

AUTUMN 2018

FOCUS



**The
Faringdon
United
Church
Newsletter**

Minister:
Rev. Fred Ireland
25 Berryfield Way
Carterton
OX18 1GS



Tel: 01993 867301
Email: ireland.fred@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

I do hope you have **Saturday 1st December** in your diaries, 10am -1pm. You will have seen the letter from Jill Marsh, our District Mission enabler who will be leading that meeting. You will see that we are looking at Mission and the future of our church in Faringdon; it is a great opportunity to re-focus our church for the coming years. Please make every effort to be part of this meeting, your presence would be most valuable.

We hope that our Superintendent, Rose, will join us along with Ray Stanyon, Jill's equivalent officer in the United Reformed Church. Together, I believe we can be guided as to how we can focus our ministry in Faringdon. We pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire and energise us.

I look at it like this. Every time I drive to Faringdon I head towards Clanfield and since I came to the Circuit I have had the misfortune of travelling on the road just before that village and shake my head at the state of the road surface. Potholes, missing tarmac, it's a dreadful, awful road, unfit for purpose. Workmen from time to time have come along and patched it up, but cold winters and hot summers see these repairs fail and soon we're back to dodging holes whilst keeping an eye for oncoming traffic doing the same!

Then all changed; the road has been totally resurfaced and white lines have been painted to mark this transformation. It's great. It's fit for purpose again.

A church unfit for purpose for the 21st Century needs to seek renewal in the same way. Its just no good patching things to make do; our cause is too important not to allow God's Holy Spirit to renew us in every way.

That's the journey we begin on 1st December... please be part of it. Your church needs you!

Kind Regards

Fred Ireland



Indonesia – Help needed

The Methodist Church in Britain and *All We Can*, the Methodist relief and development charity, have launched an urgent appeal for the people of Indonesia.

On Friday 28 September, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck just off the central island of Sulawesi in Indonesia, setting off a tsunami that engulfed the city of Palu.

Waves more than three metres high swept across the land destroying almost everything in their wake. At least 1,300 are already confirmed dead, though the true impact of this disaster may not be known for weeks with many neighbouring towns and villages cut off by landslides and debris. At the time of writing, three communities had yet to be reached.

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela A Youngson and Bala Gnanapragasam, said that they shared in the shock of all who are following the news of the devastating tsunami:

“Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost so much; those who have been bereaved, those who have been injured and those searching in fear and dismay for their loved ones.”

“We know that our Methodist family will respond generously to appeals for money and will pray for the swift rebuilding of the communities so devastated by this disaster.”

All We Can's Humanitarian Aid Coordinator Laura Cook said: “People who have lost everything are in desperate need of water, food, shelter and access to medical care. The final death toll could rise in to the thousands, and thousands more are left in a dire situation. We urge people to give generously so we are able to respond quickly.

Conditions in the devastated area are extremely difficult. The tsunami tore up roads, washed away homes and cut off lines of communication. At least 42,000 people are displaced and more than 1.5 million have been affected.

All We Can is already working with a trusted partner in Sulawesi to get help to those who need it most while assessing the most crucial needs going forward. To give to this urgent appeal, to follow the latest news from Indonesia and to download prayer resources, visit www.allwecan.org.uk/indonesia and click on **Make a Donation**.

Womens Fellowship

30th May We welcomed **Rev. Richard Donoghue** who no longer volunteers as a guide at Christ Church in Oxford as there are more demands around the Circuit. He is mentor to Naomi Prince, who is training to become a worship leader, and they were discussing the forms that have to be filled in and how easy it is now to change it on the computer. Technology has changed our lives, not always to our advantage. There are risks on some sites (e.g. Facebook) but then again, Richard said he was reminded by his phone that it was his brother's birthday: it was too late to send a card so he messaged good wishes via his phone. Donald Trump tweeting (always in the news) has the power to transform the world.

Bishop Michael Currie spoke at the Royal Wedding about the transforming power of the love of God. Jesus was the master teacher, his parables, stories to the people, inspired and transformed them and their lives. Jesus turned the world upside down. The disciples had been with Jesus for three years but they ran away when he was arrested. At Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit into their lives, it was as if they were on fire and became sons and daughters of God. We are still called today to be transformed, this is good news for everyone.

6th June – A first visit to our fellowship for **Steve Smith**. He spoke to us about his recent trip to the Holy Land. He wanted as a Christian to visit at Easter time to experience what it is like now and to see what is going on today in that part of the world. From Abraham, Moses, Helena (mother of Constantine the Great) and the Crusaders to present day Palestine and the West Bank. Steve visited many places and took a whole lot of photographs which we were shown on the screen.



