

Quarterly Magazine of Fairfield Methodist Church- Autumn 09

# The Open Door

Fairfield Methodist Church  
in the Buxton Circuit.

Autumn EDITION 2009

Church Web Site: [www.fairfieldmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.fairfieldmethodistchurch.org.uk)

Service 10:30am each  
Sunday  
plus a monthly service with  
St Peter's here on the first  
Sunday and at St Peter's on  
the third Sunday of the  
month both at 6pm.



Rev J Colin Smith.  
01298 23556  
Email: [revjcs@aol.com](mailto:revjcs@aol.com)

.....  
Deacon Janet Heys  
01298 74329  
Email: [janetheys@btinternet.com](mailto:janetheys@btinternet.com)

Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing on our readers and our contributors to this magazine. May all our hearts be open to your holy, loving spirit.

May nothing we do or say here ever cause a stumbling block to others, but may all our thoughts, and words, and prayers, and actions, serve to build your kingdom here. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

## Word from the Editor.

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of our magazine. This is the time of year in the Methodist calendar when people come and go. Sadly going is our good friend Rev Richard Mottershead who is moving on to minister in Hulme. His time here has been short but he has made a real difference and we all wish him well.

Coming to Fairfield from London is Deacon Janet Heys who is working in Fairfield and especially around the estate. Good luck Janet and we hope your stay here will be long & happy.

*Russell*

E mail [secretary@fairfieldmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fairfieldmethodistchurch.org.uk)

Dear Friends

September mark's the beginning of the new Methodist church year, and for the church in Fairfield it's a very special time!

We have welcomed Karl Edwards as our new parish priest and now we have the joy of welcoming Deacon Janet Heys to Fairfield and the Buxton Circuit. We thank the Methodist church for giving us Janet as our deacon and providing part of the funding.

She faces great challenges and I know she will greatly value your friendship and support and I don't doubt that she will prove to be a good friend to Fairfield Methodist Church.

Yet, the main focus of Janet's ministry will be out in the community of Fairfield. She will be building on the work of Al Henry and Richard Mottershead - but with the enormous advantage of living in the midst of the community she is serving.

Can I ask you to pray for her day by day; to be interested in what she is doing; and - as far as you are able - to give her practical help and encouragement.

My hope is that, with Karl Edwards and our friends from St. Peter's, we can enable the Good News of God's love in Jesus and the new possibilities he offers individuals and communities to touch our life in Fairfield in a fresh way.

Over the coming months we will discover the ways in which we will need to change to respond to the new possibilities God is opening up to us as a church. So we go into the future not knowing what changes God will want of us but with this assurance - he will be with us as our Lord, our Guide and our Strength.

I invite you to join with Janet, Roger Mallard and myself, in venturing into the God-given challenges which await us.

Christ's peace and joy be with you all.      *Colin*

**Hello Everyone- Deacon Janet Heys**

Hello everyone. I have now arrived in Fairfield!!

I attended worship on Sunday with my mother and received a really warm welcome- "Thank You".

I am now taking a couple of weeks holiday to rest, adjust and settle into the area. I start to serve here on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

In the worship yesterday a wonderful prayer written by St Francis of Assisi was used. He was known for giving up all his possessions to follow his passion for Jesus by becoming poor for the poor. What an inspiration!!

Here I find myself in the midst of boxes of possessions trying to find a place for everything, thinking I need my computer, e mails and such before I can get going. Well I am not St Francis of Assisi; however, I do seek to pursue the Ministry that God has called me here to do. - Only by Grace.

In the love of Christ I'll see you all soon. *Janet*

**Farewell Service for Rev Richard Mottershead at Earl Sterndale.**

Those of us who were fortunate to be present at the evening service held at Earl Sterndale (and Fairfield was well represented) enjoyed the service to mark the end of Richard's time in our Circuit. The topic of the service was water and the weather certainly was appropriate. People from all over the circuit came as well as some people from Richard's old circuit at Romiley to fill the Church, which to me says how much Richard achieved in a relatively short time.

