



The **Methodist Church**
Inspiring Discipleship



spring 2011

Below is a list of opportunities for you to visit to experience Christian witness, serve and church being expressed in ways which may be new to you, or which you have a particular interest in.

Thanks.

alison.parkerRto@gmail.com

Youth Work

'Shackles Off'

This is a new and exciting youth project and community centre. We are in the heart of the community, and work with young people to work out what life is about for them, ways to respond to the shock of the shootings, and ask 'where is God in all of this?'

Seascale in the Whitehaven Circuit.

If you would like to visit this project, let your Training Officer know and s/he will liaise with the Training Officer in Cumbria.

Street Pastors and other night time street work

NightChurch

Open every Friday night from 10.00pm to 3.30am

Nightchurch is located in the heart of the nightclub life of Stoke on Trent. It provides a chill out space for nightclubbers with no strings attached. The approach is very simple it is a place of hospitality where any can come and chat over a coffee. It declares itself as a church and the volunteers of all ages will chat and offer prayer when that is appropriate.

Conversations are often centred around life and all it's challenges and a questioning of the relevance of faith. It has been running since 2007 and was born out of prayer. Friday nights are always busy. Nightchurch works closely with the local authorities, police and street pastors. It is visited by some trainee ministers and the Bishop of Stafford takes an active role through some Friday nights.

www.nightchurch.net

Friday 18th March, Friday 13th May, Friday 10th June

Each evening will begin at 7:30pm

Creative communities

Somewhere Else

Somewhere Else is the name of the church that is not afraid to engage with people who struggle with the idea of church yet still have an inner sense that God is up to something.

The story of the bread church in Liverpool City Centre is a sign of hope that the church can be different. This account of the life of Somewhere Else is a story of encouragement that challenges unconventional people of faith to risk living out of their own experience and be wonderfully surprised by encountering God on the edge.

Liverpool

If you would like to visit this community let your Training Officer know.

Schools work:

Rosehill School, Manchester & Stockport

Methodist Minister is Chaplain to Rosehill Methodist Community Primary School and spends the equivalent of two days per week present on site.

The role includes leading Collective Worship once a week, working with small groups of children alongside the Learning Mentor, pastorally supporting the staff, children & parents, and being a resource for the teaching of RE.

Tuesdays in term day are usually most suitable, other than week commencing 9th May) or just before or after a school holiday - see the Holiday List on the School Info tab on the website <http://www.rosehill.tameside.sch.uk/>



Cafes:

Cafe Church @Oomoo, Liverpool

Café church meets at Oomoo on Smithdown Rd Liverpool every 2 weeks. It is a fantastic place to get together, drink great coffee, eat cake and get to know a little more about what it means to follow Jesus today. A typical café church evening would include quizzes, DVD clips, discussions and more!

22 Feb, 22 March, 5 April, 17 May, 28 June

café church runs 7.30-9pm. A member of the team would meet people at 7pm and then be available to chat later.

Nexus Art Cafe and Sanctus1

Nexus Art Café (fair trade and free wi-fi!) is a non profit organisation working towards building community, celebrating creativity and exploring spirituality in Manchester's Northern Quarter. We care about our planet and each other, and employ good ethics before anything else. People come first, which is why Nexus isn't just a venue but a community of people working together to dream, inspire and create. It is part of the Methodist Church. Services provided by the café include a Night Café (every Saturday night), comedy nights, gig nights, music rehearsal space, workshops, film nights, art exhibitions, dance space, fair trade resource and campaigning events. Nexus is a base for the Sanctus1 community who meet each Wednesday evening and Sunday morning at the venue.

Sanctus1 is a Christian community exploring spirituality in contemporary culture. Sanctus1 seeks to push at the boundaries; exploring God and spirituality within the city, in contemporary film and art, and within each other.

Sanctus1 is committed to the city centre community of Manchester. The nature of the city centre reflects the people that we are; a fluid organic community that believes that the creative spirit of God is active and moving in culture.

At the heart of Sanctus1 is our weekly gathering. This group meets on Wednesday night in Nexus Art Cafe on Dale Street. We gather for a tea or coffee at 7:30 then the evening begins at 7:45pm on Wednesday and 10:30 for 10:45am on Sundays.

If you would like to visit this church and speak with the Minister, let your Training Officer know. They are willing to host most times but not Thursdays or school holidays



Chaplaincy:

University Chaplaincy

How does the Church seek to engage with people when they are asking all the big questions, when social pressures are probably the most powerful that they will ever experience in life and when the future holds so many options? At the Chaplaincy, we don't have the answer but we're wrestling with the question - come and wrestle with us!

