

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 4

Spring 2014

Prayers for Facing the Challenge

The Disciples were challenged by Jesus to go in his name and proclaim the Good News. In our Circuit we are Facing the Challenge of discerning God's will for our future mission. How do we do that? First we pray, then we pray and we pray again and again. We need to pray constantly for God's leading and empowering. So the first part of Facing the Challenge is prayer.

- We pray for each local church to seek God's leading in mission and witness. What is our mission? How do we witness? Can we help another church in its mission and witness?
- We pray for members of the Leadership Team (Circuit Staff and Stewards) as they visit each church. Through worship and conversation we discern God's leading.
- We pray for our ecumenical partners as we explore ways of working together in mission and witness. How may we work together in our community?
- We pray that every person in the Calderdale Methodist Circuit will take part in 'Prayers for Facing the Challenge.'

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Busoasis Project



Busoasis is a big yellow double decker bus, equipped with internet access, hot and cold running water, 4 TVs with games consoles, and comfy seating areas! Its aim is to be used to build relationships between the community of all ages and the Church by going out 'into the field' to meet a need by sharing God's love. To be at the same place for approximately 6-8 weeks, establish a group and then the local Church to take it up afterwards and nurture it.

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Hi my name is Sharon Lawrance and I am the Lead Worker for the Busoasis Project. I am 48 years old, and have 2 children aged 12 and 19. My background is in Highways and I am also a qualified counsellor. I worship at Illingworth Moor and my office base for Busoasis is based there too. I am a hands on person and am passionate about sharing the love of God!

Since I started my new post in June 2013 the major part of the work has been to network with a wide range of agencies and promote the project across Calderdale. This still continues and has been achieved by attending various meetings including the Circuit Meeting and giving short talks about the project, attending various coffee mornings at different churches, giving a talk during Sunday morning service, attending a dozen or so galas and summer fairs including Love Calderdale, St George's Day celebrations, Police/Fire/ CMBC neighbourhood schemes (50+) events, etc.

The response has been 100% positive from all areas of the community. However, interest from churches both within and outside the Circuit has been limited but hopefully that will change shortly.

At the time of writing this article, I am currently arranging to work with the Police, HYP, and Youth for Christ to try to address some anti social behaviour issues in Halifax town centre. It has been reported that there are some problems with large groups of young people in and around the bus station. We will take the bus down to Halifax Town Centre

on a regular basis (probably one afternoon a week) and provide a safe space for the young people. Hold activities that builds relationships and trust and to eventually work with them on a deeper level.

I am also looking forward to working with CICS (Christian Initiative in Calderdale Schools), with Sure Start again and many more organisations too many to mention here!

Busoasis has successfully run a 6 week IT awareness course both on the bus and in a Community Centre in the Southowram area. This proved very successful and indeed IT interest appears to be an area in which there is a definite need, especially from older people. Fresh links are now being made with other churches of other denominations across Calderdale.

Running alongside the Busoasis is a project at Illingworth Moor church called Cafeoasis. We run a café that is open once a week for 2 hours, where affordable light lunches are served. It has been well supported by members of the church and others. People sit and chat and someone is on hand for help and support should it be needed. People are being blessed through this and the proceeds from the café have enabled us to buy a couple of ipads to use on the bus to provide training, a need which has also been identified.

We are working with the lovely ladies of Blackburn House in Ovenden, a sheltered housing complex. We have

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helped with a little IT and done some flower arranging with them.

The Busoasis Project has in the first few months had well over a 1000 people come on board. Whether that has been at fun days or gala events, or via an organised session. This has proved great PR and fantastic for us to build initial relationships. However, due to a limited bank of volunteers and drivers we are not yet in a position to go out on a regular basis at the same time each week.

Whilst we have had the bus out on many occasions and are working with the proposed age groups, church and unchurched, this has mainly been on an ad hoc basis. A long-term aim is to do this weekly. Are you interested in being part of this fantastic resource to spread God's love and word?



We work in partnership with Food and Support Drop in at New Ebenezer one Saturday each month. Parents and children come on the bus whilst they wait for the food pack to be processed. We hold activities on board, snacks, teas and coffee and users have said how much they enjoy having a safe place to wait instead of in the centre.

All in all it has been a very busy and exciting first 7 months in post - as you can probably gather. Give us a wave if you see us around... you can't miss us!

If you are in the Calderdale Circuit and have an idea of how we can help you in your outreach please contact me on

staff.busoasis2013@gmail.com

or on 07770246734

and give us a 'like' on Facebook to keep updated with all we are up to!

Sharon

The Methodist Book Centre in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, has been trading for nearly 70 years and is now the only large Methodist Bookshop in the Connexion.

The Centre, which is part of the Chester and Stoke District, has recently been presented with the Large Christian Retailer of the Year 2013 award. It has just set up an online trading facility especially to help those people who live too far away to visit the shop (which has been described as an oasis in the centre of a busy shopping and commercial environment). The name of the site is Christian Resources for Life, to emphasise the ecumenical nature of its products and that it supplies not just books but a wide range of resources, study materials, music, DVDs, gifts, cards etc.

The website is www.crfl.co.uk and you are invited to register with the site to receive occasional special offers and newsletters. You are also most welcome to call Julie Ann Ellis (the Centre Manager) on 01782 212146 if you need help in choosing the right resources for you.

An Evening With Stuart Townend

Following the huge success of previous events, Central Methodist Church, Brighthouse is delighted to be hosting "An evening with Stuart Townend" in May 2014. Stuart will be joined on this tour by his son, Joseph, who plays percussion.

Tickets available from Linda Brook (cheque payable to Central Methodist Church, Brighthouse) and SAE to Linda Brook, 17 Calder View, Brighthouse, HD6 3DQ, or by credit card on www.eventbrite.com (fees apply).

Please check, preferably by email, that tickets are still available before sending a cheque.

**Don't delay
we expect this to be another sell-out!**



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Through our prayers we will discern God's leading and empowering to be his agents for mission and witness. W. E. Sangster once said, 'If you are too busy to pray then you are too busy.' Everyone can pray, and everyone can share in the task of Facing the Challenge.

What is God challenging us to become as individuals, churches and as a Circuit?

Where will God lead us?

***"God does nothing
but in answer to prayer"***



Tuesday 20th May 2014

7.30pm

**at Central Methodist Church
Brighthouse, HD6 1AQ**

Tickets - £10 - Children FREE
Group discount available (please ask)

*John Wesley, A Plain Account
of Christian Perfection.*

Join me in prayers for Facing the Challenge.

Alistair Newton

It is hoped that Issue No. 5 of this Newsletter will come out shortly after the next Circuit Meeting. Please send material to graham.smith@methodist.org.uk by Monday 7th July 2014

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