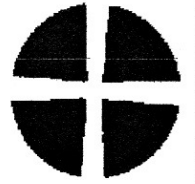


The Avenue Methodist Church



The Living Well Centre
at The Avenue
Methodist Church

Wincham Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 4PL

The Methodist Church
of Great Britain

Love, Serve,
Go & Grow

Newsletter



JUNE/JULY 2017

CHORUS

Everybody's welcome, anyone can come
To gather in the house of God
Family together, the old and the young
We'll join to worship as one x2

VERSE 1:

When two or three are gathered in Your name
Then You promised You would come
You are the reason why we're here today
To give our lives before You now

VERSE 2:

We've come to worship You from near and far,
Here to meet You in this place.
In You it makes no difference who we are,
We've got so much to celebrate

BRIDGE:

Everybody's welcome,
Welcome in the house of God
Everybody's welcome,
Welcome in the house of God

ENDING:

We'll join to worship as one
We'll join to worship as one

Come along to breakfast church and join in as we sing this song

Nick's Newsletter

Lego Club

In April we ran a special Easter Lego club lasting two hours, we looked at bridge building and talked about the importance of having good firm foundations.

And then the children were challenged to build a bridge, all of the designs were put together well and the level of creativity was extremely good to see.

35 children attended and at the end Holly Riley correctly guessed how many Lego bricks were in the bottle winning a Lego set.

Happy 1st Birthday Lego Club!!!

On the 27th April we celebrated Lego Club turning 1 year old.

Over the year we have seen 95 children, it's great to welcome young and old to sit down and be creative together.

We look forward to the next year and to see how this can grow.

Many thanks to all those who support Lego Club please continue to pray for the children and adults that attend each week.

If you currently shop in Sainsbury's and spend over £10 you will be given a pack of Lego cards, If you don't need them and are looking for somewhere to pass them on to, then I will gladly take them for you, Lego club is a place where people can swap the cards they have to help finish their collections.

Summer Holiday club news

This year we will be running the Holiday club Monday 14th-Friday 18th

If you know of someone who might be interested in joining us please sign them up, the sign up sheet is in the church office or pass their name to me.

More details will be given soon. Please start to save your empty boxes and cartons for us to use in our sessions, thank you.

Thank you for all your continued prayer and support

Blessings Nick

A bright future for a brave chapel

On a Friday morning, you will find me at Waddington Methodist Chapel playing with a group of children under four, drinking tea and singing "I'm a dingle dangle scarecrow" It is the highlight of my week!

This busy toddler group, Waddington Waddlers, has existed for many years and has always been a welcoming, supportive place. The church sees this group as a way of reaching out to the community, but in the last twelve months, a new found desire to engage with the Waddlers in a different way has emerged.

The chapel is at the centre of the village both in terms of geography and community involvement. Its building is used, but attendance at Sunday worship is declining. Many of the congregation are over the age of 70 and were feeling weary and concerned about their future. Last February, they met together to reflect and plan a way forward. Back then, it was unclear as to the direction that might take, and I admit it was with some trepidation that I approached the meeting. However, my fears were unfounded. We prayed together and began to talk and consider what it was that God was calling us to do and be. 3 hours later the church

members had a new vision and had rediscovered their enthusiasm for mission and evangelism! It was clear that God was not quite finished with Waddington Methodist Chapel.

Members desired to be more intentional about building deeper relationships with others who used the building, finding ways not just to offer hospitality but share the gospel. Waddlers seemed a good place to start. Six months later, after some listening to and talking with the Waddler families gaining the support of the circuit for finances and helpers from across the circuit, the church made a significant and brave decision to worship differently once a month. This different worship does not run alongside the usual Sunday service but replaces it. We pray for a bright future for this brave chapel as it seeks to serve the community and share the gospel

Revd Sally Ratcliffe

CLIC SARGENT

The Manchester and district hospital choir will be having an open day at The Avenue on Sat 17th June from 2pm. They will also be recruiting on this day if you would like to pop along and speak to the group.

