poem by Ken Pilcher Jr.

Evelyn and Lim Ho

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Questions, Beliefs and Doubts – QBD

Are you one of the many Christians or spiritual searchers who have been taught that asking questions about beliefs shows a lack of faith? You might even have feared being accused of heresy, blasphemy, or of not being a true believer.

If there are questions you would love to ask but dare not do so, this may be your opportunity, for far from being alone, you are one of the many people searching for a deepening of faith during the journey through life.

After our summer series which was well-attended, we met on September 19th, when we looked at theories about who Jesus was and is, We have planned another series of meetings on Monday's rather than Tuesdays, fortnightly for five sessions followed by a break. We are exploring Marcus Borg's book, Speaking Christian. If there is enough interest we will then plan further series as needed.

We meet at Stratford Methodist Centre but hope that this venture will appeal to people of various denominations, to those who have become disenchanted with their earlier experiences, or those just searching for life's meaning, sharing questions, beliefs and doubts.

Autumn dates, all at 7.30 are:

October 17th, 31st

November 14th, 28th

December 12th.

Please feel free to come for a taster, to see if this is for you. You will be welcome!

Ros Murphy

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Our Bazaar will take place on Saturday 19th November from 10.30am until 3.00pm. Soup will be available for lunch and tea and cake in the afternoon. At the moment the stalls are:-

- Books
- Bric-a-brac
- Cakes/preserves/produce
- Toys
- Tombola
- Cards
- Craft
- U3A craft
- Plants/gardening

If you would like to run a different stall please let me know.

There will be a bouncy castle and various games in the Church itself, and a winter wonderland grotto in the lounge. Children will be invited to do 'craft' activities and Father Christmas's wife will be on hand to help with letters to Father Christmas.

If you would like to help in any way, for just an hour or so or all day let me know, or just come and enjoy the day amongst friends.

There will be no charge for admittance.

Maureen Beckett

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Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 31st. at 12 in the Church. You are invited to come with a chosen hymn from Singing the Faith for which you love the words but don't know IF you know the tune. It is a very informal relaxed hour and you can enjoy some chat and tea and soup afterwards for a bit more relaxation. Look forward to seeing you. Sheila



J M A. We are holding a Lunch for all JMA Collectors on Sunday November 6th after morning service. It will be a light Lunch with some easy listening information about the work done by JMA. We have also arranged a photo shoot so please come. As usual a donation to cover the cost of the Lunch will be very much appreciated. Please sign the list on the JMA Board in Wesley Hall.

Thank you Sheila Giles

Lesotho is experiencing drought at the moment, as is the whole of South Africa.

Please pray that God will send the rain, so that food will grow and he will be glorified

Taken for Rainbow Magazine – Summer Edition

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Rehearsals are under way for the Final Production. After 50 years of having a fantastic time with the Avonside Players, it has become very difficult to attract any new members or find suitable plays the group can do. It will leave a big hole in our lives and so many people have been disappointed by our decision. When we started in 1966, there was only the Pheonix Players and us but now there are also many other groups.

Our performances will be on NOVEMBER 24/25./26 and will be called

A SUPPER EVENING WITH SKETCHES, SOUP AND SWEETS

As in March, Tickets will be £10 and must be booked in advance. They will be on sale from [Sunday October 23rd](#) and are limited to 60 table places each evening.

If you are coming, will you please offer to be a table host on your evening. If you can, please see Sheila Giles. There are special rate tickets for those who can help.

The evening's programme of 5 sketches/plays is

Panto Question Time

Red Hot Cinders

Christmas at Stratford

The Tea Dance
A Nice Cup of Tea

Did you know, Bill Giles was in the very first evening of plays in 1966

Simeon's Watch

The theatre company Riding Lights are performing Simeon's Watch at Evesham Methodist Church on 15 November at 7.30 pm. The play subtitled 'A puzzle in the family at Christmas' is a new engaging play about family life, growing old, discovering hope and being surprised. Tickets £12/£10 (concessions)

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We may not be acting with Avonside Players anymore BUT

Do you know how much 'Acting' there is in everyday life?

Find a word to fit the definitions. Numbers of letters in words given plus position of 'act' in each word.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | act- - - | 6 | the state of doing |
| 2. | - -act- - - | 8 | not a whole |
| 3. | - act- - | 6 | milk based |
| 4. | - - - - -act | 11 | extremely lively |
| 5. | - - - - -act | 8 | Theoretical, not practical |
| 6. | - -act- - - | 8 | break |
| 7. | - -act- - - | 8 | power for pulling |
| 8. | - -act- - - - | 9 | skilled; proficient |
| 9. | -act | 4 | treaty |
| 10. | - -act- - | 7 | farm vehicle |
| 11. | - - - -act- - - | 10 | ethnic origin of someone's family |
| 12. | act- - - - - | 8 | supporter of direct action |

13.	-act- -	6	succulent
14.	-----act	8	affect each other
15.	-act- - -	7	a disagreeing group
16.	---act- -	8	of the stars
17.	-----act- - -	12	a vehement response
18.	-act- - -	7	tangible; sense of touch
19.	-act- - - -	8	causes diseases
20.	-----act- -	12	manipulator
21.	-----act	8	agreement
22.	----act- -	9	an amusing, eccentric person
23.	-act- - -	7	concerned with manufacture
24.	----act- - -	10	a phenomenon of light
25.	--act- - -	8	answer

One of our Grandparents in our Sponsorship Scheme



Tsehay lives in Ethiopia with her husband Zewude and her two granddaughters called Hermella and Eleni. Her health is not good and the wood smoke from cooking affects her eyes badly. Zewude's eyesight is also deteriorating and he is very frail. It hurts Tsehay to see him like this and she worries that she might lose him. His

support to her was priceless before he became ill.

