

## Focus on mission @ Central

At Central Church in Torquay we have spent some months looking at our way forward and we are bringing in some new ways of helping us focus on our core purpose. Our mission statement, which we have had for some years, says that our mission is:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- To nurture all believers, whether new or longstanding.
- To respond to human need by loving service.
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society.
- To sustain and renew the life of the earth.

This is all well and good, but how do we make all these things a reality rather than an aspiration? This is a question we have been asking ourselves!

As part of answering that question, one thing we have decided to do is spend time as a church community focusing on each of those five mission elements: from September, we will take each aspect of our mission as our theme for the church for two months.

In September and October, we will be asking ourselves questions about what we mean and what our role is when we say we are here to 'sustain and renew the life of the earth'. Some of our services will pick up this theme, and our house groups and study groups will also be looking at the issue using a study guide called *Hope in God's future: Christian discipleship in the context of climate change*.

We intend to go beyond thinking about this issue – and, in turn, about the other parts of our mission – and to ask ourselves not just what we *can* do, but what we *intend* to do.

As part of this project we are also starting a monthly 'Café Church' in our evening service. This is going to be a time when we can focus on our theme in a more informal way, using conversation and reflection as a way of drawing new people into our conversations about mission. Our first café service is on Sunday 17th September, and we have invited David Curry from the Christian ecology organisation *A Rocha UK* to speak to us. We are publicising this widely, and we hope this will be of interest to people who are concerned about these issues, even if they are not enthusiastic about traditional church services. We warmly invite you to join us if you would like to, and to help us spread the word!

Café Church will be happening in the evening on the third Sunday of each month as part of our pragmatic and hopeful focus on mission.

We have also recently completed the *Mission Shaped Introduction* course. Jo Simpson, the District Evangelism Enabler, led about fifteen of us through a process of thinking differently about mission, and helped us to generate some real enthusiasm for this dimension of Church. We enjoyed the experience, as well as being challenged by it, and we are now hoping to grow some new initiatives engaging with the elderly and isolated in the communities around us. Watch this space!

1 Thessalonians 5:11 – 'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.'

Revd Jon Doble  
Minister, Central Church Torquay



**CAFÉ CHURCH@CENTRAL**  
Sunday 17th September 6.30pm  
**"What on Earth are we doing?"**  
"There are four major environmental crises faced today; Massive reduction in biodiversity, Climate Change, Pollution and soil erosion. There's no Big Plan to save our planet so what are **you** going to do?"

Join us for an informal and relaxed time of conversation and reflection. Share ideas and find time to think and reflect on important issues. All welcome or for more information, phone Jon Doble on 01803 615480.

Find us at:  
Central Church  
TOR HILL ROAD  
TORQUAY TQ2 5RN

Our speaker for the session is David Curry from A Rocha UK.



The Methodist Church

# CONNECTED

Newsletter of the Torbay Methodist Circuit—Issue 4: September 2017

**"Many parts form one body" (1 Cor. 12:12)**

## Stand by me

When I was a teenager, I used to despair that older people would think a pop song that was more than five years old was somehow 'cutting edge' and relevant for conversation with young people. Now I often find myself doing the same, with the excuse that in my teens there was really no such thing as the 'pop classic' but there certainly is now.

In 1999 BMI (Broadcast Music Incorporated) announced the Top 100 Songs of the Century, listing the most played songs on American radio and television. At number 4 was 'Stand by me', a song that had attained more than 7 million airplays and been performed, among others, by Ben E. King and John Lennon. But what a lot of people don't know is that the second verse is inspired by Psalm 46 (verse 2).

*If the sky that we look upon  
Should tumble and fall  
Or the mountain should crumble to the sea  
I won't cry, I won't cry  
No, I won't shed a tear  
Just as long as you stand  
Stand by me.*



Psalm 46 has inspired generations of people, probably none more so than Martin Luther, whose writings, particularly his *95 Theses* which he nailed to door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg (the church door serving rather in the same way that a public notice

board would today), and which triggered the Reformation. The world of 16<sup>th</sup> century Europe was significantly different from the modern world of 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain but some important questions remain the same:

Is there a God?

How can we know God?

How can we be right with God?

About 50 years before Martin Luther, the development of the printing press had made it far easier for books and papers to be widely publicised. It had also enabled the much wider distribution of the Bible.

The Bible addresses the three important questions above. I don't expect it comes as a great surprise that the Bible teaches that there is a God. However, it also says that he can be known not just indirectly through creation but personally. God has not simply made himself known through prophets, at many times and in various ways, but has supremely made himself known through his Son, Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus Christ that we can be made right with God.

