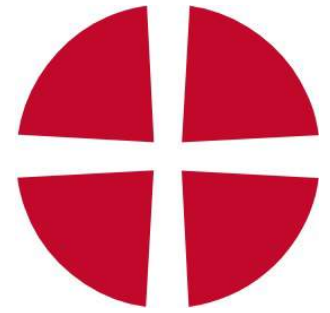




Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit

Newsletter No. 11

June 2016



CONTENTS

Circuit Celebration Service	1
Circuit Training Day	2
Circuit Roundup	2
Circuit Communications	5
Ministerial Staffing Sept 2016	6
Circuit Welcome Service	6
Circuit Farewells	6
Take Time To Be Still	7
Local Preachers On Trial	7
Fun Facts - Bible Trivia	8
Get The Buzz	8
Acknowledgements	8
Diary Dates	8

Circuit Celebration Service

On Sunday 15th May at Penketh Methodist Church, the Circuit churches gathered to celebrate over a century of preaching - from just two Local Preachers. Alan Lee was awarded his certificate for 50 Years, and John Pennington his for 60 years. Both preachers gave testimony to their lives of faith, and to how life and preaching were related.



Mr Alan Lee, Supt Revd Lucille Rogers and Mr John Pennington at the Preachers' Circuit Celebration Service

Alan Lee reflects on the service in his own words:

What a wonderful evening we had with so many people taking the trouble to come and support both John and myself. I was really touched to see so many friends and yet I should not have been at all surprised, throughout my life and work in the church and particularly my preaching people have been so supportive.

For myself I have to say that I never thought I would reach such a landmark. It is not only a privilege but a pleasure to lead worship in so many different

The Circuit Newsletter is the collective work of the named contributors, edited and produced by the SVMC Communications Group, and printed and published by the Circuit. The Editors take final responsibility for the content of this magazine. Although we have been careful to check all required permissions we would be happy to hear from any copyright holders if we have not recognised copyrighted work used herein. Please contact us at the address below:

Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit Comms Group, Circuit Resource Centre, 1st Floor, Palmyra Square North, Warrington WA1 1JQ email media@svmc.org.uk

A copy of this publication has been lodged with the British Library (Legal Deposit Serials) according to the Copyright Act 2003.

places, not always churches and with so many different people.

There have been times over the years when it has been hard to go on and yet I knew it was the work that God wanted me to pursue.

As time has passed so many changes have taken place, seldom do we see ladies wearing hats in church for example! Although our worship is a serious matter, these days it is so much more relaxed, people know that they can if they wish smile or even laugh. The male preacher may not wear a tie and the female preacher may not feel the need to carry a handbag these days. But seriously it is so good that I feel, and I always try to ensure that all present do feel they are part of the worship and not just observers.

We now have so many other people who feel able to take part in the service as readers, choir members, worship leaders etc. We also are blessed to have them and such a variety of music, songs and hymns to use, also a great variety of written material. We also have the use of the internet. All this gives such a wealth of information to assist in preparation.

The service was so full of inspiration, the hymns so fitting and the readings so appropriate. I have thought about the evening often over the last few weeks and can only again give thanks to all who took part in whatever way.

I say truly an inspiration and an inspiring evening. I can only promise to continue to serve in this way and look forward to perhaps celebrating my 60 years along with John as he celebrates 70 years.

With God's blessing to you all, Alan Lee.

Circuit Training Day

The Circuit Training Day on Saturday 16th April was considered a great success by those who attended. One attendee wrote afterwards that he had "found it very interesting, helpful and well worth the time – we need to do at least one a year perhaps repeating one or two subjects so that everyone has an opportunity to cover all the topics."

Our thanks go to our hosts at Cross Lane United Church, to our team of organisers and especially to all those who led such a variety of useful sessions. Please send your suggestions for future training opportunities to Emma in the Circuit Office by post or via email crc@svmc.org.uk.

Circuit Roundup

We recently invited all churches and chapels in the Circuit to share with us some of the many events, groups and activities organised or led by members during the week. We sometimes forget just how much goes on in the life of the churches between one service and the next. Why not visit a church near you to find out more about their life within their community?

