



Copmanthorpe Methodist Church
www.copmanthorpemethodist.org.uk
Churches Together in Copmanthorpe LEP

Newsletter – September 2015



I opened my Facebook page this morning which, as those of you who use it will know, has a facility that brings up “memories”. Today’s first entry marked, with the pictures below, the beginning of my training at Queens College in Birmingham three years ago. See the Chapel where we worshipped daily, sometimes twice daily, and the block which contained the Students Common room, accommodation and an amazing library. Students are able to examine volumes of Wesley’s books, journals and ancient Epworth Press publications. When you sit with these precious documents it is a deep privilege.



The chapel



Common room, library and accommodation block

I undertook my Local Preachers training in 1998 which takes a minimum of two years, purely because of the amount of work involved, and a maximum of five. Once I was

accredited in 2001 I became a Prison Chaplain at the Young Offenders Institute on Portland, mentored the Circuit Youth Worker, as well as undertaking wedding blessings, funerals and baptisms. At that stage I knew that being a local preacher was never going to be enough, but it took a long time for me to finally give in to God's call and have the courage to give up my full time job to take the risk. On 6 September I was privileged to be asked to pray for Paul Parker at our New Methodist Year service at Central, as he begins the same journey that I began three years ago. It reminded me of so many memories and feelings, as did opening up Facebook this morning, the ones you would expect, excitement and fear, but also the immensity of what I was about to do. Being at Queens was the hardest challenge I had ever faced, in the first year we were deconstructed and in the second, rebuilt, by the most amazing tutors, until I, and all of us, came out rather different from the people we went in, transformed by training. Fantastic preparation for when I came into this circuit. Which now takes the lead as the hardest challenge I have ever faced, and I end the year, a different person from the one that started with you twelve months ago, this time, transformed by experience. Each day brings with it the vast breadth of emotion as I journey alongside you in the utter sadness of death and debilitating illness, and the delights of relationship and healing. As I have absorbed, and been absorbed into the communities I serve, I am now able to explore with you, the amazing potential within the churches at Acaster Malbis, Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe. I suspect that as each day continues to challenge, disappoint and delight, I will end the coming year transformed again.

The week after next I will return to Queens for a week of intensive study for my degree, and briefings for my final year of probation which involves several more assignments. I will complete my degree in 2017 with a dissertation on the Christian use of money. Last year the title of my presentation to the District Probationer's committee was, from Luke 9:62, Jesus said, "No-one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God", all I ask is that you all join with me, in looking forward and to the future, keeping our hands firmly on the plough.

With love

Julia

Financial Matters

The figures for collections and direct debits for August 2015 are:

2	£291.90
9	£76.80
16	£482.65
23	£139.65
30	£73.60
Standing Orders	£1,745.00
Benevolent Fund	£0.00
August Total	£2,517.70

The Persecuted Church Family Matters

SYRIA

'CONVERT, PAY OR LEAVE' SAY ISLAMIC STATE

Christians in the city of al-Qaryatain have been **told to convert to Islam, pay the jizya tax for non-Muslims, or leave**, after the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) seized the town on 6 August, reports the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Most are leaving, and while these brothers and sisters may escape with their lives, they will be left with little else. There are over six million Syrians who remain in Syria but have been forced to flee their homes, and for many, simply surviving is a daily struggle. 9,000 families are relying on Open Doors every month just for food and basic supplies, provided through local partners.

MORE THAN JUST 'MIGRANTS'

Every day our media is full of the stories of desperate Syrians making journeys across Europe. We see their relief when they arrive to claim asylum. We hear their desperation when they are trapped and unable to move on. And we weep when their bodies are washed up on the shore.

But we don't hear much of the millions inside Syria. We rarely see their faces or read the stories of their daily struggle to survive. They need our help. They need our prayers. They need our voices raised on their behalf.

PLEASE PRAY:

- For protection for the Christians from al-Qaryatain
- For provision and comfort for the millions in Syria who have been forced to flee their homes
- For strength for church leaders and our other local partners who are caring for thousands of refugee families
- For wisdom for our nation's leaders as they respond to this crisis.

