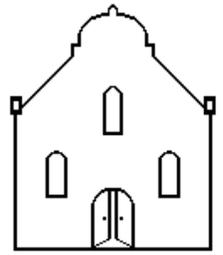




THE SOCIETY  
Stirling Methodist Church  
Newsletter  
June 4<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Issue 1272



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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 pray for peace and prepare yourself for worship.

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10.30pm **Morning Worship & Holy Communion**  
**Pentecost**

Our service today is led by Revd Bill Seymour  
& Revd Hilda Warwick

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

Acts 2 : 1 – 11;

Psalm 104 : 24 – 34;

1 Corinthians 12 : 3 – 13;

John 20 : 19 – 23.

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**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 10.30am Morning Worship**

Service led by : Mr Donald Caldwell

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

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit on the disciples  
with the wind from heaven and with tongues of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
send us out in the power of the same Spirit  
to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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***New programme: 3-12 Month Overseas Mission opportunities!***

Encounter Worldwide is the short-term overseas mission programme that places self-funding volunteers to work in partnership with Methodist churches, communities and organizations around the world for a period of 3 – 12 months. The aim is for volunteers to explore faith, share skills and enrich mission for both the overseas and volunteer's church communities.

Unlike the Mission Partner programme for 3 years or more, Encounter worldwide is an opportunity for shorter term mission. Volunteers experience the Methodist faith through the lens of another culture, challenging their personal faith and opening their eyes to God's mission in a new light.

Volunteers will take a journey – deciding if this is the right call for them; applying; being matched to a host; fundraising; preparing and training. They will undertake the placement, be supported in their return home and take the experience they have had to continue mission within the Methodist Church locally, regionally and nationally.

A series of resources are being developed to support the programme. Further information can be accessed through the website at [www.methodist.org.uk/encounterworldwide](http://www.methodist.org.uk/encounterworldwide) or by contacting me, Rachel Gooden on [goodenr@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:goodenr@methodistchurch.org.uk)

### ***A Methodist in Moscow (and other places)***

When I wrote the short article about my visit to Russia for "In Touch" I did say that there would be a follow-up event sometime in the Strathclyde circuit.

I will share my experiences visiting the Methodist Church in Russia on Sunday 9th July at Woodlands Methodist Church, Glasgow (226 Woodlands Rd, Glasgow G3 6LN).

I will be leading worship at Woodlands at 11am, followed by a sandwich lunch at around 12:30pm and the presentation at 1:15pm.

Anyone interested is very welcome to any part of this; if you plan to come for lunch, please email Jim Bunney ([jkunney@btinternet.com](mailto:jkunney@btinternet.com)) for catering purposes.

Thanks and all good wishes,

***Jill Baker***

### ***Readers please***

If possible can you add your name to the 'reader rota' in the vestibule? At this time we are particularly in need for the month of June. Thank you,

***Jim Roberts***

### ***Brief item***

Does anyone have a toilet tent that could be borrowed for the Solas weekend 23-25 June? It would be used for part of our Peace Tent event (not as a toilet).

***Jon Cape***

### ***Pallet Garden***

Walter is making progress with the pallet garden, but to complete he needs more compost. He has some unused containers but more wacky containers are needed. He has sufficient plants for the time being.



## "That they may have life" - Church leaders' General Election statement



***"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."***

**Leaders of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church have called for Christians to be guided by their faith in discerning what sort of society they wish the new government to create and have issued the following statement.**

As we prepare for the General Election, we recognise that Christians across our nations will prayerfully vote for a variety of parties and candidates in good conscience. We celebrate the fact that Christian people are inspired by their faith to debate passionately – and to disagree well – on how the United Kingdom should be governed at this present moment.

While much of the debate around the election is rightly focused on individual policies, it is also our duty to ask what sort of society we would wish our government to build. As Christians we have to embrace the reality that our vision will never be achieved by humankind alone, and to look beyond our human time-frames to the coming of the Kingdom of God. It is this future hope that gives meaning and direction to present struggles.

Jesus offers us abundant life, life in all its fullness, and we are called to reflect this eternal promise on earth as it is in heaven. If we believe that all people are made in the image of God, we must surely pray, work and vote for a society in which all people are enabled to flourish and live life in all its fullness in the here and now too.

This is a society in which everyone has enough food, resources, shelter and opportunity to succeed, and where people are not left behind or damaged by poverty and inequality.

This is a society where our common humanity is valued and respected, where people can find refuge, and where everyone can contribute towards the common good.

This is a society that acts to protect God's creation, and seeks to be a peaceful influence in the world, promoting human rights, religious freedom and economic justice for all.

So we invite you to pray for everyone standing for office and for all voters. We pray that Christians across our nations entering the polling booth on 8 June do so as followers of Jesus Christ, seeking to take part in creating a society which reflects God's kingdom of goodness and of justice. A society that encourages life in all its fullness.

### ***Signatories***

Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Revd Dr Roger L Walton, President of the Methodist Conference

Ms Rachel Lampard MBE, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference