



**Copmanthorpe Methodist Church**  
**[www.copmanthorpemethodist.org.uk](http://www.copmanthorpemethodist.org.uk)**  
**Churches Together in Copmanthorpe LEP**

**Newsletter – August 2015**



We are nearly at the beginning of another Methodist Year, which means new appointments begin on the 1st September and a new financial year kicks in. It does generally signal quite a lot of change as people get used to new roles, in new places and with different people. Thank you to Jo-Anne Travena who takes over from Bev Duffy as our Circuit Representative and congratulations to Bev who begins her new role as Lay Stationing Representative for the District. On Sunday 6th September we welcome Deacon Cedric May and Rev. David Priestnall, both supernumeraries, as they are resurrected from retirement to fill some of the duties required in the absence of a new Minister for the circuit.

At the service we will be sending Paul Parker from Bishopthorpe out to ministerial training at Queens, and it will be a time to look forward, with excitement, at the new vision emerging for the circuit. I encourage you to go. Central is a beautiful building and getting to know people in the other churches that make up the circuit and worshipping together with hundreds of people is inspiring and strengthening. There will be a list up in church if you need a lift, but do let me or one of the stewards know if you find you are unable to get in to sign it.

For the next quarter our worship pattern will change slightly with all the All Age Worship services being held at St.Giles and all the Shine services in our building. Please keep an eye on the notices so that you know which building you should be in.

On 10th September there is a worship consultation meeting I encourage anyone interested in how we develop worship ecumenically and independently to come to the meeting at 7.30pm, in the sanctuary.

I pray that as we enter this new Connexional year we are able to work and grow together to the glory of God. We have many challenges ahead but much potential and many opportunities to explore and I pray that we can all be excited about all the possibilities God offers and use them to do His will on earth and in heaven.

Rev. Julia

## Financial Matters

The figures for collections and direct debits for June and July 2015 are:

June	
7	£178.70
14	£158.00
21	£183.00
28	£86.00
Standing Orders	£1,745.00
Benevolent Fund	£0.00
<b>June Total</b>	<b>£2,350.70</b>

July	
5	£123.00
12	£194.54
19	£0.00 (service at St Giles)
26	£43.00
Standing Orders	£1,745.00
Benevolent Fund	£0.00
<b>July Total</b>	<b>£2,105.54</b>

## Prayer Texts

Please text 07810360778 to be included in the daily morning prayer text. Anyone who wishes to be included for prayer by the group should text by 7.30am of the day they wish to be prayed for. You do not have to be a member of the group to be included.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Huw Smallwood for achieving excellent A levels, grades, A\*,A,A and B and will be off to Reading University to study film in September, and to Tamsyn Dawson for her splendid nine A\* grade, one A grade, and one B grade GCSEs. What talented young people we have!

# The Persecuted Church Family Matters

## CENTRAL ASIA

### Teenage murderer finds Jesus in prison

Asel, 39, works with orphans in prison in Kazakhstan, supported by Open Doors. She says "After years spent in orphanages, these children usually enter a life of crime. Many end up in prison. After prison, they often return to the criminal life. This is a vicious cycle.

But the Christian books that Open Doors, with the help of its supporters, provides is helping to break that cycle. "We are so grateful that Open Doors provides us with such amazing tools," says Asel eagerly. "Munira, a teenage girl who was imprisoned for murder, asked me to provide her with a couple of Christian books. I gave her *Time to love, Time to forgive* by a Russian pastor and a couple of other books. She took all three! I didn't expect her to read them but she did.

After three weeks Munira came to me in tears. She gave me a hug and whispered, "I used to live in hatred. I was angry at my parents who abandoned me when I was a baby. I was angry with the workers in the orphanage, angry at my classmates, and angry at the world. I was angry with God. After reading the books you gave me about God's love for sinners and after witnessing your love for me, I began to realise why you are so nice. You have a loving God. I do not want to be the evil person I once was. I want to be a loving and forgiving person, just as Christ taught us to be".

Munira prayed to receive Jesus as her Lord! She will remain in prison for at least two more years but during that time, Asel will be spending time with her, teaching her what it means to follow Jesus.

