

Falmouth Methodist Church

Newsletter November 2013

Harvest 2013

What a wonderful harvest weekend we had this year! The church was beautifully decorated, hampers and flowers were packed and delivered to the housebound, ill, bereaved and our local nursing homes and it was all topped off with a wonderful harvest supper! We had many cards and notes from people who appreciated being thought of and care being taken to include them in our celebrations.

The harvest supper was based around the fairground theme and there were lots of surprises including a coconut shy under a gazebo and chocolate covered apples!



Megs was one of approximately 70 people who attended the harvest supper and has sent in a note about it "A wonderful visit to the show, and a credit to all who took part. There was a list of events on each table – long since lost! So, what do I remember? Ian Smith as MC – very able and suitably dressed boldly clad; Dave, suitably dressed or undressed, lifting 'heavy' weights; Michelle, as a puppet, jerking upright and about to music and side shows for the children's entertainment. We each had an unusually flavoured ice cream at the beginning. There were three games on the stage involving all ages – Ted won the 'eating a donut with your hands behind your back! A very good pasty, sweet and drinks at the interval. There were lots more which amused us greatly at the time! If you missed it you missed a treat!"

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped make the harvest weekend such a success and memorable for so many.

Pastoral News

Firstly we want to thank everyone who delivers care and support to our members both in an official role as pastoral visitors on behalf of the church and also unofficially. This helps people to feel cared for and valued as part of our church community even if we no longer see them on a Sunday morning. Pastoral visitors Mavis Johnson and Peggy Pearce have resigned after many years of selfless giving of time and companionship and we want to thank them for fulfilling these roles. This inevitably means we are in great need of more pastoral visitors to particularly focus upon those who cannot worship with us regularly anymore due to infirmity. This is an extremely fulfilling and rewarding role within church life. We also hope to have a number of people who are able to share communion with such people in their homes. If you feel you would like to become a visitor please contact Michelle or Tracy for more information and get a copy of the new leaflet outlining the role.



In the spring we will be undertaking a training process to enable new visitors, and those who have been doing it for years, to be aware of good practice and to underline our roles and responsibilities as visitors, which we do on behalf of Falmouth Methodist Church. There will also be a new leaflet for newcomers to the church so that we can share information with them about our church community. In addition, as we mentioned in the last newsletter we would like to have a gallery of photographs on the wall in the bottom corridor, so please if you see David Legumi with his camera don't avoid him!

Tracy Lyall (Pastoral Secretary) and The Pastoral Team

Mission to Seafarers

The new Flying Angel Centre opened its door to seafarers on 7th October 2013. The old one closed in March due to the danger of the floor collapsing. The brief for the new Centre was that it should be environmentally-friendly, cosy and look amazing. The Studio Ark design by Cornish company Pioneer Environmental Buildings, ticked all the boxes.

The new Flying Angel Centre is warm in winter and cool in summer, it collects rain water from the roof to a thousand litre water butt, and the water is then used on the Mission's award-winning garden. Its roof is designed to allow it to be 'greened' in the New Year – when an alpine meadow will be planted on top.

A new lounge, kitchen and breakfast bar-style seating has been installed, allowing the Centre to accommodate twice as many people as before.

Even though the Centre was closed for almost six months, seafarers have still been able to access wi-fi in the garden areas whilst enjoying the wraparound garden, water feature, insect hotel and bee boxes.

The Mission cat Mrs Josephine Bagpuss has also had her bed upgraded and now has two short flights of steps to reach her ship's bunk-style sleeping area.



A satellite dish, new TV, new laptops and laminate floor has been added, with new carpet being donated by *RFA Lyme Bay* and fitted by Trimline free of charge. An electrical upgrade, outside lighting and additional sockets has improved the seafarers' experience in Falmouth, with the MSC Flaminia Summerhouse now available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – with access even when the main Flying Angel Centre is closed.

The Flying Angel Centre is manned by volunteers and The Mission to Seafarers is always interested in talking to anyone who might have an evening or two a month to help out. Volunteers are never on their own on duty and duties start at 7.30pm and finish at 10.00pm Monday to Friday. Anyone interested in visiting The Centre or finding out more about volunteering should contact Penny Phillips, Chairman, on 01326 214815 or email pennyjphillips@yahoo.co.uk

Junior Church and Young People

We always look forward to Café Worship with funny clips of film to watch. We can sit together at a table, sharing cakes, biscuits and cups of tea or coffee. Last month we made paper people and hung them across the front of the church with string and pegs.

