

The Methodist Church In Scotland

District 31



Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders Newsletter – Winter 2013



'Thy only glory let them seek:
O let their hearts with love o'erflow!
Let them believe, and therefore speak
And spend thy mercy's praise below.

Charles Wesley

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Letter from District Chair

Dear Preaching Friends

I look forward to meeting many of you at the Preachers' Conference weekend at the beginning of February, but in the meantime I thought it would be good to introduce myself.

If we were all asked to say when we first began to preach, and why, I'm sure our stories would be different. Hopefully, though, somewhere in each account there would be a sense of calling. I was brought up in a very small congregation of about ten of us in a village called Bolingey in the Perranporth and St. Agnes Circuit in Cornwall. One of our congregations was a retired farmer called Alfred Hoskins. He wasn't a fully-accredited Local Preacher but would help out on the circuit plan by taking services, mostly in the smaller churches – of which there were many at that time and often in out of the way places.

When I was about fifteen or sixteen, Mr Hoskins asked me if I would like to help him by reading lessons and introducing the hymns as he went around these small Cornish chapels, which I did. And so began my preaching career. At first my contributions to worship-leading were restricted to the readings and hymns, but gradually I was asked to do more. I cannot remember if I got as far as preaching a sermon under Alfred Hoskins direction, but enjoyed going around the circuit with him.

Of course it wasn't long before the superintendent – who I regarded as being quite elderly, even though today I realise that he was younger than I am now – heard about this. Possibly Alfred Hoskins should not have been preaching because he wasn't fully accredited, or should have been told that he ought to have gone through the proper channels before asking me to help him. Anyway, whatever the superintendent thought about what had happened, he approached me and said that if I felt a call to preach perhaps I should do it properly. And so I found myself at the age of sixteen beginning the then local preachers' course and was given a 'note to preach'.

As I was still at school my only real time to study the set books was in the evenings. I would then go about writing the essays and so on we were required to do. The circuit local preachers' tutor was the other minister living four miles

away in St. Agnes, so on Saturday mornings I would cycle over to his manse where he would help me go through the material and look at what I had written. I was also assigned to the oversight of another preacher from our congregation – a retired teacher called Arthur Uglow. He helped me as I began to put all the stuff I was learning into practice in the pulpit. Somewhere I still have the first sermon I ever preached. Just before I left home to go to college and after written exams and being examined by the circuit local preachers' meeting, I was recognised as a Fully Accredited Methodist Local Preacher.

I have told you this story because, looking back, it has caused me to be grateful. I probably wouldn't be a minister today if it wasn't for those people I've mentioned. Each of them did at least one very important thing – they encouraged me to take a step in my Christian discipleship. I don't suppose that any of them knew whether I would turn out to be a good, bad or indifferent preacher and leader of worship. But they had the faith to take a risk. Alfred Hoskins saw me – the only young person in our small congregation – and thought of a way in which I could contribute to the wider life of the church. The others followed on from his example.

Looking back I remember that the tutor had a young family and they saw less of their father because he was in his study with me on some Saturday mornings. If you know the children of Ray Foster, perhaps you would be kind enough to say 'thank you' to them from me. Perhaps, above all, I am grateful to the members of those Cornish congregations who had the grace to listen to and encourage a teenager who had far less experience of the Christian faith than most of them and who, no doubt, sometimes displayed the over-confidence and certainties of youth.

I guess that in your preaching story there will be those who have similarly encouraged you. And, as we have been encouraged to take these steps of faith ourselves, the challenge for us is surely this:

What gifts and graces do we see in those disciples of Christ around us? Will we encourage them to step out in faith to test their calling, especially their calling to be preachers of the gospel and leaders of worship among God's people called Methodists? We are part of a long chain of preachers stretching down through

the generations. We can play our part in forging new links for today and tomorrow.

Every blessing to you as you engage in your ministry of worship-leading and preaching and, if your active days as a preacher are over, as you continue to exercise a ministry of prayer, especially for those of your brothers and sisters who lead worship in your circuit week by week.

David Easton

Chair of the Scotland District



The Feud

There was a feud between the minister and the choir director of a local church.

It seems the first hint of trouble came when the minister preached on "Dedicating Yourselves to Service" and the choir director chose to sing: "I shall not be moved".

Trying to believe it was a coincidence, the minister put the incident behind him. The next Sunday he preached on "Giving." Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the director led them in the hymn: "Jesus paid it all".