ANTROBUS

Antrobus Chapel community events are closely linked with the life of Antrobus Village. Highlights of the year include:

FEB - Annual Village Jumble Sale

JUL - Church Anniversary Weekend

SEPT - Harvest Weekend, including Hotpot Supper and Bring & Buy Sale

NOV - Men's Service on the 4th Sunday

ASHTON

TUES - Ladies Group, alternate weeks

WED - Coffee morning

WED - Bible Study, alternate weeks

ALSO - Churches Together, local Food Bank and local centre for homeless young people

BALMER ST

TUES - Lunch Club & Chat, for fellowship with the local community

BOLD ST

MON-SAT - Coffee Shop

MON & SAT - Tea & Toast

TUES - Lunch Club (monthly on 4th Tues)

Weekly Baking Day

BURTONWOOD

MON - Christian Aid Soup Lunch (Oct-Mar)

MON - WI Meeting (monthly on 2nd Mon)

MON-TUES - Tots Group (pm)

TUES - Keep Fit Evening

WED - WI 'Knit & Natter' (monthly on 3rd Wed)

FRI - Coffee Morning

ALSO - Ecumenical Links, Fundraising Teas

CRONTON

SUN-SAT - Food Bank Collection Point
SAT - Occasional Coffee Mornings, Lunches, Fairs
ALSO - Supporters of Widnes Street Pastors

CROSS LANE

SUN-SAT - Food Bank Collection Point
MON - Knit & Natter (pm)
MON/WED/FRI - Drop In with Tea & Coffee (am)
MON/FRI - Lunch
TUES - Tuesday Fellowship (pm)
THURS - Chimes Handbell Ringers (eve)
FRI - Lunchtime Café Church

FARNWORTH

SUN-SAT - Widnes Food Bank Collection Point
MON - QT @ Manse (pm, alternate weeks)
MON- Shell Group (6-12 yr olds)
MON - Guild (Oct to Mar)
TUES - Tots & Co (am), Prayer Group (alt. weeks)
WED - Women's Fellowship
THURS - Choir (eve)
ALSO - Supporters of Widnes Street Pastors

HEATH ST

MON/TUE/WED/FRI - Coffee Morning
THURS (Oct-Mar) - Soup & a Roll
THURS - Young Carers Grasshoppers (monthly)

HOOD MANOR

MON - Ladies' Fellowship (eve, alternate weeks)
TUES - Tea & Tots (lunchtime)
WED - Coffee Morning (monthly)
THURS - Ladies' Fellowship (pm, Spring, Autumn)

LATCHFORD

MON - Ladies' Group (eve)
TUES - Bright Hour (pm), Singing For Fun (pm)
WED - KIDZ Club (eve)
THURS - Banner Group (pm)
FRI - Friendly Club (eve, monthly)
SAT - Coffee Morning (am)

LYMM

SUN - Prayer & Meditation (eve, 5th Sunday)
SUN - Café Worship (am 1st Sun, pm 3rd Sun)
SUN - Fair Trade Stall (am, 2nd Sun)
TUES - Messy Church (pm, 2nd Tues)
WED - Adivas Dance Group (eve, 1st Wed)
THURS - Credit Union (am)
THURS - Knitting Group (pm, 2nd, 4th, 5th Th)
THURS - Market Lunches (monthly)
FRI - 7UP Older Children (eve, monthly)
Village Events - Dickensian Day, May Queen,
Transport Day, Carols etc
Annual Panto & Musical; Home Groups etc.

NEW SONG NETWORK

SUN - New Song Kids (pm, 1st Sun)
SUN - Breakfast Café (am, 3rd Sun)
SUN - New Song Café (eve, 4th Sun)
MON - House Group (pm, 2nd, 4th Mon)
WED - Bible Study Group (eve, 1st Wed)
Mothering Sunday - Hot Drinks @ Crem
Christmas Eve/Day - Hot Drinks @ Crem
Community Action Gardening Team

NUTGROVE

WED - Parents and Toddlers (am)
WED - Credit Union (am)
THURS - Messy Church (pm, monthly)
SAT - "Kingdom of God" progressive Christian
discussion group (pm, monthly)

PADGATE

SUN - Fair Trade stall (am, 4th Sun)
MON - Kids and Karers (am)
TUES - Crystal Ringers (eve)
WED - Corner Coffee Shop (pm)
THURS - Kids and Karers (am)
THURS - C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each
Other) (pm, 1st Thurs)
FRI - Badminton (eve)
SAT - Bacon Butty Coffee Shop (am, 2nd Sat)

