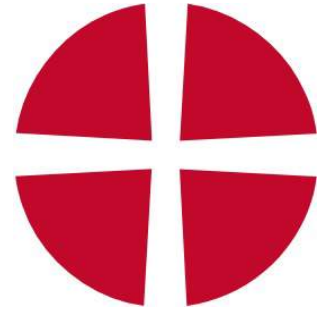




Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit

Newsletter No. 12

September 2016



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Circuit Welcome Service

On Sunday 4th September Stockton Heath Methodist Church hosted the welcome service for our new Superintendent Minister, Revd David Easton, and Deacon Helen Coleman. It was a wonderful occasion of worship, music and fellowship. The music, both before and during the service, was led by the Stockton Heath Worship Band and a special Choir from around the Circuit under the leadership of Maestro John Stott, and included both traditional and contemporary hymns.



The address was given by Revd Sheryl Anderson, the Chair of Liverpool District and the Merseyside Deaconate Order was represented by Deacon Michaela Doherty. We were honoured that our celebration was attended by the Mayor of Warrington with his Consort, the Mayor and Mayoress of Halton, and the Mayor and Mayoress of St Helens, along with the Archdeacon of St Helens and Warrington, Venerable Roger Preece. We were also delighted that the service was attended by friends from other denominations and faiths.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this Circuit Service such a happy and memorable event.

Helen Porter



Who Are You, Revd David Easton?

I am a Scot by birth but my family moved to Gloucestershire when I was in my early teens. I qualified as a C h a r t e r e d Accountant working for a firm in

Cheltenham and then I moved to London. It was while I lived in London that I candidated for the ministry. I trained in Bristol and then have been minister at churches in Peterborough (5 yrs), Bridport (7yrs), Sutton Coldfield (10 yrs), and Exeter (9yrs). I look forward to working in a part of the country I don't know.

I am married to Joan and we have a son and two daughters. We left James behind working when we left Sutton Coldfield and he still lives there and is married to Lucy. Our elder daughter Ruth is married to Hannes. They live in Tewkesbury and have a son Reuben. Our younger daughter Sarah married this summer and she and her husband Charlie live in Myanmar where Sarah has worked for the last eighteen months. My dad lives near Gloucester and struggles with poor health. I try to visit him on a reasonably frequent basis. Joan and I have fostered many children over the years and remain in close contact with Megan and Amber who have little other family support.

I have a border collie Maisie who though nearly seven is very lively and encourages me to walk and Joan and I both enjoy walking. We are members of the National Trust and look forward to visiting different properties. Our son in law Hannes had a kidney transplant three years ago and this has led us to support the work of the charity Kidney Research. While in Sutton Coldfield James and I often went to see Aston Villa. I would like to say I have supported them through good times and bad but can't recall too many good ones! Now living in the north west I look forward to becoming acquainted with Rugby League.

Who Are You, Deacon Helen Coleman?



Having trained for diaconal ministry at St John's College, Durham, I spent my first appointment in the Camborne-Redruth Circuit in Cornwall, fulfilling a number of roles including secondary school Chaplain, Coordinator of Street Pastors, and minister beyond the walls of the churches.

Prior to training for ministry, I was a circuit youth and children's worker in the Midlands for eight years, and also worked part time for Evangelism Explosion UK as their Kids EE Training Advisor. Through my work with EE I represented the UK at a global conference in Sydney Australia, working on the Kids Hope books that are available through UCB. I also have had children's holiday clubs published through EE UK.

As a Deacon I am passionate about the calling I have to support the weak, bind up the broken, gather the outcast, welcome the stranger and seek the lost. I look to work with those around me, encouraging, empowering and enabling them to engage with those who need to hear the Gospel of hope through actions and words.

I recently married Tim, a Deacon in the Nottingham East Circuit, and we have eight adult children between us. Esme, my youngest is in her final year at university, studying Art and Design; Kat has just completed her Psychology degree and has moved back home and is doing agency work whilst she finds graduate employment; and Dan is a self-employed sound engineer living in Stockport with his wife Abi and Bumble, their labradoodle. I also have a labradoodle, called Hugo, who often accompanies me on prayer walks and helps to instigate conversations with strangers, and finally there's Meatloaf, a long haired tabby who is very laid back and loves chasing shadows.

I love spending time with family and friends, reading, walking, going to the theatre, watching films and visiting new places. I have much to explore in this new area of the country and look forward to seeing how God develops the work that I am called to here.