By reading the Bible, Martin Luther discovered that believers are made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God who loved us and died for us. It is in a personal relationship of trust that we believe that whatever happens, he stands by us – 'A safe stronghold our God is still'.

The 500th anniversary of the *95 Theses* and the start of the Reformation will be celebrated on 31st October 2017.

Revd John Haley  
Superintendent Minister

## Tunes for charity



Sharon Hubbocks (right) and Joy Rendell

This was the fifth year of Summer Lunchtime Concerts throughout July at Brixham Methodist Church. They have become a tradition, and it's lovely to have people from all over the bay joining holiday makers for a most enjoyable hour of music! This year's varied programme included a harpist, a soprano, a violinist accompanied by an accordion player, and for the final week we welcomed The Big Noise Chorus! Each performer nominated a charity for the retiring collection and over £1,000 was raised!

Free coffee was served before each concert – and this year for the first time there was a light lunch after the concert to enable the audience to meet the performers. This was a great success!

If you missed the concerts this year, please make sure you come along next year. It's a lovely way to spend a summer lunchtime, and you will be guaranteed a real treat!

Kathryn Trotman  
Brixham Methodist Church

Please send good news stories of worship, fellowship, mission and evangelism to Torbay Methodist Circuit Office by no later than 10th November to be considered for inclusion in the next issue of *Connected*.

Torbay Methodist Circuit Office, Goodrington Methodist Church, Grange Road, Paignton TQ4 7JT  
01803 846020      tmcoffice@torbaymethodistcircuit.onmicrosoft.com  
Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday 10.00am–1.30pm

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Early in July, we welcomed Plymouth & Exeter District Secretary David Clitheroe to the circuit for the day.

David says:

'For the last year, I have been the District Synod Secretary and in this role, I work alongside the District Chair Revd Graham Thompson and the other members of the District Policy Committee. I live at the Somerset end of the Blackdown Hills and am a member of Temple Church in Taunton. Torbay is not an area I know well, so I want to say thank you to everyone in the Torbay Circuit who was involved in the day early in July when Revd John Haley took me round the Circuit. I am a picture thinker, so to see all the churches and chapels and meet folk from each church community was hugely helpful in having a better understanding of this part of the District.



'I found Torbay Circuit has a wide variety of churches reflecting the joys and concerns of the communities each serves. I also found how varied those communities are. It was a day full of conversations and explanations; of plans and some anxieties. In all my conversations the concern that appears in this edition of *Connected* and in the earlier editions I have read shared the same theme, "What does following Jesus mean here?" It is a conversation I share in in my own church and in my work in the District. It is a conversation that is now enriched by my day with John and those I met in the Torbay Circuit. Thank you so much.'

We have always enjoyed your Sunday evening services. All services and opportunities to thank God for His goodness and help to build up our own relationship with Him are blessings, which we have found with your Praise Worship on Sunday evenings. The talented musicians, speakers and prayers all add to the enjoyment of your special service.

Trying to fill gaps and make music relevant to a diversity of people are much the same in our own Circuit. Reading through your magazine, we can see you are tackling the same issues regarding worship and fellowship, particularly young people's work.

We have booked to stay in Paignton at the end of October, so will look forward to seeing you all at Goodrington then.

We will be celebrating our Golden Wedding Anniversary on July 1<sup>st</sup> and we are looking forward to celebrating this very special day with our family.

Many greetings from us to you all. Take care and God bless.



Dave and Margaret Wilson

Dave and Margaret Wilson are members of Chingford Methodist Church in Essex, and regular visitors to evening services in Paignton

## Do you love art and Jesus?

The Pen and Camera club has existed for over 100 years and is both a photography club and an art club.



We have over 100 members from Cornwall to Scotland, and as a dispersed group we circulate work by post and e-mail. We organise ourselves into groups (or 'folios') which are both competitive and non-competitive, covering art (painting and drawing), colour prints, mono prints, slides, digital manipulation and digital projected images.



This picture was taken interpreting a line of a hymn: *Jesus the Lord said "I am the bread"*. However, the work can be on absolutely any subject, and part of the enjoyment of belonging is to see all the varied ideas.

Each year we meet together at the beautiful Christian Guild hotel at Willersley Castle in Derbyshire, and we also have an annual Southern Reunion nearer to the South West, but attendance is optional. It is extremely rewarding to meet other members, and enjoy worship, prayers, Christian fellowship and friendship with them, as well as discussing mutual hobbies.

If you take pleasure in any of these forms of art, why keep your results to yourself? Don't worry about the process of circulating the entries, this will be explained fully and it is not difficult.