They will be holding their annual concerts at the Bridgewater hall on Mon 4th Dec and Tues 5th Dec

Cantibus concert

Many thanks to all those who came to the Cantibus concert on Sat 8th April. We are delighted to have raised almost £1600 for "Music for Memories". Our next concert will be on 8th July "Alleluia"

Toddlers

Toddlers will be holding a teddy bears picnic on Fri 21st July and Mon 24th July as they close for the summer.

They will return on Thurs 7th Sept

Lord, make them feel your love

During morning worship on Sunday April 30th Richard Jackson invited us to listen to this song as part of our prayers of intercession. I suggested to him that the words should be re produced in the newsletter.

The words have been written by Richard based upon the song by Adele "Make you feel my love" (original words and music by Bob Dylan)

Richard had written these words while he and Carole were visiting their daughter in Florida where her husband is a Church Minister. The recording we heard was sung by Lorna, the organist in the Florida church which Richard and Carole attend.

Richard in composing the poem had included some of the fruit of the spirit from Galatians 5, 22-23. Love
Joy Peace Patience Kindness

Albert Graham

Lord, make them feel your love

When their baby's crying all alone
Inside their house that's not a home
Let someone hear and then draw near,

Lord, make them feel your love
When some young child is lost in a crowd,
And hidden hurts are crying out loud,
Through someone caring, be it girl or boy
Lord, make them feel your joy

When teenage tantrums are all the rage,
And young people are troubled at their age,
With broken families wondering how to cope
In a world that lives on without hope,
Put in place some friendships that will last
And save us all from re-living the past,
By forgiveness that leads to forgiving,
Lord, make them feel your peace

When years of living we are leaving behind,
And our loving is tinged with regret
As our hopes and dreams begin to unwind,
And our way forward seems so set
When life ahead is arousing all our fears,
And memories fade, following our tears,
When much of life is making no sense,
Lord, make them feel your patience

When help is needed more than is given
And they feel guilty at who pays the cost,
As day by day walks them closer to heaven,
And leaves them feeling ever more lost
As creaking limbs cause them such a sigh,
They look at stairs and find them too high,
When support is needed, even to dress,
Lord, make them feel your kindness.

When facing the end, with you alongside,
Everyone knows there's no place we can hide,
We've worked so hard at trying to do good,
But now late we learn to trust as we should,
For you, our God, are faithful and true,
There's nothing much left that we are able to do
But trust in your love, God of heaven above,
Lord, make us feel your love

Fashion Show

COLOURS FASHION SHOW

“Do you think you'll be able to sell 75 tickets for the Fashion Show, because that's the minimum number for a show like this,” asked Jacqueline, the Colours organiser. I told her I thought we probably could. That turned out to be a bit of an understatement as 147 ladies actually turned up on the night.

Whilst this was a marvellous number & I must say a huge thank you to everyone on the Activities & Events group & Sale Friends of CRUK for their great efforts at selling the tickets, it did prove a bit of a headache for poor Ken.

Only 30 of the new chairs had arrived & we spent the Saturday afternoon moving chairs from every part of the building into the hall. Some even had to be put on carpet so as not to damage the floor.

Then there was the problem of changing & mirrors. Fortunately, everyone turned up trumps again & we had more mirrors than we actually needed.

The three girls from the Colours Company arrived at 5.30 and worked non-stop, putting our racks & racks of clothes. They ran the whole evening very professionally. By 7.30pm we were all seated & ready to go.

It was a great, fun & very relaxed show. The two models did superlatively quick changes – one in very high heels and there was plenty of time during the interval & at the end to try things on.

We made £1100 to be split between CRUK & the Church & judging by the queue to pay, the Colours Company had a good evening too.

“When’s the next one?” was a common question. Yes, we’ll do it again but not for a while, I’m still recovering.

Audrey

Colours Fundraising Fashion Show. April 29th

After a busy day collecting and arranging the new and old chairs to allow space for a Cat Walk, on which the models could parade the clothes. The Hall was ready, beautiful biscuits made by Mrs Avery were laid out for the interval, and mirrors collected and placed in fitting rooms. Would we have enough chairs? Would people come? At 6pm the ladies from Colours arrived and erected the rails of clothes around the edge of the hall.