Circuit Training Day

We are planning another Circuit Training Day on Saturday 20th May, and are seeking suggestions for particular training needs around the Circuit. We usually try to resource Local Preachers and Worship Leaders for the preparation and leading of worship, but are also considering sessions for 'regular members' of the congregation, for those on Church Councils, and indeed anyone in any aspect of the wider ministry of the Church in this Circuit. Please post or email your suggestions to Emma in the Circuit Office crc@svmc.org.uk

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.

Circuit App

Our pioneering App has recently been updated to reflect the staff changes and new Plan for the quarter. We have also been making some 'under the hood changes' to improve the way it works on Apple 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 Stewards

The Circuit Leadership Team is looking for more Stewards from around the Circuit to join with us at our monthly meetings and help us as we seek together to move forwards prayerfully in our mission and discipleship as a Circuit. We are particularly under-represented from the North and West of the Circuit, so if you think you can contribute your time, or if you would simply like to find out a bit more about being a Circuit Steward, please get in touch with our Senior Steward **Eric Andrews** by telephone on **01925 818548** or send him an email eric.andrews4@virginmedia.com

Guardians of Ancora



St Martin's Methodist Church was transformed into 'The Hall of Memories' from 2nd to 5th August when over 40 children aged 4 to 11 gathered to take part in the annual holiday club event.

This year the title was 'Guardians of Ancora'. The children became 'guardians' searching for lost story treasures. Each story treasure uncovered helped the spire of light to shine brighter every day as the group learnt more about Jesus' miracles. Led by a team of enthusiastic adult volunteers, children took part in many action-packed activities including treasure hunts, crafts, challenges, team games, songs, stories, jokes and prayers to unlock details of four well known stories from the Bible.



The four-day event ended with a picnic lunch for the children and their families, followed by a special service at St Martin's on Sunday 7th August.

A large team of adult volunteers worked hard to make the event a success. It would not have been possible without a lot of hard work and dedication. The leaders were also supported by a brilliant kitchen crew and tech team. A great big "Thank you!" to all who helped in any way in the planning, preparation, donating, making, cutting-out, leading and catering for this popular annual event.

We hope to see you all again next year!

Jo Buteux

Methodist Conference 2016



The presidency of the Methodist Conference changes annually. This year we welcomed Revd Dr Roger Walton and Mrs Rachel Lampard MBE as President and Vice-President respectively.

They took as their theme "Holiness and Justice", with particular reference to Micah 6:8:

*8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? (NRSV)*



The inaugural speeches of the President and Vice-President are well worth reading, and are available on the Methodist website under 'Conference 2016'. Take a look too at the excellent closing speech by the Secretary of Conference, Revd Gareth Powell.

If you would like emailed or paper copies of any of these three speeches, please contact the Circuit Office or one of the Staff Team.

Staff Team from Sept 2016

Revd David Easton (Superintendent) Stockton Heath, Antrobus, Superintendent

Revd Mark Coles Penketh, Padgate, Hood Manor

Revd Stephen Froggatt Lymm, Rixton, St Martin's, Latchford

Revd Jenny MacGregor Farnworth, St James, Trinity, Cronton

Revd Sue Smith Prescott & Whiston, Bold St, New Song Network, St Philip's (Anglican Sharing)

Revd Martin Wood Wesley, Nutgrove & Balmer St, School, Sutton

Deacon Helen Coleman Penketh, Padgate

Deacon Angela Shereni Ashton, Heath St, Cross Lane United

Revd Iris Musgrove (Part-time Supernumerary) Ashton, Heath St, Burtonwood

WITH SUPPORT FROM:

URC Minister at Cross Lane **Revd Gwynfor Evans**
Anglican Staff Team at St Philip's
and the SVMC Supernumerary Team

DIARY DATES

LOCAL PREACHERS, WORSHIP LEADERS

7.30pm Monday 5th December 2016 at Bold Street Methodist Church, preceded by food and fellowship

7.30pm Wednesday 15th February 2017 at Farnworth Methodist Church

CIRCUIT MEETINGS at 7.30pm

22nd February 2017 at Nutgrove School

22nd June 2017 at Padgate Methodist Church

19th September 2017 at Cross Lane United Church, Newton – le – Willows

OTHER CIRCUIT EVENTS

Circuit Service 6.30pm Sunday 6th November 2016 at Bold Street - with Revd Graham Horsley.

Circuit 24hr Prayer Wednesday 8th February 2017

Circuit Training Day Saturday 20th May 2017

TBC Circuit Celebration Sunday 21st May 2017