By this time, the minister was losing his temper. Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built. A large crowd showed up the next week to

hear his sermon on "The Sin of Gossiping." Would you believe the choir director selected the song: "I Love to tell the Story"?

There was no turning back. The following Sunday the minister told the congregation that unless something changed, he was considering resignation. The entire church gasped when the choir director led them in: "Why not tonight"?

Truthfully, no one was surprised when the minister resigned a week later, explaining that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was leading him away. The choir director could not resist: "What a friend we have In Jesus."

For those of you who have still to make the discovery, LWPT is an ecumenical trust providing support to preachers and leaders of worship. If you haven't already signed up to the LWPT website www.lwpt.org.uk then you should seriously consider doing so.

Not only will you find great resources for worship and preaching throughout the Christian year – the website is a great way to keep in touch with other preachers and leaders of worship as we help each other to grow and develop in knowledge, conviction and competence.

As well as all the resources on offer at LWPT, you will find a link to the SEED resources website www.seedresources.com.

The Trust offers preachers, leaders of worship and their dependents, access to financial support when they are in need at any stage in their life and access to care and practical help when they are in need at any stage in their life.



Westerley Christian Care Homes aim to provide the best in time of need for people looking for actively Christian residential care in retirement by offering an excellent quality of life at a price that represents good value for the high quality of care and accommodation provided in an atmosphere of Christian family values with daily prayers and regular celebrations of Holy Communion. There are currently four Homes - Grange-over-Sands, Minehead, Westcliff on Sea and Woodhall Spa.

LWPHomes can be accessed at www.lwphomes.org.uk or through LWPT.

Some definitions...



CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at a church service often sung a little more quietly since most of the people have already left.

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

Stuart Young (1946-2013)

Stuart was born in Broughty Ferry in 1946 and at an early age came to Falkirk. He went to Falkirk High School and then on to Herriot Watt University where he studied and qualified as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor. He set up business for himself until the recession hit whereupon he sold up and went to work for the local council.

He met Jessie and they married in 1971 and set up home in California. (You think you know someone until you learn all about their background.)

He loved photography and won competitions. He was a member of the Institute of Advanced Drivers and also a member of the volunteer emergency service. He also loved train sets and had a large model layout. He was a hoarder and nothing was ever thrown out.

Stuart loved and spoke passionately about caravanning. He was a rally club organiser where he regularly took the Sunday morning service, because he had become a fully accredited local preacher in 1999.

His son and daughter both said that with Stuart's dress sense, he would never make a James Bond! (He was a fashion disaster). As you know,

Stuart was never a great time keeper. His mother-in-law had nothing but praise for him for if there was something wrong in her house which needed attention, Stuart would come right away. She said he was a good son-in-law.

It was in 2009 that the pain and discomfort affected Stuart in a big way and he lost the power of his legs. It was on his birthday, 16th September 2009 that he was informed he had cancer and he would never walk again. But with great faith, strength and determination he walked in to the hotel for his Christmas Day dinner.

He carried on his life to the best of his ability, even driving again, because the Lord was on his side. To the last day of his life he had a great faith, and on that morning when I had visited him, he asked for a prayer, and then we shook hands as we both knew it would not be long, and then that night at 10 o'clock he passed away, and went to meet his Lord.

There is not much more I think I can say as everyone who met Stuart will have their own memories.

Donnie Caldwell



Truth and Lies about Poverty

In 1753 John Wesley said,

*“So wickedly, devilishly false is that common objection,
‘They are poor, only because they are idle’.”*

Yet today church-goers and the general public alike are willing to believe that the key factors driving poverty in the UK are the personal failings of the poor – especially ‘idleness’. A report from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church (**The lies we tell ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty**) lays bare six myths about the poor which enable the majority to live with the comfortable assumption that both poverty and wealth are deserved. Here is a pocket guide that you can also find online at: www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandlies.

1. ‘They’ are lazy and don’t want to work

The most commonly cited cause of child poverty by churchgoers and the general public alike is that “their parents don’t want to work”. Yet the majority of children in poverty are from working households. In work poverty is now more common than out of work poverty. It is readily believed that across the country there are families in which three generations have never worked, and this is used as the argument behind welfare policies. However the report shows that examples of such families have not been found, and the evidence suggests it is unlikely they ever will be.

