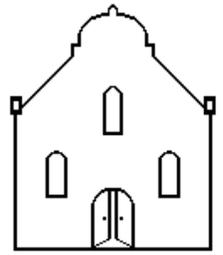




THE SOCIETY
Stirling Methodist Church
Newsletter
April 2nd 2017
Issue 1263



Welcome to everyone sharing in worship here today, we trust that you will find it to be an enriching experience.

If you are visiting us, we invite you to sign the Visitors' Book which is on top of the organ.

Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee in the hall after the service.

At the beginning of our service, after the intimations are given by the steward, the Peace candle is lit and there is a short period of silence for you to prepare yourself for worship.

10.30am **Morning Worship**

Our service today is led by Ms Anne Lochhead

The full lectionary readings for this Sunday morning (any of which may or may not be used by the preacher) are:

Ezekiel 37 : 1 - 14;

Psalm 130;

Romans 8 : 6 – 11;

John 11 : 1 - 45.

Sunday 9th April

10.30am

Morning Worship – Palm Sunday

Service led by : Rev Walter Attwood

A collect for this Sunday (from Methodist Worship Book):

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross,
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

There will be services every evening in Holy Week (Monday, 10th April - Friday, 14th April) at 7.30 pm. The service on Maundy Thursday (13th April) will include a celebration of Holy Communion.

The theme for the week is: Old meets New: Christ in Conversation. This will be a reflection on New Testament texts that sets Jesus in dialogue (either directly or indirectly) with characters from the Old Testament and will be approached from a Lenten perspective. Each service will last approximately 45 minutes. While there is an underlying connection between each session, they have been planned in a way that no continuity is required, so feel free to attend as many or as few as you are able. If you want to read up the texts / know the 'conversation partners' in advance, they are:

Monday	Adam and Christ (Romans 5:12-21)
Tuesday	Elijah and Christ (Matthew 17:1-12)
Wednesday	Moses and Christ (John 3:12-18)
Thursday	Abraham and Christ (John 8:47-58)
Friday	Jonah and Christ (Matthew 12:38-41)

Mark Jason

General Church Meeting

Reports for the GCM are invited, if possible, by end of April. The CGM is scheduled for 14th May.

Annette Kupke

Agnes Brown

Agnes has improved sufficiently to be moved to Sauchie Hospital where she is in Ward 1. Her daughter Carole has again been in touch recently to express the thanks of the family for the support church members have given to Agnes through the last few difficult weeks. The visits, cards and practical help have been very much appreciated. Although Agnes is recovering from major surgery there is still concern about the fracture at the top of her arm. This has not healed at all and she has been advised against further surgery on that certainly for the time being.

Janet Baker

Pallet Garden

It has been proposed by the Green Team that we have a pallet garden at the front of the church. A pallet garden is a small growing area on top of a wooden pallet that has been used to move large volumes of goods but cannot now be used in that capacity. The garden produced is not permanent and can be moved.

To achieve this garden we are looking for containers that can be used as pots, but we are not looking for plant pots. We are looking for items such as old washing up bowls, recycling boxes that are no longer used, teapots which have lost their spouts, watering cans which have sprung leaks, wellington boots, old saucepans. In fact if you think of a container we can probably use it. The wackier and weirder the better.

The beauty of this type of quirky garden is that people stop and stare and it can become a topic of conversation. It also gives out a message about recycling. Indeed with more containers than can fit on the pallet we can have extra ones planted up and beginning to grow to replace those on the pallet when they have past their best.

Mark Allison has agreed to oversee this project and Sam Ridley has agreed to help out. We garden will be an herb garden and the produce will be available to church members to have and take home for their own use.

Comments about this quirky idea very welcome.

Walter Attwood

Advance Notice about Sunday, April 23rd.

On this day our preacher will be the President of Conference and he will be accompanied by the Vice President, The Chair of District and the Secretary of the Scotland Synod. We are also hoping that some members from the other churches in the Central Scotland Circuit will be joining us. We have discovered that the diaries of our distinguished visitors will allow them time to have lunch with us and so the minister and stewards have decided that we should have a Faith Lunch. We know we can rely on your co-operation! Further details next week.

Janet Baker

Pass It On Week – Extension

Thanks to those who have donated items for Pass It On Week. If you haven't, there is still time. Items will continue to be collected for the next 3 weeks. The box is in the hall.

