

S t e v e n a g e

United Reformed

Church

Newsletter

October, November 2017

A New Minister

I am so pleased to be able to announce that Letchworth and Stevenage unanimously voted to issue a call to Rev Nancy Babarinde to be our new minister.

We do not yet know when she will be able to start, but she has to give three months' notice to her present church, and has to find a suitable college course for her son.

She will live in the Letchworth Manse.

Nancy has been in ministry for seven years, and before that worked for the Methodist church as a Diversity Officer, a consultant for the Bible Society, a housing officer, and an Industrial Chaplain.

Nancy has had many volunteer roles, including working with the Metropolitan Police as a community development officer.

We were impressed by Nancy's warmth, her reliance on prayer and her love of Bible study. We enjoyed her services, and felt uplifted by her preaching.

Please hold Nancy and the two churches in your prayers as we make preparations for her arrival.

This newsletter will be shorter than usual in the hopes of getting it out quickly, so everyone knows about the Minister.

Marilyn Dodds

Newsletter by email?

After many years of overseeing and distributing the Newsletter, Aileen and Bernard have decided to stand down.

We have taken this opportunity to re-think distribution of the Newsletter. Printing and posting become ever more costly, and now that many people have email, we would like to send as many as possible electronically. We will also save a few trees in the process.

If you currently receive yours by post, and would be willing to have it by email, please let me know by contacting my email address.

If you are at church, please write your email address on the form which you will find at the back of the church for the next few weeks.

If you would still like to receive a paper copy, please let me know.

Many thanks to Aileen, Bernard and Linda for their efficiency and hard work in the past. We hope the new team will manage as well.

Marilyn Dodds: mandma.dodds@tiscali.co.uk

Church email: stevenage.urc@hotmail.com

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Margaret Saunders' daughter Melanie and her husband John, on the birth of a daughter, Abigail Margaret Anne.

Margaret and Gordon Sankey have moved to a retirement flat in Knebworth. Their address is:

11 Constance Place, London Road, Knebworth, SG3 6EE. Telephone no. 01438 812270

We wish them well in their new home. Congratulations to Gordon on his 90th birthday.

We remember friends who need our thoughts and prayers:- Graham Carter, Tom Dorling, Allan Dunsmore and Isabel Lamont.

Dear Churches Together In Stevenage,

My name is Mark Wilcox and I represent a volunteering organisation called Sova. We support vulnerable groups of individuals with Volunteer Mentors, who work with individuals/groups to empower and enable them to make better life choices in the future, and we are looking for volunteers within your area.

Our volunteers are at the heart of all we do and we like to recruit them from as broad a spectrum as possible. Imagine how volunteering could impact on your community and the difference it can make.

If you are able to help with spreading the word about Sova's volunteering opportunities in your area or within your community it would be appreciated. I have included an information pack about what we do as a charity and the projects that are currently working within your area.

Or if anyone is interested they can apply directly through our website: www.sova.org.uk or can contact us at: volunteersouthern@sova.org.uk

I appreciate your help and support.

Charitable giving

The following causes have been chosen for our Communion Fund and Christmas charities. We may re-arrange in the light of special circumstances.

October Communion - Christian Aid.

November Communion – Bridge builders.

December Communion – Disasters Emergency Committee. Carols by Candlelight – Save the Children.

Christmas Day – Garden House Hospice.

If you have any special cause which you would like us to support, please speak to an Elder

News from the Elders

It is so good to report that Margaret Saunders is to become an Elder. She is so active in the Church in so many ways, attending Thursday Club and Women's Fellowship. She is a representative on the North Herts Group of Churches and the Vacancy Committee. Above all, she has run our Guides for many years.

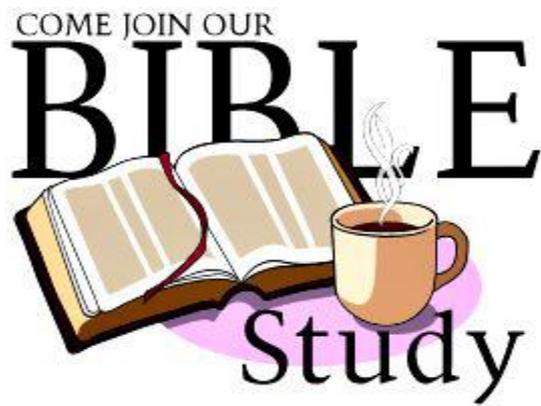
Welcome, Margaret. Your good sense, humour and wisdom will be a great asset to us.

