

*The*  
*Messenger*

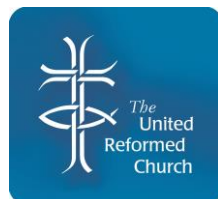
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December 2015 & January 2016

**Saltaire United Reformed Church**



Welcome to our church:  
a place of worship and of  
community.



## *Sixty Years On*

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Our services are children-friendly, with a **Sunday School** for very young children and their carers, which starts after the first 20 minutes of the service.

**Coffee and Tea** are served after each Sunday service in the downstairs rooms. **Please do join us.**

If you wish to discuss a **wedding or christening**, please see one of the authorized persons at the front desk after a Sunday service.

It was October 27th 1954 – which looking back now seems like a different world in a very different time.

Having had a family tea to celebrate my father's 47th birthday we all - mum and dad me, aunts and uncles, cousin and assorted friends - trooped off to the evening service. As always, we went to the independent mission hall, established by the local cotton mill owner, where my family had worshipped since just after the turn of the 20th century, after the death of my 14 year old aunt. (That is in itself another story.) Our mission was known as "Alford Street" to differentiate it from another branch of the mission from which my lot had broken away. (That's another story too!)

A group of teenagers from various churches in the area, who called themselves "The Mission Band" were leading our evening service that night and after getting over the disappointment that they didn't have any brass instruments, was challenged by the shining happiness and enthusiasm of these folks – hardly much older than me who spoke so familiarly of Jesus being a living presence in their lives. At the end of the service, I along with a number of other young folk, felt called to formally commit our lives to Jesus Christ - to be "converted" and become "born again Christians"

During the following year we all became part of the Mission Band, meeting every Sunday evening at 8pm after evening service. We also became involved with the worship group taking part in leading worship in local churches, reading, leading extemporary prayers and each giving testimony about the Lord working in our lives. All these visits meant walking two or three miles or so to other churches and then a similar trek home - usually singing.

Dad said we had to be careful about making so much noise but it was another 44 years, at what turned out to be his last Christmas dinner before his death, when he revealed the cause of his concern. He had never confessed to my mother that sometime in the 1920's he and several of his youthful mates had spent a night in the police cells after they were arrested one Sunday evening when they were standing under a lamp post singing hymns. The local police constable had charged them with "riotous assembly" and marched them off to the station. Fathers were summoned and

it was they who appeared in court the following day instead of their sons, to plead guilty on their behalf, pay the fines and sweep the matter and its concomitant shame under the metaphorical carpet. All for singing hymns!

There was, of course, a youth club at Alford Street - as there was in those days at almost every church - and in 1955 "The Trustees' Committee " decreed that there should be a youth service led by members of the club. When the club members were told of this, they all with one accord turned and looked at me and said, "Valerie can do that!" What a shock! Most of them were older than me. I had and have no idea why I was singled out, but there it was. My mother had frequently led services, but my father never had. He was known in the chapel as "Progress Smith" as his main contribution to Trustees Meetings was "Mr. Chairman, I move progress!"

When I went home to tell my parents that I was to take the evening service in October, dad never looked out from behind his paper but said " Well, tha'st got thy subject!" I didn't know what he meant. "Out of the mouths of babes and suckling's!" he said with a great guffaw.

I can't remember if I did use that as a text, but I do know that from that beginning I was frequently asked to lead worship at Alford Street and at other churches in the area. So October 2015 was the 60th anniversary of that beginning and seemed quite significant to me. I haven't preached every Sunday during those 60 years of course, but a fair few, especially since my time became less constricted when I came out of residential education work in 1976.

I wanted to share this with you. To tell you that throughout those 60 years I have been so conscious of the leading of the Lord and of His strength; to tell you that that October day 61 years ago is a precious memory of coming face to face for the first time – despite those years in Sunday school - with the loving presence of Jesus Christ and realising with sudden clarity the call upon my life and service which the Jesus had.

My experience of course is far from unique - all of us in the church have in different ways been brought to Christ and it's good from time to time to recall those experiences and to look back to see where our Christian journey has led us. Not merely looking back with nostalgia, but with joy and thanksgiving for all that walking with Jesus has meant to us. To praise Him for the constant daily re-experience of his forgiving love and the delight of living each day ready to be amazed again at the surprises which He always has in store.