Emma St. Ledger, a Church Steward and Junior Church leader helped to organise a Talent Show, held on Saturday evening, 26th October. The Wesley Hall was full with people from other churches supporting the acts. Films, piano playing, saxophone, singing and joking around were all included in this programme. Over £200 was raised on the night for the Live Nativity expenses. Scott, a member of our Shell Club, gave the evening the thumbs up saying it was fab. He came with his Gran who also enjoyed it. Tea, coffee and hot chocolate were served alongside the most beautiful cup cakes. Mmm.

Each week we sit and tell each other about our week, also we pray for anyone known to the children who are ill or have problems. We go shopping over at Tesco's for the Food Bank. The children love choosing what to put in the trolley. They understand about giving to others who have problems making the household money go around.



Shoe boxes are being filled at the moment, we are busy sorting them all. We have been given the most beautiful items to fill the boxes. We thank you all for responding so well. There are still boxes available, please see Ginny or Hazel.

On Thursday evening we held a Light and Dark party. As usual games, food and drink were high on the menu. We have learned about Fish and Chip babies and all the churches are doing to help these poor families. Our own sewing ladies are knitting for this cause.

Christmas is looming and we will be making cards and decorations, with several members of Junior Church taking an active part. Watch out! See if you can spot us on the day.

Hazel, Ginny and the leaders and members of Junior Church.

Wednesday Welcome

All are welcome to come together for: afternoon tea (drink & biscuits/cake); meeting friends and sharing stories together; nourishment for the soul and for life's journey; guest speakers. We meet every second Wednesday of the month from 2 to 4pm at Falmouth Methodist Church. So far guest speakers have included: preparing desserts with a local chef, simple flower arranging, learning about the work of a mission partner in Belize and reminiscing on 'being at the seaside'. We have a wonderful time of sharing together – lots of laughter and sometime tears! All are invited to simply come as they are and be open to be nourished in every way! It has been set up with those in mind within our church and local community who live alone and would appreciate a monthly gathering with others. If this applies to you but you need help with transport please contact Michelle or Tracy. If you can help with transport or if you know someone who would like to come please also let us know and/or bring someone along next time!

Here are some comments from people who enjoy Wednesday Welcome:

"It gets me out of the house and gives me the opportunity to meet up with friends. I enjoy the Christian fellowship and the chance to talk to other people."

"I like all of it. I like meeting other people and hearing the stories of the guests. I like the quiet talk and the cup of tea. It is a place to meet people especially when you don't get out much. Everyone I have spoken to enjoys it."

"It always gives me something to think about and reflect upon..."



THE CHURCH ANNUAL 'FAYRE' IS TO BE RENAMED!!

Yes, it really is that time of the year again, but with a little change with tradition, the fayre will be renamed as the CHRISTMAS FAYRE and be held a little later on Saturday, 23rd November.

By now you will all know that as a Church Family we are struggling to pay our way and keep up with the maintenance of our building. The annual fayre is a very important occasion to provide funds for our Property Account.

Can you please support our efforts? There will be most of the usual stalls and a few new ones. Some of these really do hope for support with providing goods to sell. These stalls will be as follows:

Jam Jar Tombola, the plan is to have a large number of colourful jam jars filled with a wide variety of items. Each ticket, costing £1, will win a jar. The items could be sweets, cookies, £5 note, crayons, toiletry items, rubber gloves – even jam! There really is no end to where your imagination can take you. Can **YOU** contribute one or two filled jars please.



The Cakes and Preserves Stall will welcome contributions just prior to the Fayre.

Can you find any items for the **Jewellery Stall** that you no longer require but may be appreciated by a new owner?

Bruce Keer will welcome items for the very popular **Bric-a-Brac stall**.

Extra offers to help welcomed, please contact Jane Bennett
jbennett1000@btinternet.com or 01326 376543

Any items can be left in a marked box in Bourne Hall (sorry, no books this year!)

COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY SERVICES

If the number of people who stay for coffee and the sound of happy chatter are anything to go by, this is an appreciated opportunity to get to know other members of our Church family.

However, it is a struggle to fill the rota without keep returning to those members of our family who already do so much (or should I say too much!). If you feel you could be on the rota, or even just come to the kitchen occasionally to help wash the cups, that would be very much appreciated. Please don't be shy! Please just contact Jane Bennett. We also want to cover our costs, i.e. the coffee, milk, biscuits, hot water etc. Please pop a few pence into the donation plate so that we can continue to provide this service as often as we can find the helpers.

**AND WITH THANKS TO ALL THOSE OF YOU ALREADY TAKING A
TURN ON THE ROTA – IT REALLY IS APPRECIATED.**



Thursday Prayer Group

The prayer group has been running for over a month now. The group is from 2pm to 3pm each Thursday at my home. At the moment we are few in number but last week we did have two more people, so that was good.

We have a reading, not necessarily from the Bible, but from other suitable books that are available to us. Then we have a discussion and prayers. We pray for any of our church family who are ill and whatever local or global situations are in need of prayer. We then have five minutes or so of soft music to feel the quietness of being together. There is no pressure to speak or pray aloud – just be yourself.

Then I make a cuppa and we chatter for a while. Do come along if you feel like a quiet time – you don't have to come every week if you don't want to.

Gill Baker.

Holy Communion.

Have you ever considered joining us for the monthly Thursday Communion?

This simple communion service, held in the Memorial Chapel, is always taken by one of the Circuit Ministerial team. There is a short address and usually three hymns alongside a shortened communion service. It is a most welcome service during the busy week and we usually finish in time for a welcome cup of coffee in Bourne Hall.

November 7th, service to be taken by Revd Celia Phillips

December 5th service to be taken by Revd Mark Liddicoat

Jane Bennett, Senior Steward



Update from Arthur

The Methodist Church is a strange organisation. I've known that for a while but it continues to surprise me. Just as I left Cornwall I discovered that I'd become Supernumerary without asking. Even better, that if I wanted to do something else or return to active ministry I would need permission even though I'd never asked to go the other way. As a result, I found myself in London last Wednesday and am now awaiting confirmation that I can be part of stationing next week, that if it doesn't work out again I can look to do something else and in the meantime can possibly earn some money.

Our house buying continues to move exceedingly slowly although there are signs that something might be happening at last. It's probably good that I've had the time to chase estate agents and solicitors.

I've been made very welcome by the ministers in the Southampton Circuit who are a very friendly group. The Circuit is working very closely with the Pioneer Network of Churches and I've taken a number of Sunday mornings to look at how this is working and how it might be developed in the future. On Sunday I get to preach for the first time in three months as one thing the circuit is not short of is preachers. I've also offered some dates to an adjoining circuit so that I don't get out of practice.

I will keep in touch and let you know what, if anything, comes out of stationing and what my future holds as soon as things are clearer.

Best wishes

Arthur

From the Leadership Team

Since I arrived just over three years ago there have been recurrent conversations and discussions with many different people, both individuals and also within various group meetings. The main ones have been the concern about what we do with the building as we recognise both our reducing financial and people resources alongside the great opportunities that being within the town centre brings. Many of you believe we are in the right place but concerned as to how can we maintain a presence here. I know that these and many other discussions have taken place over the years well before I arrived. Many of you now feel that we cannot just keep talking about them anymore. We have to act.

The leadership Team are extremely humbled and thankful to all those who have given sacrificially at the recent Gift Day during times which are difficult for all of us. We have not asked for a specific amount of money to go towards a project but rather for everyone to think and pray about their personal commitment to God as expressed specifically through the ongoing life and witness of Falmouth Methodist Church. However, it is important that we are all aware of the facts - at some point in the not too distant future we are going to have to raise the money for a new roof and upgrade the heating system. At today's prices this will cost at least £200,000. In addition, at present we are making a loss each year of approximately £4,000. We cannot expect to simply keep doing everything we are doing knowing that we will be making similar losses in future years. I am sure most of us make a budget and try to live within our means. As a church we are called to be wise stewards of the resources we have. We are called to love and to serve God with all we have. We are called to follow Christ and His leadership as the head of the Church.