Capernaum is the second most mentioned place in the New Testament after Jerusalem. Steve saw the ruins of Peter's house which a church has been built over, the rock where the baskets were placed after the feeding of the five thousand with loaves and fishes, and the Mount of Beatitudes, In Jerusalem he saw the view out over the Mount of Olives, The Golden Dome, and the Western Wall where men and

women are segregated. Also Jacob's Well (here a church is built over the top), the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ's tomb (where the stations of the Cross are marked), Lion's Gate where Barabbas was released and a church built over the site of Mary's house in Nazareth. Such wonderful slides. Steve certainly packed a lot into his holiday break. So much so that we have asked him to return and continue with the remainder of his adventure.

13th June – It was nice to see **Marina Reddyhoff** back with us again. She has been in Faringdon now for eighteen months, and is not from Yorkshire as Lee her husband is but from South Shields, Tyneside (10 miles from Newcastle).

In terms of years and experiences she has travelled a long way from home. She has two sisters, her Dad (an avid Newcastle fan) was a miner at a colliery in South Shields where much of the coal was produced. A lot of mines were closing so the family moved to Belper, Derbyshire. Two years later that closed and they went to Mansfield, Notts: her mother and sister are still there.



A teenager by then, Marina had wanderlust and at sixteen planned to join the WRNS. However she met FROG 1 of her life (her words not mine) and didn't go, getting married instead. After three years they decided they were not suited so she left and joined the navy. This took her to London, Reading and Gosport, where she picked up another love of her life - FROG 2 – who also was in the navy. Leaving to get married she then moved to Ramsbury, Wiltshire working in Swindon and Newbury. Their daughter was born in Savernake Hospital. The family moved back to Mansfield, then Gloucester. By the time her daughter was eight she had lived in five different counties!

While living in Gloucester Marina became a Christian. Moving to Leeds she found a church and made friends. Six months later her husband left her and her daughter. This proved a particularly bad time, hunting for a home and struggling with money. This went on for two years, then things picked up. She found somewhere to live, her daughter settled at school and she had met Lee, FROG 3 or PRINCE? Changing from Methodist to Baptist, God called Lee into ministry. They moved to Ches-

terfield where Lee did his Theology degree but Faringdon is home now. Marina says that her last home of all will be her eternal home where she will be perfect there with God.

20th June – Max Young our speaker paid tribute to Dr. Scott-Brown and John de Wit who had both recently died. With his wife Jennifer they sang “We will remember them.” Max said both men had gone to where they wanted to be eternally. Thoughts are with both wives, Pam and Margaret and their families.

Speaking about some of the war time poets, Wilfred Owen, Sassoon and Studdert Kennedy (Woodbine Willie) he said poetry helped the men cope with the horrors of war. A war that had to be fought, but should never have been fought. Women at this time wanted to help and play their part. Vera Brittain’s war diaries tell of making knitted garments for the soldiers. The poem “The War Girls” states how the rôle of women had changed doing jobs previously done by men. A lot of women started in the hospitals with the army medics: Vera Brittain joined a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD)*. We listened to Woodbine Willie’s poem by a grieving mother *I know not where they have laid him* and finished with the hymn *Eternal Father Strong to Save*.

Our Missions table raised £44.51. Thank you.



"Woodbine Willie" - Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy

27th June – Ann Jerome gave us an update on Phary Dorn, the young girl the United Church has been sponsoring (£15 per month.) The 4th Faringdon Brownie group that Ann used to run (now disbanded) started this.

The Brownies used to write about every six months. We saw a photo of Phary

taken in 2010. She lives with her younger brother Sila in Banteay Srei, rural Cambodia. Their houses are on stilts because of frequent flooding. The temperature in the rainy season (May – Oct) is between 10 and 40c. Nov – April is the dry season. The adults are rice farmers and when the harvest is gathered the whole village celebrates.

Now fourteen years old, Phary attends secondary school from Monday to Friday either 7-11 am or 1-5 pm. On Thursdays the students and the teacher clean the school buildings. Most children travel by foot or bike to school and it takes Phary 45 minutes to get there. Her favourite subjects are science, reading and writing. Our monthly donation plus monies raised at Ann's March coffee morning help support Phary and her community.



4th July- A very appropriate today's date, as **Albert Hudspeth** was speaking about America and it is Independence Day.

