

The District Web-site. We are really excited about the new website which is currently being designed by Gill Lawson. We're keen for the site to look attractive and to reflect the life and beauty of our district so we are wanting to collect as many photos as possible. We shall be looking for someone to act as web editor at a later date. We anticipate this being a paid contract for a couple of hours per week. If you know of anyone who might be interested in such a role (possibly a stay at home parent with a couple of spare hours during the day per week) then please let me have their details. Juli Wills, Methodist Training Officer, 01962 621061, 29 Lower Brook Street, Winchester, SO23 8DR.



A Message from the Superintendent Minister

This has not been an easy year. One of the great joys of ministry is sharing with people at important times in their lives. Over the past few months I seem to have taken more funeral services than at any other time I can remember. I think that my colleagues might say the same. It's a privilege to be able to share with people at times like these, but I have shed more than a tear or two at the loss of some people that I have come to love. We have also experienced the love of Christian friends and family during our own difficult times. My step father and both parents in law died two to three years ago, and yesterday was the funeral of my mother, who had reached 90. I am not writing this to express sadness, but to give thanks for loved ones and the importance of friends, especially members of our church family. Christians still have the pain of bereavement, but we also have God's promises and presence to keep us going and the comfort of caring people. On beginning my ministry, someone said there would be times when I would need to hear an encouraging word, so I ought to keep a file of nice letters. We now have lots of cards and letters to keep following our bereavement. Brenda and I were amazed at the number of cards we received (perhaps we shouldn't have been). People's support is a wonderful blessing and keeps us going in difficult times.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones recently or are worried about them for the future. We especially pray for Richard and Kathie Clarke, during his time of chemo and his operation. Richard hopes to take a couple of services on the summer plan. Rosemary will be on sabbatical during the next quarter. I am grateful for all the extra support that has been offered, but we will have to do all we can to see that our resources and efforts are equally distributed. Finally let's put sad things to one side and enjoy reports of some of the good things that have happened or are happening in the circuit.

The Way of the Cross – Good Friday – Salisbury



A number of members of SMC were involved in The way of the Cross, the Churches Together Good Friday event this year and many hundreds attended. We are grateful to the SMC web-site for these photos. You can see other pictures online at <http://www.salisburymethodist.org.uk/>

If you have any items, photos, fliers or notices for the next circuit newsletter. Please send them to the Superintendent Minister by the middle of July.

Woodfalls Trip to Spring Harvest 2010

Because of school exams, we had a small group this year, 8 over 18's and 3 under 18. We set off on Tuesday 13th April, having decided to go via Bridgewater, instead of Taunton, but unfortunately we missed a junction and went slightly wrong ! After booking in we went to get our programme guide and Bible study books and the young people looked round the complex. After unpacking we went for our evening meal.



The Service of Recognition as a Local Preacher for Bernard Robert

Our pattern for the five days was

Up 7.30-8.00, breakfast at 8.00 if going to Big Start (All Age Worship) in the Big Top. 8.45 breakfast if you weren't.

10.00-1.00 Sessions with bible study, bands, talks in age groups & coffee break.

1.00pm Back at the chalet for lunch together.

Own choice fishing, walking, shops, fun fair, swimming pool, Fresh Expressions talk, walk out to sea and paddle, or sleep!

4.45 met in restaurant for evening meal.

6.45 worship in age groups or All Age Café Worship

9.00pm supper in the chalet and decide what people were going to do.

Comments from young people about good moments were - meeting new people, TBC (girl band), discussions interesting, After hours (10.30-11.30!) were very good particularly Joe Fisher / Bob Entwistle, who encouraged us to give hugs for Jesus as long as they were no longer than 5 seconds, more than 5 seconds became a sin! Great variety of things to do. Food good, loads of choice and turkey not dry, but tasty. ELE = Everybody loves everybody.

The only bad thing they came up with was "Coming home" but getting to know how the shower worked proved interesting! Plus our toilet leaked! Five Butlin's men had been and each thought they had fixed it but on the last day we still had a puddle of luckily clean water appearing!

If anyone is interested in joining us next year please contact Anita Tanner 01725 512648 as we need to know who's going next year by the end of May.



Services of Recognition as a Local Preacher are always very special occasions and the service for Bernard Robert, which took place on 7th March at SMC, was no exception. Ministers from the circuit shared the leadership of the service and so did Barry Sloan, who was Bernard's mentor, and Rev. Derek Chapman, Bernard's tutor, preached. The service was a wonderful time of worship and thanksgiving and recognised Bernard's calling and all the hard work he has put in over the last few years. It was also an encouragement to people to ask whether God was calling them to preach or lead worship. Maybe God is calling you?

The Circuit web-site is now 'under construction' but it will be a while before the initial site is up and running. In the meantime, I would like to have a point of contact for each church in the circuit to help with the provision of information to go on the web-site. I'm also hoping the contacts will act as a 'user group' for comment on content, ease of use, enhancements etc. So, if you're interested, please send an e-mail to webmaster@salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk

Peter Robson

Prayer Walks

Have you thought of organising a prayer walk? We have had an ecumenical prayer walk during the Week of Prayer for Unity around Amesbury over the last 3 years. This has been just over a mile. Everyone has a map and a number of short prayers that are read at various places around the town. For example, we stopped outside the doctors and asked if anyone knew anyone sick and then we said a prayer. We even prayed outside the library and information centre and prayed for people new to or visiting the town. (We even told the library we had done so.) I don't think that the walk made God take more notice, but it certainly helped us concentrate our prayers and there was a lot of fun and fellowship.