PENKETH

SUN - Praise & Testimony (eve, monthly)
MON - Ladies' Group (eve, alternate weeks)
TUES - Little Angels (am)
TUES - Uniformed Groups (eve)
WED - Mums & Tots (am)
THURS - Ladies' Fellowship (pm)
THURS - Knit & Natter (pm, alternate weeks)
THURS - Drama Group (eve)
FRI - 'Extend' Keep Fit (pm)
FRI - Men's Fellowship (eve, last Fri)

PRESCOT & WHISTON

TUES - Knit & Natter (am)
FRI - Toddler Group (am, term time)
SAT - Walking Group (monthly)
SAT - Julian Prayer Meeting (am, last Sat)

RIXTON

SUN - Biker Church (eve, 1st & 3rd Sun)
MON - Messy Church (pm, 1st Mon)
TUES - Bible Study (am)
TUES - Card Making (eve 2nd, pm 4th Tues)
WED - Tots (am, term time)
SAT - Coffee Morning (am, 3rd Sat)

ST JAMES

TUES - Link Group (eve)
THURS - Coffee Morning (am)
THURS - Ladies' Group (pm, alternate weeks)
THURS - House Group (eve, alternate weeks)
SAT - Coffee Morning (am)

ST MARTIN'S

TUES - TLC Shop & Café (am)
TUES - Meeting Point (pm, 2nd Tues)
WED - Tots (am, term time)
WED - Singing Group (eve)
THURS - TLC Shop & Café (am)
THURS - Tots (am, term time)
SAT - Sticky Church (am, 1st Sat)

ST PHILIP'S

SUN - Families & Food (pm, alternate months)
FRI - Little Fishes Tots (pm, alternate weeks)
SAT - Men's Breakfast (am, monthly)

STOCKTON HEATH

TUES - Knitting Group (pm, 1st & 3rd Tues)
WED - Fellowship Lunch (monthly, Sept-Jun)
WED - Community Café (am)
WED - Church Fellowship (pm, 2nd Wed)
WED - House Group (pm, alternate weeks)
THURS - Theatre & Drama (eve)
FRI - Tots Time (am, term time)
FRI - Prayer Group (am)
FRI - Access Youth Group (eve)
SAT - Community Café (am)
SAT - Sticky Church (am, 2nd Sat)
Also - ongoing support for and work with Active Hope; Banjo Group etc.

SUTTON

TUES - Ladies' Fellowship (pm)
WED - Keyboard Classes (pm)
SAT - Breakfast (am, monthly)

TRINITY

TUES - Fellowship Lunch (pm)
WED - Halton Carers (am, 3rd Wed)
WED - Bosom Buddies (eve, 1st Wed)
THURS - Ecumenical Worship (am)
THURS - Knit & Chat (pm)
SAT - Contact Centre (pm, alternate weeks)
Also - Trinity Kings Cross Christmas Hampers, Supporters of Widnes Foodbank (Admin Office plus volunteers), Widnes Street Pastors etc.

WESLEY

WED - Ladies Fellowship (pm)
FRI - Coffee Morning (am)

The Editor regrets that owing to limitations of space a few details have had to be omitted. Please contact the individual churches concerned for the most up-to-date, correct and complete information of all events and activities.

Circuit Communications

The Circuit Communications (Comms) Team has several channels through which we aim to keep the Circuit up-to-date and informed of Circuit Events.

EMAIL

Emma in the Circuit Office crc@svmc.org.uk has multiple distribution lists to whom she sends Circuit News and announcements on a day-to-day basis. Please make sure that you let her know of any changes to your own contact details, and tell her if any postholders change in your church.

CIRCUIT WEBSITE

Our Webmaster Chris keeps close tabs on our Circuit website sankeyvalleymethodists.org.uk but is always keen to receive news, upcoming events and photographs for inclusion on the site. In general the website is the first place to go to find out about the Circuit and the Plan, as is to be expected.

FACEBOOK PAGE

If you are on Facebook, search for the public group **Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit** and ask to be added. You will find on the Facebook page various occasional announcements and celebrations which then land on the Newsfeed of other members of the group. This is also a good way to inform the Circuit of last-minute changes to your own services and church events.

CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

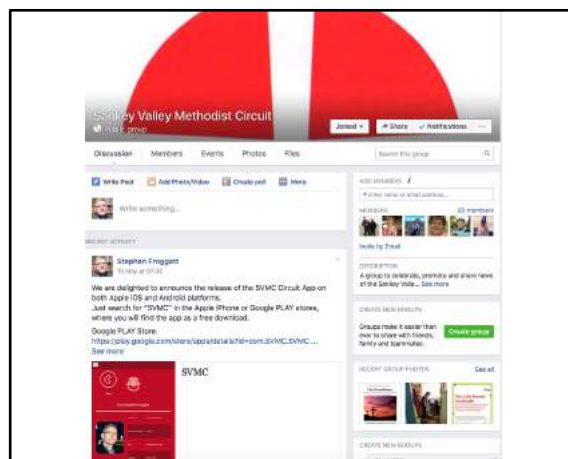
This **Newsletter** is published in time for each Circuit Meeting. It is intended both as a round-up of news and as an advert for upcoming events. The nature of the publication means it is of a more long-term nature than social media. Archived copies of every past Newsletter can be downloaded from the Circuit Website or via the App.

CIRCUIT APP

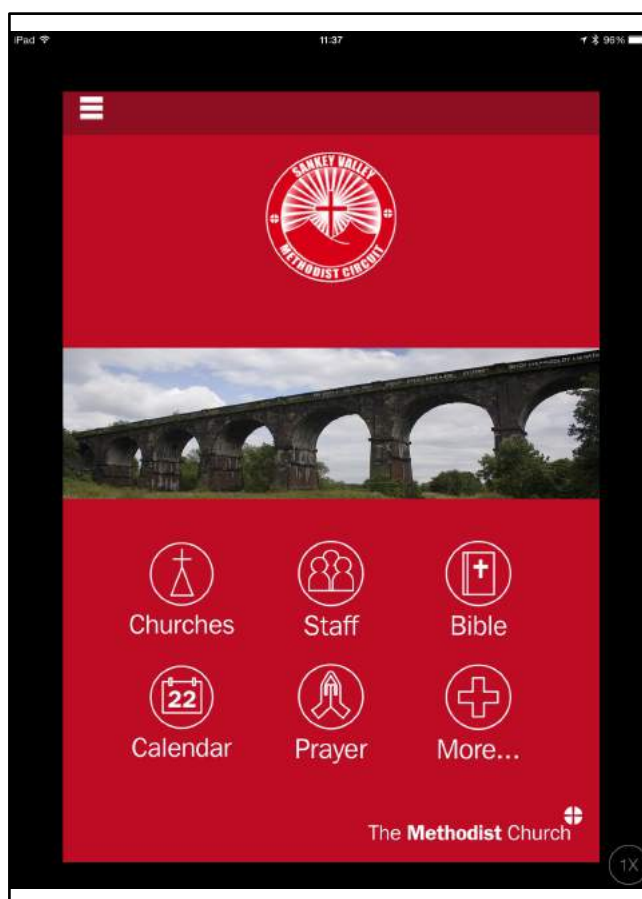
We are delighted to announce in this issue that our pioneering Circuit App is now available for both Apple iOS and Android devices. Simply search for SVMC in either the Apple iTunes Store (look for iPhone apps) or the Google Play Store. The two most valuable capabilities of the App are the interactive Circuit Plan and the Post-A-Prayer features. Once the App has downloaded its data it can be used offline. When a new Plan is available it will appear on your smartphone automatically. Technical support is always available from the Comms Team on media@svmc.org.uk.



Circuit Website Home Page



Circuit Facebook Page



Circuit App

Ministerial Staffing from September 2016

Over the past few months the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) has been carefully and prayerfully considering how best to deploy our ministers from September, given recent changes in presbyteral availability.

We have now come to a conclusion, which is outlined below.

STAFF TEAM FROM SEPT 2016

Revd David Easton (Superintendent)
Revd Mark Coles
Revd Stephen Froggatt
Revd Jenny MacGregor
Revd Sue Smith
Revd Martin Wood
Deacon Helen Coleman
Deacon Angela Shereni
Revd Iris Musgrove (Part-time Supernumerary)

WITH SUPPORT FROM:

URC Minister at Cross Lane
Anglican Staff Team at St Philip's

MINISTERIAL ALLOCATION

DE Stockton Heath, Antrobus, Superintendent
MC Penketh, Padgate, Hood Manor
SF Lymm, Rixton, St Martin's, Latchford
JM Farnworth, St James, Trinity, Cronton
SS Prescott & Whiston, Bold St, New Song Network, St Philip's
MW Wesley, Nutgrove, (Balmer St), School, Sutton
HC Penketh, Padgate
AS Ashton, Heath St, Cross Lane United
IM Ashton, Heath St, Burtonwood

Please continue to hold the CLT in your prayers as we journey into a time of transition and change.