We at Fairfield will miss Richard and I know that he made a real impression with the wider community including the people at St Peter's where Richard helped out when they were without a vicar.

Thanks also to the folks of Earl Sterndale for hosting Richard's farewell and providing the excellent refreshments and to Colin for leading the service.

*The Teachings of the Rain God as told by the Masai People in Kenya and read during the service for Rev Richard at Earl Sterndale*

One day, many years ago, the elephant said to the Rain God:

- You should be very satisfied, for you managed to cover all earth in green; but what will happen if I tear off all the grass, all the trees and the bushes? No green will be left! Then what?

The Rain God answered him:

- If I stopped sending rain, no more green will grow, and you would have nothing to eat. What will happen then?

But the elephant wanted to challenge him, and began tearing off all the trees, the bushes and the grass with his trunk, to destroy all the green of the earth.

So, the Rain God, offended, made the rain stop, and deserts extended everywhere. The elephant was dying of thirst; he tried to dig where the rivers were, but couldn't find a drop of water. In the end, he praised the Rain God:

- Sir, I misbehaved. I was arrogant, and I repent. Please, forget it and let the rain come.

But the Rain God remained silent.

Days went by, and every day it was drier than the day before. The elephant sent the rooster to praise the Rain God for him. The rooster looked for him everywhere, and in the end he found him hidden by a cloud. He said who he was, and he prayed for rain with so much eloquence that the Rain God decided to send a little rain. The rain fell as the Rain God had promised the rooster, and it formed a little pool just in front of where the elephant lived.

That same day, the elephant went to the wood to eat and left the tortoise the duty of protecting the pool, with these words:

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- Tortoise, if somebody comes to drink here, you will tell them that this is my personal pool and that nobody can drink from here.

When the elephant left, many thirsty animals came to the pool, but the tortoise would not leave them drink, saying: - This water belongs to His Majesty the Elephant; you cannot drink it.

But when the lion came, he was not impressed from the words of the tortoise. He looked at her and told her to keep out, and began drinking water till his thirst was calmed. Then he left without saying anything else. When the elephant came back, very little water was left in the pool. The tortoise tried to defend herself:

Sir, I am just a little animal and the other animals have little respect for me. The lion came, and I just went out of the way. What could I do? After that, all animals drank freely.

Furious, the elephant raised the foot and stamped on the tortoise with the intention of crushing her. Fortunately, the tortoise is very strong and she managed to survive. But since then, the tortoise is a bit flat below. Suddenly all animals heard the voice of the Rain God which said:

- Don't do as the elephant did. Don't challenge those who are more powerful than you, don't destroy what you could need in the future, don't ask a feeble one to defend your property, and don't punish an innocent servant. But, more than all, don't be arrogant and don't try to own it all; let those who need it share your fortune.

**According to St Park- Mrs Pat Evans**

Latest from the USA-Skate Ministry and Ramp Camp, a movement to bring the Gospel to young skateboard enthusiasts. Take up is said to be "keen" and the kids are really "stoked" (excited) by the idea. Any takers from Fairfield Methodist Church I wonder.

*What colour is a London bus? Graham Kissack*

*In the beginning, God created... Genesis 1:1*

*The fool has said in his heart 'there is no God' Psalm 14:1*

What colour is a London bus? Its one of those questions with an obvious answer isn't it? It's very much like another question that often gets asked by our children.

Who made everything?

To some people the answer to that is not at all obvious. In fact, one group of people have such a problem with it that they have paid to have advertisements put onto the side of London busses that say "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life".

Actually I find it rather difficult to accept that the world around us came from nothing. To believe that everything around us just happened, and then somehow became astonishingly complex, organised and even beautiful, all from absolutely nothing happening, is quite puzzling. It just doesn't make sense.

God thinks so too. He told to us that He made everything. He was there, He should know. He also says that to not believe that He exists is very foolish indeed.

The answers to some questions are quite straightforward.  
London busses are red, and,

God created everything.

