

**The Methodist
Church
Sidwell Street**



Update

Our Monthly News

February 2012

Dear All

Ruth thinks that I am getting very random in my newsletters. After 4½ years of them she is probably right!

Apart from wanting to include her in the newsletter just to check if she actually reads them, it made me start wondering if anyone remembers what our ministers say? Let's face it we talk so much and it is usually pretty random.

BUT it would be nice to think we'd manage to say at least one or two profound things in amongst the dross and waffle! To get across one insightful message that is not clouded by randomness and incoherence. What would I have you remember? With only a few months left here I can probably get away with some fairly challenging things. So I hope the thing you will learn from me is.....



[Small fanfare to indicate important message!]
"THAT MINISTERS ARE RANDOM!"

Not just random but idiots and fools. No, no.... not just me! All of us. That is why God calls us.

The whole point of having ministers is not to lord it over you all as high priests but to encourage, support, and love. Each of us gets sent with different messages for churches and communities:

Contd. overleaf

Church Website : www.sidwellstreetmethodist.org.uk

To renew that message from God. Trouble is that God's message isn't a nice easy sensible one, it's an idiot's message of taking all the sensible logical things of worldliness and turning them on their head. While the world says be cynical, careful, store up your wealth and expect the worse, the Bible says trust, throw caution to the wind, blow the budget and hope, hope, hope!

So when you start wondering if the local vicar is two giraffes short of a zoo then that is about right. So discard all the hooey and nonsense about respect and deference. Throw away the authoritarian image and the establishment view and hear the idiot's words.

AND what is really cool about the Bible is, it says that we are all priests. We all minister to someone – each other. So we are all idiots together! Lovely to know we are not alone!

I wish I could suggest I thought this up by myself but two thousand years ago Paul explained it like this: "We are fools for Christ" (1 Cor 4:10) and since the middle ages the church has been portrayed as the ship of fools.



Welcome aboard !

Love & God Bless, Andrew

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER

The service on the theme "Let Justice Prevail" has been prepared by Christian women in Malaysia.

10.30 am at Southernhay United Reformed Church. The speaker will be the Revd. Janet Conway.

7.30 pm at St. Andrew's Church, Alphington Road. A more reflective service using words and images from the worship material.

All are welcome - men, women and young people.

SUNDAY 18th MARCH

CORRYMEELA SUNDAY at THE MINT

The evening service on Sunday 18th March, will be a united service at The Mint when they will host a visit by Inderjit Bhogal, who was formerly a president of conference but currently is leader of the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland.



This community was established in 1965 near Ballycastle, County Antrim and opened as a place for Christian reconciliation. Since then its work has spread far and wide.

The programme for Sunday 18th March is as follows:-

- 5.00 p.m. Buffet Tea and informal conversation with Inderjit
- 5.30 p.m. Opening Worship
- 5.45 p.m. Presentation and brief video from Inderjit leading into conversation and discussion
- 6.45 p.m. Closing worship
- 7.00 p.m. Finish

EVERYONE WELCOME

YES MINISTER!

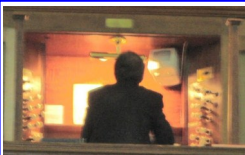
Minister addressing children in church "Can anyone tell me who is the Perfect Person to whom I must compare my life?"

Child (hesitantly): "Is it your wife? "

Church Family News

Some of our congregation have been keeping the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital busy recently. **Linda Cory** and **Maureen Hawkes** have both received treatment in the West of England Eye department. We hope for both of them it was successful and that you will soon be back worshipping with us once more

Anne Dyke and her mother Jean will be missing from church for a few weeks as Anne is unable to drive, having had an operation on her shoulder. It may be some time before she can manage the wheelchair too so Jean is relying on her electric wheelchair at home. All we can say is Get Well soon and look after each other!



Guess who else has had health problems and experienced the Walk In centre a couple of times? We hope **Wensleigh Palmer's** chest problems soon clears up and he'll soon be back to normal - whatever normal may be! There are other members of our congregation awaiting test results or treatment too and we wish them all a return to better health.

MEN'S GROUP

Wednesday 15th February

7.30pm at the home of

KEN CURRELL

55 Thornton Hill

Discussion over fellowship and chocolate cake led by Andrew Brazier



All Men
Welcome

BROWNIES



Congratulation to all the Brownies who completed their Environment badge last term. This term they are working towards their World Guiding Badge.



