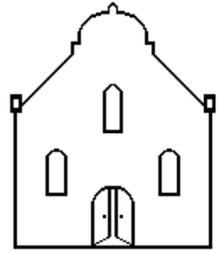




THE SOCIETY  
Stirling Methodist Church Newsletter  
October 15<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Issue 1291



[www.stirlingmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.stirlingmethodistchurch.org.uk)

Queen Street, Stirling, FK8 1HL

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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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10.30am **Morning Worship**

Our service today is led by Padre Stewart Young, Chaplin to 3 Rifles, Dreghorn Barracks.

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

Philippians 4: 1-9;

Matthew 22: 1-14;

*Continuous*

*Related*

Exodus 32: 1-14;

Isaiah 25: 1-9;

Psalms 106: 1-6, 19-23;

Psalms 23.

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**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct.**

**10.30am Morning Worship**

Service led by: Anne Lochhead

## ***A Pray from the Methodist Pray Handbook***

Living God, today we pray for the people of **Israel/Palestine**,  
That they may discover the courage and humility to build peace  
together and that they will seek a just path of reconciliation.

For our Muslim brothers and sisters in Israel/Palestine this day,  
we pray “*Assalamu Alaikum*”.

For our Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel/Palestine this day,  
we pray “*Shalom Aleichem*”.

For our Christian brothers and sisters in Israel/Palestine this day,  
we pray “The Peace of Christ”. **Amen**

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## ***ADVENT ART DISPLAY***

We have the opportunity of taking the Advent Art display we produced last year to our Armadale Church. This will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November. It will be shown at their pre-Christmas coffee morning and table top sale. The event will be between 10.00 & 12.30. Anyone willing to be present and speak to those attending will be most welcome.

Help is also required on the Friday afternoon to transport the display and set it up.

If you are able to help on either day please let me know.

This is an initiative of the Neighbourhood and World Mission Committee.

***Walter Attwood***

## ***MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING***

Many thanks to everyone who supported the coffee morning. Our final total was £508.43p which was a tremendous amount. It was lovely to see so many people in the church. Thanks again,

***from Julia, Sarah and Roger***

## ***BOOK GROUP / HOUSE GROUP***

Notice to anyone who is thinking of attending on Oct 23rd, please do come even if you have not read the book, as this group is intended to also offer a time of fellowship.

***Sarah Ridley***

## **GROUP UPDATE**

Ten people met together for lunch and discussion at the home of Christine and Jim last Tuesday, as part of Queen Street's autumn programme of groups and 3F.

The Group arranged to meet again on November 7th at the home of Sue and David Egerton and then again on December 5th. More details about these two dates will be in The Society beforehand, but in the meantime, please feel free to speak to Christine or Jim about the Group and its plans.

***C & J, on behalf of the Group***

## **Open Meeting of the Worship Consultation**

All are invited to come to the meeting of the Worship Consultation on Wednesday 18th October when the main topic will be a general discussion about worship in the church at Queen Street. The Junior Church Leaders have been invited to come with their views, and the views of the young people about providing worship which appeals to our youngsters.

## **Readers Please**

If possible, can you add your names to the "reader rota" in the vestibule. At this time, we are particularly in need for October and November.

***Jim Roberts***

## ***Newsletter content...***

The deadline is 6pm on a Thursday for inclusion on Sunday. Items on any subject you wish to share can be sent to me by post, by email, by phone (details in the church directory) or handed to me in person.

I may have to change this deadline to Wednesday evening but I will let you know.

**Roger and Julia**

## Lois' Report on "The Balfour Day" in Cathedral Hall, Dunblane

Balfour; justice and peace for Palestine and Israel

There will be talk about Balfour as we approach its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Balfour, was the agreement written by Lord Balfour that established Palestine as the national home for Jewish people in 1917. The British committed to using its best endeavours to facilitate this but also committed to saying they would not '*prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine*'. Clearly, given the current oppression of Palestinians we are a long way from this.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> September in Dunblane Cathedral Hall over 60 people met for the day to listen to talks and discuss the issue. The first speaker Maureen Jack spoke of her experience as an Educational Psychologist. Her focus was on what it was like to be a child in the West Bank. She reported that since 2000 in the region there have been 134 deaths of Israeli children caused by the conflict. On the Palestinian side there have been over 2000. All deaths of children are appalling but she felt it is difficult to take a 'balanced approach' because there is no balance in the situation. She then went on to describe the things you don't hear about; a school that was built in a Palestinian village that didn't have one, only for the Israeli authorities to demolish it the day before term began. The challenges for the Palestinian children going to school from being delayed at checkpoints, seeing and or being part of settler attacks, seeing or experience destructions of homes or farms so their ability to access education and learn when they get to school is at high risk of being compromised.

The day also spent time thinking about Israelis who see the injustice and at great personal cost to themselves bridge across and make connections to support Palestinians in these difficult situations,

Educating ourselves about the situation is important and we as Scottish Christians bear a particular responsibility as Lord Balfour was a Scot and strong Presbyterian. We were reminded throughout the day of the importance of walking alongside people who are facing injustice and oppression and the value of expressing solidarity with the region. Sabeel wave of prayer organises prayers on the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month <http://www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk/category/wave-of-prayer/>. But above all we need to remember there can be no peace without justice so on the Balfour anniversary there needs to be recognition and lamentation that the second part of the of the agreement has not been fulfilled.

The service on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October led by David Rogerson will be focusing on the issue and Ruth Cape will be contributing her first-hand experience of living on the West Bank.