***Editor's note: If you regularly read this magazine Graham Kissack's name is familiar as a regular contributor. Graham & his wife Ann lived in South Africa until earlier this year. They have now moved into temporary accommodation in Sussex while looking to do God's work in the UK wherever that may take them.***

**Why God made Mums**

Answers given by 2nd year school children to the following questions:

**Why did God make mothers?**

1. She's the only one who knows where the sellotape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

**How did God make mothers?**

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mum just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

**What ingredients are mothers made of?**

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

**Why did God give you your mother and not some other mum?**

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's mum like me.

**What kind of a little girl was your mum?**

1. My mum has always been my mum and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

## What did mum need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least £8000 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

## Why did your mum marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mum eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that mum didn't have her thinking cap on.

## Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mum doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such an idiot.
2. Mum. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess mum is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

## Welcome Visitors Russell Baker

During the week end of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July our Church was the base of Blythe Bridge Methodist Church from Stoke on Trent when they had a week end away.

We were invited to share their worship with them on Sunday morning ,which had been planned during the week end. It was truly inspirational to join with them and share in a slightly different way the Love of our God.

The weather during their visit was appalling and I don't remember that it stopped raining during their three days here. Irrespective of that the folks visiting had a rewarding time and it was a real pleasure to see people of all ages joined together as God's people.

I hope we see them and their minister Rev Andrew Baker again and I hope that all they took back to Blythe Bridge were good memories and not cold & flu.

**Subject: Heard in Church**

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

.....  
"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

**Sabbatical Rev J Colin Smith**

The Methodist Church gives its ministers a very special gift of time, once every seven years, to enjoy a Sabbatical. Yes, we did enjoy it - all 33 of the different beds we slept in! Our journey around the Eastern Mediterranean made us aware that we live in a world where the past still has a profound effect upon the present.

The Christian churches of the east are very different from both the Catholic and Protestant churches of the west. From the earliest Christian centuries the Eastern Church has had its distinctive style of worship and beliefs. Go into any Orthodox Church and the screen with its icons, behind which stands the altar, makes the church look different from our western churches.

The church is proud of its ancient roots. Antioch and Alexandria, Jerusalem and Constantinople are the eastern centres of the church, going back to the time of the first apostles. The Patriarchs of the Coptic Church, the Syrian Orthodox, the Armenian Orthodox and the Greek Orthodox treat each other as equals.

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One soon realises that there is often a sadness, verging on bitterness, about their relationship with the western church. They remember that the western church has tried to convert the Orthodox into being catholic or protestant; that the west initiated the Crusades which have made their relationship with their Muslim rulers and fellow citizens so much more difficult; and that the failure of the Western church to support the Eastern church in its times of need has caused the eastern Christian great trouble.

They feel that the Armenian Holocaust in which over a million Armenian Orthodox Christians were killed has often been glossed over: that we have done too little to support the Palestinian Christians who became refugees when Israel was formed: that little thought was given to the consequences for the Christian community in Iraq before the West invaded that country.

As I write, in Iraq, the chaos caused by the invasion gave militants is still being used as an excuse to bomb churches and terrorise Christians, already causing about one million to leave the country so that only around 600,000 now remain.

As a result of our travels, when I think of the world-wide church today, I think not only of the churches with which I'm familiar but also those which have developed different styles or worship, patterns of life, and understanding of the faith. They are my sisters and brothers in Christ and I thank God for the privilege of sharing in a small part of their life and worship. Time and again Caroline and I were asked to remember the Eastern Church in our prayers - and we said we would do so. We now invite you to remember them with us.

Finally, a big "thank you" to you all for giving us the opportunity of meeting our fellow Christians in the Middle East and for being so encouraging as we left and welcoming as we returned.

*Colin*

**More questions and answers from year two**

**What's the difference between mums and dads?**

1. Mums work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.
2. Mums know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller and stronger, but mums have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friends.
4. Mums have magic; they make you feel better without medicine.

**What does your mum do in her spare time?**

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

**If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?**

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mum smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.
4. She could tell dad to shut up more often.

**Abiding Memories Mrs Pat Evans**

August 4th saw the 95th Anniversary of the start of the 'War to end wars' and the preceding few weeks the passing of its two last known British survivors, Henry Allingham and Harry Patch. Who could never have dreamed as he cradled a dying pal that his would be the last authentic voice from the battlefield, long after the politicians, poets and generals were consigned to history....

