

Quarterly Magazine of Fairfield Methodist Church- Spring 08

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.

Deacon Al Henry
07951 894739

The Open Door

Fairfield Methodist Church
in the Buxton Circuit.

Church Web Site www.fairfieldmethodistchurch.org.uk

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.

Things in the garden are starting to grow; some flowers are daring to put their heads up, could it be that Spring is here?

Time will tell but never the less we are having some lovely days and are seeing the sun in the sky brightening up our days.

I hope this magazine brings a little bit of brightness into your home as we hear of the many positive things which are happening around us.

Thanks to all who contributed to this magazine.

Russell E mail secretary@fairfieldmethodistchurch.org.uk

Message from Colin our Minister

Dear Friends,

It's over 25 years since the film "Chariots of Fire" told the story of Eric Liddell, the young Scottish athlete. He won the 400 metres at the 1924 Olympics but out of his Christian principle, his way of honouring God, he refused to run the 100 metres in the Sunday heats. The film ended there - but what followed deserved a second film.

Eric Liddell returned to Scotland a national hero. Shortly afterwards he left Edinburgh to serve in China, first as a missionary teacher and then as a minister. It was unglamorous work for a sporting hero! As China became mired in the chaos of competing armies, he risked his life to serve the small Christian communities in a remote area. Finally, after the Japanese invasion, he was interned with other Europeans.

In the Japanese concentration camp he gave himself unstintingly to care for those in need, led worship on Sunday, and even organised Sunday games for the bored and disgruntled youngsters. Amidst the bickering of his fellow internees he quietly got on with the business of serving Christ. He had an opportunity to leave but let a young pregnant woman depart in his place. In 1945 he died from exhaustion and privation.

Eric Liddell's story is one of glory and suffering, suffering and glory, following in the steps of his Master. Just as Jesus was hailed as "Messiah" but set out on the road to Jerusalem, suffering and death, so Eric Liddell left behind the praise and adulation of the crowds and set out on the journey he believed God required of him.

In Lent we walk with Jesus on the way that leads to his suffering and death. It is a time to read and reflect on his life, to listen carefully to his words and watch how this Spirit-filled man lives and dies. The witness of Eric Liddell's faithfulness to God begs the question of what it means for us to

Quarterly Magazine of Fairfield Methodist Church- Spring 08

live for God and for others; to give ourselves to prayer and worship; to participate in the mission of Christ's church; to have some small part in creating a caring community; and to be caught up in the wider causes and concerns of this world.

We thank God for all those people whose character has borne the imprint of Christ's self-giving love. This Lent we humbly ask that we may so walk with Christ that the stamp of his self-giving love may be upon our lives, too.

With warm greetings,

Colin

BRIDGING THE GAP. Edith Stanton

I have just been to a five hour seminar on this subject, where a very experienced leader illustrated the great present day need for outreach, the difficulties involved and the ways in which it could be achieved.

I feel unable to give a comprehensive account: it would take a younger mind and memory to grasp the possibilities put forward. There are leaflets in the church porch giving details of the topics raised and dealt with.

To offer practical service strengthening/supporting the gospel message is an obvious way. I remember reading about Dr. Albert Schweitzer, a musician, after feeling called to mission service, studied medicine before going out to spread the gospel news in order that he might give practical help at the same time.

But we are thinking about present day outreach.. Hospitality comes to mind. Jesus took his message 'out to tea' and was accused by his detractors of wining and dining with sinners.

Brian Rice who so ably led the seminar, had experience in various fields, some years as a nurse, a stand-up comedian using humour to put across the Gospel message, A Salvation Army officer and now a school teacher of

Quarterly Magazine of Fairfield Methodist Church- Spring 08
religious education.

Once again Roger Mallard had organised the event providing facilities and refreshments, remembering all our needs.

Thank you, Roger and Brian for a very useful session.

Funnies

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray:

"Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Christmas at Sea- Eirawen Wilmot

During my cruise to the Hawaii I enjoyed the Christmas Day service on board ship - about 60 of us were present. On the Sunday I attended a service in the Church of the Chimes. The service was heralded by a fanfare of trumpets and we all joined in the carol "It came upon a midnight clear". The minister was a woman dressed in gold and red. Her service was very appropriate and she welcomed all visitors with a Hawaiian greeting - (don't ask me what it was)

Christmas was a wonderful time on board ship as we had 150 children - which of course makes Christmas a joyful day. I met many people of all nationalities and we shared a good time together.