We say goodbye to Isabel Lamont, who is standing down after many years of service. Her formidable memory for past events and procedures will be missed, but I am sure that she can be called on when necessary.

Thank you Isabel for your long and faithful service.

Once more, we have problems with maintenance. Our roof is leaking again. This time, the problem is a tear in the roofing felt and tiles which have become mis-placed due to moss growing underneath. The work to repair this has been put in hand. Each time we have had heavy rain, Richard and Val have been down at the church mopping up, and we are very grateful to them. (We recently had a wedding at the church, and a baby in its pram was put under the leaking area. Its parents thought Richard was joking when he told them the baby might get wet. Then it started to rain heavily. The pram was soon moved.)

Elders are pleased to support the Hertswise group for those with memory loss, who will meet on Friday mornings for ten weeks at 11.00 for an hour. It would be good if we could offer refreshments each week. If you are interested in helping with this, or joining the group, please let me know. More details are on the posters around the church.



ACTS continued

Our 4th study was A headed "A clash of loyalties" Acts 4 1-31

The authorities and others were angered by the early Christian message and arrested Peter and John for teaching something that contradicted their beliefs. They were arrested and put in jail.

Peter spoke boldly before the council going on the offensive boldly speaking out for God and presenting the gospel to these Leaders.

They let them go.

The apostles quote Psalm 2 in confident exhilarated prayer where they speak graphically and powerfully of the Messiah as the Son of God destined to rule the whole world.

Praying like this is confident praying because they are rooting themselves firmly in the ancient tradition of scripture.

Psalm 2 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹ Why are the nations so angry?

Why do they waste their time with futile plans?

² The kings of the earth prepare for battle;
the rulers plot together
against the Lord

and against his anointed one.

³ "Let us break their chains," they cry,
"and free ourselves from slavery to God."

⁴ But the one who rules in heaven laughs.
The Lord scoffs at them.

⁵ Then in anger he rebukes them,
terrifying them with his fierce fury.

⁶ For the Lord declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne
in Jerusalem,^[a] on my holy mountain."

⁷ The king proclaims the Lord's decree:
"The Lord said to me, 'You are my son.'^[b]
Today I have become your Father.'^[c]

⁸ Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance,
the whole earth as your possession.

⁹ You will break^[d] them with an iron rod
and smash them like clay pots.'"

- ¹⁰ Now then, you kings, act wisely!
Be warned, you rulers of the earth!
- ¹¹ Serve the Lord with reverent fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
- ¹² Submit to God's royal son,^[e] or he will become angry,
and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities—
for his anger flares up in an instant.
But what joy for all who take refuge in him!

The church needs to learn what it means to pray with confidence like this. The church needs again and again that sense of God's powerful presence shaking us up, blowing away the cobwebs, filling us with the spirit and giving us that boldness.

Charles Wesley uses Psalm 2 for one of his great hymns

Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

What's coming next?

"The new community "

Luke has already introduced several themes which will be important as this book progresses. Next he emphasizes the way in which the early church was living as the true people of God.

Bible study meet on Mondays 8.00pm where we have

Refreshments with biscuits and sometimes cake

Catch up on news

Study the Bible

Pray

We are very relaxed and informal

All are welcome

Kathryn Carter

Dates for your Diary

Sunday October 1st: ordination and dedication of Elders.

Sunday October 8th: Harvest Festival. Gifts for the Food Bank.

Monday October 16th 8.00: Bible Study starts.

Tuesday October 17th 7.30: Elders meet.

Friday November 3rd 11.00 to 12.00 Hertswise Group for those with memory loss: Room 3.

Way ahead, but put it in your diary Carols by Candlelight Sunday 17th

December, in the afternoon instead of morning service. Time to be announced

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Next Newsletter Editor: Sonia Shad

Last date for copy - Sunday Nov 26th

Editor this edition: Marilyn Dodds

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Pulpit plan October/November

October 1 st	Rev Keith Brown Holy communion
October 8 th	Rev Ann Jack Harvest Festival Parade
October 15 th	Adrian Bagg
October 22 nd	Kathryn Carter
October 29 th	Joint service at URC
November 5 th	Marilyn Dodds Holy Communion
November 12 th	Kathryn Carter
November 19 th	Richard Mott
November 26 th	Samantha Carter