

**The Methodist Church**  
**Sidwell Street Exeter**

Services 10.30am every Sunday



# Update

**Our Monthly News**

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**April 2018**

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Dear Sisters and Brothers

The daylight is surely longer than it was a few weeks ago, for even though it is already 17:45, the blue sky still makes the earth blue and the sunshine fills the earth with warmth. I feel languid in the sunshine.

Whilst enjoying a large cup of coffee, basking in the sunshine that shone through the massive window in Waitrose, a fire exit sign hanging on the ceiling caught my attention.



Upon looking at this fire exit sign I recalled in my mind the Jecheon Sports Centre (a six storey building) fire that occurred in Miryang, Korea on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The fire unexpectedly erupted at the parking lot in the ground floor and the upper floors were covered with smoke. The fire killed about thirty people and injured about forty people. One of the several reasons that caused the catastrophe was that the fire 'exit' was blocked with many goods, for the area was used for storage and as a result those who used the sports centre did not know where the exits were. If the fire exits were not blocked but cleared it might have been possible to prohibit injuries or at least death.

Similarly, in our lifetime emergencies come unexpectedly without notice like the fire in Jecheon. Perhaps in our spiritual journey as the followers of Christ we may also unexpectedly need to face emergencies.

Contd overleaf

Church Website : [www.sidwellstreetmethodist.org.uk](http://www.sidwellstreetmethodist.org.uk)

However if we keep our 'fire exits' clear in our everyday life, we may at least save our life in unexpected emergencies.

Then what would be the 'fire exits' to the followers of Jesus Christ? Through my reflection on the 'fire exits' in this Lenten season, I assume that they are the words of God and prayers in Jesus' name. This is because Jesus won the temptation with the words of God before he went into public ministry and completed his ministry with prayer in Gethsemane and on the cross. From the beginning and the end of Jesus' ministry, he always withdrew into quiet places for prayers and spoke the words in the Scriptures when his opponents argued against him.



Therefore, in a sense, the 'fire exits' which may give us life, eternal life, are prayers in Jesus' name and the words of God that enable us to keep eternal life.

Perhaps, you may have your own understanding of the 'fire exits' which are different from mine. Whatever the 'fire exits' are to each one of us I hope and pray that our lives may be saved as we have the 'fire exits' cleared in our daily life.

With every blessing, *Yangsun*

### **Easter Offerings**



The dedication of the Easter Offering gifts from across the Circuit will be held at a Circuit Service, on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April** at 6.30pm in Littlemead Church, Exmouth, EX8 3BZ.

Everyone is most welcome to attend.

# Church Family News

*It is with great sadness we report the death of **David Evans** who has lost his battle with leukaemia. David has served our church faithfully as a steward with good humour and he and his films will be greatly missed. We send our sympathy and love to Brenda and the family. The Lent yard of coins, which David introduced, is this year being collected for the Exeter Leukaemia Fund (ELF) and there is another chance on Easter Sunday to add a few more coins.*

*Congratulations to **Sally & Alan McClelland** who now have a new grandson. Dylan Matthew Peter was born to their son Matt & Emma on 28<sup>th</sup> February, weighing in at 8lb 2oz.*

***Mark Lewis** has been in contact asking about friends at Sidwell Street. He and Mel are settled into their home in Yorkshire, with Mel working as Reception Manager at the hotel where Mark first started on his chef's career a long time ago. He was delighted that they still remembered him! He is being helped by St Leonard's Hospice. He is also thrilled that he is now a granddad, Joshua and his partner having produced a baby boy, although they are living in Barnstaple a long way away. If anyone would like to communicate with Mark, we can pass on contact details. Jenny and John Sully*

*Congratulations to our minister, **Yangsun**, who received a unanimous decision from the Probationer's Committee that she should go forward for ordination. This will take place on July 1<sup>st</sup> in the Parish Church of St. Mary & All Saints, Chesterfield - the church with the crooked spire!*

## Company & Craft

The inclement weather forced a cancellation of the Company & Craft meeting at the beginning of March but we hope that the meeting for the afternoon of **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April** will go ahead as scheduled. We shall continue to work on the embroidered cats we started in February under the instruction of Annette Mawson. If our homework has been completed, the cats will require a tail and some stuffing! We meet at 2.30pm in the Reed hall and everyone is welcome. If you missed the meeting in February and didn't start to make a cat do feel free to bring along some knitting or other craft and enjoy the company and of course the tea & biscuits!



### Men's Group

Men's Group will meet on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.30pm in the Linger Longer Lounge. Please note, this date has changed from that in the printed programme. This evening will be a visit from our minister Revd Yangsun Yi, with chocolate cake for supper with the tea or coffee. All gentlemen are very welcome and invited to bring a friend too to introduce them to our fellowship.