2. ‘They’ are addicted to drink and drugs

Churchgoers and the wider public cite addiction as the second most common cause of child poverty. While addiction is devastating for the families and communities touched by it, fewer than 4% of benefit claimants report any form of addiction.

3. ‘They’ are not really poor – they just don’t manage their money properly

Nearly 60% of the UK population agrees that the poor could cope if only they handled their money properly. The experience of living on a low income is one of constant struggle to manage limited resources, with small events having serious consequences. Statistics show that the poorest spend their money carefully, limiting themselves to the essentials.

4. 'They' are on the fiddle

Over 80% of the UK population believes that “large numbers falsely claim benefits”. Benefit fraud has decreased to historically low levels - the kind of levels that the tax system can only dream of. Less than 0.9% of the welfare budget is lost to fraud. In fact if everyone claimed and was paid correctly, the welfare system would cost around £18 billion more than it presently does.

5. 'They' have an easy life

Over half the British public believes benefits are too high, and churchgoers tend to agree! Government ministers speak of families opting for benefits as a lifestyle choice. Yet we know that benefits do not meet minimum income standards. They have halved in value relative to average incomes over the last 30 years. We know the ill and the unemployed are the people least satisfied and happy with life.

6. 'They' caused the deficit

The proportion of our tax bills spent on welfare has remained stable for the last 20 years. It is ridiculous to argue, as some have, that increasing welfare spending is responsible for the current deficit. Public debt is a problem but why is it being laid at the feet of the poorest?

What you can do

Tell your MP - A copy of the report has been sent to every MP in the country. Now they need to know that their constituents care about this issue. People are being encouraged to write to their MP – ask them to ensure that they read the report and listen to its recommendations.

Tell your local newspaper editor - Use Church Action on Poverty's web tool to ask the editor, journalists and readers of your local newspaper to think carefully about the labels they use – and the people behind those labels.

Meet your MP - Set up a meeting with your MP to talk about the issues raised in the report, and to ask them to help stop lies about poverty permeating public debate.

The Joint Public Issues Team combines the expertise of the Baptist Union, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church in the area of public issues. The Team aims to enable our three Churches to work together in living out the gospel of Christ in the Church and in wider society. We aim to promote equality and justice by influencing those in power and by energising and supporting local congregations.

Worship Leaders Course

Tulliallan October 2012

Many folk across the District have trained as Worship Leaders on a course spanning a series of evenings spread over a number of weeks. This has often become quite burdensome for tutors and participants, especially given the geography of our District. Sometimes this has meant that participants have not been able to attend the whole course, leaving gaps in understanding and experience.

Seeking to address this, Laurence Wareing and Andrew Letby devised a weekend course which covered all elements of the traditional syllabus whilst also rooting them in practical application. Last October seven new worship leaders from two circuits piloted this course. Laurence and Andrew were joined by Ken and Casey Weatherford, Belinda Letby and Maureen Anderson (all experienced Worship Leaders) in delivering the course. It was also very important that it was a strongly participatory weekend during which trainee Worship Leaders were encouraged to share their own experiences of worship and to learn from each other. There were many positives, including:

- the opportunity to develop a sense of community as we shared in fellowship over 48 hours. This included significant opportunities to pray and worship together using a variety of styles and resources including times of reflection, Compline and a Love Feast.
- learn about different worshipping contexts across the District.
- Within this the actual contact time with the tutors and fellow students was roughly double that which can be achieved over 7 evening sessions.
- Each element of the weekend included practical work which was directed toward the planning and leading of a full service in a local church on the Sunday evening.

Another much appreciated feature of the course was to invite established worship leaders from the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit to share in the Saturday afternoon session as a time of refresher training. They brought a wealth of wisdom and experience which enhanced the learning for everyone.

It was an intensive weekend which left everyone tired, but as the worship on Sunday evening demonstrated the new worship leaders had learned much and went back to their churches inspired and equipped.

Participants came back together a few weeks later to spend half a day reflecting on experience of leading worship and share concerns, questions and subsequent learning.

If you would like to know more about the detail of the course or would like to consider running or participating in such a weekend experience please feel free to contact Laurence or Andrew.

An unexpected encounter...

One night, at 11:30 p.m., an elderly African-American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car.



A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 60s! The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him.

Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console colour TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached.

'Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away... God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others.'

Sincerely, Mrs Nat King Cole.

