

# Messenger

**Circuit magazine – Autumn 2018**

**Special Edition**

**Market Drayton Circuit Celebration**

## Message from Ruth

Dear friends,

It's been a lovely year of looking back and reflecting on some of the past as we celebrated our Circuit weekend in July. It's a wonderful thing to celebrate the good in our human history, and for me it was been a great opportunity to give thanks to God for the many women and men who have gone before us and have faithfully served the churches which I had the privilege to inherit when I became your minister.

It would be very easy for us to relax into the comfort of still being here after 150 years, but that is not what our Christian faith asks of us. Rather, we are called to keep 'pressing on towards the goal' (Philippians 3:14). So, this exhibition is not just about who and what we have been but is also about the faith which has inspired generations of Christians in this wonderful town and area; a faith which proclaims:

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever"*

(Hebrews 13:8)

The faith we proclaim is the same faith which those who met in those first meetings in Tinkers Lane and Ranters Gullet, the message of the love of our Father God who loved us so much that He sent His only Son to live and die for us. The way that we choose to tell that story may have changed, but the truth of that story has not and will never change.

So let's look forward with excitement, taking on with joy, the challenges that God sets before us and we continue on this wonderful holy adventure of loving God, loving neighbour and making disciples.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth' with a stylized flourish underneath.

# MARKET DRAYTON AREA METHODIST CHURCHES CELEBRATION A WEEKEND IN REVIEW

(Extracts taken from the report in the Market Drayton Advertiser by Margaret Maxwell)

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018 Market Drayton area Methodist Churches celebrated 150 years of being a circuit.

On Saturday morning in Market Drayton Revd. Steve Wild led an historical walking tour around the town ending at the Festival Drayton Centre (previously a Primitive Methodist Church) where an exhibition had been on show for the previous 4 weeks.

In the afternoon there was family fun at the Zone at Fairfields.

Ashley was delighted to welcome many visitors to an open afternoon with tea and cakes.

In the evening we all gathered in the Memorial Hall at Hinstock to share fun, food and fellowship with a Ceilidh.

On Sunday morning the churches came together again to worship at Market Drayton Methodist Church. The service was led by Revd. Ruth Jeffries with guest preacher, Revd. Steve Wild, chair of the Cornwall District. Ruth welcomed a very large congregation which included several members of the Baptist Church in Petrossani, Romania, which has enjoyed a link with MDMC for many years now. Their Pastor, Sebi Padurean, expressed their pleasure in being included in our celebrations and their gratitude for the partnership in mission that has resulted in many major improvements at the children's home and in their summer camps. Most of all they appreciated the building of a warm relationship in furthering the Kingdom of God. He then read a prayer from Philippians 1 in his native language. Afterwards he presented commemorative gifts to Ruth and to Jeannette Wanless. We were joined also

by Revd. Roger Baker, who led our prayers based on Psalm 89 v1 giving thanks for past rewards and looking to the future.

Revd. Steve Wild spoke first to the using toy figures for them to act out Jesus blessing his disciples as he instructed them to go out into the world and make new followers. He was delighted that the children entered into this with great understanding and enthusiasm.

In his sermon Revd. Steve talked about natural evangelism, how we can bring knowledge of the love of Jesus through our everyday relationships. He used photographs to show us how Christians in Cornwall are using funds from the inevitable closure of some churches to start new centres in places like trading and industrial estates with amazing effects. His text from Matthew 28, the 'Great Commission', talks of obedience which we find difficult. It involves full surrender. We must support each other to get strength for the future always putting Jesus first. We must worship together and alone, accepting the authority of the word of God. Our task is to make followers of Jesus through teaching and sharing. Jesus promised to be with us always. We must tell others of his love. Steve and Ruth then handed out tiny wooden crosses inviting us to give to someone whom we are aware needs that love. Ruth ended the service with prayer and a blessing.

The weekend was rounded off with two performances in the Festival Centre by our gospel choir followed by great entertainment and mirth with conjuror and comedian John Archer.





