

Falmouth Methodist Church

Newsletter July 2013



Our superintendent minister, Rev Arthur Cowburn, is leaving the circuit in the next couple of weeks. We wish him well in his future and pray that God will show him how his gifts are to be used. Arthur has recently been on a sabbatical and shares his experiences with us.

Having had three months to look, did I find any evidence of the “preaching Mitchells”? The simple answer is no as far as my family goes. I have traced the family back to Robert Mitchell who was born in Ashton, Preston in 1808, the son of John & Alice Mitchell, who married Margaret Hunt at Woodplumpton Parish Church in 1829. The problem now is the number of John Mitchell’s in Preston at that time who married girls called

Alice and the need to find the right one.

On my mother’s side of the family I am definitely a Lancastrian having only discovered one direct ancestor born outside the county and she came from Todmorden which is disputed territory. Discovering that you have a great grandmother who was born Christianna Barrowclough means you must be a northerner.

I can’t find the Methodist connections though. There is no reference to Mitchells in the Wesleyan or Primitive records for the Preston Area but the records for the various parts of the United Methodists can’t be accessed until 2015 and there is my hope as I know that my grandmother’s family worshipped at what they called Myrtle Bank but was actually entitled Mount Pisgah UMC in Burnley.

I have found more information on Thomas Mitchell who was one of the early Methodist preachers and who travelled extensively round the country including Cornwall.

The nearest he got to Preston though was to be Superintendent of the Haworth Round, which did include Preston in the 1760s. And we think circuits are big today! I think I have disproved any link there may have been there.

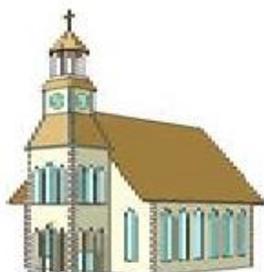
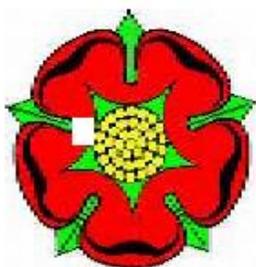
It has also been a privilege to visit many different churches in my sabbatical. I have worshipped in many different places from Cathedral Sung Eucharist to a Friends Meeting, including a tremendous two hours in a predominantly black Pentecostal Church where dancing was definitely the order of the day. I was generally welcomed very warmly in all the churches and it was good to be able to share with them all.

I have continued knitting and am now on my fourth baby jumper (they keep getting bigger though) and have developed my bread making skills having discovered how many of my ancestors were bakers and confectioners.

Above all though, it has been wonderful to have time to stop, to think and to pray and I am grateful to the church for giving that time to me.

With best wishes for the future to you all.

Arthur Cowburn.



From September the new Superintendent Minister will be Rev. Celia Phillips.



Each edition we have been asking people who help with the smooth running of the church what they do. This month we asked John Houldsworth ...

What does the treasurer do ?

This is an extremely good question, I wish I knew the answer. I can tell you what I try to do:

- I try to visit the church at least one morning per week to clear the safe and deposit any monies in to our bank account. Hopefully it will be enough to cover our escalating bills but there always seems to be a shortfall in the current situation. – The same old story.
- I record all financial transactions involving Falmouth Methodist Church.
- Every month I prepare a financial statement for the church leaders to highlight any large bills and indicate cash flow.
- Every six months I prepare a statement of account and at the end of August an end of year balance. The accounts then need to be audited.
- Generally I try to communicate the financial situation to all interested parties.
- I liaise principally with the Booking Secretary and the Property Secretary.
- In spite of rumours to the contrary I don't gamble or visit Wetherspoons with the petty cash and I am trying my best. I don't always get it right but I am learning (slowly).
- It is a most rewarding job and fortunately members have been most supportive, particularly, Lincoln who has "nursed" me through this first year and a bit.



Thoughts from our stewards

Six years is a long time in Methodism.

Looking back at my six years as a steward I can see many changes that have occurred in Falmouth Methodist Church. When I was asked to serve as a steward in 2008, Rev. Bill Robertson was our minister, and I expected a settled time with few changes. Little did I know! After Bill's departure came Rose Westwood followed by Ed Kimes and then Michelle. Each minister bringing their own ideas and challenges.

During my time as steward, I feel that the role has evolved from one of mainly looking after the smooth running of Sunday Morning services, to very much having a leadership role in the Church, meeting regularly with the other church officers to try and aid the communication between departments. I'm sure that the role will continue to evolve as the church faces new challenges but I am confident that the present team of stewards is well able to meet them.