At 6.30 the doors were opened and in the next hour over 140 ladies had found a place to view the fashion show, no Men allowed! We were entertained by a very professional display of a wide range of clothes on the Cat Walk and each given a paper and pencil so that we could write down the number of the rail on which clothes which we liked were hung. At the interval and at the close of the show we were able to go and collect the items which were of interest to us and try them on seeing if they looked as good on us as on the models. Everybody enjoyed the evening and most bought at least one item some many more. £1100 profit was made over the evening half of which was donated to the Church and half to Cancer Research UK. Many thanks to all the members of the Church A and E and the CRUK Committees for the organisation of the evening and the many husbands and friends who helped with the furniture removals. Finally thanks to all the ladies who attended and made such an enjoyable and successful event.

Maira Sellers

Colours Fashion Show

The A&E team debated whether to put on a Fashion Show, or not, as one of the requirements was that we had to sell 75 tickets. Could we really hope to sell 75 tickets? Well we decided to give it a go and to put on the event with CRUK. Little did we know that we would be turning people away as we were afraid the hall couldn’t hold any more ladies. We sold almost 150 tickets!

The Fashion Show was very professional and we all enjoyed watching the models showing off the clothes. The item that caused most comment was a pair of leather shorts, not sure if anyone bought them! When the show was over there was a rush of ladies to the rails to find clothes to try on, and rooms 1 and 2 were full of mirrors so we could see how stunning we looked in the clothes!!

We had an amazing raffle put together by Shirley Lancaster, which raised £200 and we sold drinks and biscuits which made £100. Together with the ticket money we made well over £1000 to be split between CRUK and The Avenue.

We will definitely do another Fashion Show in the future, so be ready to get your ticket quickly before they sell out.

Cynthia

Lego club one year on

The hall was set out with tables and chairs and the television screen ready to show Lego videos. The large room next door was set out as usual with Lego tables and the children started to arrive from about 3.20pm eager to get through the doors as this was party week. Nick and Dee had organized games as well as the usual Lego building. Parents had been asked the week before to provide a small amount of party food. Each time there was a knock on the kitchen door different food arrived, sausages, crisps, fruit, sandwiches, cakes, biscuits, crudité and hummus. What a fantastic variety, even chocolate biscuits for the adults!

Over 35 children came along with their parents, grandparents and carers ready to build and then party. What a great atmosphere there was and all to celebrate the fact that our Lego club is one year old this week. We are now looking forward to having a special day in the summer during the school holidays when we can have a Lego day and stay for lunch.

Thank you

Dear friends at The Avenue

I was very touched to find some flowers had been left for me with a little card which wished me a Happy Easter. The presentation of the flowers was wonderful and I really must congratulate whoever put such a lovely arrangement in place (I must say I was especially taken with the lovely pale purple chocolate “tulips” too) Many thanks to all concerned. Your gesture was very much appreciated. With love Catherine Eastham

A big thank you to all my friends at The Avenue for all their good wishes and numerous cards. Many thanks also for the beautiful flowers I received. Angela Madeley

Many thanks to all at The Avenue for their prayers, good wishes, cards and phone calls. They are all very much appreciated. Sally Bates

“OK GOOGLE. ST CELYNIN?”

Barry Myers

For a long time I have wanted to visit one of the oldest and remotest churches in North Wales which nestles in a small hollow on a hill above Rowen in the Conwy valley. My chance came a few weeks ago. It is a very steep climb through forestry at first until the open hillside is reached. In theory I could have driven there from the other side of the hill along a 2 mile single track lane with no passing places, but the thought of meeting a tractor from the solitary farm up there coming towards me in the latter stages of the road put me off this option. My reversing skills are not up to rally standards!