What is most important to me and I am sure you would agree is that we know God's will and purposes for us. There is no point pushing a vision forward, however amazing it might be, if it is not of God. Neither can we just sit on the issues and challenges we are facing; they are not going to go away. The leadership Team often discuss these matters but usually we have so much on our agenda we don't get time to do justice to the issues. Therefore, to give more time to think about them,

the team has planned a day away on Saturday 18th January. We will spend the day with a facilitator from Transformation Cornwall to help us to explore our different options. Transformation Cornwall supports churches of all denominations that are running or setting up community work in Cornwall; they can help find funding and offer ongoing support. The Leadership Team consists of the Stewards – Jane Bennett, Bruce Keer, Jean Northey, Kevin Hosking and Emma St Ledger, Treasurer – John Houldsworth; Pastoral Secretary- Tracy Lyall; Council Secretary – Hazel Bevan; Property Secretary – Ray Baker and Circuit Superintendent – Rev Celia Phillips. Please pray for us on this day and if you would like to feed anything into that day please speak to one of us. The day will be followed up by a meeting and discussion for the whole church on Sunday 26th January straight after a shorter service. It is important to emphasise that the leadership will not be bringing a decision about the future to that wider meeting but rather some options we will bring for wider discussion.

And so I want to call all of us to pray and to seek God in this. Throughout January (from Monday 6th) I will be in the Memorial Chapel each week day morning 9:30 to 10am to pray and I invite you to join me either in the chapel or to pray at the same time in your own home.

We have been reminded throughout October that we belong to Christ and it is His church. We simply need to offer ourselves for His service so that the Kingdom of God can grow within and beyond the church walls. We are in this together so let us pray and talk together and also listen to one another so that we might seek God's will for Falmouth Methodist Church, which is all of us, at this time.

As we approach Christmas we are reminded of a God who comes to be amongst us in the presence of Christ. God is amongst us within and beyond our church community – let us simply join in with what he is doing!

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). Matthew 1:23

Deacon Michelle Legumi and Falmouth Methodist Church Leadership Team



Diary Dates

November	
Cards for Good Causes are on sale until 6 December in the Foyer 10am to 4.30pm Monday to Saturday	
Wednesday 6 th 10 to 12	Samaritans Coffee morning
Wednesday 6 th 7:30pm	Men's Fellowship
Wednesday 13 th 2 to 4pm	Wednesday Welcome
Sunday 17 th	Bring and Share lunch following worship
Saturday 23 rd 10am	Church Christmas Fayre
Thursday 28 th 7pm	Falmouth Town lights switch on on The Moor, serving hot chocolate and mince pies
Saturday 30 th 10am to 4pm	Circuit Craft fayre
December	
Sunday 1 st	Gift Service
Sunday 1 st 7.30pm	RNLI Christmas Concert with Pendennis Brass and Holman Climax Male Voice Choir
Thursday 5 th , Friday 6 th 7:30pm	Amity Theatre present the Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk"
Friday 6 th	Final day of Cards for Good Causes
Saturday 7 th 2.30pm and 7.30pm	Amity Theatre present the Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk"
Saturday 7 th 10am to 1pm	Falmouth Floral Club coffee morning
Sunday 8 th	Bring and Share lunch following worship
Wednesday 11 2pm to 4pm	Wednesday Welcome
Wednesday 11 th 7.30pm	Christmas Concert in aid of Cornwall Hospice Care given by St Keverne Band and Truro Choral Society
Thursday 12 th	Final Thursday Coffee Morning of the year
Friday 13 th	Friday morning Friends Christmas party
Sunday 15 th 1:30 to 4pm	Live Nativity
Saturday 21 st 9am to 4pm	CD Fayre
Saturday 21 st 7.30pm	Christmas Concert by Falmouth Community Choirs
Sunday 22 nd 6pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve 5pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve 11pm	Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 10am	Celebration Service
Sunday 29 th 10.30am	United Service with United Reformed Church
Thursday Coffee Mornings commence again on 6 th February 2014. Friday Morning Friends Coffee mornings commence again on 7 th February 2014.	