## FESTIVAL DRAYTON EXHIBITION

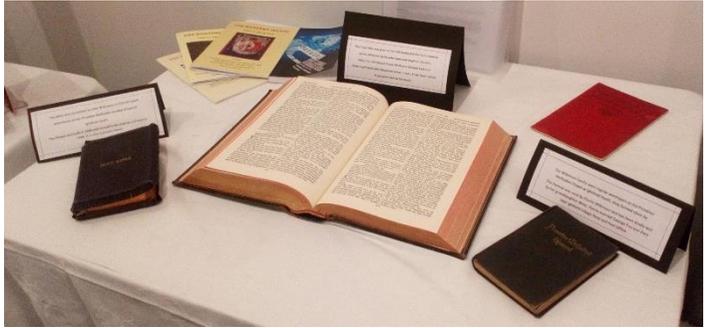
An extract from a very old 'Methodist Recorder' dated December 1911 and entitled – Market Drayton 'An Interesting Country Circuit' was the inspiration for our Circuit Celebration weekend in July this year. The article had been brought to the attention of the Circuit Stewards by Mike Shingler as it highlighted the forthcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Market Drayton becoming a distinct Wesleyan Methodist Circuit in its own right in 1868. Prior to this the Shrewsbury Road Church had formed part of the Whitchurch Wesleyan Circuit.

We were allowed the use of the Gallery at the Festival Drayton Centre for a month to exhibit memorabilia from the various churches of the circuit past and present, lists of former ministers and local preachers who served in the circuit and photographs of weddings which had taken place over the years. We were privileged to have been loaned the wedding dresses of Rosemary Williams and Chris Ward on their marriages to Trevor and Percy at Shrewsbury Road.

Visitors to the exhibition included some from as far afield as Oxford and Stafford. This is just a brief account of the exhibition. We hope to produce a more informative booklet in the near future.

– Margaret Baker





## AN AFTERNOON AT ASHLEY

Ashley was delighted to welcome many visitors to their open afternoon with tea and cakes. An exhibition of the history of Ashley Methodist Church, including photographs of events and cuttings from our reports in the Advertiser, was mounted in the church but the emphasis of the day was on the future, i.e. our young people. Our puppeteers mounted hands-on demonstrations and Ashley Fun Club had a table of gifts made entirely by the young members and our Junior Church. The proceeds are to be sent to a Charity for the Homeless. The idea to do this came from a spontaneous suggestion by 7-year-old member Hayden who also manned the stall for 2 hours and raised an incredible sum of £100.

– Margaret Maxwell





## Looking forwards...

In preparing this, my first, edition of the Messenger, I spent a little time looking back through previous editions. I have enjoyed reading some fantastic contributions from various members of the circuit, whether they be their own writing or a poem or prayer that has meant a lot to someone and I want to make sure that this sort of thing continues to be shared.

If you are a budding writer and would like to contribute an article, a write up of an event, a poem, or a prayer to our upcoming editions of the Messenger, please speak to me or email me at [circuitadmin@mdmc.org.uk](mailto:circuitadmin@mdmc.org.uk) Contributions to the Winter 2018 booklet would need to be received by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

– Aimee Derham

“I loved autumn,  
the season of the year  
that God seemed to have put there  
just for the beauty of it.”

– Lee Maynard



**Soul Survivor**

# Join us in reading our **Bible in One Year**

Using a plan laid out by Soul Survivor which gives you a bit of Old Testament, a bit of New Testament and a bit of Psalms every day, we are challenging ourselves to read our Bible in One Year.

The daily plan is available from  
[bible.soulsurvivor.com](http://bible.soulsurvivor.com)

See [bible.soulsurvivor.com](http://bible.soulsurvivor.com) for short YouTube videos discussing each day's readings.

If you think the whole bible in one year is a bit too much for you, why not challenge yourself to read the New Testament in One Year or the Old Testament in One Year - Make it work for you!

# Dates for your diary

## ASHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Church Anniversary – 4<sup>th</sup> November

Service led by Rev. R. Jeffries and Rev. P. Barber at 10.30am

## HINSTOCK METHODIST CHURCH

Church Anniversary – 14<sup>th</sup> October led by Rev. R. Jeffries at 10.15am

## MARKET DRAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

Praise@4 – 14<sup>th</sup> October 4pm

Arts Fest – 28<sup>th</sup> October

10.30am - Family Service

6pm - Arts Fest Concert – A Choired Taste

At7 – 11<sup>th</sup> November 7pm

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Market Drayton Arts Festival – 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October

Festival of Lights – 17<sup>th</sup> November

## CIRCUIT EVENTS – 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Local Preacher awards and circuit service – 10.30am at MDMC

Christingle Circuit Service – 4pm at Ashley Methodist Church



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