District Local Preachers & Worship Leaders

Weekend Conference 1st - 2nd February 2014

Once again you are invited to attend our annual LP/WL Weekend Conference. We have arranged a new venue, programme and speakers and we hope that many of you will be able to attend. There is also an open invitation for any ministers who would like to join us.

Venue - Following our online survey of suitable venues, we decided on **The Conforti Institute** in Coatbridge which was highly recommended by the Rev Lily Twist. If you have access to the Internet you can check them out for yourself by going to www.confortiinstitute.org.



"The Institute offers comfortable and welcoming residential accommodation for up to 70 people, based on shared en-suite twin and family-sized rooms. A full cereal/continental breakfast is provided. All rooms have telephone and internet access. Tea and coffee facilities are also provided. Off-street car parking is available."

Cost - As usual the cost of the weekend is subsidised, but we feel it now necessary to increase your contributions from £30 in previous years to £40 per person which includes overnight stay and all meals and refreshments. Day attenders are asked to pay £5 per day with an additional £2.50 for a meal. A 50% deposit is required to book overnight accommodation with balance to be paid at the weekend - day attenders can pay on arrival.

Booking – Those wishing to attend need to complete the booking form which is in the middle of this newsletter. You should retain the programme and travel directions. You will notice that for the first time, we are arranging to provide sandwiches and hot drinks prior to the start of the Saturday sessions, so please let us know if you wish to take advantage of this.

Programme – Our speakers are Rev Chris Foxon who will give us his thoughts on 'Children and Worship' and Rev David Easton who will be with us on the Saturday as well as continuing the tradition of the District Chair leading our Sunday morning communion.

Food and Fellowship - On Saturday evening we will again be sharing a time of food and fellowship and you are invited to bring some snacks to share.



**Methodist Church
Scotland District
Local Preachers & Worship Leaders
Weekend Conference
1st - 2nd February 2014**

Booking Form

LP/WL WEEKEND CONFERENCE

Saturday 1st February 1pm to

Sunday 2nd February 3.30pm

BOOKING FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____

Email _____

Attendance details I will be attending:

- Full Weekend* £40 (includes ensuite room + meals)
- Day 1: Saturday £5 (dinner extra £2.50 please delete if not required)
- Day 2: Sunday £5 (lunch extra £2.50 please delete if not required)
- I should like tea/coffee and sandwiches prior to start of w/e

Special requirements (access/diet/other) _____

*A 50% deposit is required to secure an overnight booking

Balance can be paid during the weekend

Make cheques payable to:

“SCOTTISH METHODIST LOCAL PREACHERS”

Please send completed form together with deposit to:

Mrs Hilary Henderson, 14 Elizabeth Gardens, Stoneyburn, EH47 8BP

(01501 762645) Email hilarymhenderson@gmail.com



Scotland District LP/WL Weekend Conference 2014

PROGRAMME

Tea/coffee sandwiches available from 12.30pm

SATURDAY 1st February

- 1.30 Opening worship and introduction
- 2.00 **Session One** – led by Rev Chris Foxon
Children - How do their minds work?
- 3.00 Afternoon Tea/Coffee
- 3.15 **Session Two** – led by Chris Foxon
Children - What DO they know?
- 4.15 Short Break and Business meeting
- 5.00 **Session Three** – led by Chris Foxon
*Children and Worship - What can we do?
(OR, What shouldn't we try?)*
- 6.00 Dinner
- 7.15 Evening Session with Rev David Easton
After nine - time for sharing food and fellowship

SUNDAY 2nd February

- 8.00 Holy Communion in the Chapel
with Rev David Easton
- 9.00 Breakfast
- 9.45 **Session Four** – with Rev David Easton
- 11.00 Morning Tea/Coffee
- 11.15 **Session Five** – with Rev David Easton
and planning for closing worship
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00 Closing worship
- 3.15 Disperse

The Conforti Institute

Calder House | Calder Avenue | Coatbridge

ML5 4JS | Phone: 01236 607120

www.confortiinstitute.org

The Institute offers comfortable and welcoming residential accommodation for up to 70 people, based on shared en-suite twin and family-sized rooms. A full cereal/continental breakfast is provided. All rooms have telephone and internet access. Tea and coffee facilities are also provided. Off-street car parking is available.



By car: From East or West A8 turn north onto A725 (Whifflet St).

From North M80 to M73 East A8 then North A725 (Whifflet St).