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE BIBLE. Edith Stanton

Some years ago at a Methodist Conference, our own John Taylor expressed the opinion that further useful chapters could be added to the bible by contemporary Christians. He suggested that their experiences of God would be just as valid as those of the old biblical writers.

Quarterly Magazine of Fairfield Methodist Church- Spring 08

John asked us for suggestions of whom we might nominate; of course mine was Leslie Weatherhead. I also thought of Hugo Gryn, who used to speak about God's presence in his talks on "Thought for the day" on radio. Since that time I have found inspiration from the writings of modern day Christians and wished that they were better known. People who have kept their faith through years in prison camps, e.g. Hugo Gryn, Nelson Mandela, Corrie ten boom. These and others have shared their experiences of God's presence but have not become widely recognised as they would be if included as up to date chapters of the Holy Bible.

Funnies

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

A HAPPY EVENT. Edith Stanton

On Saturday 15th December, 38 children enjoyed a "Fun Day" in our church, thanks to the untiring efforts of Roger, our Circuit worker with children and young people. From 8am onwards Roger carried equipment from his car and, joined by Eirawen, set up tables round the schoolroom holding pictures and puzzles and quizzes and materials for handicrafts.

The event was from 10am to 4pm and help was provided from time to time by our own Pat, Eirawen, Joyce, Audrey and Ray, Al, and three volunteers from the Buxton Church. The children made calendars, played games, sang, solved puzzles, and watched two films - ("Toy Saves Christmas"), all with a Christian theme.

It was indeed a truly happy day. I watched from my window as they skipped

Quarterly Magazine of Fairfield Methodist Church- Spring 08

off home, each bearing the gift of an Advent calendar. Subsequently a letter arrived from one of the "Jacks" - "To all at Fairfield Methodist Church Thank you all for a lovely day. I had a really nice time and I do appreciate all the hard work you did; thank you. Love, Jack Harrison."

No charge was made but parents showed their gratitude by donating generously towards the expenses incurred.

We do care about our neighbourhood children, and hope that the Christian message of loving and sharing and giving will remain with them.

Funnies

An infant teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Good News Item

We are happy to report that the much prayed for, much premature, baby Isabel who weighed 3lbs at birth, is now thriving and currently weighs 8lbs 5ozs. We can join her great grandparents Maureen and David (Mickleburgh) in rejoicing and giving thanks for this new life.

TUESDAY CLUB. Audrey Evans.

We ended our autumn meetings with a lovely Christmas lunch at Fairfield's Devonshire Arms. The food was excellent and we were served by staff who made us all feel happy and well fed.

Our Winter/Spring session began on 5th February when our speaker was the Rev. Colin Smith. We have some speakers booked for meetings later on. All ladies are invited to come to any of our get-togethers and will be warmly

welcomed.

Arriving Right on Cue- Audrey Evans

Our morning service on 27th January was not without its problems. Al Henry was to be our preacher but due to various transport problems was not able to get to church until 10.50.a.m. The order of service was already prepared for us and Eirawen was asked to start it off with hymns, prayers and lessons.

All went well but by 10.55. No minister had arrived. However, Eirawen carried on and announced we would sing "I the Lord of sea and sky" and we started the first verse. I was the organist that day, and as you all know, I sit with my back to the congregation. The singing went through the verse and we were ready for the Chorus. As we began I nearly had a fit of the giggles as a strong velvety voice sang out "Here I am, Lord, Is it I Lord?" Unknown to me, and right on cue, Al Henry had come into the service. He couldn't have come at a better time!

We really enjoyed our time with him and look forward to more services during his time in our Circuit.

Funnies

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds ...

After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Thought for the Day- Edith Stanton

At a recent meeting of our Tuesday Club, Colin surprised us by telling that he had once been a regular contributor on Yorkshire Radio's "Thought for the day". (A very regular contributor- 100 times!).

Quarterly Magazine of Fairfield Methodist Church- Spring 08

Unlike our three minute contributions on Radio 4, Colin's were confined to 90 seconds (270 words). How did he manage that: to introduce a topical subject each day with a sentence that would grab the listeners' immediate attention, follow it through, making his point concisely, and then revise and summarise it into 270 words without missing the point? Much preparation needed the night before!

