



Listening Year : Christchurch, Ilkley, Leeds District

The appearance of a traditional nomad yurt inside Christchurch Ilkley's worship area is not a sign of roof problems, but a new initiative in inter faith outreach.

The colourful yurt is the new focal point for the launch of a Year of Listening. The yurt itself is on loan from 'Touchstone', an inter faith outreach organisation based in Bradford

Minister, the Revd Rob Hilton, explains: "During the coming 12 months we are encouraging individuals and groups to find space and listen to each other, our community, the wider world, and, of course, God! Anyone is welcome to call and take time out in the yurt to be still and aware."

15–21 November marked Inter Faith Week 2015, which saw religious groups of all kinds celebrate their diversities and commonalities, highlight their good works for local communities and facilitate greater relationships with others in their area.

(Rev Rob Hilton is the son-in-law of one of our own local preachers, Joyce Hearn, member of Oakham Methodist Church)

Connexional News is compiled by Rev Andy Fyall

Any suggestions for items should be sent to Andy by 10th of November

Call to Action: Saudi Arabia and the Death Penalty

More than 150 people have been put to death in Saudi Arabia so far this year. Earlier this month Saudi Arabia executed 47 people, including prominent cleric Sheikh Nimr al- Nimr, on terror charges.

On death row since 2012 are a 15 year old and two 17 year old boys, arrested and sentenced for their involvement in anti-government and pro-democracy protests.

We are asking you to write letters to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia London.

Visit this website to find out more:

www.reprieve.org.uk/case-study/the-death-penalty-in-saudi-arabia/

Fairtrade fortnight 2016 : 29 February - 13 March

Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers!

As Martin Luther King famously said, 'before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'. Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally.

It's a scandal that the people who grow the food we take for granted can't always feed their own families. We can support farmers and workers to put food on the table for their families by harnessing the power of a Fairtrade breakfast.

When people are paid a fairer price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families. Whether it's the extra cash in their pockets or being able to expand their farms to grow more food to eat, Fairtrade means many farmers and workers are able to fulfil a basic human need – to put enough food on the table for the people they care about, all year round.

During Fairtrade Fortnight, we are being encouraged to inspire a multitude of Fairtrade breakfasts in our communities – and wake others up to the challenges facing farmers and workers.

Together Mission in the Newcastle Upon Tyne District

After months of preparation, the Newcastle Upon Tyne District held a week of shared outreach called 'Together Mission'.

Over 100 people volunteered to serve on 11 unique 'mission teams' across the district each reaching their local communities in different ways.

Some teams found themselves facilitating Messy Family Fun holiday clubs, prayer on the streets, community meals, youth drop-ins and the like. While some of the more unusual activities included Songs of Praise on a boat on the Keilder reservoir and a puppet show in a castle.

One team planted themselves in an unused shop in their town centre and created a space for people to think about their story and God's story. Each day they saw around 150 people take time out from their shopping to visit this community space and many took the opportunity to share their stories and prayers with team members.

The President of Conference, the Revd Steve Wild, visited the district during this week and spent time visiting the different teams offering encouragement. His gifts as an evangelist were well appreciated as he was able to join in the outreach.

This kind of mission activity was new to many of the team members and, although some set out very nervously, most surprised themselves by the way they engaged with the work. Numerous individuals reported how their faith in God had grown as a result of stepping out in evangelism and practical mission activities.

District Evangelism Enabler, Elaine Lindridge, who facilitated the group who organised Together, said: "I'm beyond delighted. It's been a privilege to see people joining in with the mission of God and to witness how God is very much at work in our communities. Many, many people responded positively to an offer of prayer, an invitation or just a listening ear. God's love in action through his people... wonderful!"

Elaine is to be the preacher at this year's Barn Service on 15th May at 5pm

A day in the life of the President – 30th September 2015

Ministry on the rails

One of my themes is PREVENIENT GRACE - this lady had been to Wales to bury her Mothers Ashes on Saturday was invited to the church and went to Messy Church she then proceeded to play on her phone a puppet show with the puppets singing a modern song with the words turned to Jesus words. All the carriage could hear - it was wonderful. Then she told me that she should perhaps take faith seriously and so THAT MORNING had bought herself a Bible and on the platform started reading Luke's gospel and now she had me!!

Well we had a very fruitful discussion - a lady from further down the carriage came to join us who is a Methodist and said helpful things - before I got off I was able to pray with her.

My heart was full of Christ as I got off at Birmingham New Street.

The story on the train journey continues.

I settled down to write my article for the Methodist Recorder - a lady got on the train and I helped her with her case she sat next to me. The carriage was silent I needed a quote from the Bible I hadn't one with me because I use an on line Bible so I rang a Cornish Local Preacher who I knew would have a bible nearby so I said with all the carriage listening in 'Hi John I've not got a Bible with me can you please look up a passage for me?' at this point the lady next to me said 'I've got a Bible' and whipped out of her handbag a beautiful white Bible- the man across the table said 'Divine intervention!' all the carriage laughed!

On the train to Northampton (pardon me) I had to go to the lavatory, a young (ish) man was standing nearby he kindly helped me to work the silly buttons on the door. I prayed for him, it was early in the morning and he was drinking a can of cider. I got into discussion with him he shared with me some deep things - he has issues and the Lord Jesus can help him!

However to cut a long story short I led him to Christ and although he didn't want to sit next to me in the carriage but stayed in the corridor, as the train drew into the station he came back in my carriage and said 'God bless mate' big smile on his face. Hallelujah!!!

We are delighted to welcome Rev Steve Wild, President of the Conference, at our Circuit Service on 7th February, 6.30pm, Stamford Methodist Church