In 1773 there had been a political protest in Boston, Massachusetts when angry American colonists objected to the taxation of tea. "Taxation without representation" and threw chests of tea into Boston harbour (the Boston Tea Party). Three years later, citizens of 13 British colonies who had grievances about taxes claimed their independence from England, an event which eventually led to the formation of the United States. When the Declaration of Independence was adopted it was signed by John Hancock the then President of Congress. The Americans declared independence on July 4th 1776 proclaiming "all men are created equal".

The federal government of the USA has three branches: Executive (President and Cabinet), Legislative (Senate and House of Representatives) and Judicial (Supreme

Court, legal system). The Civil War was fought over a constitutional issue between the North and Southern States over slavery states' rights.

In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln, a gifted story teller, embraced the Declaration of Independence at his famous Gettysburg Address.

11th July – Rev. Fred Ireland back from his sabbatical having recharged his batteries. In the Methodist Church it is the custom for a minister to be able to take a break of three months every 7 years. They are encouraged during this time to produce a piece of work. Fred said it was indeed beneficial and was grateful to the Church for its generosity.

Fred came up with the idea that as the pool of Local Preachers was shrinking and they can no longer meet all the churches' demands for taking services how often do we see the letters LA (Local arrangement) on our plan? So hence the book entitled "Oh No not an LA!" The last week of his sabbatical was the end of June he went away to the coast Westward Ho with his family including grandson Arthur, 4 months old. He had hoped to finish his project then, but it still needs just a little more work. Here is an example of an order of service which can be used if the church is without a preacher, a ready to run power point is also provided.

Welcome and notices.

Hymn (from Singing the Faith)

Opening Prayer – Lords Prayer

Hymn - Reading / Psalm - read together

Hymn - Gospel reading

Reflection – move away from the thought that it is a sermon, i.e. more conversational including some humorous stories.

Hymn – Prayers of concern - Offertory

Hymn to close.

One humorous story which made us all smile: A letter addressed to *Jesus Christ, c/o The Church of England, Westminster, London*. This was returned to the Post Office stating not at this address. The Post Office wrote on it "Try the Methodist Central Hall!

Our Missions table raised £40.12. Thank you everyone.

18th July – Last meet before our summer break. Our outing to Friars Court, Clanfield, proved to be a very hot sunny day. When we arrived we were welcomed by Charles Wilmer and were given a short tour of the farm and gardens, learnt how it all started and how it has changed over the years. We walked back to the Garden Room, with its stone walls which made it feel beautifully cool inside. There we enjoyed a welcome cuppa and were treated to a delicious tea, sandwiches, freshly baked

scones, jam and cream and individual cakes. After thanking Joan for arranging our trip some of us visited the gift shop and small museum before boarding the Faringdon Community Bus to make our way home.



Enjoy the rest of the summer, we started back on Wed 12 September – 3 p.m. with Rev Fred Ireland and Holy Communion. All are welcome.

Jane Rimmer

** You can see pictures of the Faringdon VAD in the HOSPITAL exhibition in the Tourist Information Centre*

Speakers for Women's Fellowship

October	3rd	Pat Gordon
"	10th	Heather Rosser, New book
"	17th	Paul Walker, (new Curate). Missions Table
"	24th	Fred Ireland
"	31st	Michael Limmer
November	7th	Nick Langham
"	14th	Jill Jenkinson, Wheels of the World
"	21st	Rev. Steve Bellamy, Missions Table
"	28th	Pete Haskins

Joan Boreham

Here I am to Worship

A review

Taken from the chorus of his song *Light of the World* (number 41 in *Moving Forward*), this is the title of a short book by worship leader Tim Hughes. Here the writer aims to share with us his experience gained as a song writer and worship band leader.

The first half of the book - about sixty pages – reflects on worship generally and what it is that we seek to do therein. This, I think will be familiar ground to most preachers and worship leaders, though it may be helpful to anyone considering such a calling for the first time.

The chapter titles in the second half of the book – a further sixty pages - are *Leading a band; Choosing a song list; Musical Dynamics; Practical tips; Small group worship* and *The art of crafting*, and speaking as a writer/band-leader, this is the part I found more interesting and useful. Here he discusses the fact that songs need good theology and words that are meaningful to congregations; the need for lyrics that are fresh and original; and the need for singable tunes, the melodies of which lie within the voice ranges of an ordinary congregation. To emphasise the importance of the role of the music leader – in his view - he quotes Professor Eddie Gibbs of Fuller Theological Seminary when he says songwriters “have more ability to impact people than preachers or authors.” (p114), and adds, “...some songs sung in church stick in our minds throughout the rest of the week.” Some may see this as debatable, but he has a point.

