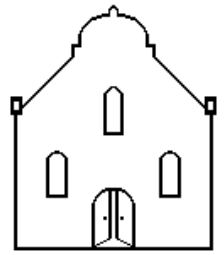




THE SOCIETY
Stirling Methodist Church
Newsletter
August 20th 2017
Issue 1283



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.

10.30am **Morning Worship**

Our service today is led by Revd Dr Mark Jason.

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

Romans 11: 1-2s, 29-32; Matthew 15 : (10-20) 21 – 28;

Continuous

Related

Genesis 45 : 1 – 15;

Isaiah 56 : 1, 6 - 8;

Psalms 133;

Psalms 67.

Sunday 27th August 10.30am Morning Worship

Service led by : Julia Reid

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

God of the nations,
to whose table all are invited
and in whose kingdom no one is a stranger:
hear the cries of the hungry
and mercifully extend to all the peoples on earth
the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NEW INITIATIVES

Following discussions amongst the Church Vision Group, the Neighbourhood and World Mission Committee (NWMC) and the Church Stewards, we would like to move forward with two new initiatives this autumn. In fact the initiatives are not entirely new; they build on what we have done in the past, in Meet Pray Love (MPL) groups and in Friday night sessions held last year. In both cases we would like to take what has worked well and make it a more regular feature of our church life. In both cases also we are looking for feedback and volunteers.

1. First Friday Fun (3F) evenings. The plan is to hold a monthly evening meeting, open to everyone and advertised specifically to those living in Queen Street, starting in October. The most important thing is to provide a welcoming space where there is the chance of making new friends and community links. Suggestions for the evening include: pizza night, Scottish Tea, games night, BBQ in front of the church, film night, beetle drive, whist evening. Basically anything that is fun that might attract people from outside the church. Each evening would be different, depending on the ideas of the volunteers - we would like 3 volunteers for each week, to organise the activity, any food/drink and to prepare/clear up. Each session would last 2 hours, 7–9pm, and we would start the evening in prayer (before the event kicks off) and finish with some sort of 'thought for the day' without preaching at anyone. We would like to commit to a minimum of 6 sessions to give this initiative a chance to get off the ground.

2. Fellowship Groups. It is some time since we had regular house groups, and the MPL sessions were only partly successful, principally because they lacked regularity and continuity. We would therefore like to test the waters for establishing one or more new fellowship groups, to meet monthly at a regular time (such as Third Thursday evening or first Wednesday afternoon). The groups may meet in different venues (at someone's home, in the Green Room; in a pub or coffee shop) at different times and each may take a different format. All of that can be decided once we know who and how many people would be willing to be involved.

All of which leads to the following questions:

- Would you be willing to volunteer for one (or more) 3F evening? There is a sign-up sheet in the hall, or you may phone or email me. If you would like to lead one of the sessions please indicate what activity you would like to run.
- Would you be interested in attending a fellowship group? Again there is a sign-up sheet in the hall, or you may phone or email me. Please also indicate if you would be willing to host or help lead such a group – don't worry about what study material you would use as there is lots that can be made available.

On behalf of the stewards, the vision group and the NWMC, I hope you will consider supporting these initiatives as best you are able. Even if you feel unable to volunteer or participate in the events, please support them in your prayers.

David Rogerson

STIRLING CITY CHOIR

The first rehearsal of Stirling City Choir's new session is on Tuesday 5th September at 7.30 pm in St Columba's' Church Hall. This will be an all-comers session to provide potential new members with an opportunity to learn more about the choir as we sing through several short items from our repertoire. Hopefully this will encourage new members to join us for the rest of the session.

Brian Baker

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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 September. Thank you,

Jim Roberts
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IONA COMMUNITY

The Iona Community is delighted to announce a short programme for Autumn 2017 to be run in conjunction with the St Columba Hotel on Iona whilst our own centres are closed for refurbishment and maintenance work. There are 3 weeks on offer:

- 'Walking into Winter' – a gentle week of conversation, readings, and writing with Wild Goose authors and poets Jan Sutch Picard, Joy Mead, and Ruth Burgess (21st-28th October)
- 'Stillness, Silence and Song' – an unhurried week of meditation and song with Alison Adam (formerly of Wild Goose resource Group) and Cara Riley (28th October- 4th November)
- 'Cycles of Grace: Exploring the Ten Beatitudes' – a week reflecting on how to live well, with activist and author Alastair McIntosh (4th - 11th November)

Full details can be found on the Iona Community website:

<https://iona.org.uk/2017/06/21/autumn-encounters-weeks-2017-joint-venture-st-columba-hotel-iona-iona-community/>

Prices start at £755 (for 7 nights) and include accommodation, all meals, and the programme charge. Rooms can be booked directly via the hotel's own website:

<http://www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk/index.php?id=9>

Any queries can be directed to :

pat@iona.org.uk or Marketing@iona.org.uk



ST
COLUMBA
HOTEL
ISLE OF IONA

2017

iona



Autumn Encounters

*short seasonal programme with
the Iona Community*

21-28th October

Walking into Winter.