Here is the information again on what this is about:

“This week is Pass It On Week. The idea is to dig out usable electrical items (in working condition) that you no longer have a use for, so that they can get passed on to someone else. The Church is taking part and you are invited to bring items along on 19th or 26th March. Any small electrical item in working condition will do. Just put it in the box in the hall after the service. The box will be passed to Zero Waste Scotland- but feel free to take anything that you could use yourself!

The types of items that you can pass on include computers, laptops, printers, tablets, phones, small household electricals like hairdryers and hair straighteners, kitchen appliances like blenders, mixers and juicers, games consoles, set top boxes and any other small household electrical items. Any data on laptops will be securely wiped. Those wishing to pass on phones should ensure they have reset the phone to factory settings – all phones are different but should have an ‘erase all data’ or ‘restore to factory settings’ option. You should do this, and then remove the SIM card before passing on phones.”

Jon Cape

WaterAid

This is the 5th Sunday in Lent. WaterAid 'Jars of Change' will be collected on the first Sunday after Easter (23rd April) and also the following Sunday.

We know that there are members of the congregation who prefer to give a direct donation to WaterAid rather than collect coins in a 'Jar of Change'. Such donations, small or large, will be very welcome, and any cheques should be made out to WaterAid.

Many thanks to all taking part in this Lent effort to help in providing a safe and reliable water supply for some of the world's poorest people, many of whom are also affected by drought and climate change.

Ann and Joan

Ministerial Synod.....

.....is to be held here on Friday, April 21st. We are offering soup to supplement the sandwich lunch the ministers will bring with them on this occasion. If anyone is able to make a panful, which will need to be here by mid-morning on that day, please speak to me today. Thank You.

Janet Baker

Easter Debate

We haven't unfortunately managed to hold any Lent discussion or study groups within the church this year. However, why not come along to our Easter Debate on Friday 7th April at 7.30pm? This is the second in our Open Space sessions on Friday evenings, suitable for church folk and anyone else you may like to invite along. First, we will watch a filmed debate between two theologians, one conservative and one liberal, providing contrasting viewpoints on the Easter story. After a chance for comments from the floor, Rev Jim Jones will offer a synthesis of the opinions provided in the debate and discuss the impact of resurrection on the life of faith. The debate will then be opened to the floor and can, of course, be continued over refreshments. Don't expect platitudes - the evening comes with the caveat that not everything you hear may be official church policy – but it should set you thinking in advance of Holy Week. There is no charge to attend and all are welcome.

David Rogerson

Christians Together in Stirling

Walk of Witness Good Friday – 14th April 2017

11.00 a.m. to 12.30 (at the latest)



Ancient Seal of Stirling – 'Here are the Scots protected by the Cross'

The Walk of Witness links some of Stirling's Christian sites as we mark moments in the story of the Passion and death of Jesus.

We begin at Holy Trinity Church, stopping at Allan Park South Church, passing the site of the 13th century Dominican Friary, then onto the bottom of King Street assembling and finishing at its foot.

We will use readings from Scripture and sing songs on the way, spending time to reflect on incidents and places in the bible as we stop at various points on the route.

Jesus is Risen

EASTER MORNING SERVICE
STIRLING CASTLE ESPLANADE
SUNDAY 16 APRIL 7.30AM



FOLLOWED BY A LIGHT BREAKFAST
AT THE HAVEN, 2-4 BOW STREET
CAR PARKING AVAILABLE ON THE
ESPLANADE UNTIL 9.00AM



IONA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PLENARY

SATURDAY 29th APRIL 2017

10.30 – 3.45 (coffee from 10)

AT ST BLANE'S CHURCH HALL DUNBLANE

Speakers Peter MacDonald Leader of the Community

Graham Maule Wild Goose Resource Group

Programme will include news about work on Iona, Mull and the mainland and worship from the new Abbey Worship Book.

Bring your own lunch – tea and coffee provided

Suggested donation £5

Limited Parking – Dunblane Railway station 10 minute Walk

Open to associates members and friends of the Iona Community and anyone who has an interest in the work and life of the Iona Community.

Postcode for Satnav - FK15 0AH

Contact ruthburgess2003@yahoo.co.uk for more information

We hope to have copies of the new Abbey Worship Book on sale at the plenary.