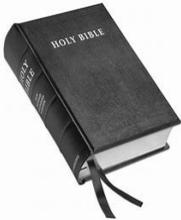


Please would anyone willing to be a Christian Aid collector this year, during the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May, get in touch with Sally McClelland, tele 214950 or email [sal\\_mcclelland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sal_mcclelland@yahoo.co.uk) She would be very grateful to have some new collectors this year.



## Tuesday Fellowship

There will be no meeting at Sidwell Street on **3<sup>rd</sup> April** but members are welcome to join the Mint Fellowship that afternoon when the speaker will be Jessica Cohen talking about the work of Age UK & Men in Sheds. Roger Piper will be the speaker on **10<sup>th</sup> April** - his talk entitled 'A Trip to Tobago'. The following week, **17<sup>th</sup>** will be a Members' Afternoon and on **24<sup>th</sup> April** the Revd Yangsun Yi & Mrs Elizabeth Howell will lead a Devotional talk. Do join us if you are able at 2.30pm on Tuesday afternoons in the Reed Hall.



## Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting will take place on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April**, following the morning service. This meeting is open to EVERYBODY who worships at our church and is an opportunity to exchange ideas and opinions. After the meeting we shall gather to share coffee and a buffet lunch together. Please bring a small plate of food that can be shared.

**OPEN**  
**TO ALL** 

## Wednesday Coffee Mornings

Our grateful thanks to those who have faithfully opened up the church and served coffee on Wednesday mornings for over ten years. However the decision was taken at Church Council that this activity would cease after Easter. Over the years we have lost many faithful attenders and ill health and other commitments has taken its toll on the number of volunteers to a level that we cannot maintain the activity and ensure safeguarding principles. If things change in the future, it would be very easy to open the church once more, but again, thanks to those who have helped in any way.



## Can YOU help the situation in Myanmar?

Sarah, daughter of David & Joan Easton, has lived and worked in Myanmar for 2 ½ years, seen the struggles of the population and is doing what she can to assist, but needs our help. She is planning to run 12 marathons in 12 different countries in a twelve month period and would welcome any sponsorship. Sarah has completed three marathons so far in Myanmar, in India and Bhutan. On April 15th her next challenge will be the Great Wall Marathon in China. She is meeting all the expenses of travel etc. herself so all money raised will support three charities. One of the charities is B.R.A.C working in refugee camps in Bangladesh concentrating on:



- Maternal, neonatal and child health.
- Building wells & latrines to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation.
- Keeping children safe from exploitation, and helping to establish a sense of normalcy through child-friendly spaces.
- Delivering children’s clothing, tarpaulins, sleeping mats, solar lamps, buckets, water vessels and sanitary napkins.

Details of another charity will appear in next month’s Update

Read all about this effort and follow Sarah’s progress on

<https://seastonmarathonchallenge.wordpress.com> click on Race for Rights

Please support Sarah in your prayers and if you can manage any financial support pay any money into Sidwell Street Methodist Church, clearly marked for Myanmar and the money will be paid into Sarah’s bank account.

### GREETINGS

Our magazine goes far and wide and our editor regularly receives from some who have served in our church and watch our news! Among them are David Laidler, Andrew Brazier, David Easton, Catherine Wagstaff and from across the Atlantic Bobby & Marilyn McMillan.

We return their greetings with our love.

## Meet the District and its Team

The following information is reproduced from the District Website

[www.pemd.org.uk](http://www.pemd.org.uk)

This website is under review at present, so it would be helpful if folk could look at it and relay any comments, favourable or critical back to the District via Margaret Fogarty

The Methodist Church in Great Britain covers from the Shetlands to the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands as well as the British mainland - and also Gibraltar and Malta.

The **Plymouth and Exeter District** is one of thirty-one districts and covers almost all of the county of Devon and about a third of Somerset, as well as small areas of Dorset and Cornwall.

The District is made up of 230 churches in 17 circuits, with a total of around eight and a half thousand members and a wider community of about twenty thousand people. The area we cover stretches from Bude in Cornwall to the Huntspill River in Somerset on the north coast and from Lyme Regis to Torpoint on the south coast - and everything in between..

### Our Calling:

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission



Graham Thompson is the chair of our District, his role is about oversight - of ministers and their families; other employed staff; churches in the District and as the responsible person for Methodism in this part of

the world. He began here in September 2014 and says he is privileged to serve in a great place!



Mary-Ann Martin is the District Support Officer, who joined the team in 2017.

She works from the District Office on a Monday morning and at other times from home.

**The absolute deadline for the next edition of May Update will be lunchtime on Tuesday 24th April but the editor would prefer articles by Saturday 21st April**