Lancaster University and University of Cumbria

Sun 20th March 6.30-9.30pm; at the University of Cumbria, Lancaster Campus (which will include attendance at Inspire – an interactive worship event at the University of Cumbria)

Tues 1st March 2-4pm or Wed 16th March 10am-12pm; at Lancaster University

Retail Chaplaincy in Ashton

This is about the church being present and relevant to those who work in retail in the town; the main emphasis has been on the Market – particularly following the Market Hall fire in 2004 – and the local ASDA. The aim of the Chaplain is to help people to talk through their concerns. The emphasis is showing care rather than proselytising.

The work has dovetailed well with Hospital and Hospice chaplaincy as contacts in one setting have led to opportunities in the other. Funerals, christenings and a wedding have been part of that ministry.

If you would like to visit this community let your Training Officer know.



service:

Asylum Refugee Community Project : Methodist Church & The Children's Society

It is a place where joys and sorrows are felt together, where food, celebration and prayer all take place and where ethnic and religious divides are crossed in handshakes, smiles and acts of service which include;

Interpreting, Working with families, working with children, English Club, Befriending, Advocacy, Hospitality, Clothes, Food parcels, Trips, parties & events, working with young people, working with adults, Administration, Walking, Mamas Together

Blackburn, Lancashire

The Cornerstone

The Methodist Church is working in Partnership with Thumbprint, a project-based charity for adults with learning disabilities.

In the daytime the building is buzzing, especially Tuesdays when the cafe is open.

Together we muddle through and celebrate all that is life enhancing as we share our vulnerabilities.

Lancaster

worship and prayer communities

Church Without Walls

For so many people the whole concept of church is about 'rules' 'perceptions' 'judgementalism' - and these are the walls I hope we are without. Church Without Walls seeks to express the unconditional love of God. The meetings are friendly and informal starting with tea coffee, cakes and conversation. The main meeting takes place on a Sunday afternoon from 4 till 6.

"God is more a poet than a police officer, He is more an acrobat than an accountant; more a midwife than an anaesthetist.

He values relationships more than rules. He is more interested in our nearness than our neatness.

He desires more to be loved than understood. " Chris Blake

Stoke on Trent

Church Without Walls can be hosted any Sunday afternoon 4 - 6pm

The Beacon House of Prayer

The Beacon is a fresh expression ministry of the Methodist Church with a vision to be a vibrant facility praying for spiritual transformation in the city of Stoke on Trent. It also seeks to help people explore prayer and the spiritual dimension to life. The building has many rooms each dedicated to a particular facet of prayer and spirituality.

Hanley, Stoke on Trent

A week night evening or Sunday morning. Let Training Officer know if you are interested

Hard to categorise!:

Alston Circuit:

At Alston we have a circuit based in a sparsely populated remote area where there are no Methodist buildings other than the manse. This is a single station circuit, supported by the district, and represents an interesting model of mission in a rural context. Alston Methodists use the Roman Catholic Church for worship, and the district has taken on the superintendent's role to leave the minister there freer for mission

Alston, Cumbria

If you are interested in this trip please contact Training Officer

Just Fair Laughs

Just Fair Laughs is an experiment in mission.

There are 14 pubs and clubs along our high street. JFL is about our connection / re-connection with our community. It says faith isn't just for one type of building or one type of people.

Social transformation: trying (and succeeding cos it's still very funny) to say comedy culture doesn't have to be full of vulgar language, smut and prejudice. I guess you could call it about holiness.

Pastoral ministry amongst those who would not darken the door of the church but are comfortable to share their lives over a pint.

Gigs every 1st Wednesday of the month, 3 professional comedians will be performing cutting edge stand up. Profits from the night are being used to eventually send a team of regular punters from Bamber Bridge out to a voluntary Fair Trade scheme abroad.

Bamber Bridge, Lancashire.

To book your tickets for a gig go to www.justfairlaughs.org.uk To meet with the organisers, let your Training Officer know.

your local Gym

The point of the visit is to reflect on the different ways people choose to seek spirituality - that joining a gym is for some people a way of doing this - a place where physical / mental / spiritual wholeness is sought, people seeking to 'rebalance' their busy lives and regain their sense of perspective.

On reflection it challenges what we tend to offer as a church - does our concept of 'wholeness' have breadth?

Another aspect which could come out of the visit for those who would never normally go to a gym, was the experience of going into a place which was culturally unfamiliar, where they weren't sure what the expected behaviour was, and perhaps felt uncomfortable – any lessons for church to learn?

Contact your Training Officer for info about the 'hows and whys'