

From the Editors... Jutta & Harald



Dear Readers

Summer 2016 – if you collect crossroad then you can find in Crossroads Summer 2012 edition an introduction of us taking over crossroads.

Now it is time to say Good-Bye – our time in Malta is over and we will leave the island. Crossroads will get handed over to Pat O’Neil.

And it is not only us who leave the wonderful island but also Elizabeth and Peter Lloyd will leave this summer.

The church is a family. United by the common recognition of Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we are all brothers and sisters. And, for a time, St. Andrew’s Scots Church was our home.

In our parting, we can think of no better words to share with you than these penned by the Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi. “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing the Gospel from the first day until now. I am confident that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1. 3-6).

Jutta & Harald



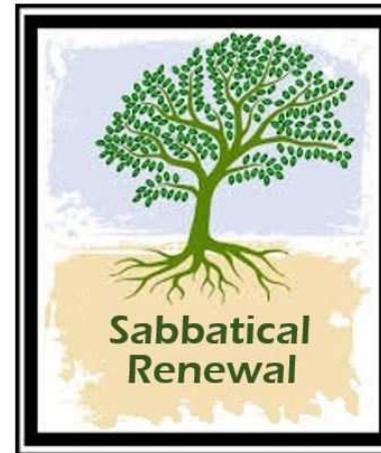
From the Manse...



Dear Friends

As I write this letter preparations are well underway for my sabbatical and by the time you read it I will be just about ready to start. I will be away from the 1st July – 1st October and emergency cover has been arranged. I want to thank the Kirk Session who will have extra work during this time and the preachers and ministers who are covering in my absence. Dot is also going to be away for 2 months as she needs medical treatment in the UK so please remember her in your prayers.

Please offer your own help and support to all those covering during these summer months. Visiting preachers need encouragement as some of them have travelled a great distance to be here on the promise of a wonderful friendly congregation. The Manse phone will pass out my mobile number which is 99154654 and this phone will either be with the Minister covering or between ministers with the Elder who has overall responsibility. 3 of our Elders have agreed to step up and take on the added responsibility Christa will be covering for July, Sharon for August and Diana for September. Their numbers will also be on the church notices.



So why am I having a sabbatical in the first place and causing all this chaos? All Methodist ministers have a sabbatical after 10 years in the ministry and then every 7 years after that. My Sabbatical is actually a year late deferred because of the move to Malta. The idea is that it is a time for study, rest and refreshment, a time to reflect on your ministry and experience something a little different. My last sabbatical in 2008 was spent here in Malta studying St Paul, his

shipwreck and the growth of Christianity. This was a really special time for me and afterwards I brought a group of pilgrims to the Island to share my enthusiasm.

This time my aim is to continue to look at St Paul his time in Rome and his prison letters. I am going to spend a month of my time in Rome, this isn't just a good excuse to have a holiday, I am Interim Moderator of St Andrew's Church Rome and will be helping them begin the process of looking for a new minister as well as preaching on the Sundays and emergency pastoral cover. But it also gives me time to experience the place where St Paul as imprisoned, wrote many of his letters and eventually was executed. I will be spending most of my time studying. Upon my return I hope to be refreshed and to share with you all some of my experiences.

I trust you will have a good summer with a wonderful variety of preachers and ministers and hope this time of change is also an opportunity for growth for us all.
May God richly bless you all,

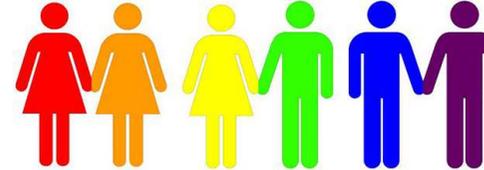


*Love & Prayers,
Kim*



Report on the S E District Synod held at Walthamstow School Sevenoakson April 23rd 2016

The theme of the day was *Marriage and Relationships* with much time given to discussion of the issue of single sex marriage and the official viewpoint of the Methodist Connexion. Much preparatory work has been done and now we are asked to consider what the Church's standpoint should be in the light of recent UK legislation which has legalized same sex unions. This will be an issue Leadership Teams and congregations will be asked to discuss and report on giving their viewpoints on the way forward- 'Doing nothing is not an option.'



In 1992 the Methodist Church issued a report which in essence states that marriage is 'the lifelong union between a man and a woman'. During the last 24 years there has been a significant, rapid change in society's attitudes to same sex relationships and legislation has been passed to reflect this. Consequently Christians have to consider their attitudes and decide whether it is right to revisit the 1992 report and decide if there is a need to make changes to the Methodist standpoint.

The Synod began with worship which reflected the sensitive nature of the topic and the need for respect and tolerance of each other's differing viewpoints.

