

Girls' Brigade Gathering

The Girls' Brigade's 1st Goodrington and 1st Kingston Companies held Junior Camp at Goodrington Methodist Church in April. The girls enjoyed meeting new friends from different areas of the country and some very good friendships have been made. We were very blessed with the weather and thoroughly enjoyed our activities. These included visits to the local beach, day visits to Woodlands Adventure Park and Paignton Zoo. The girls and staff experienced and enjoyed many new activities.

Our devotions and evening crafts were based on the theme *The Fruit of the Spirit*, lots of us went home singing the lively song that accompanied them.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the food provided and ate well. On the last night we held a cinema evening watching "*The Greatest Showman*", whilst enjoying popcorn and sweets. For many it was their first time away from home. All the girls coped well and are already asking where is camp going to be next year.

Carol Galliers

Girls' Brigade leader

If you would like more information about the Girls' Brigade or Boys' Brigade please contact Carol on 01803 846039

Or see the Girls' Brigade website:

<http://www.girlsb.org.uk/>

And the Boys' Brigade website:

<https://boys-brigade.org.uk/>



Welcome Wendy

Mrs Wendy Hugonnet was recently welcomed and commissioned as a Methodist local preacher in a special service at our Brixham Church. In the service, our superintendent minister, Revd Dr John Haley, reminded Wendy and the congregation that Christians believe they have received truth that has been revealed in Jesus, particularly in his death and resurrection. This is truth 'according to the scriptures'. New local preachers are traditionally presented with a Bible but Wendy, who already has many Bibles, was presented with a hymn-book, *Singing the Faith*, and a *Dramatised Bible*. The majority of Methodist ministers are itinerant while local preachers serve in their own area or 'circuit' (e.g. Torbay). The Methodist Church does not have 'lay preachers' as if they are a different kind of preacher. The only difference is the scope of the preacher's work – a distinction that goes back to the roots of the Methodist movement.



Please send good news stories of worship, fellowship, mission and evangelism to Torbay Methodist Circuit Office by no later than

7 August 2019 to be considered for inclusion in the next issue of *Connected*.

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday 9.30am–1.30pm Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am-12.30 pm



The Methodist Church



A vision of heaven



Saturday night in London – 23 years old and ready to go out. That was me but this night was different because I was going to an event that would change my life in a special way. In the leafy West London suburb of Notting Hill – a while before Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts arrived for the eponymous film – I was in for a big surprise.

As a student on placement, my supervisor had told me that I must go to an event with Bishop Campbell. Oxford accents and clerical nightshirts were not my idea of an evening out in the capital. How wrong could I be? Rather oddly, I had been told to arrive an hour after it all started. Consequently, when I got there, the event was in full swing.

What I encountered was a group of joyful people worshipping God – but what made it different from anything that I had ever known before was that I, as a British-born, white European was in the minority. I might not have been in a minority of one but it was not far from it. And then, to my horror, Missionary Campbell, the Bishop's wife, invited me to give 'the word of the Lord'. I read these verses:

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:



Roderick from Zimbabwe



Olya from Russia



Jucineia from Brazil

Newsletter of the Torbay Methodist Circuit—Issue 11: June 2019

"Many parts form one body" (1 Cor. 12:12)

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9-10).

These verses from the Bible are a vision of heaven and what we learn is that not only are the people of God a vast crowd but also they come from every nation, tribe, people and language. When we welcome fellow believers into our congregations, who are not English, in no sense our relatives or clan, not ethnically white British, English-learners rather than native English-speakers, then we begin to catch that vision. And what brings us together and holds us in common is worshipping the Lamb, which is a biblical metaphor for Jesus, crucified as a sacrifice for sinners. What can such a gathering of worshippers do other than offer praise to God and to the Lamb?

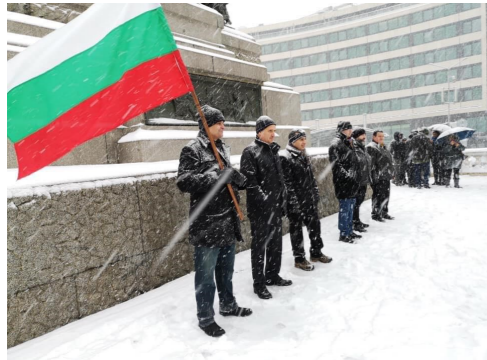
The flags on this page are from the home countries of just some of the people who worship or have worshipped with us in our circuit churches recently. At the time of writing, our newest visitor shared in our services at Victoria Park – Jucineia from Petrópolis a city in Brazil 42 miles north-east of Rio de Janeiro.

God bless

John Haley
Superintendent minister



Bulgarian Brothers and Sisters



In July our Goodrington Church is welcoming Revd Ivan and Mrs Anna Morunov from Bulgaria. Following their successful visit last year, this year they are joined by their daughter, Denitsa. Christians in Bulgaria are praising God for the miraculous turn-around by the government regarding proposals to restrict the freedom of believers and the activities and funding of churches. The decisive vote in the Bulgarian parliament, just before Christmas, followed eight weeks of peaceful prayer protest often in severe wintery weather. Thankfully, freedom to meet together and to preach the gospel continue though the long-term future remains uncertain – so continued prayer is important.