By train: Nearest station is Whifflet

The Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network



The Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network began its life on 1 September 2013. The initial meeting of the Network staff team was held from 3-5 September at Methodist Church House and it was good to meet new colleagues and to begin to feel part of a wider connexional team. There are now 13 Regional teams (all led by a co-ordinator like the team here in Scotland) as well as specialist coordinators in Discipleship, Ministries and Church and Community (some based at Cliff and Queens). We think that Scotland will benefit from learning from others and have lots to share as well. As our first joint project, we are hoping to work with the South West and Wales on our small groups strategy.

Here in Scotland, our hours have been reduced but we are glad to continue to be working together. Sally is now leading on Discipleship, Gary on Church and Community and I am continuing to support authorised ministries, such as Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Deacons and Presbyters. We are all three now offering circuit level support and are happy to respond to any requests from churches for training, facilitation or just a chat to explore a situation and see where we can help.

In its report to the 2013 Conference, the Ministries Committee noted that “over the past year, considerable progress has been made towards developing new pathways for Worship Leaders and Local Preachers. The Committee has seen and discussed proposals for a new modular programme of study with portfolio assessment drawn primarily from the student’s leading of worship. The new pathways adjust the balance between initial and post-accreditation learning, to be more realistic regarding the time commitment required for initial training, and seek to introduce greater rigour for continuing development.”

This work is continuing in the new Network and we have offered to pilot material so watch this space! It is particularly exciting that Worship Leaders and Local Preachers will be learning together in the future, as well as some modules being open to other interested people in local churches. The L and D team will be offering support to circuits when the new course is introduced and we will hopefully have an initial look at material at the Spring meeting for **Local Preacher Secretaries and Tutors on Saturday 12th April, 2014**

Helen Wareing

National Learning and Development Officer, Methodist Church in Scotland

Safeguarding

Regarding the roles of local preacher and worship leader, the roles do not constitute 'regulated work' as defined by the PVG Scheme Guidance and, therefore, do not require PVG Scheme membership. If individuals are undertaking additional roles in the Church that do involve regulated work then they would require Scheme membership for those additional roles only. My contact details are donald_u@yahoo.com and 07702-793553.

Donald Urquart

Safeguarding Officer for Methodist Church in Scotland

Always Something New To Learn

It has been a great privilege for me over the last few years to take twenty different folk through the 'Worship Leaders Course. The courses have run at three different times with the main focus in different areas. The first was run for anyone who wished to attend from across the whole of the Glasgow Circuit. The second was run for the people at East Kilbride Church. The third was run for the whole Circuit; however four of the six who attended were from the Ghanaian Fellowship who meet and worship across different churches in the Glasgow Circuit.



When meeting there has not only been people of different backgrounds, but also people of different knowledge and positions within the Church, all who felt that they had learnt something new from the course. There was a Supernumerary Minister Elizabeth Oliver who said "I was challenged to be more creative in my own

leading of worship".

Three Local Preachers on Trial, who had done the part within 'Faith and Worship', yet found it useful to share experiences, and receive personal feedback on their preparation. Those who had never been involved in worship leading before, now understood the amount of preparation that goes into a well constructed service. The Ghanaians also found it useful to know how to

incorporate what they were doing into worship, and understanding how to link the hymns and prayers into different parts of worship.

Those who attended the course all brought with them their own gifts and experiences, and after the course was completed were all very keen to share their knowledge and be involved in worship in their own different communities.

For those who lead worship in churches where there are Worship Leaders, I encourage you to use the skills of the Worship Leaders, as they very often know the congregation and their needs better than those of us who preach at their church on an irregular basis.

I know different Circuits within Scotland have used different ways of training their Worship Leaders, for the Glasgow Circuit we have found that meeting on a fortnightly, or even monthly basis over seven sessions, has been the best way for people to have time to get the most out of the course. I have really enjoyed the sessions that I have led, and have got a lot out of them personally; learning new things and being continually challenged in the way I lead worship. I await with interest the new material that is coming out for the training of 'Worship Leaders' as I feel they are an important part of the Methodist Ministry today.

Reminder

Just to remind you that there is a document on Google Drive, which identifies the Local Preachers, and all the Churches they are willing to preach in, including those in different Circuits from their own. The Superintendents of each Circuit has access to this information. All preachers should be able to access this information on Google Drive. If they are unable to access it please Email me the information and I will update their status.

