



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

Newsletter – January 2016



If I haven't seen you already and even if I have, I hope that the New Year has started well for you.

In a week's time, on 24 January, we will share our annual covenant service with our friends at St.Giles. This year, it will be held in their church with our own Methodist District Chair, Stephen Burgess, both presiding and preaching. This is an important service in the life of Methodism.

When we renew the covenant between ourselves and God, we acknowledge that, as we experience in any partnership or contract or promise, there will be good times and bad, easy and difficult, in our earthly life when we come under pressure those commitments are sometimes irretrievably broken. God will never reject his covenant with us, even when at times we do so with him. Whether we fall by the wayside, make terrible mistakes or reject Him, God always has us back. This service prepares us for the year ahead. It may not always be happy for us, but we pray that God will bless us with his peace in joy and turmoil, and fill us with his Holy Spirit, so that we may be strong enough to deal with whatever we must do, and wise enough to understand that life quite possibly will not always be the way we want it. It is very appropriate that we share this service together in our ecumenical partnership as we remember that, when we are in covenant with God, that binds us corporately to God's world, it is a relationship we share with all God's people not just those we choose.

May this year bring you blessings of peace and fulfilment as we share together in doing the will of God.

Love
Julia

Financial Matters

Monthly Donations, December 2015

The total Church donations for the month of December were £2,488.40, with the weekly and monthly payments outlined in the table below.

06-Dec-15	£50.00	Evening Service Only
13-Dec-15	£458.40	
20-Dec-15	£131.00	
27-Dec-15	£94.00	
Standing Orders	£1,755.00	
Benevolent Fund	£0.00	
December Total	£2,488.40	
25-Dec-15	£347.68	Donated to Christian Aid

Church Gift Day – 30 January

We are very much looking forward to spending time together on Saturday 30 January, and we sincerely hope that you will be able to join us. The day has separate components and each steward has taken on responsibility for different parts. The rationale behind the day is threefold:

- Spending time together and with God;
- Sharing our talents and discovering new ones – take a look at the framed picture in the church to remind yourself of all the talents and gifts that we all have;
- Bringing a financial gift and reviewing your regular giving for the work of our church –the most recent Church Council minutes are a useful focus here.

There is a programme of events lined up. In order for them to be successful, we do need you to get involved! A number of people (**in bold**) have generously agreed to give their time and energy - please speak with them if you would like to know more about a particular event. Please sign up on the sheet by the hatch.

TIME	ACTIVITY	PEOPLE INVOLVED	NAMED STEWARD/
08.30	Opening devotions (sanctuary)	Julia	
08.30 – 10.00	Family breakfast (lower hall) Gift Day introduction (sanctuary)	Peter & the men's breakfast team Julia & Nick	Tim
10.00 – 12.00	Art workshop (upper room) Knitting crochet workshop *** (upper room)	Granville, Jill Solich & Tamsyn Heather & Janet I.	Debbie
10.00 – 12.00	Family walk (dogs welcome)		Jill/ Jon
10.00 – 12.00 DROP IN SESSION	Getting to grips with your iPad, iPhone, Skype etc (sanctuary)	Andy Luke	Jo
12.00 – 12.30	Giving presentation Q & A (sanctuary)	Julia & Nick	Debbie
12.30-13.30	Bring & Share Lunch (lower hall)	Margaret P Bev	Pauline
13.30 – 15.30	Flower arranging (upper room)	Joyce S	Jo
13.30 – 15.30	Film followed by worship (sanctuary)	Russ	Ann
15.30 – 16.15	Afternoon Tea (lower hall)	All stewards	Tim
16.15 – 16.30	Mopping up questions (sanctuary)	Julia & Nick	

*** Leeds General Infirmary are very keen to receive pairs of knitted or crocheted eight inch squares for their baby unit. One square goes inside the mum's clothing and the other in the incubator with the baby. When these are swapped, the baby gets comfort from the scent of Mum. So please, if anyone has any spare time on gift day, please relax a while and do a few rows with us. We are happy to teach beginners either knit or crochet, and will have 4 mm (old size 8) needles/hooks available. If you have your own yarn (double knitting) please bring with you. Donations of suitable yarn welcome. Obviously these squares cannot be reused so there is a constant need for more.