Membership is open to anybody, of any level of ability, who is prepared to worship in the Methodist tradition, so if you are interested in art or photography, why not join in our wonderful Fellowship? The annual subscription is only £7.



Further information can be obtained from the club's website ([www.penandcamera.org.uk](http://www.penandcamera.org.uk)) or from John or Maddy Jeffery (01803 550234, [mway@talktalk.net](mailto:mway@talktalk.net)) at Goodrington Methodist Church, or from Alex Robinson (01189 874049, [alex@robins.plus.com](mailto:alex@robins.plus.com)).

Maddy Jeffery

Maddy Jeffery is a member at Goodrington Methodist Church

## Greetings from our Korean friends

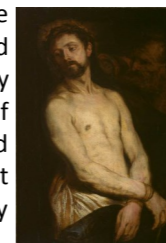
In the first edition of *Connected*, we included greetings from two of the Korean students who shared in worship with us at Palace Avenue and Goodrington Methodist Churches while they were at a language school in Paignton last year. Jaewon (Joanna) and Min-yung (Sophia) were both in touch in July to tell us about what they've been doing since then.

Jaewon writes:



'Hello! I'm so happy to say hi to you again! I'm still in London, and just finished exams. I've got a conditional offer from King's College, but the condition is too high for me. But the thing is I did my best and do not regret the time even [though] I feel I cannot reach the conditional score and cannot enter the university in the UK. My visa expires on 30th August so I'm preparing to go back to Korea.

'After the exams, in fact during the whole period, I struggled. I went to the Courtauld gallery and met this painting, *Ecce Homo* by Anthony van Dyck, which has so sad eyes of Jesus avoiding my gaze. The eyes said something like, "I'm giving you the best things every time, but are you following my way, the cross?"



'I know my Lord is leading me the best way and what I have to do is just follow that way. But sometimes it's hard to

## Tea and cake, and prayer

For six Sundays in July and August at Palace Avenue, successive preachers took up the challenge of preaching on a specific parable of Jesus, and six windows were decorated to depict the parables chosen.

We had some very good, thought-provoking sermons, which were well received by the congregation.



During this period cream teas were served on six Thursday afternoons, which gave everyone who came the opportunity of looking at the windows and having a quiet time at one of the prayer stations. The scones, jam and cream were thoroughly enjoyed by those who came, and we hope the prayer stations were appreciated as much as the teas!

This is the third year we have followed a theme and we hope to do something similar next year. Thank you to all who came and supported the event.

Kath Lister

Kath Lister is Senior Steward at Palace Avenue Methodist Church

follow, as you know. Now I feel better about my situation, but I still have anxiety for my near future.

'I went to a Korean church, God's Vision Church in Oxford Circus, which is the biggest Korean church in the UK, [and then] moved to another Korean Church near Russel Square. Those are quite nice because of the Korean style service with Koreans. I could feel I am not alone, and made many Korean friends who can talk about Jesus.'

Min-yung writes:

'Hello. How are you? It's already been a year! Time goes by so fast. I really miss you. When I was in Paignton, it was the happiest [time] in my life.'



'I decided to teach Korean language abroad. An institute accepted me in November 2016. I wanted to go to UK or UAE, however they sent me to Tajikistan. Actually, I think God sent me here. I trust him because he always has the best plan for me.

'So I'm in Tajikistan now. I've been here for 3 months. I'll stay here until end of this year. I'm teaching the students of Tajik language university. I really love my job. My major in university was Russian literature and language so I knew about Tajik but not very much. Islam is the state religion. There is no church in Tajikistan [so] I worship alone in my room every Wednesday, Friday, Sunday.

'Please pray for me! And I will pray for you!'

## Invitations!

The Circuit Missions Members are having a special event on Saturday 14th October 2017 at Central Church, Torquay. The day will start at 11.45am with a short service led by Revd Graham Shaw, who will then give a talk on his missions work in Zimbabwe. Light lunches will be served and various stalls will be selling a variety of goods to raise money for the Missions Fund.

We hope many people will support this worthy cause and have a chance to meet up with other missions members, exchange ideas and see how we can move forward.

Jennifer Howard  
Circuit Missions Secretary

Paignton Salvation Army would like to extend an invitation to their Christian Book Club, which meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm; beginning on 27th September, the group will be looking at *The Life You've Always Wanted* by John Ortberg.

They also extend an invitation to the community singalong 'Mis-chords', for all who enjoy singing (even if they can't!) on the third Thursday of each month at 6.30pm, beginning on 21st September. Please contact the Salvation Army on 01803 527044 for more information about either (or both!) of these groups!