Phil Haggis ([*philhaggis@gmail.com*](mailto:philhaggis@gmail.com))

Edinburgh and Forth Circuit

Local Preacher Secretary - Rev Alan Whitson

Principle Circuit Tutor - Rev Linda McMurray

Total of Local Preachers	24
Active Local Preachers	19
On Note	2
On Trial	0
Worship Leaders	14
Deaths of Local Preachers	0

We have had a good year having admitted a further Local Preacher into full accreditation and two Worship Leaders have joined the band (which now numbers 14) in the circuit. The WL training course was well received by the WL in E&F and ADP circuits and was a highlight in our year. We have enjoyed in our meetings, a review of MS PowerPoint in relation to presentations in worship and discussions about the nature and shape of our Local Preacher's and Worship Leader's meetings with a view to understanding how we might improve the meeting for the 21st century. We will complete a survey and undertake further discussions on this subject during 2013 /14. Our membership continues to lead worship and many hold other positions in our church life. A significant contribution is made by them in the 8 churches throughout the circuit. A new form of Church & Worship is underway in Edinburgh under the name 'The Gathering' – this involved a number of Local Preachers as well as others.

Alan Whitson

Lanarkshire Circuit

Local Preachers Secretary – Alan McCullough

Principal Circuit Tutor - None at present

Total of Local Preachers	7
Active Local Preachers	2
On Note	0
On Trial	0
Worship Leaders	5
Deaths of Local Preachers	0

Glasgow Circuit

Local Preacher's Secretary - Miss Katherine Rennie

Principle Circuit Tutor - Rev Chris Foxon

Total of Local Preachers	19
Active Local Preachers	15
On Note	1
On Trial	1
Worship Leaders	13
Deaths of Local Preachers	2

Katherine Rennie has now taken over as Local Preacher's Secretary for the Glasgow Circuit. We continue to share our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meetings with the Lanarkshire Circuit. Due to the shortage of preachers in the Lanarkshire Circuit Local Preachers in the Glasgow Circuit have been taking services in churches in the Lanarkshire Circuit to help out. This year we were delighted that Clare Purfit became a fully accredited Local Preacher at a Circuit Service held in St Andrews Methodist Church, East Kilbride on 16th June.



Here is Clare with her tutor Rev Chris Foxon enjoying a well-deserved cup of tea and cake after her service provided by the East Kilbride Church of which Clare is a member. Clare gave thanks especially for the support of her mentor Margaret Brown and for Chris Foxon her

tutor during her time On Note and On Trial.

At that same circuit service one of our long serving local preachers, Mr Tony Heaven was presented with a 50 years long service certificate. Tony is pictured here with his wife.



This year Phil Haggis completed another Worship Leaders' Course with new worship leaders now being added to the Glasgow Circuit. Phil has written about his experience on leading the worship leaders' course elsewhere in the newsletter. There was sadness within the Glasgow Circuit as we recorded the passing of two Local Preachers, Dr Gordon Jackson and Professor Dennis Gillies. Gordon became a Local Preacher in 1955 and Dennis in 1957. We give thanks for their great work and witness over the years and remember their friends and family with our love and in our prayers.

Central Circuit

Local Preacher's Secretary - Anne Baird
Principal Circuit Tutor - Rev Dr Mark Jason

Total of Local Preachers	9
Active Local Preachers	8
On Note	0
On Trial	1
Worship Leaders	2 (In Training)
Deaths of Local Preachers	1

The LPs within the Central Circuit continue to meet quarterly for fellowship and discussion. Discussion topics have been varied and stimulating. At our most recent meeting we took a discussion topic for LPs in training within the Faith & Worship course. In June we celebrated Willie Lochhead's 40 years as a LP. A service to mark this anniversary was held in Armadale Church where Willie is a member.

There was a more sombre mood at our September meeting when we gave thanks for the life of Stuart Young¹ who died in the summer after a long illness. Stuart had served us to the end of his life both as a LP and as Secretary of the LPs' group. Rev Dr Mark Jason has taken on the role of LP Tutor. The circuit currently has one LP and two WLs in training.

Anne Baird

¹Note: Stuart Young is remembered elsewhere in the newsletter.