As I crested the hill sight of the church in its lonely location was already reward in itself. As I approached the walled churchyard I decided to sit awhile to drain my water container and nibble on my emergency ration of a small bar of Kendal mint cake. As I ate and drank a lonely figure with a dog came from the other side of the hill and approached with a slightly awkward gait. Glyn was a native of these parts having farmed the area for many years. Now he was retired and recovering from a stroke which he had suffered last year. His dog seemed very friendly, but I soon discovered it was my mint cake which was attracting him and in the absence of any being offered to him he began barking and snapping at me. Glyn meanwhile was telling me something about the old church and this part of the Conwy valley. I was well primed now for my visit to the church itself and was assured that the door is never locked.

As Glyn departed I heard the sound of a diesel engine. Moments later a large 4x4 vehicle crested the ridge, parked up and disgorged a man and a woman. Each was carrying expensive video recording equipment and proceeded to record each other before separating to “reccy” the surroundings. I waved a cheery “hello” to them both and wondered if they might eventually explain the purpose of their visit. They looked around with some puzzlement and the woman said,

“Ask that man. He might know something about the place.” I prepared myself to offer briefly some information about the church, but instead the man reached into his pocket, brought out his mobile phone and shouted: “OK Google. St Celynin?”

St Celynin was a 6th century saint who is believed to have established the first church here. No trace of it has been found, but the present 12th century building feels plenty old enough to haunt the mind, in a pleasant way, with thoughts of the early evangelisation of the Celtic world with the good news of Jesus Christ. While the film crew were busying themselves exploring various knolls for the best view of the church I ventured inside for a quiet time. The remoteness of the landscape and the now only very occasional use of the church for public worship give no indication of the sizeable congregations it had supported in years gone by when people lived in these uplands rather than in the densely wooded valley below.

As I prepared to retrace my steps along the steep woodland path to the Conwy valley the air was filled with the chatter of more than a dozen middle-aged and elderly ladies as they reached the church from the narrow lane on the other side of the hill. They clearly hadn't walked all the way here and I smiled at the thought of the traffic jam which was soon to occur as the film makers and ladies' outing climbed into their vehicles for the return journey.

Who would true valour see,
Let him come hither;
One here will constant be,
Come wind, come weather;
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.
John Bunyan
(*Hymns & Psalms 688*)

'Walk in her shoes' by Barbara Speakman

For seven days in mid May I took up the challenge of walking at least 5 miles a day, on consecutive days, to raise money for the charity CARE International UK. The challenge was to walk 10,000 steps, but I upped mine to 12,500 on my walks, as I worked out this was approximately 5 miles for me.

The idea was to raise awareness of the many women and girls around the world who walk long distances each day to fetch water and consequently many girls cannot attend school. Money raised from sponsorship will enable CARE International UK to provide water supplies in villages and educational supplies for schools.

Each day I set out with my rucksack and a flask of coffee. Sometimes I walked with a friend and sometimes alone. The week ran as follows:-

Day 1 From home along the Bridgewater canal, the Mersey valley, Sale Water Park and back.

Day 2 From home to Derbyshire Road to meet a friend. Through Priory Woods, across the River Mersey and then paths to Beech Road, Chorlton and back.

Day 3 Drove to Knutsford with a friend. Around Tatton Park and gardens, back through the woodland on the far side then into Knutsford and back to car.

Day 4 Around Dunham Massey along the canal, back through the village, park and gardens.

Day 5 Drove to the outskirts of Lymm to meet a friend, round the dam, around the village, along the canal to Oughtrington and back.

Day 6 Around Sale Water Park, across the Mersey towards Stretford, past the cemetery, across the fields to Chorlton Water Park and back.

Day 7 (my 1st and only wet day!) From home into Sale, along the canal, past Altrincham, towards Dunham and back.

I considered myself very lucky to have had good weather on all but the last day when I arrived home absolutely soaked. The walks were all interesting in their own way.

In the sunshine, the walk along the Bridgewater canal to Sale and beyond was very pleasant. The trees on the towpath provided welcome shade and the canal boats looked very colourful. Now and again the rowers in canoes would race past. Sale was looking a pretty good place to live.

