

The Methodist
Church
Sidwell Street
Exeter



Update

Your monthly news
From Sidwell Street

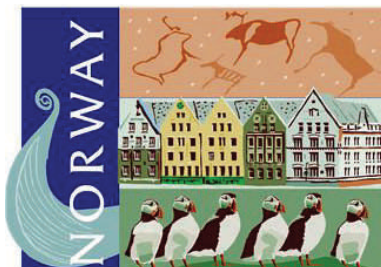
September 2010

Dear All

Last month I wrote a piece that got us about eighteen hours into the story of the Stykkeproven bike ride in Norway. Under the heading of loving life we had reached the bottom of the mountain section. After a fabulous wind in the hair adrenalin rush embraced by sunshine we find ourselves confronted by two psychological barriers. After all the excitement we are still only half way there, and we have lost one of our team to a back injury.

The road to Lillehammer, the winter Olympics venue 1994, would not seem out of place if you found it in Oxfordshire: Wandering through rolling hills, little villages, and acres of farm land. Only the occasional red wooden barn reminds you that you are far from home.

The temperature starts to drop and we head towards the second evening and so ends the first night and the first day. These long dark-less nights confuse the mind and the feeding stations become an island of sanity in a sea of gentle madness. So the



quietness of hours on the silent bicycles is suddenly interrupted by gatherings of weary grubby humanity consuming soup and bread.

Fed and watered we head off into the dawn. Sometimes I end up thinking of passages in the Bible that fit the occasion. Jesus' seeming criticism of the disciple's lack of stamina when they fall asleep before he is arrested weighs heavily on me sometimes. He asks them, "*So you had not the strength to keep awake with me one hour?*" (*Matthew 26: 40*) With a kind of childlike or maybe childish perception I have occasionally felt that it was my job to stay awake when others slept. Maybe just to avoid the idea I was letting Jesus down in some way.

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Church & Society

Our Autumn meeting is on Thursday, November 4th at Wonford at 7:30pm.

We look forward to a presentation from I.C.E. (Initiative in Christian Education) as they tell us about their work in our Exeter & District Schools.

Their aim is to offer Christian support to the local educational services, to provide a communication link between Schools & Churches and to demonstrate the love of Christ to school age young people.

We look forward to a good number of people at the meeting to show them that we support them.

There will be a collection which will be given towards their work.

Elizabeth Earland



Action for Children News

The annual '**Step-it-Out**' for children walk will take place along Exeter Canal (3 miles) on **Saturday, October 9th**. Anyone wishing to take part please speak to Rosalind Oliver who has sponsorship forms and details are on the Church Notice Board.

Contributions to Network for 2009/10

W.F—Collections once a month	£ 107.79
Bring & Buy Stall	25.45

Very many thanks to everyone who has contributed to Network (World Missions) throughout the year.

Birthday Gifts 188.50

Annual Subscriptions 75.00

Morning Market (½ share) 203.47

Easter Offerings 92.09

Circuit Festival 'purse' 55.00

£747.30

Ann Weeks, Treasurer

The **Autumn District Network Day** this year will be in Exeter at :

The Mint
Thursday, 7th October 2010,
Speaker : Anne Kenyon.

All are welcome, do come if you can.

(Details of times, etc., to be announced later).



Sing for the Starving Concert

Wednesday, 6 October 2010
Sidwell Street Methodist Church
from 7:30pm

“**Sing for the Starving**” is an Exeter based charity, formed when members of different churches got together and decided that money raised by a concert of varied sacred music could raise finance for starving people. From the first get together in 1992, about £15,000 has been raised and distributed to Christian Aid, Oxfam and more latterly Shelterbox.

Tickets will cost £5.00.

Please support this event and bring your friends too.

Rehearsals will be held at 7pm on Wed 8th, Mon 13th, Tues 21st Sept & Tues 5th Oct. and singers or musicians wishing to participate in this worthwhile ecumenical venture will be most welcome. For details of music or any further information contact:

Wensleigh Palmer on 01392 251846.



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In this particular cycling test of stamina the ability to stay awake is truly a blessing. Having climbed up a savage series of hills in the grey light we begin to get sights over a lake known as the Mersa.