Circuit Welcome Service

The Circuit Welcome Service for our new Superintendent Revd David Easton (pictured right) and our new Deacon Helen Coleman (also pictured) will take place on **Sunday 4th September at 6.30pm**, starting with tea and fellowship at 4.30pm, and with the venue being Stockton Heath MC.



The Guest Preacher will be the Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson, District Chair, and Mr John Stott will lead the music group and choir from around the Circuit. We also plan to invite a few local civic dignitaries to represent the communities in which these two new ministers will serve.



We do hope you can fix the date in your diaries now so that we can give our new staff the very warmest Circuit Welcome on the day.

Circuit Farewells

We say our farewells this Summer to three Circuit Staff: Superintendent Revd Lucille Rogers, who is leaving to train in Worcester as a Primary School Teacher; Revd Stephen Kingsnorth, who is leaving to enjoy retirement in Wales; Revd Jackie Bellfield, who is leaving to take up a new post in the Wirral Circuit. We express our thanks to all three ministers for their valuable contributions to the life and ministry of the Sankey Valley Circuit and the Warrington Borough, and we pray God's blessing on them all as they explore these new directions in their lives.

Gracious God, you call us on a journey to grow in grace and holiness. As we travel on that journey give us an assurance of your loving presence, that, filled with your Spirit, we may work with you, and our fellow pilgrims, in the transformation of our churches and communities, so that they become signs of your kingdom of justice and joy. Amen.

(Prayer by Ian Howarth, Birmingham District Chair)

Take Time To Be Still

Taking time to be still for prayer, meditation and reflection is an important part of our spiritual discipline. There are several regular opportunities around the Circuit where church members plan and structure a time together for such prayer time.

LYMM

6:30pm in the Church on the 5th Sunday of the month. An hour or so of silent prayer, open prayer, gentle music and meditation. Everyone from around the Circuit is welcome to share this special time together resting in God's presence.

PRESCOT & WHISTON

9am on the last Saturday of the month, the Julain Group meets for half an hour of silent prayer together. For more on the history of the Julian Meetings, (taking their name from Sister Julian of Norwich), see the website "Waiting on God in the Silence" at <http://www.thejulianmeetings.net>

STOCKTON HEATH

9am each Friday morning, members and friends at Stockton Heath Methodist Church meet together to pray for the church, its mission, leadership, discipleship and witness in the local community. Such a prayer group offers intercessions for those connected to the church and seeks discernment on upcoming decisions.

Peace of Heart - Brother Roger of Taizé

The peace of your heart makes life beautiful for those around you. Being wracked with worry has never been a way of living the Gospel. Founding your faith on torment would mean building a house on sand (Mt 7:26–27).

At every moment, do you hear these words of Jesus the Christ: "Peace I leave you; my peace I give you. Let your hearts cease to be troubled and afraid" (Jn 14:27)?

This deep-seated peace provides the lightness needed to set out once again, when failure or discouragements weigh on your shoulders. And sheer wonder comes alive, along with a breath of poetry, a simplicity of life and, for those able to understand it, a mystical vision of the human person.

For you this Gospel prayer: Bless us, Lord Christ; bless us and those you have entrusted to us. Keep us in the spirit of the Beatitudes (Mt 5:3–12), joy, simplicity, mercy.

Local Preachers On Trial

Please continue to pray for and encourage our Local Preachers 'On Trial' as they continue their Faith & Worship Course Studies, and their preaching around the Circuit. Former Local Preachers Tutor Revd Stephen Kingsnorth has now handed this Tutor role fully over to Revd Stephen Froggatt, who will now work with all four:

Sue Francis

Judith McNicholas

Richard Taylor

David Titchfield

From the Methodist Worship Book:

"The Church of Christ exists to glorify God the Father, who has revealed the way of salvation in the life, ministry and victory of Christ, and has given the Holy Spirit to inspire Christian proclamation and preaching.