Tim writes clearly with much personal honesty as he reflects on the lessons he has learnt on his journey in worship music and his book is a valuable contribution to contemporary discussion.

Copies of *Here I am to worship* can be ordered from the Mustard Seed.

Pete Haskins

Here I am to worship by Tim Hughes, 2003,
(2nd ed, 2009) David C. Cook/Kingsway, ISBN
978-1-84291-413-7



Oxfordshire Carols

Oxford's Christminster Singers return to All Saints Church on 25th November for a lively Concert of Oxfordshire Carols in four-part harmony to get us in the mood for Christmas.

Some of the words will be familiar, but the tunes won't be. Many of them have been collected from music manuscript books found in various Oxfordshire villages, from Adderbury in the north of the county to Great Milton in the south. They are sung in a vigorous style that was once common in rural churches in the 18th and 19th century, written mainly by self-taught choirmasters who made a living by selling copies of their work and teaching village choirs to sing it. They were superseded by the more familiar (and staid) Victorian carols we know today, but survive as a living tradition in village pubs to the west of Sheffield.

Church musicians often played for village dances, and as many of the Christminster Singers are also accomplished instrumentalists, we will be treated to some instrumental pieces that were written originally for dancing.

The concert is from 3 p.m. to around 4, and will be followed by refreshments in the Barber Rooms. Tickets (£10) are available from Mustard Seed or from Margaret Starr (tel: 240201). They can also be bought on the door. The concert is in aid of the WATSAN project to provide safe drinking water to villages in Uganda.

Dave Headey



Christmas Focus

Because Jill and Dave don't get back from Australia until the end of November, the next Focus will be out a week later than usual. So items will not be required until **Sunday December 2nd**.



FAIRTRADE HAMPERS

Give a Very Special Present This Christmas!

Now is the time to order your Fairtrade Christmas Baskets. Beautifully presented – they are available in three sizes (BIG £20, ENORMOUS £25, HUMUNGIOUS £30) or can also be made to your own individual requirements! There is **NO** charge for the making of these lovely baskets, so you're not only buying fair-trade, but they also represent **FANTASTIC** value for money.

Each basket is filled with a selection of fair-trade foods: chocolates, snacks, nuts, honey, biscuits... and then wrapped up to look really festive! You can also ask for Fairtrade wine (specify red or white) to be included in baskets of £25 or more.

And if you would like your goods presented in a beautiful handmade palm basket from Kenya, please add £8 to your order.



THE SPECIALS!

- **'Hot & Spicy' hamper**, £30, containing chilli sauces, chutney, pickle, pesto, nuts, savoury biscuits, pepper mill.
- **'Exotic' hamper**, £30, with tasty foods from around the world: quinoa, nuts, hot sauces, pesto, zataar.
- **'Bake-Off' hamper**, £25, containing fair-trade baking ingredients, fruit, nuts, sugar, chocolate, honey.
- **'Taste of Palestine' hamper**, £30, containing delicious olive oil, almonds, dates, couscous, freekeh, and za'atar, a traditional herb mix – highly addictive!
- **'Chocoholics' hamper**, £20 upwards, containing all things chocolate!

It's a **GREAT** way to let people know that you not only care about them, but you also care about producers in developing countries. What about colleagues at work? Family? The milkman? The elderly lady who lives round the corner? **This is one present that really WILL be appreciated by all.**

Please put your order in **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** (last order date is **Friday 16th Nov**) so that all the extra stock can be ordered. Tell Karen Vogt - by phoning 01367-241707, or emailing karen@vogt.org.uk or filling in the slip below & returning to the Mustard Seed (19 Market Place, Faringdon SN7 7HP), or ordering over the web from www.mustardseed.org.uk. The Christmas baskets **will be available for collection from the Mustard Seed or delivered to you (Faringdon only) on or before the weekend of Sat/Sun 8/9th December. Payment on collection/delivery.**

YES PLEASE!

I want to order _____ Hampers at _____ each ..

Add Kenyan basket for £8? YES / NO

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Please Deliver to (Delivery in Faringdon only) : _____
(Payment on Delivery/Collection)

Special Instructions? (eg Wine Red/White in baskets over £25; no nuts, **Bake-Off, Taste of Palestine, Chocoholics, Hot & Spicy, Exotic** etc)