I enjoyed working with Ray, James, Jane, Bruce, Jean, Kevin and Emma, and wish the present team all the best for the future. I will miss being in the centre of all the goings on at Falmouth Methodist Church but not the fear that the phone would ring on a Sunday morning saying that the preacher could not take the service. (It never did!)

Gillian Collins



I am the newest steward at Falmouth Methodist Church. I have been coming to the Church all of my life and joined Junior Church, Brownies and Guides. Later I became a junior steward as a teenager, then a leader with the Junior Church, Shell Club and Brownies. I enjoy youth work, singing and helping people. I became a steward as I am passionate about the Church family and the future. I feel that children are not just the future of the Church but they are also the present Church. My duties as a steward range from unlocking and locking the Church, looking after the Minister/preacher on a Sunday, to helping co-ordinate a service.

Emma St Ledger

Dear Friends

The Kingdom of God is ...

It is good to be able to write this letter for Falmouth Methodist Church as we come towards the beginning of our new Connexional year. Our church is a place where we gather to be the people of the Kingdom of God, the place where others may find the Kingdom of God, and may know that we live by Kingdom values and take the Kingdom of God out into our community. So what is this Kingdom of God into which we are called? Well the Kingdom is not one particular place or time, not a county or a country that we could put on a map. Rather the Kingdom of God is a state of being in communion with God and living out our calling to be Christian disciples. Hymns and Psalms 139 is a hymn which gives some very good pointers as to how we might be in this Kingdom. The author of this hymn, Bryn Rees, puts forward some simple ideas about the Kingdom – ideas which can bring us closer to being the Kingdom and sharing it with others.

I feel these are good ideas for us to think about as we seek to strengthen our discipleship and look towards closer relationships, both in our church, our circuit and our community. Drawing on many biblical references the author of the hymn outlines the hallmarks of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is 'justice and joy'. The outreach in the church – Foodbanks, Street Pastors, reaching out to the lonely and the disadvantaged, show our search for justice and for joy for those who find themselves in difficult places. The Kingdom of God is 'mercy and grace'. All we seek to do for the Kingdom is underpinned by our knowledge of the mercy and grace of God, the mercy and grace we are called on to show others. The Kingdom of God is 'challenge and choice'. We have many challenges and choices ahead of us, but again we know that we face these things in the knowledge of God's love for us. The last verse of the hymn begins 'God's kingdom has come, the gift and the goal'. Our faith and our discipleship are a gift from God, and our goal is to share these things with each other and with those who are in our community. I commend this hymn to you, based as it is on the stories of the way Jesus loved and engaged with the people he met in his ministry. I look forward to working with you all as we continue to be the people of the Kingdom, and to live out the values of the Kingdom in our worship, our outreach, our friendships and our fellowship.



May God bless us all as we continue on our path of discipleship together.

Celia

Local Worship Team

What is a **Local Worship Team** you may well ask? Well, in the case of Falmouth Methodist Church there is not an actual Worship Team in place at present, but we hope there will be one very soon.

Once Rev Cowburn has left our Circuit and following the retirement, or moving away, of one or two others it will become increasingly difficult to provide an accredited Local Preacher on each Sunday of the quarter. With the loss of a ministerial post we have probably lost two commitments to preach each Sunday. Every church in the Circuit will be having what has previously been known as 'Local Arrangement' services on a more regular basis.

Therefore our church will need to be prepared to arrange its own services on perhaps one or two Sundays in each quarter. We want to plan ahead and make sure we have services at least partly planned in advance with members of our congregation ready and willing to take part.

We already have Val Thorne as a trained Worship Leader and at some time in the future there will be another opportunity for more people to take a Worship Leaders course. It is apparent from services held during the last year that many members of our Church Family are prepared to take part and if we have a pool of about 8 – 10 people it would not be necessary to call upon the same ones each time. Only a few would actually need to lead the service.

We have a Worship Committee that meets twice a year to make suggestions for the Circuit Plan and discuss other Worship issues. It is proposed that the Local Worship Team would be an offshoot of this Committee.

If you feel you could offer yourself to be part of this team, or even just to come to an initial meeting to discuss future plans, we would love to hear from you. Perhaps you feel you could lead prayers or even write prayers for someone else to read, talk to the young people, prepare a short passage on a given theme or share your own personal experiences. This is a great opportunity for people to use their different gifts within worship and it really does bless others to see a variety of people involved.

Please contact Deacon Michelle or Jane Bennett for more information or to express interest.



