

Life & Work

Number 102 Winter 2010

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Mission Staff

The Revd Adrian Burdon
(Superintendent Minister)
Telephone: 0113 242 4951

The Revd Caroline Ryder
(Chaplain to the Universities)
Telephone: 0113 343 5071

The Revd Pat Creamer
(Counsellor, MIND)
Telephone: 0113 264 5831

The Revd Philip Bee
(Director, Oastler Centre)
Telephone: 01484 609 288

Deacon Ruth Hinch
Telephone: 0113 242 5254

Mr Trevor Parker
(Mission Administrator)
Telephone: 0113 245 3502

Chair of the District

The Revd Dr Elizabeth Smith
Telephone: 0113 278 5546

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Gwen Pridmore
Telephone: 0113 266 5093

Miss Marjorie Cossey
Telephone: 0113 295 6373

Local Preachers

1980 Deacon Ruth Hinch
1984 Mr R K Lolley
1986 Mrs P Goacher
1991 Mrs E Waller
1994 Ms J Aitchison

Worship Leaders

Mrs Ann Bailey
Miss Hannah Goacher

OXFORD PLACE CHARITIES

Since September 2008 Oxford Place has been supporting two charities. We have been raising funds for Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network (LASSN) and collecting non-perishable food and also clothing and bedding for Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PAFRAS).

LOCAL EVENTS

During the last quarter we ran a book stall raising £174, the Harvest lunch raised £66, and the Advent lunch raised £89. We also thank the Harwood Choirs for their £50 donation and Mavis raised £20 from the bulbs sale. On Light Night when Oxford Place hosted an event organised by Pyramid of Arts, Liz Waller organised refreshments in our Lounge which raised £70. With sales of books and the Lounge jar we currently hold £528 in the account so a further cheque will go to LASSN soon. This means we have now raised almost £2000.

Well done!

CITY EVENTS

Wandering Abroad – a new film, art work display and catalogue was shown at the Leeds Art Gallery. The art work continues till 31st Jan. The display traces the last journey of David Oluwale, the Nigerian asylum seeker who came to Britain in 1949 and later drowned in suspicious circumstances.

October was Black History Month with many events around the city including films, talks, dance, opera, exhibitions. This is an annual event to raise awareness of African and Caribbean history and cultural heritage; celebrating positive contributions to the political, economic and cultural life of Britain.

NATIONALLY

About 590,000 people came to live in Britain in 2008 compared with 574,000 in 2007. But there was an increase in numbers leaving the UK permanently meaning overall net migration fell by 70,000 (BBC News). Many of these are people returning to Eastern Europe, or those leaving to live in Australia, Germany, Spain and France – 36,000 more than in 2007. These people will probably leave safely and will not have the anxiety of claiming asylum or refugee status on their arrival, or being sent to a detention centre before dispersal around that country. Please remember the work of LASSN and PAFRAS in your prayers this Christmas as well as other agencies connected with these processes.

At the Christmas services envelopes will be available to support LASSN, and we continue to collect groceries which are taken to PAFRAS for distribution to refugees and asylum seekers. A Valentine's lunch is planned for February 2010. Further ideas and offers of help are always appreciated.

Paul Berry

This issue of Life and Work is half the normal size with four pages instead of eight. Insufficient topical material was received to justify the cost of additional pages. We hope to be back to our usual size for the next issue – Editor



Jeremiah 6:16 (RSV), "Thus says the Lord: Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."

By the time many of you read this it will be 2010. As we enter this new year, may God bless you, and please accept my heartfelt thanks for all your love and prayers.

In many ways my new year began in September when I moved from Lytham St. Anne's to become the chaplain to the two Leeds universities. Certainly every new year brings its own challenges, and coming here was no exception. There was the challenge of moving house for the first time, saying goodbye to friends, meeting new people at both Oxford Place and the universities, Freshers' Week, learning to work as part of a close ecumenical team and negotiating all those hills on my bike!

But with new challenges come exciting opportunities: the opportunity to learn new skills, use our gifts, learn more about ourselves which, if we allow them, strengthen our faith and relationship with God. Inevitably, chaplaincy is very different from circuit ministry, but it still involves getting alongside people and establishing trust which, naturally, takes time. In order to do just that, I have, over this semester, joined the Scottish Dance Society, supported the Christian Union, met up with new Methodist students, attended numerous workshops and officiated at the Biomedical Memorial service. Sometimes I wear my clerical shirt, sometimes my chaplaincy T-shirt. Either way, this has sparked conversations with staff and students and I have been able to share my testimony on many occasions. What a privilege!