Beside the various lakes, I watched geese and swans sitting on their nests and families of ducks, coots and moorhens with their young.

In Tatton Park, the rhododendrons were looking spectacular and in the park a buzzard flew overhead and landed in a tree nearby. One of my friends, who has recently returned from living in California for many years, thought Knutsford was a great place.

At Dunham Massey, it's always a pleasure to look at the trees, visit the gardens and watch the deer.

I found the walk along the Bridgewater canal towards Altrincham very interesting especially the contrast between old and new buildings, smart new apartments and derelict factories.

I have put a few photographs on the noticeboard in the corridor. You might like to see if you recognise where they were taken. A big thank you to all who sponsored me. The money is still coming in!!!

Super Sibling

Hi – my name is Adam, I am 6 ³/₄ and I come to Breakfast Church with my Mum (Rachel), Dad (Stephen) and baby brother Hugo.

I always wanted a baby brother or sister and when I was 2 ³/₄ I was really happy when I was told that I was going to have twin baby brothers. But then they were born too early and died before I could meet them. This made me and my Mummy and Daddy very sad.

Two years later I was very happy when I was told that I was going to have a new baby brother, but Hugo was also born very early (at 24 weeks gestation) and had to spend seven months in hospital and have two operations.

Now Hugo is home he feels like a proper brother! His first words were “Hiya” and “Adda” and I know he loves me just as much as I love him.

This year I won an award for being a “Super Sibling”. I was nominated for being very brave and helping my Mummy and Daddy when my baby brothers died and when Hugo was in hospital for a long time.

My award was from the charity “Tommy’s” who do lots of research into stillbirth, miscarriage and premature birth, they also run the Rainbow clinic (for people having another baby after a baby died) and give out information on how to help people have happy and safe pregnancies. Mummy and I have both been in the newspaper and on TV to talk about it!

Mummy and I have decided to raise some money for Tommy’s to say thank you for helping us. We will both be running the mini Great Manchester run on Sunday 28th May and Mummy will be running the London Landmarks Half Marathon (a very long way!) next year.

If anyone would like to sponsor us, that would be great! The more money we raise, the more Tommy’s can help save babies’ lives. Our fundraising page is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rachel-corry1>

Thank you ☺

Adam, Hugo, Stephen and Rachel.

Christian Aid

Thank you to all the regular collectors who have been in action during the week of 14-20th May delivering and collecting house to house envelopes. Your help is very much appreciated

Family news

Congratulations to Cynthia and Robert on the birth of their grandson James Albert in April

Congratulations to Heather and Tim on the birth of their son Arlo on May 3rd

More congratulations to Cynthia and Robert on the birth of their grand daughter on May 5th Emer Robin

Thoughts

Ships don't sink because of the water around them. Ships sink because of the water that gets in them. Don't let what's happening get inside you and weigh you down.

Life is like a cup of tea... it's all in how you make it

Listen to the silence, it has so much to say

You have to be odd to be number one

Date for your Diary

Methodist women in Britain 17th June at the Avenue Tickets £4 from Sue Jackson

Guest speaker Dr Jill Barber. Afternoon service followed by afternoon tea (2.30pm)

A very draining experience

During the Autumn of 2016 a sink hole appeared in the lawn area behind the Church. The hole was nearly eight feet deep and very close to a large horse chestnut tree.

United Utilities were called in to check the area after establishing that a land drain passed under the lawn area in the same location as the sink hole. After carrying out a survey and checks of the area they confirmed that the drain had collapsed.

The area was fenced off until repairs could be carried out. Work to repair the drain started in March and was scheduled to be completed in two weeks.

The tree was taken down and excavation work began within three days. The excavation work and drain repairs were hampered by the large volume of water leaking from the damaged drain. Extra pumping equipment was brought in to cope with the problem and ensure that the main drain lines did not become blocked.

The drain was finally repaired after six weeks of extremely difficult working conditions.

