

Message from A Strathclyde Minister

August 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you as we prepare for the new Methodist year. The last one was loaded with significance for my family: Jill offered leadership to the Methodist Church in Britain through her role as Vice-President of the Methodist Conference (and she did it well . . . not biased!); our first granddaughter, Martha, was born and she has brought great joy to the life of the family; my sister died at the age of 51, having suffered with pancreatic cancer (a hero and a star). At times I rather limped through the year. Thank you to those who have supported us and prayed for us.

Strathclyde Methodist Circuit has grieved for several people during this year – and we honour the way they served Jesus in their living and trust them to God that they may rest in peace and rise in glory.

This new year marks some significant changes in the ministry team in the Circuit. We bid farewell to Terry and Gordon as their journey takes them south and welcome Laurent and Tim to the “team”, working with all those offering to serve in leadership in the life of the church. Those of us who are itinerant come alongside those who have retired here (Elizabeth and Derek will be offering their gifts at Clydebank and Milton) and those whose home is here (you are an amazing team of lay people who give so much of your energy to the work of the kingdom). Together we bear witness to the most remarkable story of God’s love shown to us in Jesus.

We are ready for the Holy Spirit to blow through the church afresh and bring new vision and life; that we might discover the passion of God for God’s world. The theme for the year is Radical Grace – and I encourage you to explore in your groups and in worship what Grace means and what Grace might mean when we become grace-givers in our communities. I feel a renewed enthusiasm at the beginning of this year – for I have received a touch of grace in the last few weeks.

Grace to you all.

Andrew