North of Scotland Mission

Local Preachers Secretary - Bruce Tollamache
Principal Circuit Tutor - Rev Howard Marshall

Total of Local Preachers	16
Active Local Preachers	
On Note	1
On Trial	4
Worship Leaders	6
Deaths of Local Preachers	

Angus, Dundee and Perth Circuit

Local Preacher's Secretary - Sue Marshall Jennings

Principal Circuit Tutor - Rev Gerald Bostock

Total of Local Preachers	12
Active Local Preachers	10
On Note	1
On Trial	1
Worship Leaders	0
Deaths of Local Preachers	1

Heather Dean has now stepped down as Secretary due to health and other commitments. We expressed our gratitude to Heather for all her work over the past 6 years, which has been huge considering all her other commitments. Heather is continuing to lead worship regularly and Sue Marshall-Jennings has taken over as LP Secretary. Beryl Cowling continues on Trial and her services are warmly received as she displays a significant maturity in her leadership of worship which is no doubt borne out of her broad experience in other areas of the Connexion. We are delighted to welcome Jeff Smart who attended a residential weekend exploring the role of Worship Leader and came On Note.

We seem to have developed a 'tradition' of enjoying a wonderful spread of food and barbecue at the home of Marcia Mackenzie in conjunction with our June Meeting and we are very grateful to Marcia and her husband Ken for their hospitality. Throughout the year, members have shared news of events they have attended and books that they have read and we have encouraged each other in using this as shared CLPD.

We continue to be mindful of the changing needs of our congregations in worship, with smaller congregations and fewer - or no children- as well as collaboration with music, singing and other groups within the congregations. Many of the churches in our Circuit have also embraced 'Café-style' services and these are enabling Preachers and congregations to explore and participate in different ways of worshipping. As with many circuits, we are very conscious of the other roles many of our Preachers have in the District and the Connexion and are grateful for all they do.

Sue Marshall-Jennings

Ayrshire and Renfrewshire

Local Preachers Secretary – Cathie Cuthbertson

Principal Circuit Tutor – None at present

Total of Local Preachers	8
Active Local Preachers	5
On Note	0
On Trial	0
Worship Leaders	3
Deaths of Local Preachers	1

Meetings of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders are held quarterly. Apart from any necessary business these meetings include opportunities for fellowship and mutual support, as well as reflection on aspects of preaching and worship. We often have guest speakers: recent ones have included Ruth Bacon (Quaker Church) on the use of silence in worship; Rev Derek Bibb, Alex Wilson and Alastair Wilson giving personal reflections on preaching; and Rev Kenneth Thornton on the use of visual aids and props in worship.

Our December meeting is always an informal service of Holy Communion, to increase our sense of spiritual “oneness”, and in recognition of the fact that preachers often miss Communion services at their own churches. Throughout the Circuit worship styles are varied. We mostly manage to fill our appointments with accredited preachers (some from other denominations) but occasional Local Arrangements offer an opportunity for other members of the congregation to take part, often supported with resources given to them by Local Preachers. Two of our Local Preachers (who are also Voluntary Local Pastoral Assistants) also conduct funerals on occasions. In our wide-spread circuit, our Local Preachers provide invaluable links between the churches.

Cathie Cuthbertson

My heart, my heart desires Him
My heart, my heart, desires Him.
He's touched something inside of me
That's now reaching out for Him
And I know that I must go.

A Prayer of John Skinner



Inverness Circuit

Local Preachers Secretary – Audrey Hensman

Principal Circuit Tutor - None at present

Total of Local Preachers	7 (includes 1 Methodist deacon 2 retired SE ministers)
Active Local Preachers	7
On Note	0
On Trial	0
Worship Leaders	0
Deaths of Local Preachers	0

During the year 2012/13, in a complete change from past years, Local Preachers in Inverness have been responsible for covering almost all preaching appointments in the absence of a local Presbyter. We have been well supported by Chair of District, Lily Twist who, on average, preached at both morning and evening services on one Sunday each quarter. Feedback from the congregation indicates that they have enjoyed the greater variety in both preaching and leading worship.

Preachers have continued to meet as usual, with at least one preacher being 'reported on' informally each quarter. We have also shared book reviews the latest being 'Why did Jesus, Moses, Mohammed and the Buddha Cross the Road?' by Brian D McLaren. Interestingly, wider comments on the book have resulted in the book being passed around members of the congregation.