This year the chaplaincy's theme is 'The Road Less Travelled' which, once again, reminded me of how we are all on a journey. As Christians, our journey of discipleship involves our personal walk with God, which requires us to walk in the ways of goodness and righteousness. I believe this requires three things:

Firstly, it takes **courage**. It is so easy to become conformed to the ways of this world but, instead, we are called to speak up and act out against issues such as racism, sexism, injustice and corruption. It also takes courage to try new things. Methodism began as a lay movement. (Did it? Was it not started by clerics who involved lay people in the same way as all denominations did by calling lay people into the fold – who else was there but lay people?) It was never intended to be a static group of people who have 'always done it this way'. It is right to remember and give thanks for the past, but we must also look forward to where God is leading us and ask for the courage to do it in order, not to suit our own needs, but to 'serve the present age'. It also takes courage to take a good look at our own lives, to be honest enough with ourselves to make the distinction between what's good and what's not, and then to reject the bad.

Secondly, this journey takes **commitment**. I made my first serious commitment to God while I was a student at university, but it did not end there. We need to be continually recommitting ourselves to the Lord's service and to one another. This is why occasions such as the Covenant Service and Holy Communion (I assume you mean this and not just 'communion') are so important.

And finally, our journey requires us to travel in **community**. I am very blessed to be part of the university community, as well as the Methodist community in Leeds. It reminds me that I am not alone and that God does not call me to minister in isolation. Wherever you find yourself journeying this next year, I pray that you may know that you are never alone for 'Immanuel', God is with us and, by walking in his ways we can be assured of peace for our souls.

Love and blessings,

Caroline

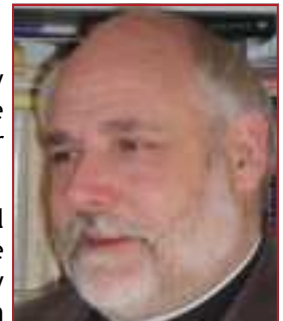


The Revd Paul King

Visiting Preachers

On Sunday 24th January Lt-Col John Hassard of the Salvation Army will preach our 10.30am Sunday Service as part of the pulpit exchange organised by Leeds City Centre Churches for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

On the following Sunday (31st January) the Revd Paul King, University Chaplain from 1984 till 1993 will take part in our worship. His successor as University Chaplain, the Revd Jonathan Pye will preach on Sunday, 7th March. Paul is now a supernumerary minister in the Chesterfield circuit, and Jonathan is principal of Wesley College in Bristol.



The Revd Jonathan Pye

Our Church Family and Friends

We congratulate

- Kathleen Goacher on her 96th birthday (13th October)
- Angela Foster on the arrival of her granddaughter, Iris, a sister for Poppy

We welcome

- Sheeba Massey to the membership of Oxford Place

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The next major event in our year of celebration will be the Open Day on Thursday 29th April from 10.00am until 3.00pm.

The church will provide a place for the many agencies based in the premises to publicise their work, as well as enabling us to display information about the work and activities of Oxford Place over the years. This is a real opportunity to see the weekday side of the mission of Oxford Place in the city centre.

The Anniversary Weekend will be on the 9th and 10th October 2010. On the Saturday there will be a Church Family Meal followed by an Open Meeting at which the speaker will be the Revd David Gamble, President of the Methodist Conference.

The final event of the year will be the Anniversary Service of Celebration on the Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm. We hope that many former members of staff and members of the church as well as friends of Oxford Place will be able to be present. If you are in touch with anyone who would be interested, please invite them to come along. The preacher will be the Revd David Gamble. Don't forget the date, it's easy to remember – 10.10.10.

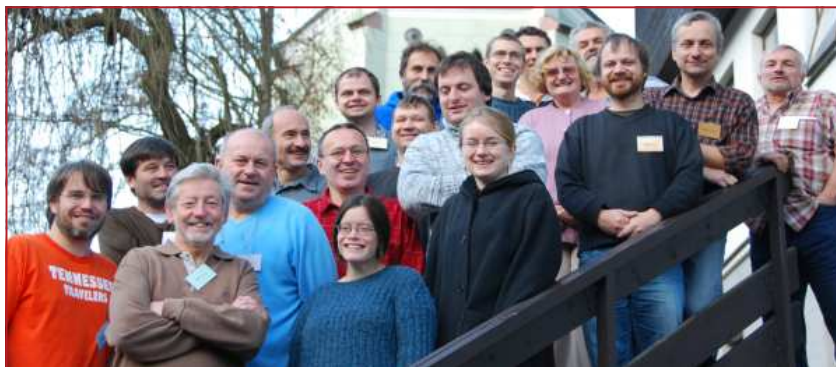
Our giving to Charities and Connexional Funds September 2008 to August 2009