*Valerie Jenkins*

## Diary for December 2015

Date	Time	Event
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	Children's Advent Service and Christmas Party. Sign up at <a href="http://www.saltaireurc.org.uk">www.saltaireurc.org.uk</a>
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev. Caroline Andrews Organist: Mr Howard Hutchinson
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Rotary Carol Concert. Tickets £5 payable at the door.
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family and Toy-Giving Service led by Rev. Caroline Andrews. Organist: Mr John Chapman. Mince pies served following the service – please bring some to share.
	5pm	Village Carol Singing, along with Shipley Salvation Army. Starting at Saltaire URC and processing to Saltaire Canteen. In aid of Christian Aid Mosquito Nets.
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Service led by Rev. Caroline Andrews. Organist: Mr Robert Moorby.
	6.30pm	Candlelight Carol Service led by Rev. Caroline Andrews. Organist: Mr Geoff Collins.
Thur 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.15pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service led by Rev. Caroline Andrews. Organist: Mr Robert Moorby.
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup>	11am-11.30am	Christmas Celebration Service led by Rev. Caroline Andrews. Organist: Mr Robery Moorby.
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Service led by Rev. Caroline Andrews. Organist: Mr Geoff Pople.

Please note that, as usual throughout the Advent and Christmas period, Christian Aid Gift envelopes will be in the pews at Saltaire URC.

## Diary for January 2016

Date	Time	Event
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev. Caroline Andrews and induction of Elders. Organist: Mr Geoff Popple.
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Service (preacher to be confirmed). Organist: Mr Geoff Collins.
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Service led by Rev. Caroline Andrews. Organist: Mr Edward Scott (tbc).
	6.30pm	Candlelight Carol Service led by Rev. Caroline Andrews. Organist: Mr Geoff Collins.
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Pulpit Exchange Family Service led by Mr Chric Clough (tbc). Organist: Mr John Chapman.
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30m	Family Service led by the Worship Group. Organist: Mr Geoff Popple.

## *Regular Church Activities*

<b>S U N</b>	10.30am Service: 1pm-4pm	1 <sup>st</sup> – Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> – Family Services Church & cafe open to the public (all year)
<b>M O N</b>	1.30-3pm 7-8.30pm	Toddlers' Praise Time Bell ringing practice
<b>T U E</b>	7-7.30pm 7.30pm	Prayer meeting for the Church and Saltaire Elders' meeting (meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Tue in the month)
<b>W E D</b>	10.30am 6-9pm	Informal Worship Service 5 <sup>th</sup> Shipley Scout Groups' meetings
<b>S A T</b>	10.30am	Under 40's Group (meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat of each month)

The church is open to visitors 2pm-4pm Monday to Friday from April to September.

**Please join in!** New group members are assured a warm welcome.

Bell ringing contacts:	Len Morris	01274 597894
	Robert Appleby	01274 223753
Scout contact:	Barbara Lawson	01274 591931
Under 40's contact:	Leona Holland	07522 106912
Toddlers' group contact:	Valerie Jenkins	01274 542510
	Helen O'Loan	01274 405847

## *Thanks & Notices*

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### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your prayers, cards and flowers. It is good to be back again.

*Brenda Wallace*

### **WORSHIP GROUP**

As we have lost some of our team through illness or death and that we will be leading worship on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (i.e. 4 times in the year), I wonder if anyone would be interested in joining us. We do have a book to help and you don't need to know a lot of scripture. If you would like to help please speak to me.

*Doreen Morris.*

### **SHEILA LEWIS**

Sheila Lewis, who regularly came to the Carol Service until she was no longer able to get up the steps, died last week. Our condolences to her family and friends. Valerie Jenkins will be conducting her funeral at Nab Wood on Tuesday.

### **PLOT NIGHT**

Despite the poor weather forecast we enjoyed a good Plot Night with our usual well prepared bonfire thanks to our fire raiser David followed by the traditional pie and pea supper plus free parkin! As a result we were able to send a cheque for £80 to the Bradford Metropolitan Food Bank. Many thanks to all who supported this event.

*Janet and Dick Clark*

## **ROTARY CAROL CONCERT**

The annual Rotary Carol Concert which has been organised by the Shipley Rotary Club in our church for the last 40 years is to be held on Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm with the Otley Silver Band and the St Paul's Junior Choir. Admission is £5. Proceeds from this event will be shared between the church and Rotary Charities. This has always proved to be a very enjoyable evening and your support would be greatly appreciated.

## **STAR TREK**

Go star gazing in Shipley - during the daytime from 1st December.

Follow the shiny stars in shops and businesses that tell the real story of Christmas.