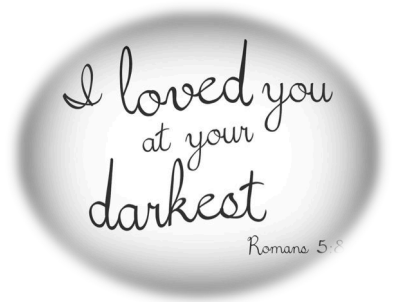
Audrey Hensman

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From the Darkness

O gentle Christ, ever thanks to thee,
That thou from the dark hast raised me free
And from the coldness of last night's space
To the gentle light of this day's grace.
O God of all creatures, praise to thee
As to each life thou hast poured on me,
My wish, my word, my sense, my praise,
My thought, my deed, my fame, and my ways.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders



How can I endure?



Lord, how can I endure this life of sorrow,
unless you strengthen me with your mercy and grace?
Do not turn your face from me.

Do not withdraw your consolation from me,
lest my soul becomes like a waterless desert.
Teach me, O Lord, to do your will, and to live humbly.
You alone know me perfectly, seeing into my soul.
You alone can give lasting peace and joy.

A Prayer of Thomas a Kempis (1380 – 1471)

A PREACHER'S SATURDAY NIGHT IN ANCOATS, MANCHESTER C.1905

'No one was ever asked into Stansfield's house on a Saturday night. When Gordon and John returned, high tea was ready in the kitchen. And John well knew the unvarying routine that would follow. This was Gordon's sermon-writing night. As a local preacher, he was not called on every Sunday, but every Saturday he worked on a sermon.

He and Ellen washed up in the scullery; then Ellen put the red cloth on to the kitchen table and brought out from the dresser drawer the blotting-pad, the ink pot and pen, the half sheets of note-paper which were the size Gordon liked for writing on. She placed a Bible, Cruden's concordance and the Methodist hymnbook alongside the blotting -pad.

She pulled out the wooden chair, ready for him to sit down.

This was the total extent of Ellen's secretarial work in any week, and not for anything would she have abrogated one gesture of it. Then she sat down with a basket of mending at her side, and put a silence-commanding finger on her lips as she looked at John, sitting with his new book in the Old Warrior's chair on the other side of the purring fire.

The boy snuggled into the chair, aware of the keen cold without and of the warm silence within, a silence broken only by the steady scratching of Gordon's pen, the tinkle of the ash into the grate, the tiny rasping of a woolen sock over his mother's rough skinned hands.'

From Howard Springs Fame is the Spur (first published 1940)

Useful Resources

www.singingthefaithplus.org.uk

www.textweek.com

www.hymnquest.com

www.biblegateway.com

www.seedresources.com

www.lwpt.org.uk

www.meetpraylove.co.uk

If you have found useful worship resource that you would like to share, please contact Margaret or Hilary so this can be included in future issues?

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Living Upside Down

Four sessions for small groups

120 days of Christmas, Part 1 – The 40 days of Old Advent

(to be followed by the 40 days of Old Christmas and the 40 days of Lent).

A few years ago I encountered a fourth century saint whose story has fascinated and inspired me. The remarkable and unconventional story of St Martin of Tours offers the backdrop of this series of studies. His life was rooted in gospel values and though he became a bishop he always lived close to his people and was always on the side of those who needed his support the most.

Recently, as I lit a candle at St Martin's tomb in Tours, France, I was struck by how I was following the lead of many pilgrims through the centuries, each of whom had found their life challenged by their encounter with this man whose own life was rooted in his experience of the radical, transforming love of God. These studies are an invitation for you to seek new insights and attitudes to bring you closer to God and the people in your church and community.

Rev Andrew Letby

You can get copies of Part 1 of this small groups bible study from Sally Robertson (help@meetpraylove.co.uk).

LP/WL Weekend Conference 2015

We have booked **Clare Benton-Evans** as our facilitator. Some of you may already have heard of Clare and have read some of her books on All Age Worship. Check out her website www.clairebentonevans.com

Blessing

May the grace of God shine upon your face
May the justice of God challenge you
May the mercy of God encourage you
May the courage of God support you in dark times
May the power of God keep you humble
And the humility of God inspire you
May the generosity of God surprise you
May the radiance of God dazzle you
May the faithfulness of God give you hope – today and always
Norman Shanks

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter. Please note that we are intending to provide single sheet newsletters bi-monthly from January in order to keep you up-to-date with current news around the District. We look forward to receiving your contributions for these and for our larger newsletter each winter.

Contributions should be sent to: Margaret Brown at the address below:

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Tel: 01501 762645

email: hilarymhenderson@gmail.com

Online version of this newsletter and other useful information please visit:

www.methodistchurchinscotland.org.uk/index.php/local-preachers-a-worship-leaders