If you know any fun loving girls aged between 7 & 10 invite them to join our Brownie Pack. Details from Katherine Trengrove on 01392 436856

. No meeting on Feb 13th (Half term)

SUNDAY, 5th FEB

After morning service & sacrament, led by Rev Kenneth Hext, a hot lunch will be served in aid of World Church.

Tickets £5 each must be purchased beforehand.



Then at 4pm our church will be the venue for

Celebrate Together. This is a service for people of all abilities and all ages. This is a chance to stay on after lunch and experience this uplifting service - followed by tea!

COMING SOON

Recently Sheila Spencer, Val Peek & Margaret Fogarty visited a Craft Club at Kingsbury Episcopi Church which has been running successfully for many years.

Can you suggest a name for a Craft Group at Sidwell Street, ?

Remember craft isn't just needlework! We aim to start up soon.



CHURCH COUNCIL

The church council has authority & oversight of the whole area of the ministry of the church, including the management of the property and all members of church council are therefore managing trustees. Our church council meets twice a year in February & October, whilst in April a General Church Meeting is held to which everyone is invited to attend.

Apart from the minister, the current members of Church Council are
Worship Leader, Stewart Barr
Circuit Stewart, Margaret Fogarty
Church Stewards, Graham Bulford, Ruth Brazier, Sandra Williams and Heather Gould

Church Secretary, Anne Edwardson (see note below).

Church Treasurer, Jenny Elliott

Property, Bob Price, Chris Gould, Trevor Smith, Bryan Vincent & Eileen Vincent

Pastoral, Ted Walker

World Church, Sally McClelland

Home Missions, John Sparks

Junior Church, Mary Mayers

Organist, Wensleigh Palmer

Action for Children, Rosalind Oliver

CTAX, Elizabeth Howell

Catering Co-ordinator, Janice Price

Appointments from Annual Church Meeting, Linda Snell, Alan Weeks, Ronnie Tanner, Ann Weeks, John Sully, Mary Perryman, John Simmons, Becci Bradbury, Valerie Peek & David Evans. The latter two as recent church stewards.

Following David Tanner's decision to stand down as church secretary, Anne Edwardson has agreed to fill the position but this will need to be ratified at church council.

FEBRUARY CHURCH COUNCIL

Will be held on **Tuesday 21st February at 7.30pm in the Sargent Room**. At this time of year church appointments are confirmed or made and budgets are discussed which will include the amount required as the church's contribution to the circuit. Written reports will be distributed beforehand which will leave more time for discussion which this year will involve proposed changes to the property.

Will those who are due to produce written reports (those underlined opposite) please ensure they are sent to Anne Edwardson asap or before 7th February at the latest, by email if possible, to anne.edwardson@talktalk.net



PUBLICITY IN THE EXPRESS & ECHO

Hello, My name is Sue Kemp and I am the features editor at the Express & Echo We are hoping to introduce a new page in the paper shortly called "my Parish". It will feature all the news from our local churches.

If there is anything happening at your church, - a member of the congregation achieving something, a fete, concert or event, anything you would like to see featured on this page please let me know. You can either email the information to me at skemp@expressandecho.co.uk or give me a call on 01392 442477.

We are also looking for local church people to write columns or contribute thoughts of the week - again contact me as above

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Andrew Brazier	438648 07794639382	andrewbrazier@hotmail.com
Worship Leader	Stewart Barr	425415	S.W.Barr@exeter.ac.uk
Circuit Steward	Margaret Fogarty	467354	margaret.fogarty@btinternet.com
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Church Secretary			
Hon.Treasurer	Jenny Elliott	493596	jen_elliott@hotmail.com
Junior Church	Mary Mayers	422289	MayersWCA@aol.com
Organist & Choirmaster	Wensleigh Palmer Music Unlimited	876690 251846	musicunlimited.exeter@virgin.net
Hall Bookings	Bryan Vincent	270145	
Property Secretary Property Chairman	Chris Gould Bob Price	432909 437075	heathergould1@btinternet.com rhandjap@hotmail.com
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Weekly Notices - see weekly sheets for details	Heather Gould John Sully Graham Bulford	432909 460889 205140	heathergould1@btinternet.com j.sully1@blueyonder.co.uk gbulford@blueyonder.co.uk
Monthly Update	Margaret Fogarty	467354	margaret.fogarty@btinternet.com

UPDATE deadline for issue will be Tuesday 21st February