I know at these moments why the monks of old put themselves through such trials. For in the crackling sharp cold, the unusual light echoing of the water, and a half waking state you can hear the voice of God as clear as as.....

To be continued—Love Andrew



Harvest Saturday, 25th September

There will be a coffee morning with a bring and buy from
9.30am to 12 noon

In aid of Junior Mission for All (JMA)

Harvest Festival Sunday, 26th September

Our services will be led by Lloyd Smale at 10.30am
and

Rev. Andrew Brazier at 6.30pm

Harvest Supper—Monday, 27th September

The Harvest Supper will be held in the school hall from 7.00p.m

The tickets for the supper this year will remain at £4.00 each or £10 for a family ticket including school age children. Tickets will be on sale on Sunday 12th & Sunday 19th September when you will be asked to make your choice of food.

Harvest Weekend : The church will be decorated for harvest on Saturday 25th September. Your gifts of flowers, fruit and vegetables (not too much greenery please!) will be gratefully received by Margaret Fogarty between 9.30 and 10.30. on that day. As some of our harvest gifts will be donated to the St.Petrocks centre you might prefer to bring packs of sugar, porridge oats, Sugar Puffs, Frosties, coffee, cup-a-soups, biscuits or sauces. (*This is from a newsletter received from St. Petrocks and they say they do not want tins this year as they have plenty in store!*)

Harvest Gifts : Would pastoral visitors please remember to take flowers for anyone on their list who would like them. Also after the evening service the church needs to be cleared and everything taken up to the school hall. Any help you can give with this would be much appreciated as it is rather a mammoth task and "*many hands make light work!*"

The Circuit Plan

Please note that the price of the Circuit Plan is to be increased to 50p per copy (£2 per year) due to rising costs.

The next issue for October/November/December 2010 will be available soon.

An Interview with Elizabeth Earland



St Sids is my second home : My Father arrived in Exeter in 1923, on Bonfire Night he and two friends were bored, so decided to 'sort out the Boys' Brigade'. They hadn't reckoned on the redoubtable Captain Burnell who within minutes had them marching with the BB.

Mum grew up in Parr Street and sang in the Church Junior Choir at St Sids. There was a time when Dad taught her in Sunday School, but he didn't remember that! They met when they both worked for 'Charles of Exeter' and were married by Rev. William Proctor at St Sids in 1940 and lived in a flat in Parr Street. Much of Parr Street was flattened in the blitz. Looking up from all the devastation, the Church was still standing and it gave them great hope. The summer of '42 was spent in poultry houses on Dartmoor, only returning to Exeter just before my birth (yes, I'm 68) I was christened in November '42. My brothers were both christened in the school room, the Church was being repaired after war damage.

Very happy days were spent in Sunday School with Oscar Gillard and Edna Blackford nee Phillips. The highlight was watching slides of Bible Stories in the Reed Hall! I remember too the embarrassment of being escorted to the Christmas tea by Rev. Wollen. I was shy in those days!

Regular attendance came to an end in the 1950's when my brother was

very ill and medics recommended sea air. Every possible moment was then spent at Dawlish Warren.

I met Michael in 1959. His church was the parish Church at Sidmouth but like me he wasn't attending regularly. We started to worship at the Parish Church and were married there in 1961. Our son Ashley was christened there in 1969 and attended Sunday School there. We were running a business from our home in Longbrook Street and one evening we heard something that we hadn't heard before. It was 1st Exeter BB marching in the dark with the band playing and police cars—lights flashing—before and aft. Ashley wanted to join the BB and BB Sunday School. That first Sunday, I went into church and came out to find a gathering at the door—waiting for ME! There as Oscar, Edna, Minnie Nicholls, Joy Terry and Betty Bickers, but Betty says she doesn't remember that! I haven't left since, becoming a member on 30th November 1980, a week after Mum and Dad's Ruby Wedding—conducted by Rev. Stuckley—later to become President of Conference. Since then I have run Beginners Sunday School for 17 years and been on Church Council several times. I am now entering my 11th year as JMA Secretary.

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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Minister : Rev. Andrew Brazier—Tel 438648 andrewbrazier@hotmail.com



Trevor Smith

Would like to thank all of his friends at Sidwell Street for their kind wishes for his 80th birthday which he celebrated on the 29th of July with his daughter and family in Nottingham.



