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Sankey valley

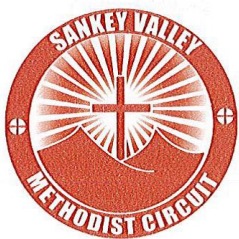
COMMUNICATING NEWS ACROSS OUR SANKEY VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT.

Welcome

to the latest edition of the Sankey Valley Circuit Newsletter. We value the contributions you make to the newsletter. Thank you for the time, inspiration and effort. Did you know the newsletter is published prior to each Circuit Meeting? That might help in your future planning of articles.

I hope you enjoy all the news you will find on these pages as you read more about the vibrant circuit we are part of.

If you have any information for subsequent newsletters please contact the Circuit Communication Team - The Rev'ds Jackie Bellfield, Mark Coles, Stephen Froggatt or Mr John Humbles.



From Probationers to Ordinands

Our Circuit was delighted to host the District Testimony Service at Penketh Methodist Church on Sunday 6th April 2014.

Both second-year Probationers in the District are from our Circuit: Deacon Angela Shereni and Revd Stephen Froggatt, and the two of them gave their accounts of their sense of calling to ministry during the Testimony part of the service. It was a great joy too to welcome Revd Jim Booth, District Chair, to preach at the service, and we were thrilled to have worship led by the excellent New Song Band.

Both Angela and Stephen will now proceed to Ordination at Conference. All final-year probationers across all the Districts are "Received into Full Connexion" together on the morning of Sunday 29th June by a vote at Conference. For a few hours, they are then no longer "Probationers" but "Ordinands" until the Ordination Services later that afternoon.

Deacon Angela, along with all the other Deacons, will be ordained in Coventry Cathedral. Stephen Froggatt, along with the other ordinands from Wesley Study Centre (Durham), will be ordained in Coventry Methodist Central Hall.

Please hold them in your prayers as they prepare for this special day. Ordination Tickets available online: www.methodistconference.org.uk

More information about Stephen's journey to Ordination from the start of Candidating on the Circuit Website. (address below)

Sankey Valley Circuit Website: www.sankeyvalleymethodists.org.uk



Sankey Valley Circuit Facebook Group: Search for Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit (All photos of people uploaded must have their permission please)

Bible Alive – Bishop Richard’s Challenge

Ian Stranack (07889 829289)
(Family worker at St Philip’s)

I trained as a Reader in the Church of England, along with Stuart Haynes, who is now Director of Communications in the Diocese. The Diocese of Liverpool has a facebook group and recently the question “What is your favourite Bible story and why?” was posted up on there. I responded with:

“My favourite story is the Good Samaritan, told to children and then to ask them to take any one of the characters in the story and see it from their point of view. Working through this with each character chosen, and then finally looking at it from the beaten man’s point of view. This gives children the opportunity to interpret Bible stories in a different way, and lets them see that maybe not all characters should be taken at face value.”

Stuart is the person who manages the facebook group and he saw what I had posted and messaged me to ask if I would like to be interviewed by Radio Merseyside for a piece to be aired on their Sunday morning programme: Daybreak. I was delighted to be invited and said yes, but asked if I might take some children with me to actually “do” it, rather than just explain it. Anyway, after a few emails back and forth, four children were invited to go to the recording, each having chosen their favourite story from the Bible. They chose quite a range of stories: Noah’s Ark, The Wisdom of Solomon, The Wedding at Cana and Jesus Walks on the Water. Each was interviewed by Helen Jones and read out their chosen story, finishing with a plug for the Bible Alive Challenge.

The children were excellent and performed really well. In fact there was sufficient time at the end for me to also read The Good Samaritan and explain why I like it.

We were then taken for a tour of the studios and offices and all the staff made the children really welcome and asked about their readings. All in all an excellent example of meeting the Challenge: the Bible was truly ALIVE!