During an inspection of the site on the last day a new small sink hole was found at the boundary fence on the Avenue. Checks carried out since have found that a further section of drain had been damaged during the

repair work. This was caused by the amount of high pressure water jetting required to keep the main drains clear during the repair work.

We are still waiting to hear from United Utilities as to what actions are to be taken to carry out the repairs. Any repair work could be problematic due to work required on the Avenue roadway.

Once all repairs are completed the lawn area will be re-instated

The next instalment of this story will be in the next newsletter

Ken

Sinfonietta 7.30pm, Saturday 30th September 2017

The Avenue Methodist Church, Wincham Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 4PL

Conductor: **Marco Bellasi** Leader: **John Resek**

Barbour Adagio for Strings

Bach Violin and Oboe Concerto in C minor - Soloists: **Olivia Doflein** and **Debbie Rogers**

Beethoven Violin Concerto in D – Soloist: **Olivia Doflein**

Tickets at the door £7 or on line from www.littlestepsbigfutures.org

All proceeds to the ‘Little Steps, Big Futures’ Registered Charity No: 1159417

Little Steps Big Futures is a registered charity which works with children and their families who are living in poverty in Bangladesh and we provide education and training to help improve the quality of their lives.

In our village project in Rajtillah, we now have 75 children attending school and we have just completed an 18 month literacy course for 50 parents (25 men and 25 women). Last month we then moved our project to the next phase and we are providing micro loans to these parents and training to help them set up their own businesses.

When working in the slums in Dhaka on previous projects we found that most of the slum dwellers had come from the villages seeking work as they were unable to earn and provide for their families back in their villages. This causes huge displacement of the families and they then end up living in squalid conditions which is hazardous to their health.

Little Steps Big Futures is a small charity and is run by volunteers ensuring that all proceeds from our fund-raising events goes directly to our projects. Most of the costs of running our charity are met by the Trustees and we fund our own costs each year for visiting the projects in Bangladesh.

Olivia is an exceptionally talented violinist who is kindly donating her talents for the evening and travelling over from Holland to perform with us. Marco Bellasi is an inspirational conductor who studied violin, composition and conducting at the Conservatoire Giuseppe Verdi of Milan and then graduated with distinction with a Masters degree in conducting at the RNCM.

Sale Sinfonietta is a newly formed orchestra but is comprised of many of the best local musicians in the area who have come together to support ‘Little Steps. Big Futures’

Anniversary event for June 2017

The Thursday group visit to Chirk Castle and aqueduct (first Thursday in June)

7 centuries ago Chirk Castle would have been brand spanking new and a very obvious indication to the Welsh to keep out of Edwardian England. Today the castle is still inhabited and illustrates family living through all those centuries. Surrounding this illustrious structure are prized gardens with clipped yews, herbaceous borders and a magnificent terrace looking out over the Cheshire and Shropshire plains. Although the Anglo-Normans had gone to enormous efforts to keep out Welsh armies, by the late 18th century England had become keen to allow ready access to vast quantities of a product of which the Welsh had a surplus – that was water. This was urgently needed by the English canal system. A vital link in this vast plumbing system engineered by Thomas Telford, is to be found in Chirk aqueduct only a short distance from the castle. On our visit in June we will have the opportunity to visit all of these.

Theo Dutton

HELLO FROM TANZANIA!

Dear friends,

We thank God for the blessings he continues to pour on us in both our life and our work, and at the moment for the special blessing of rain in Tanzania. The rain was a great concern this year as it was extremely late and much of the country was facing severe drought conditions. Usually the rain is expected to start in late November but this year, other than a few showers, the rain didn't start until late February although it's since been plentiful. The rain would usually stop around now but we pray that it continues so that people are able to get a sufficient harvest.

As we look back over the last 17 years, most of which we have spent in Tanzania, there have been quite significant changes. The rainfall situation has certainly become worse over the years; one of the contributing factors to this is environmental changes such as the loss of trees. There is a big local industry in making charcoal – this is just done by individuals trying to make a living – and most people cook on small charcoal stoves. Obviously this means cutting down trees and we have seen a severe decrease in tree cover over the years, which must be a big factor with problems such as a lack of rain, drought and soil degradation. It is now beginning to be a recognised problem and various organisations are looking at tree planting and ways of reducing charcoal use through using energy efficient stoves etc. This needs to be done urgently so that the worrying changes in rainfall patterns can begin to be reversed.