Pastor Ivan, known affectionately to the church community at Goodrington as ‘Great Uncle Bulgaria’, is minister of Veliko Tarnovo United Methodist Church, which does a great work with Roma children, which sadly may not be able to continue due to shortage of funds. Pastor Ivan writes: *At the beginning of May, we had guests from Germany who helped us prepare food for poor children. We are not sure if we will be able to do this in the new school year. Later in the month, we welcomed 65 guests for the annual conference of the Methodist Church in Bulgaria and Romania. That was hard work! Two young pastors were ordained to the ministry of the church in Romania and Bulgaria.*

The bad news for us is that, unless we raise more money, from the next school year we will not be able to continue with the children's centre and our work with Roma children. We need money for a teacher and food, so that the children are not hungry. We continue to study Matthew's Gospel, in parallel with our friends in Goodrington.

Pastor Ivan is sharing in a full programme at Goodrington Methodist Church and will be hosted at events in Torquay and Brixham as well as Paignton. To give to his work in Veliko Tarnovo, simply send a cheque (payee ‘Goodrington Methodist Church’) or give cash through the circuit office on or before Sunday 7 July.



Please join us

Everyone is welcome to all the events listed below. The ones marked * require booking in advance – please let the circuit office know 48 hours before the event if you would like to come. The events in emphasised type are open to all without advanced booking. All events are at Goodrington Methodist Church unless specified otherwise. Pastor Ivan will speak at both Sunday services.



Thursday 4 July 11.30 am Holy Communion followed by light lunch

Thursday 4 July, 6.15 pm – Dinner, *Beefeater*, White Rock (selection of meals from £4.99) *

Friday 5 July 10.00 am Service and coffee morning at Southfield Methodist Church

Friday 5 July 11.30 am Holy Communion followed by light lunch at Victoria Park Methodist Church

Friday 5 July, 7.00 pm – Prayer and Praise

Friday 5 July, 9.00 pm – *Liberty*, 11 The Quay, Brixham TQ5 8AW (tea, coffee, cakes and more) *

Saturday 6 July, 11.00 am – Breakfast, *Occombe Farm*, Paignton TQ3 1RN (plenty of choice) *

Sunday 7 July, 10.30 am – Morning worship with Holy Communion

Sunday 7 July, 4.30 pm – Cream tea

Sunday 7 July, 6.00 pm – Contemporary worship

Monday 8 July, 7.30 pm – *Bay Spice*, 173 St Marychurch Road, Torquay TQ1 3HP (£12.50pp) *

Tuesday 9 July, 7.00 am – Breakfast (Day of Prayer begins – church open all day) *

Tuesday 9 July, 6.30 pm – Evening meal *

Tuesday 9 July, 7.30 pm – Prayers and Reflections

Music for God's glory

In the 54 years (25 of them at Central Church, Torquay) that Clive Bastin has been playing the organ for Sunday services he has experienced many special and memorable moments. Here he tells us about two of them.

Perhaps the grandest was when I was invited to play for a very special service in Exeter Cathedral. It was a ticket-only occasion and the Cathedral was filled to capacity. People came from all over the South and West for the Bi-Centenary Service, in celebration of the life of William Carey - pioneer missionary to India from 1793. It was from his work that the Baptist Missionary Society was formed. Many were the accolades from that great occasion but one that has stayed in my memory was a comment from my line manager. As he walked back across the Cathedral Green after the service, he could still hear me playing the recessional voluntary on the mighty pipe organ and he said to his wife that he couldn't believe that one of his own staff was playing that fine instrument in that grand building.

For me, it certainly was a great privilege and honour to be asked to play for such a special occasion in the Cathedral. In complete contrast, I would like to tell you about a much greater memory, from the years when I was organist at a small and very modest Methodist chapel in East Devon.

One of the worshippers was a lady called Ruth who attended most Sunday mornings. Ruth's husband was called Peter, a tall, strong man well-suited to his job controlling workers on building sites. Every Sunday, before getting ready for church, Ruth would ask Peter to come with her to church. He always flatly refused. In time, he became very weary of being asked the same question every week so he said to Ruth: *"I'll do a deal with you. I will come to church ONCE providing you NEVER ask me again."* Ruth wasn't sure about agreeing but thought it might be her only option. And so, on the next Sunday, they came to church together.

On the following Sunday, as Ruth was getting ready for church she became concerned that her husband was preparing also to go out. Rather tentatively, she asked him where he was going. *"I'm coming to church with you,"* he said. *"I was so impressed with the organ music last Sunday that I want to go and hear some more."* And so he did, and he kept on coming! As time passed though, Peter came to church, not so much because of the music, but because he wanted to hear more of the Word of God.

So, of these two memories, for me, the greatest and most wonderful is the second story. It is my constant prayer that God will accept my offerings of music and in some way use them for his glory.



Clive at the organ console at Exeter Cathedral

We love the worship and the preaching of the Word

Hazel and Jim Rose live at Bexhill-on-Sea in East Sussex, where they attend St Michael and All Angels Church. Hazel cooks for the fortnightly lunch club and Jim drives the community minibus and works for the food bank.

Hazel and Jim often return to Goodrington Methodist Church on Sunday evenings and say, *'we love visiting Torbay and feel very blessed when we come to the informal praise service at Goodrington. We love the worship and the preaching of the Word.'*