Cross Lane United

Deacon Angela Shereni
(01925 816657)

Sunday school

The church started a Sunday school in October 2013. The children share in the first part of Sunday worship. They then leave for their own time of learning and fun as they find out more about Jesus and how to be a follower. The children re-join the adults to share what they have learnt.

Messy Church is on the first Sunday of the month, from 2.30pm to 4pm. There are a wide variety of activities such as storytelling, art and craft, games, music and sharing food, all planned around a theme and a story from the Bible. The leaders work with the children and parents in a way that creates a very enjoyable experience of fun and learning for children, leaders and parents who come.

Youth Club is a space for young people between the ages of 11 and 16. The youth club has been running for almost a year now and is growing and developing. The club runs on Friday from 6.30pm to 9pm. There are a wide variety of activities such as snooker, table tennis, games.

The Sunday school, Messy church and Youth club all show growth and development. We give thanks to God for these signs of hope.

Raising Funds for Charity

This year up to 31 May, the following sums have been raised:

£1,338 for the Circuit Charity, Wesley Hospital, Myanmar (making **£4,350** in total)

£200 for LWPT (Leaders of Worship and Local Preachers Trust) at Circuit Service in Sept. 2013.

£1,104 for Christian Aid and Warrington Wolves Charity from Samoan Service in Oct 2013

£2,413 for MHA (Methodist Homes for Aged) at 70th Anniversary service in Nov. 2013.

£378 for CASAI (Churches Action on Sexual Abuse Issues) at District Testimony Service in April 2014.

Hello and Welcome to Kathryn Mason



I'm Kathryn and I'm working alongside Mark Orrell as a youth worker for Youth For Christ (YFC) until August. Since September I've been working in the secondary school and different community rooms in the area.

Mark and I have been going into the school, University Academy, at dinner times and as many lessons as we can, which hasn't been a lot this year, to build relationships with the young people there and to invite them along to our weekly and monthly events. As of this year, the school has given us the go ahead for a prayer room, where the young people can come for prayer or guidance or for advice or even to just ask questions about the faith.

We run an after school club on Fridays for the Christian young people as well as those who would just like to know more. We also do a chat and chill project on Wednesdays called Tea 'N' Toast or TNT, where the young people can come and devour all our toast, biscuits, tea, coffee and cordial. It's pretty popular as you can guess! I help out at a youth group on Thursdays in the Fearnhead Community Centre; this is also very popular and the young people love coming and playing on the games console, listening to music, playing games in the sports hall and chatting to their mates.

YFC also do a monthly event called UNITE, where we have a band and we play games and have a different Christian speaker every month. Many young people have given their lives to God during this event. It's always an exciting time for the team!

Twice a year we take a few coaches filled with young people away to somewhere fun. Before Christmas we took 200 young people to Drayton Manor and on 27th May we will be taking another 200 to Blackpool Pleasure Beach. As I have never been before, I am looking forward to it a lot!

An annual event that YFC also do is an event called Re:Act. Some of you may remember it from previous years: there will be five days of free family fun days in and around Warrington. We have a football cage, a gyro chair, a BBQ, a skate ramp, loud music and inflatable fun. This year it will be on from 4th - 8th August.

(Kathryn is working with young people in the Padgate area of Warrington. Her work is being partly funded by the Sankey Valley Circuit and Padgate Methodist Church).

The Circuit App Proposal

The Rev'd Stephen Froggatt (01925 752373)

The Circuit is currently exploring the possibility of commissioning a Smartphone App to complete the trio of Circuit Newsletter, Website and App. We are currently at the stage of negotiating plans with the developers, but it will need Circuit Meeting approval to go ahead.

Please come to the September Circuit Meeting to find out more and have your say!



Please pray for the **Methodist Conference** taking place in Birmingham from Thursday 25th June until Thursday 3rd July and for all our reps including The Rev'd Jackie Bellfield and Mrs Jane Otterson.

