

St. John's World

Issue 50 July/August 2010

Newsletter of St. John's Methodist Church, Woodside Road, Amersham

Inspirational Music by talented musicians!

They were an inspiration - the young people who make up the National Methodist Youth Brass Band.

Not only brilliant musicians but committed Christians who are not afraid to share their faith.



"The members of the NMYBB were not only very good musically, but also very impressive and inspirational as young people - in fact, it was quite refreshing."

Quote by a member of the audience

The NMYBB came to St. John's in May to give a concert as part of the church's 50th Anniversary celebrations, they also helped lead the service on the Sunday with one of their number giving the sermon.

The band members come together from all over the UK about four times a year to perform at concerts and

Church services promoting the Methodist Church.

As is their usual practice they arrived at St. John's on Friday evening using the premises as a base. Members of the church organised the catering (it was noted that band members had a very healthy appetite!) and also helped out with some bedding.

For the concert on the Saturday evening the church was full and we raised around £435 for the two charities that we are supporting during our anniversary year.



Apart from the enjoyment and challenge of making music together, the members have a great deal of Fun, enjoy good Fellowship and seek to grow in their Faith together - known by the band as the 3F's.

One member writes, "It is as if the band is a family, there's always someone there if you need help."

Rev'd Tim Woolley, Homer Simpson, Football, a BBQ, Games and Dancers!

A lovely bright Sunday 20th June, saw another special Service and event in our anniversary calendar.

The service was led by Rev'd Tim Woolley - Director of Mission for the Northampton District of the Methodist Church.

Tim used slides of Homer Simpson and World Cup football alongside images of Jesus on the cross to illustrate his message about going out into the world with perseverance and keeping our eye on Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith.



After the service we had a BBQ in the church garden and we were entertained in St. John's Hall by members of the Popstars Academy who usually meet at the



Jenet Jebb talking with Rev'd Tim Woolley after the service

premises on Saturday mornings. It was nice to see the children and their parents join us at the BBQ.

We also had various outdoor games which were taken up very enthusiastically by the young people and parents. Some even tried Stilt walking!



Everybody enjoyed the occasion and our thanks go in particular to Judy & Gordon Cyster together with the team for organising the catering and BBQ. Also to Amy and her class who entertained us so well.

FROM OUR MINISTER



St. John's

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Through the week at St. John's

Sun	11.00 am Morning Worship 6.00 pm United Worship as announced	
Mon	4.45 - 5.45 pm 7.00 - 8.30 pm 8.00 - 9.30 pm	Rainbows Guides Monday Club (2nd & 4th)
Tues	10.00am - 12.00 5.30 - 7.00 pm 7.00 - 8.30 pm	Mothers & Toddlers Brownies Guides
Wed	9.30 - 10.30	Pilates
Thurs	2..30 - 4.00 pm	Women's Fellowship
Fri	5.30 - 6.45 pm 6.30 - 8.00 pm 7.30 - 9.30 pm 8.00 -10..00 pm	Beavers Cubs Scouts Explorers
Sat	9.45 am 9.30 -11.30 am	Prayer Circle Open Doors Coffee Lounge

St. John's World

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Dear Friends,

We want to be a church that is forward looking, adaptable and ready for change so that we can communicate the gospel effectively in a changing society. However, just now and then it doesn't hurt to peep back over our shoulders, as long as our attention doesn't stay in the past!

As I think back over recent years I note many encouraging changes. Across the circuit, in most if not all of the churches, there is more flexibility in our styles of worship, more engagement with the communities in which our Methodist Churches are set, more welcoming premises and improved involvement with young and old people. I sense a happier and more positive spirit among us at St.John's. Thank God, and thank the people who have inspired and encouraged, challenged and stretched us, for we have experienced many rich blessings since 1960 and looking forward to continue to God's ministry in years to come.

All those things are important, but they are just the context of our call to follow Jesus. The heart of our calling to discipleship lies in our relationships with God, each other and the wider world. The best ideas, the most faithful service and the smartest buildings will be to no avail unless we are people of faith, hope and love who express all that in prayer and service. The guidance and enabling of the Holy Spirit are the only means by which we can effectively be the church here and now.

Whether or not your name is listed in the Pastoral Roll or in the Circuit Directory as an office holder in our church or in the circuit; whatever your age or gifts, you are an important part of our future. It is your commitment, your faith and prayer, your giving that enable us to look back in a few more years and marvel at what God has done. So thank you for all you have been and done in the past but now, with open hearts and minds lets renew our commitment to God and be ready to move forward into the future with confidence.

'We'll praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come.' (Joseph Hart H&P 277)

Enjoy your Summer Holiday and be ready for a new Methodist Connexional Year 2010/2011.