From the early days of Methodism, God has called lay people to lead worship and prayer, and to preach the gospel. In every generation since, women and men have responded to this call and have been admitted as local preachers.

Local preachers are called to be worthy in character, to lead God's people in prayer and praise, and to share in the Church's mission in the whole world. This is a responsibility rooted in the word of God. You will bring the message of salvation to all, in season and out of season.

As you lead worship, and offer good news to others, your own life will be shaped and transformed."

[MWB p332]

If you have the privilege of welcoming one of these four to lead worship at your Church this coming quarter, please ask after their studies, and give them positive feedback after the service both on the way they led worship and the way they preached the sermon.

YOUR TURN?

Finally, if you yourself are thinking about exploring a possible call to Lead Worship or train as a Local Preacher, please discuss this with some close friends and have a chat to your own minister. There is a new course just starting for Worship Leaders and Local Preachers called Worship: Leading & Preaching which looks very exciting. Now would be an excellent time to start training.

Fun Facts - Bible Trivia

PSALMS

If you open your Bible at the middle you will usually open it at the Book of Psalms. In terms of chapters in the Bible, of which there are 1189 altogether, the centre chapter of the whole Bible is Psalm 118.

Hold that thought, as they say.

The chapter before this, Psalm 117, holds the record as the shortest chapter in the Bible. The chapter after it, Psalm 119, holds the record as the longest chapter in the Bible. Psalm 118 is nestled in between these two.

Now go back to number of chapters. There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118, and there are 594 chapters after Psalm 118. It has been observed that if you add these two numbers you get 1188, which is interesting because Ps 118:8 could then be thought of as the 'central verse' of the whole Bible.

What is it?

Psa. 118:8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to put confidence in mortals.

PANGRAMS

There are several verses of the Bible which contain all the letters of the alphabet ("pangrams"), depending on which translation you are using. If you are interested, they are:

1 Kgs 15.22 TEV/Good News Bible

1 Chr 12.40 New American Standard 1995

1 Chr 29.2 New Living Translation (2nd Ed)

2 Chr 36.10 Common English Bible

Esth 2.14 New Living Translation (2nd Ed)

Ezek 28.13 New American Standard 1995

Rev 18.12 New Living Translation (2nd Ed)

GET THE BUZZ

The Methodist Church offers over a dozen email newsletters at www.methodist.org.uk/signup - including The Buzz. This email magazine invites and features stories/photos from churches around the Connexion under the headings Worship, Learning & Caring, Service and Evangelism.

The Buzz needs 'good news' stories from you! Email fairclought@methodistchurch.org.uk if you have a story for the Buzz, and your church may be featured in the next Buzz Newsletter!

Acknowledgements

Revd Ian Howarth's prayer on p6 is taken from the Methodist Prayer Handbook 'Pilgrims On A Journey' © 2015 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, and is used with permission.

Brother Roger's words 'Peace of Heart' on p7 are taken from 'The Sources of Taizé' p62-68, quoted in 'Brother Roger of Taizé' Essential Writings Series, Orbis Publications p34, and are copyright © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France, and used with permission.

Words about Local Preachers on p7 from the Admission of Local Preachers, The Methodist Worship Book, p. 332 © Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). Used by permission.

DIARY DATES

FAREWELLS

22nd June 6pm at Warrington Islamic Centre Farewell Service for Revd Stephen Kingsnorth

24th July 7pm at Bold St Mission (New Song Café) Farewell Service for Revd Jackie Bellfield

31st July 6.30pm at St James Methodist Church Farewell Service for Supt Revd Lucille Rogers

WELCOMES

4th September 6.30pm at Stockton Heath MC Welcome Service for Supt Revd David Easton and Deacon Helen Coleman, with special guest Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson, District Chair.

LOCAL PREACHERS, WORSHIP LEADERS

6th September 7.30pm Padgate Methodist Church Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting

CIRCUIT MEETINGS at 7.30pm

19th September 2016 at Bold Street Warrington

22nd February 2017 at Nutgrove School

22nd June 2017 at Padgate Methodist Church

ANNUAL METHODIST CONFERENCE

30th June - 7th July 2016 London Central Hall see <http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference> for details of streamed events, conference Agenda, conference Report papers and more.

Last issue's Sudoku solution is available from the Editor