We had a great time at Christmas this year with our friend Rachel visiting from the UK. As well as enjoying Christmas and New Year in Dodoma we were able to have a lovely holiday at Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Duluti near Arusha. Before Christmas, Isaac recorded his first CD of some of his worship songs, called "Shout to the Lord". It is a lovely CD and great to be able to use his talents in this way. He is selling the CD and giving half the proceeds to support his school here in Dodoma. Christine has also been busy recording a second video with Kikuyu Gospel Singers. It was very hard work, recording all day every day for a week, but worthwhile and a great way to spread God's Word through our songs.

The Anglican Church radio project, which Christine has been working on, is progressing well. After a long wait, we have finally been invited to present our project to the licencing authority and we pray that it will be accepted. We have also been promised a grant and technical support from an organisation called SonSet Solutions which will enable us to purchase and install all the studio equipment. We have launched a fundraising campaign in churches across the country to raise the rest of the funds for the building and running costs. Please pray for this project which will be a wonderful way to preach God's Word across Tanzania. Please also pray for the process of handing over Christine's work because, as yet, we do not have the resources to be able to employ a replacement coordinator. Christine has also recently been to Zanzibar for the last in the series of training seminars for evangelists. Evangelists attended from four different dioceses, and were greatly encouraged and equipped to do God's work in their area. Zanzibar is a very challenging place for ministry but we saw God at work and were able to enthuse and encourage the local Christians who are in a minority on the island.

It is always a great encouragement in our work when we see how people we have worked with develop in their ministry and their walk with God. One of our team for the seminar in Zanzibar was Edmond, who came with us as a musician to help in leading praise and worship throughout the week. Edmond has been a student at our annual music course for the last three years. He is 25 and lives with his mum who he struggles to support, having lost his dad when he was young. He discovered a love and talent for music when he was just 10, after his dad died, and he very quickly learnt the basics of piano and began to minister in his local church. In 2014 he was sent to our music course by his diocese and over the three years that he has been attending he has learnt a great deal and is an amazing musician, song writer and teacher. It has been wonderful to watch him develop in his musical skills but also develop in his faith and his general attitude. He has developed from a wilful young man into a humble servant of God.

As we recognise the gifts that God has given him, we have begun to involve him in some of our projects,

such as the seminar in Zanzibar, and helping to teach on music courses. He has also been a great encouragement and inspiration for Isaac in his music. They became good friends during one of the music schools and have enjoyed making music together, and Edmond also helped Isaac with the piano music for his recent CD. His vision for his future is to serve God through his music and to help others to develop their skills and their ministry. God willing, he hopes to go to study for a diploma in music later this year at a church-run music college in Tanzania. He is very grateful for the music courses he has attended, which he says have opened his eyes and enabled him to reach a higher level and understand his music better. Please pray for Edmond in the many challenges in his life and ministry. Pray that God will continue to bless him and help him to develop in his service.

Paul is still managing to hold down two jobs although his work at the school, which was originally planned for two mornings a week, is now taking up more of his time than his university work. The pressure of managing the school and making day-to-day decisions on areas ranging from staff training to keeping the tax man happy has been both a burden and an eye opener throughout his time “at the helm”. He can see the way in which, through this experience, God is teaching him new things that will no doubt prepare him for future forms of service.

One of Paul’s better decisions over the last term was to use the game of chess as a focus for the term. Both primary and secondary classes have been playing chess in lessons and in afterschool clubs (using boards donated by one of our link churches). This has come to a climax, at the end of term, with the finals of a school-wide chess tournament and the showing of “Queen of Katwe” a Disney film about a young Ugandan girl who becomes a chess champion. The children loved the film, which will hopefully inspire them to develop and use their God-given talents. As we write, Daniel is still in with an outside chance of being crowned “King of CAMS”, having got through to the final four, but will need to beat some serious competition to do so including his maths teacher!