God Bless you all.

David Jebb

Prayers

Father God, thank You for every Christian outreach initiative to young people in schools, clubs, organisations, community projects and at summer events. Please grant that many children and teenagers will discover how much You love them. Amen

Lord, we intercede for researchers who are determined to find effective remedies to all kinds of diseases. Please give them a sound understanding of the scientific and ethical aspects of their work, and help them to work with integrity. Amen

The Oberammergau Passion Play 2010

By Judy Rea



What an amazing experience to witness the efforts of almost an entire village in southern Germany re-enacting the events of the last week of Jesus' life. The promise this village made nearly four hundred years ago, (to perform a passion play every ten years) has been faithfully carried out over four centuries. This they have done with great dignity, energy and sincerity.

Eric and I, along with Cathy and Russell Watson were four from St. John's who joined with several other churches from the circuit to travel to Oberammergau to see the passion play. There were about forty six people in our group. By the end of eight days we had chatted to everyone in the group. It was really lovely to meet and enjoy the fellowship with such a friendly group of people.

We stayed in a small Austrian village called Arzl. It was situated amongst the most beautiful mountains of the Pitztal Glacier region. The views around us, of snow capped mountains, sometimes lit with sunshine and sometimes fringed with frothy rain clouds, made us

feel the peace and love of God.

The staff at the hotel looked after us very well and their meals were delicious. Lorna Wright from Chesham Methodist Church discovered they had a webcam at the back of the hotel, so she was able to keep in touch with her husband who was back home in Chesham by giving him a wave!

My abiding memories of the Passion Play will be:

The barefoot children running about the stage as if in a street in Jerusalem.

The majestic singing of the superb choir of forty nine people.

And the finale, when the angel dressed in white very slowly brought a bowl of light in his hands and set it down at the front of the stage, symbolising the resurrection and continual presence of Christ in the world.



Arzl im Pitztal It is located at an elevation of 883 m, with a population of about 2,900.



A Christian perspective on the financial crisis

'Good Value' is the title of a recently published book by Stephen Green, who happens to be both head of a major bank (HSBC) and an ordained minister in the Anglican Church. With the sub-title "reflections on money, morality and an uncertain world" the book offers new perspectives on how we can live in a richer, more dynamic world, whilst responding to the differing needs of individuals and institutions. This banker-priest, who was ordained in 1988, reflects on how the human desires for exploration and exchange have led us into a globalised, urban world, and defends his belief that capitalism is the best system by which to improve material human wealth. How, he asks, can we align these drives, and capitalism, with our spiritual and psychological needs? He asserts that businesses – and banks in particular – have a duty to society that goes beyond the creation of profit. In a book that encompasses history, politics, religion and economics, Green admits that behaviour in some parts of the banking industry has created a lot of the speculative froth, but maintains that we can't go back to a simpler world that is not connected – "the market is the main engine of social and economic development... but we have to recognise that the markets need to be properly supervised, that they cannot police themselves, they will not correct themselves. He goes on to say that "the markets make a wonderful servant of human aspirations, but they make a terrible master.

"We need a system that is more stable, stronger, more transparent, and more liquid, so that it can serve the needs of the real economy and real society more robustly. It is in everybody's collective interest to get it right." Stephen Green is donating all the proceeds from 'Good Value' to charity.

The book is published by Allen Lane and can be found in many public libraries.

Our PILGRIM PLACES: historic Christian sites in Britain : IONA

Off the end of the Mull peninsula in the Inner Hebrides in Scotland lies a small island, Iona. It is situated a mile from the mainland and is little more than three miles in length and one mile in width. While it is very likely that Ninian (died c.430) brought Christianity to southwest Scotland around the year 400, we have much better historical records for what happened at Iona.

In 563 a boat arrived at the island bringing a group of monks from Ireland. They had braved the storms of the Atlantic Ocean since leaving the Irish coast and their arrival in Iona began a new chapter in the history of Scottish Christianity. Their arrival would also have important consequences for English Christianity.

The monks were led by Columba. He was born in county Donegal, in the northwest of Ireland, probably sometime in the 520s. By birth he was connected to Irish kings and he was schooled and trained in Celtic Christianity. Patrick had founded the Celtic faith in Ireland in the previous century and Columba was one of a number of outstanding monks and scholars that the Celtic Church produced.

Although the details are uncertain, Columba became involved in controversy about biblical manuscripts with another Celtic scholar, Finnian, who headed a monastery at Clonard. If the traditions can be believed, this controversy led to a local war and soldiers were killed. Columba was judged to be in the wrong and he was forced into exile. With some fellow monks, he left Ireland by boat, bound for Scotland, and landed at Iona.