Worship Team



This article was left out of the last edition. Although the event was quite a while ago it is still important that we say "Thank you."

THE 'SPRING CLEAN TEAM' AT FALMOUTH METHODIST CHURCH

A most impressive number of our Church family responded to the request for extra help on our Spring Clean Day on March 18th. Everyone arrived with buckets and rubber gloves, chose their area to clean from the chart in the foyer and just disappeared into the far-flung corners of our vast building.

There was much chatter and laughter – I do believe that everyone quite enjoyed themselves! I think I can report that areas were cleaned from top to bottom and most places in between.

Many cheerful hands did indeed make the task more enjoyable and all the major rooms and many of the passageways were thoroughly cleaned. It is incredible how much 'stuff' accumulates in our building and this really needs an annual sort out.

THANK YOU 'one and all' for your support and we look forward to your company again next year.

From Ray, Jane and Val



On Wednesday 14th August the circuit Missions' Committee is holding a coffee morning to support the people of Zimbabwe. Through Rev. Graham Shaw we are able to get the relief directly to the people who need it, so please come and support this event. There will also be a cake stall so any cakes, buns or biscuits will be gratefully received.

Jean Whetham



Summer Outreach Opportunity

Beach Labyrinth: Each Thursday in August from 10am to 4pm at Gyllyngvase Beach. We need help to dig and others to just be around to explain to people what to do. If you can help in any way please let Michelle know. For the past two summers we have built labyrinths - they are a brilliant way to encourage people to engage with God beyond the walls of the church. Why not come and walk it yourself or if you cannot come along please pray for us!



Church Stewarding And Rotas

THANK YOU to those who have recently offered their time to join one of the Church rotas to help with the smooth running of our Sunday services and other commitments, this is much appreciated. However, there are still plenty of opportunities for more helpers to volunteer. If you look at the various rotas on the board in the downstairs passageway, you will see the same names repeated time and time again. If you could offer your time just occasionally, it may give another hard pressed volunteer a free Sunday or week off. Not sure what YOU could do? Please have a chat with Deacon Michelle or one of the Church Stewards.
From Jane Bennett, Senior Steward.



Caring For One Another - Pastoral Update

Wednesday Welcome Is Launched! And what a wonderful time was had by all. We had a good number attend. As part of the afternoon we shared stories of our lives with each other and we had a brilliant guest speaker in Mr Ian Smith who demonstrated how to use fruit for desserts. This included being shown how to cut up a pineapple and use it as a bowl filled with raspberries, pineapple and cream – everything he demonstrated had cream with it! Michelle led a reflection based on Andy Murray's win at Wimbledon and we enjoyed a cuppa, cake and biscuits. Wednesday Welcome is particularly for those of our older members who live alone. Those who came thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. Please think about who you could invite and offer a lift to be part of this group. We will meet every second Wednesday of the month so we next meet on Wednesday 14th August from 2 to 4pm.

Weekly Prayer Group. Gill Baker is re-launching a prayer group in September at her house each week in the daytime, (dates and times to be confirmed) for anyone who would like to join her to pray for church members in need and wider community concerns. This is to complement the already established monthly prayer meeting held in Bay Court lounge on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. If you are interested in dropping in at either group when you can please contact Gill Baker 316738 or David Richards 312724.

Harvest will be upon us soon! Volunteers are always welcome to help to decorate the church with fruit, vegetables and flowers and also to pack the harvest parcels ready for delivery to those who are ill or in need in some way. Your assistance is most welcome in all of this process. Please come and find out what needs to be done and how you can help on Monday 2nd of September at 4pm at the church.



Bring and Share lunches at the church have been extremely popular and worthwhile in getting to know each other better and especially to

share lunch together for those who would otherwise be eating alone. They will return after the summer break each month and details will be announced in the weekly notices.

Caring for one another. Just a reminder of the points of contact for pastoral concerns and prayer requests - Gill Baker co-ordinates the prayer lifeboat for emergency prayers. There is a list of people she calls when a prayer request comes in and they cover the concern with prayer immediately and it does make a difference! The Pastoral secretary for the month (in the weekly notices), is the first port of call for pastoral concerns during that month – they send cards, make phone calls and visits on behalf of the church and keep up to date with the concerns. Michelle and I can also be contacted. We would rather be told five times if someone is not well or having difficulties than not at all! Please make a call or send an email to one of us if you or someone you know is ill or has a concern. All our contact numbers are on the notice board, in the church foyer or in the notice sheet.