She attempts to sell vegetables and bottles water but it is a hard life and the monthly cash support they receive from the Age-International-funded Assegedech Association makes a big difference to their lives. The regular and reliable income means they are able to buy foods they need. However this year the association was unable to provide uniforms or school equipment so they had to cut back on food items.

Hermella and Eleni help with the household jobs and then walk to school together. Hermella helps her younger sister with her studies and both girls are doing well at school. Tsehay hopes her dream for going to University comes to fruition so they have a promising future. She sends messages from the girls. Hermella likes her new school and has 50 classmates with many new friends. Her favourite subjects are Social Sciences, English, Maths and Art while Eleni enjoys Social Sciences, Religious Education and Art.

Hemella gives her extra tuition and insists she continues to study but sometimes Eleni would rather play with her friends.

Tsehay says ‘ Your support is very precious to me and my family. I count on your assistance to help me care for my grandchildren and my sick husband. I truly appreciate your much-needed support. You make the life of an older woman who is the soul head of a household of four, bearable. God Bless you. Yours sincerely, Tsehay

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STEWARDS FOR NOVEMBER

- 6TH EDNA ANKERS
TONY ANKERS

13TH BARBARA HAGGETT
ROSEMARY CORVIN

20TH MARGARET NEWTON
NORMAN NEWTON

27TH WINNIE CHILDERHOUSE
VINCENT GLADWIN

FLOWER ROTA

NOVEMBER 6TH -
MARGART SMITH

NOVEMBER 13TH -
MARGARET TATTERSALL

NOVEMBER 20TH -
GILLIAN BOWERS

NOVEMBER 27TH -
KATHLEEN MARRIOTT



COFFEE ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

6th Steve Peacop and Ken Walker
13th Graham Hollowell and Gillian Bowers
20th Sue Rimmer and Janet Lampitt
27th Kath Fraser and Joan Graham



OCTOBER OFFERTORY ROTA

OCT 2ND	JOHN PARKES	BILL GILES
OCT 9TH	MARGARET SMITH	BARBARA HAGGETT
OCT 16TH	MARGARET FARMERY	MALCOLM SMITH
OCT 23RD	MICHAEL LEDGARD	STEVE FARMERY
OCT 30TH	GILLIAN EDWARD	GILLIAN BOWERS



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*To EVERYONE with a Birthday in
OCTOBER you are wished a very happy
day especially AUSTEN PRATT*

FRESH WAYS HUB DAY: SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER AT KIDDERMINSTER. DON'T MISS OUT.

Bookings are coming in well for this exciting day. We can confirm that presenters will include Lucy Moore (founder and leader of messy Church) and Ian Bell, Connexional Pioneering Missioner. worship will be led by Adam Sanders from Jazz Church. Other presenters will include Helen Laird, Rachel Matthews, Liam McKenna and Andrew Roberts.

The day will include:

Worship and Prayer. A keynote from Ian Bell on where the fresh expression movement is going(particularly in Methodism)

Workshops on

Forming and Communicating a Vision

Alternative Worship

Messy Church

All Age Communities

Plus a Fresh Ways Clinic when 'Dr' Andrew Roberts will be available to discuss any issues you may be concerned about (to do with fresh expressions that is !)

There will also be lots of opportunities to meet, greet and network. These days are for all those involved or thinking about developing fresh ways of being Church. Discover more about developing Café Church, Messy Church, Outdoor Church, Youth Church, New Monastic Communities, Social Action/Community Project centred New Churches etc. Come for resources and opportunities for further learning and development.

The day, at Trinity Methodist Church is free to attend. Free drinks will be available all day and attendees are asked to bring a packed lunch. To reserve your space please email Andrew Roberts via Roberts@methodistchurch.org.uk but please note that Andrew was due to have a minor op on Sept 2nd so may not reply immediately. Full and final details will be sent out a couple of weeks before the event and another very similar day will be held in Bath on 5th November.

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NOVEMBER 2016 DIARY DATES

- 1st 10.00 Holy Communion in the Church
- 6th JMA Collectors Lunch
- 12th 10.00-12 noon Brunch
- 13th 3.00-5.00 Youphonix!
- 14th 7.30 QBD (See Page 4)
- 16th Wesleys Pasta Lunch
- 19th Church Bazaar (See details on page 5)
- 24th Avonside Players 50th Year Celebrations
- 25th FINAL PRODUCTION
- 26th SUPPER AND PLAYS (See page 7)
- 27th 3.00-5.00 Youphonix!
- 28th SING at 12 noon in the Church
2.30pm Meeting Point for Men. Tales from the Salvation Army by
Major H Wellman
- 29th 7.30pm Everywomans Group

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

Plus the opportunity to drop in for a cuppa any morning at church

Items for November needed by **Sunday 30th October** by Sheila
Giles S/A 296789 or e.mail to sdgreporting@mypostoffice.co.uk