“Be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.” Psalm 31:2

This month's interview – plea for help

There isn't one this month because no-one has had the time to do it!

Would **you** like to help by putting together an interview each month? If you are the kind of person who enjoys chatting to people and can type, then you're just the person we are looking for. Have a word with one of the church office team – we'd love to hear from you.



Carecent Needs – Harvest 2015

The gifts from our harvest services this year (4 October, 10.30 at St. Giles, 5.30 at CMC) will be sent to Carecent. These are the items they would find useful.

This year, we need the following, please can you help us?

Baked Beans

Tinned tomatoes (preferably whole not chopped)

Sugar

Tinned meat which can be served cold – ham, spam, corned beef.

Tinned hot dogs

Tinned spaghetti

We also have an ongoing but less urgent need for:

Tea

Breakfast cereal

Canned fish (any variety)

Jam / Marmite / Peanut butter

Instant coffee

Tinned fruit

Fruit juice

Clothing and Toiletries

Non food items such as socks, hats, gloves, roll-on deodorant (**no** aerosols please), toothpaste, shower gel and shampoo are always gratefully received.

We would also be grateful for jeans (in sizes 30", 32" and 34") and other gents' clothes (fleeeces / jumpers / t-shirts)

This year we're not asking for:

Porridge Oats

Tinned or packet soup

Salt

Ketchup / Brown Sauce

Combination tins e.g. baked beans with sausages – and spiced items.

As we only serve breakfast, we can't use things such as tinned or fresh vegetables, cooking sauces, packets of dried rice and pasta.

If you have any questions, please email admin@carecent.org or phone 01904 624244 during opening hours.

Thank you so much for your support!

Fair Trade Report

In July Traidcraft (the UK's leading Fair trade supplier) issued a simple message we **urgently need help**. We need **your** help because the world's poorest small-scale farmers, struggling to feed and support their families, need **our** help.

It's the same message, that Traidcraft issued at their formation over 35 years ago. Their aim was and still is -

'to practically apply the love and justice which lies at the heart of Christian faith to international trade, and so give the world's poorest farmers the opportunity to trade fairly and thrive'.

Sadly Traidcraft's accounts show a trading loss for the fourth consecutive year, due in part, they believe to two major misconceptions -

- 1) because chocolate, tea, coffee and many more products with the now familiar Fairtrade Mark are stacked high on our supermarket shelves the consumer thinks the FT battle is won. (Unfortunately, injustice in trade and its resultant poverty is still a major problem).
- 2) Traidcraft and Fairtrade are the same. They are not. Traidcraft is an independent trading company, with a linked development charity. Traidcraft trades with and supports the most vulnerable farmers and artisans (who could not cope with the demands or scale required by big business or supermarkets.) Traidcraft are pioneers bringing new commodities into the fair trade arena.

You can support Traidcraft's pioneering mission by purchasing their products, passing their catalogues onto family and friends, buying from your local FT stall or shop.

Locally in York you can order from Traidcraft's catalogue via Fairer World (the FT shop on Gillygate).

If everyone who reads this article bought one extra Traidcraft item a month that would make a huge increase in sales.

There are of course other smaller suppliers of FT products, who sell through independent FT shops and stalls such as Fairer World on Gillygate.

A Fairtrade Pledge

(Huddersfield Methodist Circuit are inviting families and individuals to sign up to the following as part of their Christian commitment to a fairer world)

To commit to buying on a regular basis Fairtrade items as suggested below:

Buying Fairtrade tea and coffee regularly, aiming to drink only Fairtrade tea and coffee.

Buying at least one other Fairtrade grocery item regularly.

Buying only Fairtrade bananas and ensuring that every family member has at least one Fairtrade fruit (grapes, oranges, pineapples....bananas) regularly.

If you buy chocolate, fruit juice or wine try Fairtrade.

Buying at least one non food Fairtrade produce each month – flowers, cards, gifts, fruit juice, wine, beauty products, clothing, cleaning products,gold!!!

The next newsletter will be issued on Sunday 11 October. Please send articles, photographs, reports of events etc. to the church office by Thursday evening, 9 October.