Birthdays and Anniversaries Do you have a special day coming up in the next few months or year ahead? We like to share in celebrating these as a church family and particularly with those who turn 80, 90 or over and milestone wedding anniversaries! If you would like to, please let us know about your celebration and speak to Jeanette Coleman 315958

Pastoral Visitors It is hoped there will be an update session in the autumn for all those involved in offering pastoral care. It will help build on the necessary skills we already have and inform those who are new to pastoral visiting. Details will be announced as soon as possible. We are grateful to all those who give of their time and share their compassion and care with others on behalf of this church. Mavis Johnson who has been involved with the pastoral team for many years has now decided to step down as a pastoral visitor. We want to say a huge thank you to Mavis for her care, friendship and dedication – she will be greatly missed! If you feel able to visit members of the church and especially those who are housebound please contact one of the team.

Tracy Lyall Pastoral Secretary.

News from the circuit administrator

Currently the situation at the Circuit Office is under review. The hugely expensive lease on the photocopier comes to its end during October and consideration is being given to how printing costs can be reduced. As Falmouth Methodist Church also uses this machine then any suggestions would be welcomed.

The circuit website has been hacked recently but it is hoped this will be up and running again very shortly. Again suggestions would be welcomed and we would be especially grateful for information, including notices, articles, pictures, etc. Please send to Chris Trewern. office@fandgmc.org.uk



Shoebbox appeal

This was launched on Sunday 7th July. It is filling a shoe box with gifts for children in need all over the world. Leaflets are available in the foyer or please see Ginny Leggo for more information. You can get involved by simply covering a shoebox in bright, colourful paper OR giving money towards the postage OR filling a box for a boy or girl. Lists of what can go in the box are in the leaflets. Let us see how many we can send off this year to brighten the lives of deprived children! Please bring them to church, (not sealed) to be collected in early November.



In September Michelle will be hosting a student Deacon.



Maggie is a student Deacon, currently studying in Durham. She joined the course late as she only just returned after Easter this year, from 6 years of service as a Mission Partner in Belize, Central America, and is still adjusting to being back in the UK. She has worked in areas of children and youth development, including training, management, and leadership support, most of her life, having in the past run after school and holiday play schemes. Working with the Methodist Church in the Belize/Honduras District, she was involved in developing leadership and strategies to enable the church to better respond to the needs of children and youth in Belize. Life in Belize is very different to England, with high rates of poverty, unemployment and violence, but the sunshine, beautiful scenery and most of all the wonderful people, made it an unforgettable time. It was while she was there that she responded to the call to ordained ministry. Maggie would love to share some of her experiences with you as she spends time in the Circuit as part of her formation training.



Dates for your diary.

Sunday 15th
September, 10:30am
and Monday 16th
September - Harvest
Celebrations.
More details later.



Junior Church and Shell Club

The Anniversary sleepover took place recently. For once it really was a sleepover because the children were sleeping by 1.30 a.m.

They had enjoyed a wonderful afternoon in the park with a scavenger hunt, games, food and drink. When they returned to the Church we all ate and enjoyed a well-earned evening meal.

The Amity Theatre was performing its Summer Show in Wesley Hall and we all went along and had a brilliant time. Hot chocolate, cakes and biscuits were devoured before settling down for the night.

Somewhere amidst all the activity the children managed to prepare flowers for the Café Worship tables, write prayers, learn songs and a dance.

It was an amazing weekend for all of us. We have a wonderful group of children in our Shell Club and Junior Church.

The Junior Church team



Property Update

The work to keep the church in good condition has continued. The quinquennial inspection took place and plans are in hand to address the issues picked up by the assessor. These are: -

- Fixing loose tiles on the roof.
- Getting Cornwall Council to fix the wall capping up Jacob's Ladder.
- Protection against nesting seagulls.
- Replacing the defective roof over the men's toilets.
- Parapet repairs.
- Gutter cleaning.
- Ground floor windows to paint externally.
- Improvements to the heating system.

Ray Baker Property Secretary



From Deacon Michelle

Hurray! I have just enjoyed a most wonderful weekend – the annual sleep over (when we actually had some sleep!), the Junior Church anniversary Cafe Service and Andy Murray winning Wimbledon! In Cafe worship we explored 'becoming like a child' as Jesus said this is how we need to be to enter the Kingdom. I will never forget Avril and Ray's painted faces and all the blowing and shaking of instruments to Sing Hosanna! What fun and joy we shared in God presence! Our friends from Mawnan Smith had closed their chapel for the morning and joined us. They have said they want to come again- they thoroughly enjoyed it! It is also wonderful to see so many new people join us for this service and to feel at home in a church. We have welcomed a family the past two months, whose baby Lacie will be baptised in the August cafe worship and whom we met during Holy week when they used the prayer space. They have been bowled over by the welcome.