World Mission	
Special Sunday Collection	£65.50
Network (Easter Offering)	£115.50
Home Mission	
Special Sunday Collection	£75.00
Specified Sunday Collections	
Christian Aid	£89.00
Methodist Relief and Development Fund	£85.50
Bible Society	£53.00
Leaders of Worship & Preachers' Trust	£64.00
Methodist Homes for the Aged	£89.00
Action for Children	£73.00
Mission Alongside the Poor	£52.00
Benevolence Fund	£48.50

Notes

- The tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme for the 'Specified Collections' goes directly to the charities concerned.
- These figures do not include £1408.28 raised for our Charity of the Year - Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network (LASSN)
- The 'Benevolence Fund' enables ministers and deacons to give to needy people

News from Brno



Those involved in the Walk to Emmaus weekend – Jozka (who came to Leeds) is third from the right

Some of our friends in Brno have recently been involved in a weekend for men which is part of the *Czech Walk to Emmaus* and Jozka Havir was the Lay Director. The *Walk to Emmaus* is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders and takes its inspiration from the story in the 24th Chapter of Luke's Gospel.

In December Ondra and Iva Holusa (who visited us in Leeds) celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary.

We still have no definite information about arrangements for a visit to Brno next year.

Sundays

January

3	10.30 <i>Holy Communion</i> The Revd Liz Smith Deacon Ruth Hinch
10	Covenant Sunday 10.30 The Revd Caroline Ryder Ms Jane Aitchison 6.30 <i>Reflective Worship</i> The Revd Liz Smith
17	10.30 Mr Rob Lolley 6.30 <i>Time to Talk</i> The Revd Caroline Ryder
24	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 10.30 The Revd Caroline Ryder Lt-Col John Hassard (Salvation Army)
31	10.30 The Revd Paul King

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February

7	10.30 <i>Holy Communion</i> The Revd Liz Smith Mrs Patricia Goacher
14	10.30 The Revd Philip Bee The Revd Caroline Ryder 6.30 <i>Reflective Worship</i> The Revd Pat Creamer
21	Lent 1 10.30 Deacon Ruth Hinch Mrs Ann Bailey 6.30 <i>Time to Talk</i> The Revd Bev Hollings
28	Lent 2 10.30 Mrs Liz Waller Deacon Ruth Hinch

March

7	Lent 3 10.30 <i>Holy Communion</i> The Revd Jonathan Pye Mrs Patricia Goacher
14	Mothering Sunday 10.30 Deacon Ruth Hinch Mrs Liz Waller 6.30 <i>Reflective Service</i> The Revd Liz Smith
21	Lent 5 10.30 Mrs Patricia Goacher The Revd Caroline Ryder <i>General Church Meeting</i> 6.30 <i>Time to Talk</i> Deacon Ruth Hinch
28	Palm Sunday 10.30 The Revd Philip Bee Mr Rob Lolley

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The 10.30 Sunday Service is for all ages. Except during school holidays the Junior Church go to their own session for part of the time. Tea and Coffee are served after the service. *Time to Talk* is an informal worship service in the Lounge Café.

Weekdays

January

- 4 Church and Lounge Café re-open during the week
- 8 10.45am Women's Network Service
- 13 Morning Launch of Leeds City Council Year of the Volunteer

February

- 1 7.30pm Pastoral Committee
- 2 12.00 Methodist City Centre Network Coordinating Group
- 10 Team Day at Hinsley Hall
- 11-14 District Visit of the President and Vice-President of Conference
- 22 *Fairtrade Fortnight* begins
- 26 2.00pm Sisters in Harmony Concert

March

- 4 Continuing Development in Ministry Training Day
- 5 Women's World Day of Prayer §
- 8-11 Lay Employee Conference
- 10 10.30am Children's Centre Management Committee
- 11 10.00am District Leadership Team Meeting
- 12 10.45am Women's Network Service
- 17 Lay Employee Away Day at the Mirfield Centre
- 23 7.30pm Concord Interfaith Group Meeting
- 23 Singing is Fun

§ Time and venue for this event were not available at the time of printing.

Easter

at Oxford Place

Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion
7.30pm 1st April

Good Friday
2.00pm 2nd April

Easter Day
Sunday, 4th April
10.30am Holy Communion

Additional services may be arranged nearer the time.

Weekday Worship at Oxford Place

Wednesday 12.30pm
Service of Holy Communion

**Deadline for the Spring issue is
14th March**

LIFE AND WORK of the Oxford Place Methodist Centre is published quarterly: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July) and Autumn (October) by Leeds Methodist Mission. Correspondence and contributions should be addressed to: The Editor, Life and Work, Oxford Place Methodist Centre, Oxford Place, Leeds LS1 3AX. Telephone: (0113) 245 3502 (office hours) or may be sent by e-mail to kenneth.tait@btinternet.com (Text attachments are preferred in plain text, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, RTF, or Open Document format. Images and pictures can be accepted in most formats.) Please visit our web site at www.oxfordplace.org.uk