During the day discussion groups were tiered so that those whose churches had not discussed the issue were given an introductory overview. To set the scene we saw video clips highlighting people's differing perspectives - conservative Christians have a pre disposition to accept the authority of Scripture and would not feel that they could dismiss the clear teaching of Scripture on the grounds of expediency. However, it is clear that we consider some aspects of the bible as more binding than others - e.g. we will eat a bacon sandwich but will not commit murder even though both these are forbidden in the Scriptures. The key is whether marriage between same sex couples is acceptable Christian conduct and is the clear teaching of Scripture authoritative for Christians in 21st century.

The general business of the meeting was conducted as normal in the afternoon and we received testimonies from 3 ordinands who, with their different approaches told us of their journey in faith.

Other information to note from the Synod report:

- Michael Richardson will be retiring as Treasurer in September
- Church Councils must confirm they have received the annual accounts in their Minutes.
- The District Development Plan was adopted by Synod.
- All resolutions in the Annual Report were agreed by Synod.
- Lay employees must be given a contract and a job description, and Church Councils should aim to ensure that supervision is in place for them.

Details are on the Methodist Web site.

EDH /4/16

Dot Hunter

*Please do your best to attend the church
as much as possible over the summer months
as the numbers are often down and
our visiting preachers also need encouraged*



Blue Door English – feeling inspired?



Just over a year ago, Peter and I attended the funeral of 24 migrants who had died in the worst disaster of a migrant boat sinking, in which an estimated 800 people lost their lives. They were in numbered coffins and as we grieved for these lost souls, whose names were unknown, our minds were drawn to the others that had tragically perished.

That evening, we welcomed our students to the regular Thursday class and it was so poignant to think that it could so easily have been them - they have made a similar journey to seek refuge and some have experienced loss of friends and family on the way. They are survivors of the journey and now trying to make the best of their current situation.

Ignoring the politics and issues surrounding migration, St Andrews Scots Church has for several years had a mission to support migrants, and the English Language Teaching programme has an important role within that. We aim to provide a friendly and welcoming environment in which our students not only develop their language skills, but also build confidence and self-esteem. They are highly motivated and a joy to teach.

**SPEAK
ENGLISH?
TEACH SOMEONE
WHO DOESN'T**

We have been blessed with a team of committed volunteers and the teaching team is always willing to welcome more volunteers as this enables us to have smaller teaching groups which benefit student learning, especially those students who need extra support with literacy.

The facilities within the St Andrew's International Centre are well equipped with whiteboards, projectors and an interactive whiteboard and teaching resources include a small library. These have been gratefully provided through donated money from churches and individuals in the UK and throughout Europe, and resources from local language schools.

Classes have now stopped for the summer. We recently had our end of term party and award of attendance certificates. However, this was a bitter-sweet occasion for Peter and I. We said farewell to our students as we are leaving Malta at the end of September. I have been the co-ordinator of the teaching programme and Peter has supported me with the registration.

The church is therefore seeking volunteers to fulfil these roles so that the teaching programme can resume again in the Autumn. I therefore ask for your prayers that people will be called to serve and commit their time and energy.

The co-ordinator role requires someone with a background in education, an ability to develop teaching resources, to lead a team of volunteers, and should have good organisational skills.

If you feel inspired and want to have more information, please contact me by email elloydmalta@live.co.uk and we can meet to discuss this further. I will support the new co-ordinator as much as possible before we leave at the end of September.



Elizabeth Lloyd



Our

environment is one of the greatest examples we have of God's power. The word *environment* encompasses all of God's most beautiful and awesome works. The environment is his creation, a precious and holy resource with which he entrusted all humans the loving care and wise use of. God asked all humans to be stewards of the environment in Genesis 1:28, when he said to Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

I have not always understood the meaning of this passage, however, and I struggled with the idea that God wanted us to "subdue" the earth and "rule" over all of the living creatures. I thought that he was telling us that we could do anything we wanted to with his creation, without thinking of the consequences. The idea of God giving us a gift, especially such an incredible gift as the earth and all of its creatures, and then allowing us to use our power over it selfishly and carelessly, did not seem right to me. When I saw the price the environment is paying today for us to rule over God's creation in this way, I wondered why God had ever said those words to Adam and Eve and given us that kind of power.

The way that I live is not the simple, humble life devoted to service that God wants for me. Like many people, Christian or otherwise, I live a self-centered life, full of excess. Even though I try to do many little things to conserve energy and natural resources, like always turning off lights when they are not needed, re-using the unused side of all of my computer paper for rough drafts, and being careful of how much water I use, I know that I still use far more energy and

natural resources every day than do the majority of individuals in developing nations. I know that I buy products from industries that pollute our land and water through their manufacturing processes. I know that the food that I buy has been sprayed with pesticides and herbicides to make it look perfect and unblemished. Above all, I know that these actions are contributing to the destruction of our environment, a holy gift from God.