The Safe Space project linked to the Street Pastors is trying to resolve some issues as St John Ambulance had to pull out in May. Hopefully by the time you read this the British Red Cross will have come on board and we can resume the service.

Pastoral Visitor Training. In the autumn there will be an update session for all our Pastoral Visitors jointly with others from within the Circuit. Dates will be confirmed soon.

part of a house-group on a Monday afternoon or Thursday evening beginning the week of 30th September- please put the dates in your diary! It is always good to share in smaller groups as this is when people really get to know each other. It has been hard to set up regular small groups as people seem to not to want to make the regular commitment so we are having blocks of weeks throughout the year. It is in these groups we can share openly and gain support, also to discuss and explore issues of faith and grow together. Please try to make these groups a priority.

Car Park Action. Many of you know what a positive meeting some of us had recently with members of Cornwall Council. I was proud to be part of this church, firstly because of the numbers who turned up and secondly because we were speaking not only on behalf of ourselves but also on behalf of the wider community. It was clear to the representatives who came that we care about such things and seek to love and serve the town. A BIG thank you to Ian Smith who has inspired us and began this journey over a year ago! Let us continue to speak up for justice and have a voice!

Day Away. Val Martin, District Enabler came to a Leadership Team meeting earlier this year. Amongst other things, she asked us about our mission statement and encouraged us to revisit it; to think about our particular role here in the town. She also encouraged us to take time out of the business of church activity to pause and reflect together. So, in January next year we hope to have a day away together locally, to include lunch. Please try to make this a priority and look out for details.

Good News! There are such a lot of good things on within and beyond our church. It is easy to focus upon keeping all the activity going and sometimes lose sight of why we are here. If a church is not growing spiritually and numerically there is something wrong. There is clear evidence that both are happening in Falmouth Methodist Church. How exciting is that! Let us continue to keep seeking God as we lay ourselves open to Him and his will for us in this town.



Local Worship Teams In September we will notice a difference right across the Circuit with the loss of Arthur. Jane has written an article about the *Local Worship Teams* which will be in some of the chapels. These teams will help to plan what have been called Local Arrangements. There are many people here within our church that can help to lead worship and when they have there has been a very positive response. It is hoped that some of you will join Val Thorne in becoming Worship Leaders and attend a Worship Leaders' training course.

House-groups. During October we will have a month of themed preaching and there will also be opportunity to explore the theme each week further as



Diary Dates

August	
Saturday 3 rd 10am	Amity Theatre coffee morning
Wednesday 14 th 10am to 12 noon	Zimbabwe Coffee morning
Thursday 15 th and Friday 16 th 9.30am to 3pm	Comfy Shoes
Monday 19 th , Tuesday 20 th	Blood donors
September	
Sunday 15 th 10:30am	Harvest Festival Service
Monday 16 th 6pm	Harvest Festival entertainment, pasty supper
Saturday 21 st 10am	RNLI coffee morning
Saturday 28 th 7:30pm	Concert by Nankersey Male Voice Choir and St Austell Band
October	
Saturday 5 th 10am	Amity Theatre coffee morning
Monday 7 th	Blood donors
Saturday 12 th 9am to 5pm	Cornwall Brass Band Association contest
Saturday 19 th 7.30pm	Truro Symphonia
Monday 21 st	Cards for Good Causes starts
Saturday 26 th	Falmouth Churches Together Youth Talent Show
November	
Saturday 2 nd 10am	Amity Theatre Coffee morning
Tuesday 5 th	Blood donors
Wednesday 6 th 10am to noon	Samaritans coffee morning
Saturday 23 rd 10am to 1pm	Autumn Fayre
Monday 25 th , Tuesday 26 th	Blood donors
Thursday 28 th 7pm	Falmouth Town lights switch on
December	
Sunday 1 st 7.30pm	RNLI Christmas Concert
Art exhibitions continue weekly in the foyer with an extra exhibition in Wesley Hall starting Monday 2nd September by the Truro Arts Society for two weeks and from Wednesday 18th September until Saturday 5 th October by the Falmouth Art Society Church coffee mornings continue on Thursdays and Fridays, 9.30am to 11.30am Please come and support these events as they raise extra revenue for the upkeep of our Church.	