Led by Jan Sutch Pickard, Joy Mead, and Ruth Burgess

28-4th November

Stillness, Silence, and Song.

Led by Alison Adam and Cara Riley

4-11th November

Cycles of Grace: Exploring the Ten Beatitudes.

Led by Alastair McIntosh

Book online at www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk

or phone **44 (0)1681 700 304.**

ACTION FOR CHILDREN - CHRISTMAS WORSHIP RESOURCES

From District Office:

Hi Fiona,

I just wanted to get in touch to make you aware that we are currently in the process of putting together the Christmas resources for our Methodist supporters. In the past we have had prayers and poems written by children which form part of the additional resources which we put on the main Action for Children website, so I wanted to see if you could pass this information to all churches with Sunday Schools to see if this is something they'd like to help with?

The prayers / poems can be any length and need to be about '*What Christmas means to me.*' Any prayers / poems that go on the website will have the child's name, age and church (or school) mentioned in there too.

I'm afraid I was made aware of this rather late, so if people could come back to me to let me know if they'd be interested then that would be a huge help.

Also, as a final note, I am still looking for churches to hold an 'Action for Children Sunday' service in aid of our work and to raise awareness of what we do throughout Scotland. I have had a few churches ask me to come and speak, however I'd always welcome more to come forward in order for me to come along and help spread the good word, so if anyone would like to chat with me about this then that would be great too.

Thanks again for any help you can provide and I look forward to speaking with you 😊

Kind Regards,

Stuart Laurie

Community Fundraiser – Scotland

Tel No: 0141 550 9022 | Mobile: 07715 043 736

I, DANIEL BLAKE

On Saturday September 23 Callander Cinema is putting on a free screening of the most important film of 2016.

A community screening to raise awareness and funds for the ***Foodbank at Start up Stirling*** and The Food Train.

"If there is only one film you see this year it has to be this one".

Screenings at 5.30pm and 8pm. Tickets will be available at the door if space allows. Call Eammon at 01877-339323 to reserve a ticket.

The movie has been sponsored by Clanranald.

Janet Baker

CHANGE OF EMAILS

In preparation for new Forth Valley Circuit please find new e-mail addresses, this will supersede any that you may be using at present and will come into effect as of 1st September 2017.

Rev. Dr. Mark Jason

superintendent.fvcircuit@gmail.com

Mrs Louise McAspurren Administrator & PA to Superintendent

forthvalleycircuit@gmail.com

Rev. Hilda Warwick

warwickhilda@gmail.com

Forth Valley Circuit Office

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We are planning to hold a coffee morning in the church, on Saturday September 30th, 10 - 12.30, to raise money for the MacMillan charity, following the success of this event last year. Please support this if you can and bring others; we hope we can encourage people who may not usually attend church to join us for this event. There will not be tickets but there will be a chance to donate money. Donations of baking will also be gratefully received. For any further details, please see Julia H or Roger and Sarah.

Sarah Ridley



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Traidcraft Exchange
Kingsway, Gateshead, NE11 0NE, UK

T +44 (0)191 4910591
www.traidcraft.co.uk

14 July 2017

Mrs G Nunn
4 Ballengeich Road
Stirling
FK8 1TN

Dear Mrs Nunn

Thank you very much for your kind donation of £175.00, on behalf of Stirling Methodist Church, in response to Traidcraft Magazine and Annual Development review mailing. Thanks to your generous gift, we will continue to work with farmers and artisans in some of the worlds poorest communities, helping them to get more out of their hard work so they can take control of their own futures.

For people like Francis, the training provided by Traidcraft Exchange changes not just their own future, but those of their families. For Francis, training in terracing and water storage techniques have helped prevent the soil erosion that has destroyed his harvests.

This means that his crops can flourish, even in the harsh and dry climate of Northern Kenya. With the extra income he earns from selling a surplus, he can send his children to school and invest in his farm's future.

Thank you so much for your generous gift and your ongoing commitment. Your support means we can continue to work alongside more farmers and artisans throughout Africa and Asia, helping them to earn more, grow more, and enjoy a brighter future.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Smith

Karen Smith
Fundraising Administrator

START-UP STIRLING/FOOD BANK

The boxes will be out next Sunday. The most wanted goods this month are tinned fish, tinned vegetables (including tomatoes) and jars of sauce. With thanks for your continuing support.

Janet Baker