Local Preachers Celebration Service—The Rev'd Lucille Rogers

On Sunday 1st June people gathered from across the Circuit to celebrate the ministry of our local preachers. The service included a lively mixture of contemporary and traditional hymns led by musicians from Lymm, Padgate and New Song Network. We heard testimony from a number of preachers and a reminder from 1 John 4 of the all embracing love of God. Contributions from the Padgate ringers and choir enriched the service. Certificates were presented to Fred Besford and Joyce Gill (for 40 years of preaching) and to Pauline Anderton, Carole Hill, Trevor Rhodes, Roger Shadbolt and Victoria Sims (for 25 years of preaching). Our thanks to Padgate for hosting the service with such a warm welcome and delicious refreshments.

The Circuit Trusts

Sarah Blackie (01925 652228)

Our Circuit has two charitable trusts active within the Warrington Borough boundary – the Jackson Trust where the circuit meeting members are trustees and the Fred Pendlebury Trust, an independent charity with strong Methodist foundations.



The **Fred Pendlebury Trust** is a legacy left in the will of a Warrington business man. Fred died in February 1930 leaving funds to care for his employees, the balance to be used for the relief of poverty through practical gifts for people over 55 in the Stockton Heath area, priority going to those with a Methodist connection. He designated the Trustees of the fund to be the Mayor of Warrington, Chair of Stockton Heath Parish Council, Superintendent of the Circuit and the Senior and Junior Circuit Stewards. Over time and in response to need, the Charity Commission has allowed the terms of the legacy to be amended slightly so now the funds are invested with interest being available to spend and the criteria being that applicants were born in Warrington, or resident here, are over the age of 50 and are in financial difficult or need. Fred's grave is in Warrington cemetery, close to the Chapel and fountain at the centre of the cemetery, and has recently been restored to a good state of repair. Although already a good size, the investment was increased substantially in 2012 when another Warrington based legacy was closed and the funds merged.

The **Clara Westgarth fund** was originally administered by the CVS in Warrington but when CVS closed the Charity commission were happy for the fund to be absorbed and administered by the Fred Pendlebury Trust. The Clara Westgarth Fund was left by Clara's son, John Thaine, who left the funds to the Borough of Warrington after his death in the 1985, the fund to be left in his mother's maiden name. We believe Clara Westgarth was born in Warrington in 1877 and we know that a Clara Westgarth married a Sydney Thaine in 1907 in the Eccleshall B District of the West Riding of Yorkshire but to date we have not established what happened to Sydney and why John's links stayed with Warrington and not Bristol where he and his mother appeared to live for much of his life. We maintain Clara's grave in Bristol and John's ashes were scattered there.

The **Jackson Trust** was established in 1951 upon the death of John and his wife Eliza, originally for gifts each new year to deserving or needy members of Moore Methodist Church but after closure of Moore and with permission of the Charity Commission, the terms of the legacy have been relaxed to allow support for people with a Methodist Connection in the congregations which formed the former Warrington Circuit.

Applications are welcomed to both trusts, awards are limited to no more than £500 per applicant, and evidence of financial need must be shown but Trustees consider every application and try to assist if they can.

Criteria summary:

Both Trusts require the applicant to have a Warrington link:

- For the Jackson Trust they must have a strong connection with one of the churches in the former Warrington Circuit.
- The Pendlebury Trust requires applicants to be resident in Warrington OR to have been born within the town boundaries if they are resident elsewhere.
- Age limits: the Jackson Trust has no age limit at all. The Pendlebury Trust is only open to applicants over the age of 50.
- In both Trusts there needs to be some evidence of financial hardship or difficulty requiring support.
- Trustees for both the Trusts may be willing to consider applications from groups although both are primarily for support for individuals.

Recent cases have included funding for carpets, white goods, bankruptcy fees, annual property insurance which allowed other grant aid to be released, a riser/recliner chair and a bicycle. Trustees are willing to consider applications for any assistance. If you have any cases you would like to refer please do not hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email and I will be pleased to refer it to the Trustees.

Sarah Blackie, Trusts Administrator Circuit Resource Centre: trusts@svmc.org.uk