There are many ways in which I can show my concern for the environment and live up to my responsibility to be a steward of God's precious creation. I can work to solve some of my problems, like using products and foods that I know are environmentally sound, by taking the time to research companies and their practices, and finding brands that I can trust to make the environment a priority in their manufacturing processes. I can also show my concern for the environment by talking to more Christians about our responsibilities to God to treat his creation with respect and love. I know many Christians who, as I once didn't, do not truly understand what God expected of us when he told us to "subdue" and "rule" over the earth. I can try to open their eyes and hearts to the message that God wants us to use his creation wisely and unselfishly, so that it will always be a place that can sustain everyone and everything that he creates.

Extract of "Loving the Environment Is a Christian Responsibility – God entrusted us with the care of his creation. – Jennifer Belknap"

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/iyf/hottopics/faithvalues/loving-environment-is-christian-responsibility.html?start=1>



Baggage and Travelling Light



A recent discussion I was involved in centred around the Beatitudes, particularly "*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*"

(Mtth 5:3) Since we hear about the Tugwashanye community in Monze, Zambia on a regular basis I wondered whether it was really easier to be "*poor in spirit*" if you were poor, deprived of the comfort many of us take for granted.

Another bible passage came to mind that points to the difficulty that the rich have in achieving such Christian ideals expressed in the Beatitudes - "*... it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.*" This brings us to the image of the rich man who is unlikely to want to forgo any possession. On the other hand, one could strip a camel of the load he carries and compel him to go on his knees to enter Jerusalem through the narrow gate left open after dark. The poor, on the other hand, can walk through easily as they are unhindered by possessions.

I am told, however, that one can be poor and resent all those who have even a little more. On the other hand, Sister Catherine once told us that she sometimes has to turn people away with nothing but the response she reported is not in any way bitter: "Never mind, Sister, perhaps you will have more tomorrow".

An experience I had several years ago when I tried to help a blind man in a Scottish town who was extremely unappreciative of my efforts, to put it poetically, surfaces from time to time. This

makes me realise that we can never generalise about the rich or the poor or about any group of persons. Whilst most of the persons I know who have a serious impairment are able to make those around them feel privileged to know them because they often provide incredible insights into ordinary events, some, like the blind man I met, do not activate many such positive ripples. Nevertheless, the stories that Sister Catherine often reports when she visits Malta show that at least the poor do not have the shackles of wealth, of commodities, of material security to separate them from God.

There is no doubt that there are those who have little and who often face God with ease and spontaneity because they constantly acknowledge their dependence on Providence. They do not become bitter in their frequent deprivation, but are grateful for anything they have. They do not expect security but look to God to provide for them once they have done their utmost. Many of us, on the other hand, often forget that what we have is Providential and that we depend on God for all we are and all we have.



Like many of my peers, I considered it an important educational target that our children should grow to be as independent as possible as early as possible. It seems that I should have concentrated on a totally different perspective, that all they achieve is actually attributable to God. That might be a difficult roundabout turn for most. We know it but somehow this did not dominate our everyday life. It takes time to recognise and be convinced of this complete dependence - without God we are nothing. Yes, we realise that to become true to ourselves

requires us to strip away all of what we think we have achieved, all of what we possess and to regard it differently, as alien to our essence though a part of our every day life.

The journey we have all embarked on is one where many of us move slowly and often are at a dead slow speed because we have collected so much stuff on the way. We can only take small steps and occasionally we even back track when we think that we need more such stuff - whether books or jewellery or stocks and shares or having a good time or so much good food beyond what we can eat. We lose our focus and often our way, not realising that these are means to an end not the end itself. There are plenty of good reasons to convince us to continue to accumulate these things.

Is that what the community of Tugwashanye sees of the rich world around them, both in Zambia itself as well as in the big world around them? From Sister Catherine's reports we know that whatever we can contribute will make a difference to their lives, particularly if we can make education possible for the youngsters in order to break the vicious circle of poverty. It will not be a case of over-indulgence but an attempt to live in dignity. The Tugwashanye community so many miles away from Malta serves us as a reminder that sharing what we have been provided for us with them can bring us so much closer to God who will remind us: "you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

Marie Alexander
For The Mission Team



As assistant to the new treasurer Mrs Hazel Dunlavy I (Mrs Brenda Pleasance) pay bills which may be in the form of petty cash or cheques. It reveals that it is quite difficult to pay bills at the same time they are presented to me. I need time to check the information they contain and get hold of lots of change in the petty cash purse or prepare a cheque for signing.