We are now in the midst of various preparations for our return to the UK. We will be heading back towards the end of July. We will, of course, be planning to visit all our link churches. We will be living in St. Austell, Cornwall, and have already managed to get a place for Isaac in a school there. As Daniel will be going into year 9 we cannot apply for him until later but please pray that he will get a place with Isaac. The next few months will be a difficult time trying to finish off and hand over our work and saying farewells to dear friends here.

With love and blessings,

Christine, Paul, Daniel and Isaac xxx

MEMORY, INTELLIGENCE AND WISDOM

I am always amazed how people in general stand in awe of the Eggheads, so called because they have demonstrated some skill in answering random questions in a quiz programme. Oddly they are regarded as clever. What they are in fact doing is bringing out of their ragbag of knowledge assorted bits and pieces which they are able to bring to the top of their minds by a feat of memory. The questioning is not as random as it may first be supposed. The programme uses a limited number of specific categories. The panellists are able to swot them up, learning lists of facts within those areas. Contestants have come to know where the gaps are in each individual's knowledge and they try to exploit them. What the Eggheads each have is an outstanding memory, in itself not something to disparage. We all wish we had a memory like that. But intelligence is something else.

Intelligence is the ability to make connections, to take the facts and do something creative with them. It need not be original thinking, something that nobody has seen before. Intelligent human beings will make similar deductions to other intelligent human beings. They will learn from each other's experience. When an intelligent person takes the

facts and rearranges them or makes a connection that nobody has ever made before, then the human race takes a new step, for good or ill. Wisdom, however, is in my view more important than intelligence. I have known many intelligent people whom I would not describe as wise. Wisdom is generally something acquired through experience. It is often demonstrated in old age which is why we should pay especial attention to the elderly. However, Solomon was right to ask God for wisdom to make him a discerning ruler (I Kings 3:7-15). He knew that he needed wisdom at the beginning of his reign, not just when he got old. What he needed, to rule over his united kingdom was more than accumulated knowledge. It was not the ability to do mental gymnastics. It was a God-given insight into human nature which enabled him to distinguish between right and wrong and to make right judgements. 'Happy is he who has found wisdom... for wisdom is more profitable than silver.'

Rev Dr John Taylor

A Story in 10 words

During April the Methodist Recorder has been running a very short story competition. Readers were invited to submit up to 3 stories of ten words or fewer. The advert said; Can you write a story that says all it needs to say in 10 or fewer words. The story goes that Ernest Hemingway wrote this one "For sale. Baby shoes. Never worn"

I have sent in 3 to the Methodist Recorder and will be informed in due course if they have been printed

- 1) Sun sets. Sun rises. Another long night without sleep
- 2) Only goal. Final whistle. Match won. Another 3 points
- 3) Pearly gates. Peter says Enter good and faithful servant

Please send in your stories for inclusion in the next newsletter

Albert Graham

The Avenue Methodist Church exists to worship God in a relevant way; deepen and strengthen our spiritual life; offer Christian salvation, fellowship and service within the wider community.

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Submission of contributions

Articles should not exceed the equivalent of two pages of A5 (approximately 800 words). Shorter articles are preferred. Ready typed or word processed pages are welcomed—they can be scanned to save re-typing. Computer files sent by email to the church as Microsoft Word documents (.DOC), or in text (.TXT) or rich text format (.RTF) are best if you have Internet access. Unfortunately illustrations in the form of your own drawings or photographs cannot be used at present. Please send to cashton.03@hotmail.co.uk

We extend a warm welcome to all who wish to worship God in this place. We are very pleased to welcome young children into worship. A small play area is available at the back of the church for use at any point if wished. Please ask any steward for information about facilities provided for young people, including the *Beginners* who meet every Sunday morning.
Family breakfast services at 9am on the first and the third Sunday in the month.

WORSHIP IN June/July Please see the Plan

The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue of the Newsletter is **18th July**