Sadly these two veterans lived to see many more go the way of their friends. Too many nights on the News, another too young face, son, brother, fiancé, husband, dad, with the occasional female soldier or high ranking officer, brings

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home the heartache behind all the poppies and the inscriptions on stone. We can pray for peace, but only for it to begin in ourselves.....

As long as there is greed and mistrust in the world, there will be a demand for front line soldiers. Even as we make protests or sign petitions, we have to acknowledge a debt to the young men and women who still sign up not knowing what the future will hold for them. Their prime motive is not to defend governments but to defend "us". We must never forget to honour that.

It is said that when Harry Patch was in France in old age to lay a wreath to the British War dead, he insisted on laying a second one for those who died on the German side. In the book *The Approaching Storm* by Nora Warn, I found the literal translation of a poem 'Mein Dorf, Ein Haus, Ein Lindenbaum'. written by an ordinary German soldier, A J Henke, who fell in 1917 and have attempted to put it back into its original verse. In a simple way it expresses a sentiment that transcends nationality:

A village, a house, a linden tree.  
Day after day I dream in vain  
Of flowers from my own dear plot-  
I wish I could be home again.

My heart near bursting at the sound  
Of mothers voice, a child's refrain,  
How distant now those boyhood days-  
I wish I could be home again.

As bells ring in the Sabbath clear  
In mind I trace the winding lane  
From here to where I long to be-  
I wish I could be home again.

Dear God, if you would close my eyes  
Upon this bloody field of pain,  
One glimpse of Heaven is all I ask-  
Then surely I'd be home again.

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*The Little Soldier or "Y Milwr Bychan" Eirawen Wilmot*

As a child in North Wales we sang this hymn very often in Sunday School. Written in Welsh it talks about a child learning to use a sword to fight for God. The tune is wonderful and the words awe inspiring.

I have tried for many years to find the hymn again but to no avail. However, it has now been found thanks to the work of Ann (Baker's) dad Roy his friend Geraint Lloyd and Geraint's friend who knew the hymn, found it and sent the words.

I can say it is one of the best presents I have had for a long time. When I got home from our "Pilgrim Group" I sang it and I'll bet ( well I would if I wasn't a good Methodist) my neighbours wondered what on earth was going on. Thanks to all who helped me to find it especially Roy & Geraint even though they both live in South Wales.

Diolch yn fawr iawn

*Editor's note: I don't usually print words I don't understand but in Eirawen's case I'll make an exception, but please no more singing!!*

*A Primary School teacher presented each child in her classroom the 1st half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. While reading, keep in mind that these are 6-year-olds.*

Q.Don't change horses  
A.until they stop running.

Q.Strike while the  
A.wasp is close.

Q.It's always darkest before  
A.Daylight Saving Time..

Q.Never underestimate the power of  
A.termites.

Q.You can lead a horse to water but  
A.How?

Q.Don't bite the hand that  
A.looks dirty.

Q.No news is

A.impossible

Q.A miss is as good as a

A.Mr.

Q.You can't teach an old dog new

A.Maths

Q.If you lie down with dogs, you'll

A.stink in the morning.

### *Church Letting- Russell*

To raise funds for our Church we are happy to hire out our Church premises to organisations or individuals for appropriate uses.

During the last few months we have had a few organisations who have found our web site on the world wide web and have been happy to use our premises and pay a reasonable amount for this.

I would like to thank Joan & Alison Bletcher, Joan Bramwell & Lesley from Wesley (House) for their support in opening or locking our Church after use.

If there is anybody you know who may like to use our Church for meetings etc please contact me.

### *Tuesday Club- Audrey Evans*

Our Annual General meeting was held in May preceded by a fish & chip supper. The business part of the meeting included a discussion on how often with our small numbers we should meet. It was decided the autumn session which begins on 9<sup>th</sup> September being the second Tuesday in the month will continue monthly until Christmas.