Dr Stewart Barr is deserting us once again for the month of September, as he will be working in Canada.

Women's Fellowship Coffee Morning Tuesday, 7th September 2010

A coffee morning with a cake & produce stall will be held at Sidwell Street.

The money raised will be donated to 'Nurse Kirstie Randall's Appeal' which is raising funds to bring a young girl from Ghana to the Devon and Exeter Hospital for surgery.

Kirstie met the young girl recently when working on a Mercy Ship

Sue Fildes has to restart a different chemotherapy this month, so will now be undergoing this until January. We do hope this suits her better.

Mary Hooper is sadly not making much progress at home and is undergoing tests.

Some of David Evans Film Clips have been shown on BBC2. **'Great British Video Road Show'**. We are also grateful to David for his weekly supply of garden produce which has raised, so far, £32 for Church Funds

The last date to submit items for the October Update is Tuesday, 28th of September.

Junior Mission for All

A big thank you to all who have supported JMA this year.....

The figures for the year 2009/2010 are as follows

Our Subscribers, Collectors, Margaret Amos-Yeo for the lovely cakes—and all who purchased them—and those who collected Tiddlers, to mention just a few.

Subscriptions	292.15
Cakes	144.39
Tiddlers	44.94
Donations	33.60
Coffee Morning	56.12
Grand Total	<u>£ 571.20</u>

Margaret deserves a special 'thank you' this year : she has been making cakes for us since 2003 and has collected £875 for her efforts! Tyrene Thompson is our new cake maker and has collected £30 already this year! Thank you Tyrene.

The Annual Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy sale will be as usual on

Harvest Saturday—25th September

Out target was £475!
Well done everyone and thank you again for all your support.
Elizabeth Earland



Saturday, November 20th 2010
Morning Market
in aid of World Missions

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I give thanks regularly for those who looked after the Beginners for a few weeks when Michael died in 1995; for the Friendship Group who organised Michael's funeral reception and wouldn't let me pay a penny towards it. For Don Long and the ever patient Midge, without whose help I would never had cleared Michael's workshop. For the Church Family for the

overwhelming love that I felt on that first Sunday after his death and again during my operations and illnesses. For the support when my Mother-in-Law and my Dad died on the same day and again when my Mum died. Is it any wonder that I think of St Sids as my second home?

God Bless you all.
Elizabeth Earland

“God and Man and Woman”

led by John Bell

Rev John Bell, a leading member of the Iona Community and internationally known hymn writer and speaker, will be leading sessions in Exeter on Oct 23/24, at the invitation of Churches Together Across Exeter and the University Christian Chaplaincy Team



Saturday 23rd October 2010 at the Mint Methodist Church Centre
“God and Man and Woman”

9.30 a.m. Registration and Coffee

10.00 a.m. UNSUNG HEROES

An exploration of people, especially women of the Bible, whose profile has been kept remarkably low. For what reason?

11.15 a.m. Coffee

11.45 a.m. SINGING AND BELIEVING

Does what we sing shape for good or ill what we believe?

Did ever old song get it wrong, does ever new song get it right?

1.00 p.m. Lunch

2.00 p.m. CELEBRATING THE UNSUNG JESUS

An investigation in word and song of essential aspects of Jesus' ministry which have suffered from neglect in the song and preaching of the Church.

4.00 p.m. Tea and Home

Admission is by ticket, price £5 per person

**Tickets are available from Mint Church Centre Administrators,
The Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter EX4 3AT
admin@themint.org.uk 01392 279786**

John Bell is an ordained minister in the Church of Scotland. He lectures, preaches and conducts seminars around the world, and is a regular broadcaster. He is based in Glasgow and works with his colleagues in the areas of music, worship and spirituality. He does not have a mobile phone, driving licence, camera, i-pod or wife. He has never traced his family origins, played a guitar or eaten a Big Mac. NB John Bell is neither leader nor musical director of the Iona Community. He is simply a resource worker.

Refreshments Tea, coffee and soup will be available at lunchtime, but please bring your own packed lunch

John Bell will also be sharing in:

Sunday 24th October 10.30 am Sunday Morning Worship at the Mint