Become a star gazer in star studded Shipley!

*Barbara Judd*

## **CHILDREN IN NEED**

We had another successful Children-in-Need Cake Stall in Salt's Mill courtesy of Maggie Silver when we raised £634.45. Many thanks go to all our bakers and helpers who made this possible. Well done.



# *Letter from Shipley Christians Together*

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Dear friends,

12 November 2015

## **Christian Aid Christmas Appeal 2015**

We are delighted to be able to inform you that the Christmas appeal 2015 will be matched funded pound for pound by the United Kingdom Government Department for International Development (DFID). This is great news! The focus of the appeal on maternal health in west Africa with specifics such as the provision of mosquito nets for mothers and infants (and training in how to use them) is excellent. There is a good range of material – video clips, leaflets etc available. We have samples and you can look at the Christian Aid web site. [www.christianaid.org](http://www.christianaid.org)

The UK Government currently provides nets through the inter-governmental agency “Global Fund” based in Geneva. However, matched funding with our gifts mean that many more nets can be obtained by this combination of UK taxation and generous Church giving. We have written to Philip Davies MP asking him to endorse this appeal representing, as it does, much better value for the UK and more help to those who need it.

The United Reformed Church nationally has asked all their churches to support the appeal and we are so glad Saltaire URC and Northcliffe Methodist/URC LEP have already got plans in place. They are not the only ones ! We list below Christian Aid Christmas appeal fund raising events already planned that we know of.

### **Christian Aid Christmas Appeal events in Shipley**

**6 December:** Soup and bread lunch at Shipley Baptist Church with donations to the Christmas Appeal.

**13 December :** Carols in Saltaire from 16.00 hours with Saltaire URC and Shipley Salvation Army Band.

**16 December:** Carols with Live@Costa in Costa Coffee, Shipley Market Place

**25 December:** Special Christmas offering for Christian Aid, Shipley Baptist Church.

**9 January:** Beetle (Mosquito ?) drive at Northcliffe LEP (Methodist and URC).

**Christian Aid Week 2016 15 to 21 May:** Please note this week in your diary! The recent SCT general meeting has agreed plans for a sponsored stroll day in Roberts Park in the morning, a lunchtime picnic and a Christian Aid service in the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday. Look out for more details in the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

- Denise and Keith Jones.

*SCT Christian Aid organisers.*



## *Money Matters & Standing Orders* *(a note from the Treasurer)*

Many thanks to all those who continue to give time, prayer and money to the work of the church. I mentioned at the last Church Meeting how grateful I am to Janet and Joyce for handling the regular inflow of cash and banking, a considerable task. I have also been very pleased to see a couple of members recently switch their regular giving to Standing Orders, bringing the total to twelve.

The advantages of standing orders are that they make record keeping easier, reduce banking time and bank charges, cut the amount of cash floating around on Sunday morning and make claiming Gift Aid tax relief much easier.

Can I also reassure all our standing order givers that you do not need to also put cash in the collecting bags. In fact, as most people are on Gift Aid, the extra 25% we claim covers your coffee as well! One of the best things about giving electronically is that it is one less thing to think about on Sunday.

Standing orders are set up and controlled by the giver (not like direct debits). To set up a standing order you need to ask your bank (in person, on-line or using a form I can supply). You can ask your bank to stop or change the amount at any time.

If anyone else would like to give in this way, the church bank details are as follows:

SALTAIRE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
Sort Code 30-91-12  
Account 00722910

Thanks again.  
David O'Loan  
Treasurer

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*Wise men still  
seek Him*



Lots more information can be found at:  
[www.saltaireurc.org.uk](http://www.saltaireurc.org.uk)

*Wishing you a peaceful and joyful  
Christmas*



*What the world needs now is a  
stable influence*



## **5<sup>th</sup> Shipley Scout Group**

**Saltaire United Reformed Church**

**Meet on Wednesdays in the Church Rooms**

**Group Scout Leader: Linda Malloy**

**Beaver Scouts – age 6 to 8 years**

**6pm to 7pm. BSL: Linda Malloy**

**Cub Scouts – age 8 to 10½ years**

**6pm to 7.30pm. CSL: Jennifer Williamson**

**Scouts – age 10½ to 14 years**

**7.15pm to 9pm. SL: Neil Holmes**

**Explorer Scouts – age 14 to 18**

**8pm to 9.30pm. ESL: Zac Williamson**

**For further information contact  
Barbara Lawson 01274 591931**