We will have our usual stall at the Church Fair and would appreciate small gifts and contributions for this.

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We remembered our special member Edith Stanton who is very sadly missed and we continue to remember all she did for our Church.

Good wishes to all our members and I hope they all enjoy the summer break.

**Pilgrim Group- Eirawen Wilmot.**

Rev Richard Mottershead was the speaker at our August meeting on the subject of "My friend Elton John". The meeting was well attended, and included a couple visiting from the Gilbert & Sullivan Week taking place in the town.

Richard told us in a way that we can see Elton in a different light. Thank you Richard for a wonderful evening full of fun to hear about "the man" and his music. I knew very little about him and thanks to you I now know a little more.

Our Pilgrim Group program to the end of the year is:

October 2nd John Morten,      November 5th Rev Colin Smith  
December 3rd Christmas Dinner

**Christmas Greetings-Ann Baker**

Some members of our congregation do not send individual Christmas cards to other friends at Church. I wondered if we might all consider doing that this year and instead have a short message put in our next December Church Magazine. It might also be that some already make a donation in lieu to a charity of their choice instead of sending cards and if so that's fine we are still more than happy for them to put a message in our magazine.

If anyone would like to put a message in please contact Russell before 10<sup>th</sup> November. If you would like to make a contribution to a good cause but are not sure which charity to donate to why not consider "Action for Children" formerly National Children's Home which is a children's charity that supports and speaks out for the UK's most vulnerable children and young people. Eirawen would be pleased to tell you more about their work and accept any donations for them and if you can "Gift Aid" all the better.

Thank you

This last year has flown past and looking back it has been both a *long time* and a *short time*.

I guess the '*long time*' comment refers to the fact that I felt very settled from the start and that now I have to leave, it feels like I've been with you a long time! This is in part due to your warmth and hospitality, which from the very first has been genuine and gratefully appreciated.

As regards the '*short time*', I feel that I was just getting to grips with things - and now I am moving on. So in that respect I feel like I haven't achieved much and there is lots to do, of which there always is.

The strange thing is, whilst I am getting ready to spend a year in Hulme, Rev. Colin has kept me on the plan for a little while (well, for the next one anyway) so I shall be around a little, but as a visiting preacher.

As I am looking back over the year, I realize I have gained far more than I have probably given and as such am in your debt. To have a role within the community is a gift from the Buxton Circuit and I know that when Janet gets settled in she will count the blessings too. I am so pleased Janet is going to live in the community, dedicated to God's work and my prayer is that she will lay those deep roots of practical love and grace in the community.

I will always be thankful of my year's part time love affair with Fairfield and Buxton. I have made many friends that have made the cold highway from Stockport to Buxton a trip with heavy traffic I have been very happy to make. In writing this short note I want to say **thank you**, and I purposefully omit all names because I am bound to miss someone's off! I have felt blessed and please continue to bless others as you continue the work of His Kingdom. So it's not goodbye from me, but au revoir - and I'm now going for a stroll with Chloe (our dog).

Thank you - God Bless-Grace  
and Peace, Rev *Richard*

PS I have included 10 Elton John songs in the last paragraph -Candle in the Wind is not one of them!!  
- Keep Smiling

**FUTURE EVENTS**

*7:30pm Thursday 3rd September a service to celebrate the appointment of Deacon Janet Heys will be held here. Preacher Rev Dr Keith Davies- Chair of District*

*8th September 6pm at this Church. United Evening Service for new Church year.*

*Harvest Festival 2009 27<sup>th</sup> September. Preacher at 10:30am is Rev Bob Davies & at 6pm Deacon Janet Heys. Harvest Tea is 4:45pm.*

*Our Church Council -7pm Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 09. Anyone connected with the Church is welcome to come.*

*Autumn Fair 14<sup>th</sup> November 09*

**ALL WELCOME**



**PRAYER CENTRE**

Remember all who need your prayers throughout the world as well as locally.

All articles in this magazine represent the views of the writer and not necessarily the views of Fairfield Methodist Church.

*Items for next edition by 10<sup>th</sup> November 09 at latest please.*