It was indeed a momentous event. Although there is evidence that Ninian had evangelised parts of southwest Scotland, the inhabitants of the country, the Picts, were pagans when Columba arrived.

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For the next forty years Columba and his monks travelled and preached and catechised and evangelised much of the south and west of Scotland. Iona was their headquarters and Columba founded an abbey there.

The little island was soon recognised as a centre both of Christian spirituality and Christian learning. In Columba's lifetime and in the centuries following, Iona, in spite of its isolation, became a place of pilgrimage. Columba and his monks established churches and monasteries, ordained priests and appointed monks according to the Celtic faith and customs they had learned in Ireland.

HEAVEN'S DOOR

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Or the wonderful decor.
But it was the folks in Heaven
Who really made me stare
The ones I knew as sinners,
Now why should they be there?
The man who made me angry -
He'd been in prison twice;
And there was my old neighbour,
He was anything but nice.
I thought that all these people
Were rotting away in hell,
But here they were in heaven
Looking incredibly well.

"God," I said, "I can't accept
You loved these people too;
I can't believe they made it here
How on earth did they get
through?"

Everything went quiet,
I didn't know what to do;

Then God said,
"Well, they're all in shock.
At the thought of seeing you."



Life's short, so make the most of it

- Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes every day.
- Make time for prayer and meditation. They provide life's fuel.
- Dream more while you are awake.
- Smile and laugh more than you frown.
- Try to make other people smile.
- Don't waste precious energy on gossip.
- Get rid of negative thoughts about things you can't control.
- Spend time with people over 70 and under 6.
- Remember life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
- If you have fallen out with someone, fall in again as soon as you can.
- Don't take yourself too seriously.
- Forget issues of the past and don't remind those you love of past mistakes.
- Realise that life is a school and you are here to learn.
- Don't try to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
- Don't compare your life to others - their journey will be different.
- Make peace with yourself and God, so your past won't spoil your present.
- Stay in touch with family and friends.
- Forgive - everyone for everything.
- Don't worry about what other people think of you; it's none of your business.
- Realise that envy is a waste of time. The best is yet to come.

Methodists 'enjoy longer lives'

Methodists live more than seven years longer than the rest of the population, according to a study.

Men belonging to the famously clean-living denomination live to 83.9, researchers working for British Religion in Numbers found, compared with a national average of 77.

Female Methodists die at 91.1 on average - nine years longer than the 82 years enjoyed by most British women.

From the Daily Telegraph, Saturday 26th June 2010

COTHA United Service 27th June 2010

On a lovely Summers day around 120 members of the three churches on the hill came together for a united service at St. John's. The preacher David Bennett challenged us all with his sermon on 'Inside - Out Church' that is, what we do on the inside should be taken out into the community. After the service around 80 - 90 members enjoyed a Hog Roast in the church garden.



Squirrels in church

Squirrels had overrun three churches in Fareham Town, Hampshire.

The vicars had tried everything in their power to remove them. After a great deal of prayer, the churchwardens of the first church determined that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? However, the squirrels continued to multiply.

The second church's wardens also decided that they could not harm any of God's creatures; so they bought some humane traps, caught the miscreants and set the squirrels free in the New Forest. Several days later, the squirrels returned much to the Parish Council's horror.

It was only the third church, Holy Trinity, which succeeded in keeping the intruders away.

The Vicar baptised the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter!

Dates for your Diary

July 2010

Sun 4th
11.00am Worship led by Rev'd Barrie Heafford, followed at 12.30pm with a Faith Lunch.

Sat 10th
1.00pm Amersham Circuit Sponsored Walk (approx 2 hrs) - meet at Winchmore Hill Methodist Church. Return to church for tea. See posters & sponsor forms on Church premises.
4.00 - 5.30pm 'Beyond the Walls.' the next in this series of talks by Rev'd David Jebb is entitled 'Four questions you must answer!'

Sun 11th Action for Children
11.00am Service led by Pam Sitford
Speaker- Mrs. Madeleine Clarke

Sun 18th
11.00am Worship led by Rev'd David Jebb. Service will include renewal of Wedding vows by Jean & Ray Richards.

Wed 21st
12.45pm Men's Lunch Club meets at the Red Lion, Coleshill
Contact: David Harrison (01923 282940) if you would like to go.

8.00pm COTHA AGM at AFC.

Sun 25th
9.00am Holy Communion and Breakfast.

August

1st to 7th
Week of Accompanied Prayer.

Sun 8th
11.00am Worship led by Mrs. Freddie Jenkins.
3.00pm Church Tea at the home of Terry & Hazel Stone.



Open Doors Coffee Lounge

Every Saturday
9.30 to 11.30am. In
The Wesley Room

Come, meet old friends and make new ones