Colin entertained us by reading some of the results of his labours, thought provoking as was intended, and much appreciated. Thank you, Colin.

Welcome & Farewell Edith Stanton

For a brief time we had a newcomer at our morning services. Olive Allister had previously belonged to the U.R.C, but had recently moved into our adjoining flats. It was good to have her cheerful presence in our midst and at the flats, where she immediately offered her help in the communal kitchen on weekly luncheon days.

Dear Olive enjoyed her first attendance at the mid week Fellowship meeting when Colin was the speaker, telling us the history of the Methodic Circuit. Just before we were to introduce her to the Tuesday Club, Olive became critically ill and was taken to Stepping Hill hospital, where Colin visited her. Sadly, she died within a day or two. Our hearts go out to her daughters and family, bearing this sudden loss of their dear mother. Although she was "one of us" for such a short time, we feel her loss, having looked forward to her company at our services and Fellowship meetings.

Funnies

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture.

"Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.'

Quarterly Magazine of Fairfield Methodist Church- Spring 08

A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, she's dead."

Giving to the Church by Gift Aid- Norman E Brittain

As most of you know the Government has been paying us 28p for every £1 donated under the Gift Aid Scheme, and over the last six years we have benefited by £5,044. Last year we received £873.

However, from the 6th. April this year the Government is to tax us (and all other Charities) at the rate of 3p for every £1 donated under the Gift Aid Scheme. In other words, they are reducing the amount of Gift Aid from 28p for each £1 to 25p.

As every penny counts I am appealing to anyone who pays Income Tax and does not Gift Aid their donations to think about joining the Scheme. All you have to do is complete a Declaration Form to say that as a Tax Payer you want the Church to claim Gift Aid on all your collections and donations.

As Secretary for the Gift Aid Scheme I will keep a note of all your gifts, and then after the 5th. April each year make a claim for the 25p per £ 1 from the Taxman.

If you are willing to join, please, let me know and I will make all the arrangements.

Thank you, I will look forward to hearing from you.

A poem by Margaret Crawshaw shared by Audrey Evans

Where are you God, when things go wrong
And life's turned inside out
When evil triumphs over good
And faith gives way to doubt

When bombs explode in deafening roar

Without a warning peal,
And all that's left are broken lives
And shards of twisted steel?
When children's trust is trampled dead
And innocence abused,
And parents' grief is all that's left
To make the evening news?

When cancer stretches out its hand
To claim another life,
And robs a loving family
Of father, child or wife?

Could you not stop such waste of life?
Where is your promised aid?
It seems your love, or power, has failed
To save the world you made.

And yet we know your home is here
Not distant realms above.
Weakness and vulnerability
Must show the world your love.

And so, although your aching heart
Is seared with human pain,
Your wounded hands uphold us still -
And offer life again.

Margaret Crawshaw 2002

View from South Africa

Both Eirawen & Ann & I met Brian Kissack when we visited South Africa some years ago. Since then Brian has been to visit us and keeps in touch by

Quarterly Magazine of Fairfield Methodist Church- Spring 08

reading our on line version of the Church magazine. I thought you might be interested in his latest thoughts.

Hi Russ

Thanks for that (*winter edition of our magazine*) and yes, please keep me on your mailing list. I do enjoy reading what is happening with Fairfield MC. I also do pray for the Church community, and in particular I have been asking for some new people to join the Church and increase the numbers. So I do hope the Lord is being active.

I have been very busy of late. At work I am managing a large project using new technologies and the whole thing is going to expand in the near future, so my work load will not decrease in the foreseeable future. But I must say that it is all very interesting, so I am enjoying what is happening at the moment.

As you may recall I preach out at a Church in a place called Montagu. I have been going there once a month for about 14 years or so. (Its just over 100 miles from here). This weekend we are having a mini-conference, this year with the annual Church lunch and I have been asked to speak on the Wesley's (this being the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles). So we are looking forward to Saturday as 60 people have booked to come.

Ann (*Brian's wife*) is well, also very busy with her accounting business, but we are both well. Nothing has been finalised but we are beginning to think of a trip over to UK in the latter part of next year, possibly September or so. A lot depends on how all my projects go as we have the World Cup Soccer here in 2010 and we have a lot of input into the preparations.