### **Please pray:**

Praise God for giving Munira new life! Pray that the love of Jesus will give her hope and strength as she serves out the rest of her prison sentence

For wisdom for Asel as she shares God's truth with Munira and other young people in Kazakhstan's prisons

Open Doors distribute over 30,200 Bibles and Christian books in Central Asia in 2014. Ask God to use each book to touch the hearts of those who read them

## **This month's interview**

### **Tom Beever – "nearly 80 years a Methodist"**

As told to Jo-Anne Travena

Last Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> August) many of us sang Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Tom (also to Roy Blackburn and Margaret Owen), but there was also another 80<sup>th</sup> celebration that Tom told me about – he has been a Methodist almost 80 years too. He was christened in Brightholmelee Methodist Church (6 miles north of Sheffield) at just 6 weeks old.

Tom attended Sunday School at Brightholmelee Methodist Church with his brother. Tom fondly remembers the annual prize giving, the Sunday School anniversaries and the Sunday School trips; at the age of 12 they went to Cleethorpes which was the first time Tom had seen the sea!! While at Sunday School Tom had his love of music sparked from the Whit Monday singing round the village and the carol singing around the countryside, but he stopped his piano lessons at 7 years old, and Tom says this is his biggest regret in life.

When Tom became an apprentice joiner he continued to serve the Sunday School by making the stage for the Sunday School Anniversary. While doing this carpentry, a young lady called Joan was helping by sweeping up the shavings as Tom worked – and after 52 years of marriage Joan is still clearing up after Tom!!

Cyprus hosted Tom while he did his 2 years of National Service, and it was here that Tom with his practical skills ensured that a tin hut became the Methodist Church. Tom was in good company, as one of his colleagues during National /service in Cyprus actually went on to become President of the Methodist Conference.



5 years after National Service Tom and Joan got married in Brightholmelee Methodist Church, and Tom trained to be a lecturer in Carpentry and Joinery and worked for a year at Worksop College of Further Education (Nottinghamshire) before coming up to York College in 1964. So that is when Joan and Tom moved into Copmanthorpe into the house they now live in and joined the congregation of Copmanthorpe Methodist Church on Main Street. “I’m a very practical person,” says Tom. “I’m not very good at remembering verses. This is my Old Testament” he says holding up his left hand “and this is my New Testament” he says raising his right hand.

Did you know that all the woodwork in the ceiling of the sanctuary area in our church building was put up there by Tom, each plank secured by 5 nails each – that’s a lot of nails. Tom says “God gives us these skills to use ..... so I do”

Tom’s early memories of CMC were the Christmas shows put on by the Thursday Guild (the traditional Methodist House groups), and in particular Mrs Penzer reading in the real old fashioned style from Dickens.

Still regretting giving up piano lessons, Tom at the age of 35 bought a chord organ from Woolworths and taught himself to play. A year later he progressed to a larger Organ with manuals and 10 free lessons. Then his big breakthrough into Organ playing came from the Sunday School (via Alison his daughter) requesting an organist to play with them. Then in June 1971 Tom graduated to the evening service and the first hymn he played was “With gladness we worship, rejoice as we sing” from the Methodist Hymn Book (Tom has all the dates marked against each hymn when he played them - it’s a very full book!).

Music is very important to Tom, he remembers visiting Brighholmelee Methodist Church listening to the lady playing the organ there and praying “God, if you let me play the Organ that well, I will play for you every Sunday”. Tom can now be found most Sundays playing the Organ around the Methodist circuit while in England and when Joan and he are visiting New Zealand he plays there too (he has a splendid pair of musical socks that he was presented with for playing for them while he was in New Zealand last time – ask him nicely and he may show you). Also Tom returns to Brighholmelee Methodist Church to play the Organ at anniversaries.



An exciting “claim to fame” that Tom has was that he had the privilege to play the Organ in the Minster during the cycle Rally in York 4 years ago.

The next newsletter will be issued on Sunday 20 September. Please send articles, photographs, reports of events etc. to the church office by Thursday evening, 17 September.