Therefore, bills presented on a Sunday at the church service will be paid the following Sunday. This gives me time to check information and prepare cheques or be sure there is the correct change in petty cash.

In case of difficulty because of the size of the bill please send me an email by Thursday stating the amount, what the payment is for and who is to receive the money. In the case of cheques the full name that is to be written on the cheque. This may enable me to prepare the payment for the following Sunday.

Cheques and petty cash will be handed over in the half hour BEFORE church starts

My email is brendapleasance@yahoo.co.uk

Volunteer & Duty Chart

Please take notice of our Volunteer & Duty Chart. It indicates names and duties in our church life. Especially it shows which functions need volunteers and which don't. Functions are indicated with a colour code. It is displayed at the end of the steps leading to the hall on the wall next to the entry of the hall.



We sit at the front of the Church and either just chat or make things, etc. People of different nationalities and cultures come in for a drink. Some are on holiday and some live here. ---
SUMMER BREAK



Bible Study Group meets in the Church Hall at 10:30 on a Thursday morning – further information from Norrie Alexander or Paul Slater.



There are two Home Groups just now:
one in Birgu at the Wilmot's – and a second in Maghtab at Thiele-Trimmel's.
Contact Judy or Franklin (Birgu Group) on 7926 1646 or jwilmot@keyworld.net
OR Jutta or Harald (Maghtab Group) 9964 7772 or dc8-73@gmx.de

Dates For Your Diary



Preaching Appointments and Duty Rotas

Date	Theme	Preacher	Steward Greeter	Duty Elder	Readers	Junior Church
26. Jun 16	Holy Communion	Rev Hurst	S. Hurst D. Portelli	D. Hunter	Doreen David S.	Marie Edwina
03. Jul 16		Martin Mitchell	D. Smith J. Psaila	C. Okoro	Jenny Steve	
10. Jul 16		Rev Mo Ryan	T. Ellul Mary P.-B.	Chr. Wiegand	Christa Clement	
17. Jul 16	All age Worship	Rev Mo Ryan	P. Slater C. Okoro	D. Nye	Adam Brenda	
24. Jul 16	Holy Communion	Rev Mo Ryan	N. Alexander E. Ukaegbu	D. Vella	Diane V. Diana N.	
31. Jul 16		Rev Mo Ryan	F. Wilmot A. Pleasance	B. Pleasance	Norrie Marie	
07. Aug 16		Norrie Alexander	P. Salter T. Ellul	S. Abbot	John Sharon	
14. Aug 16		Paul Slater	R. Den Heyer C. Okoro	J. Psaila	Jenny Ria	
21. Aug 16	All Age Worship	Kirk Session	D. Smith T. Ellul	Chr. Wiegand	Doreen June	
28. Aug 16	Holy Communion	Rev Rose Westwood	David P.-G. B. Hunter	D. Hunter	Anne Diana N.	
04. Sep 16		Rev Rose Westwood	Mary P.-B. D. Portelli	D. Vella	Dot Jo	
11. Sep 16		Rev Dr Iain Bentley	B. Pleasance A. Pleasance	S. Abbot	Sharon Ria	
18. Sep 16	All Age Worship	Rev Dr Iain Bentley	A. Catherall D. Nye	C. Okoro	June Pat	
25. Sep 16	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Iain Bentley	P. O'Neil P. Slater	D. O'Neil	Doreen Dianne	

When ever possible the Rev Kim plans to have **Monday** as her rest day so please try to refrain from contacting her on a **Monday** unless it is an emergency.
Thank You for your understanding.



A prayer chain is a group of like-minded people who wish to pray for people and their situations that arise during our daily lives. It is also used for praise.

This started in our previous church also called St. Andrew in Cardiff 34 year ago. When it was started there it was all done by phone as no one had a computer back then.

A Coordinator was informed of a person who needed prayers. There would be about 4 or 5 "Chain Leaders" who would each receive the message, and they would then contact the person underneath them on the chain, who would then contact the next one on the list, and so on, there may 6, 7, or even more hence the chain. So with the exception of the Coordinator no one had to call more than one person. It was a wonderful feeling to know that people were praying for your situation.

With the advent of computers being owned by lots of people now, it was suggested to me a couple of years ago that I might want to move with times and bring the prayer chain into the 21st century by using email as well. It made a tremendous difference, as people who had odd working hours and/or used their computer a lot were able to participate more easily. Of course there are people who don't have a computer, or just prefer a phone call which is fine.

The power of prayer is truly amazing.

If anyone would like more information or to join the prayer chain, please don't hesitate to contact me.

My details are as follow:

June Pritchard-Griffiths,
Landline: 21311277 / Mobile: 7951 1406
Email: junepeg1951@yahoo.co.uk