Funnies

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face."

"Yes," the class said.

"Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?"

A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."

Ruth Clayton

As we go to press we hear of the sad death of one of our respected Church members Ruth Clayton. Ruth who lived in Queens Court will be missed by all who knew her.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUXTON. Audrey Getliffe

We have started the year with a well-attended Service of Prayer for Christian Unity at Burbage Church. The Reverend John Hughton and his team arranged a service which covered different styles of worship, and made everyone feel included. The readers, and leaders of prayer, chosen from various churches, helped bring us into God's presence together.

A leaflet has been prepared covering events during Lent and beyond. Some details of the events can be seen below

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Churches Together in Buxton

Lent Services conclude at St Anne's, Bath Road from 7pm

5th March "An Evening of Taize"

12th March "A meditation on the Stations of the Cross"

Thursday March 13th Riding Lights Theatre Company at St John's Church at 7:30pm present "Redemption Song". Tickets £6 and £7 from Colin Smith.

16th March Palm Sunday 7:30pm St John's Church Buxton Musical Society present "St John Passion" by J S Bach

Good Friday 21st March

9:30am Children's Event & Service at St John's Church . 11:30am Hot Cross Buns and Walk of Witness. Further details on the Church notice board.

8pm Buxton Methodist Church at 8pm " Rutter Requiem" Churches Together Choir

Holy Saturday 22nd March

10am to 12:30pm at Buxton Methodist Church- Family Morning

April 23rd Unity Supper at Buxton Methodist Church. More 01298 78394.

Knitting for premature babies-Ann Baker

It seems appropriate having announced the safe arrival of baby Isabel who weighed 3lbs at birth to remind you that for many years we has been co-ordinating the knitting of garments for those little people. One lady alone has knitted over 1000 sets (yes a thousand). Most of what I get goes to St Mary's Specialist Baby Unit in Manchester where Jean Bent, formerly Jean Brittain works, but hospitals all over the world have welcomed them. My patterns can be found on the website at www.andycrafts.co.uk but if you haven't got access to a computer but would like to knit just contact me. In the meantime here is a cardigan pattern you might like to try. The instructions are for 4ply yarn. Instructions for DK yarn are in brackets.

Back. Using size 12(10) needles, cast on 40(32) sts.

Work 6(4) rows K1 P1 rib.

Change to size 10(8) needles and work in stocking stitch for 48(38) rows.

Cast off.

Fronts. Using size 12(10) needles, cast on 20(16) sts.

Work rib as back.

Change to size 10(8) needles.

Work 22(18) rows st. st..

Dec at front edge on the next row.

Work 3 rows st.st..

Repeat the last 4 rows to 14(11) sts.

Cast off.

Quarterly Magazine of Fairfield Methodist Church- Spring 08

Sleeves.

Using size 12(10) needles, cast on 26(22) sts..

Work rib as back.

Change to size 10(8) needles and st.st.

Increase at both ends of 5th and every following 4th row to 40(32)sts.

Work to row 32(24).

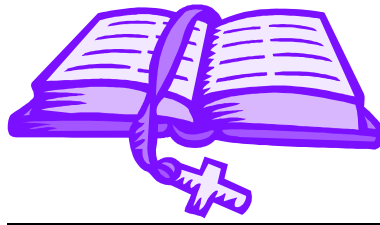
Cast off.

Making up and front band.

Join shoulder seams. Place a shoulder seam to centre of the top of each sleeve. Attach sleeve. Join side and sleeve seam in one.

Mark positions for 3 buttons on front edge.

Using size 12(10) needles cast on 7(5) sts. Work in K1 P1 rib until the band is long enough to fit all round the front of the cardigan, making buttonholes to correspond with the positions marked for the buttons. Attach band and buttons.



Prayer Centre

Remember in your prayers all those who are ill including: Members of our Church Family.

The family of Ruth Clayton.

Rev Jonathan Cooper

Items for the next edition of this magazine can be sent either typed or in written form. If in written form can they please be sent to:

Mrs Edith Stanton by no later than 4th May 08.

The preferred format is by e mail to

secretary@fairfieldmethodistchurch.org.uk

By no later than 7th May 08.

All articles represent the view of the writer and not necessarily the view of Fairfield Methodist Church, Fairfield Road, Buxton SK17.7DU