Lent 2016

Wednesdays 17, 24 February and 2, 9, 16 March
St Giles' Centre following Holy Communion at 9:30am

For our Lent Course, we will be exploring "The Long Road to Heaven" by Tim Heaton, based on the film "The Way", the story of a doctor driven by profound sadness to walk the Camino de Santiago or the 'Way of St James'. We will explore faith through his eyes as he meets others who are also looking for greater meaning in their lives. It will take us on an imaginative, creative and enjoyable journey that will lead us to new life at Easter. Coffee and tea will be served from 10:15am.

We plan to run this course in the evening as well – details of time and venue later.

Bible cake

Whilst living in Southport, a large new housing estate was built in 1987 on the edge of town. Prior to that now enlarged part of the borough becoming in 1994 the new parish of St Francis of Assisi, Kew, Southport, the local Christians met in the School. A portakabin, which had been placed in the grounds of the school and used by the Scouts and Guides, was also used as an occasional venue. A prefabricated building eventually provided the Church's own larger, albeit temporary, premises.

As the Christian presence grew on the estate, when the new Parish came into being a decision was made to build a new Church to serve the community. Whilst many denominations agreed to support the scheme, it was the Church of England and the Methodist Church who were left to progress it to completion and in 1997 the new Church was opened.

The new Church was an ecumenical partnership, Anglican and Methodist, but nevertheless a welcome for everyone, of whatever denomination, as the aim was to serve the whole community of Kew.

So it was that in 1994 fund raising efforts were organised under the banner of "The Church of England and the Methodist Church Working Together for Christ" in aid of the building fund for the Church of St Francis of Assisi.

Of the many projects one was to produce, for sale, a Celebrity Cook Book. Letters were addressed to many celebrities explaining our intentions and requesting their favourite recipe.

Replies were received from the Archbishop of Canterbury, four Bishops, President and Vice President of Methodist Conference, Prime Minister, Members of Commons, TV and radio personalities and many more. From Rev Leslie Griffiths, then President of Methodist Conference, "Spiced Prawns" apparently not for the faint hearted. From the Bishop of London, "Yorkshire Munch" - for a Lancashire Cook Book?

Of all the recipes three were not for consumption. (Be patient: the other two, "For a Committee Meeting", and "How to cook a good Husband", will appear in later editions) Firstly, "Bible Cake" below It involves good Bible research but, if really necessary, a copy of the ingredients can be obtained from the Church Office any Friday morning.

The Church today thrives and should you wish to see photos a Google search, using the Church name and "Kew Southport", finds it. Rev Alex Galbraith has been Vicar from the beginning and until a Methodist Minister was stationed our Minister Rev Neil Stubbings had pastoral charge alongside Rev Alex.

In the beginning the whole idea seemed a very risky enterprise, as witnessed by the number of Churches who dropped out. They had obviously forgotten Luke 1. 37.

We and other members at Southbank Road Church did all we could to support Rev Alex and Rev Neil as the Church began to established itself on the estate.

The writing of this article has refreshed many happy memories of our days in Southport and hopefully may be an encouragement for others to recount some of their own memories.

Husbands out there - do you fancy being in a Stew, Pickled or Roasted ?
Committee members - are you thick skinned with a sprinkling of brains and able to spoil the broth?

Bible cake

4½ cups 1 Kings ch4 v22
1 cup Judges ch5 v25
2 cups Jeremiah ch6 v20
2 cups 1 Samuel ch30 v12
2 cups Nahum ch3 v12
2 cups Numbers ch17 v8
2 teaspoons 1 Samuel ch14 v25
A pinch of Leviticus ch2 v13
6 of Jeremiah ch17 v11
½ cup Judges ch4 v19
2 teaspoons Amos ch4 v5
Season to taste with 2 Chronicles ch9 v9

Susan and Derek

The next newsletter will be issued on Sunday 21 February. Please send articles, photographs, reports of events etc. to the church office by Thursday evening 18 February.