

Minister's Musings - May 2018

Dear Friends,

Having celebrated the anniversary of OMC last month, this month marks the birthday of the universal church at **Pentecost on May 20th**. So, I thought I would start with some news and prayer requests from farther afield this time around.

First whilst in Norfolk recently I had a conversation with a woman who had just returned from Syria having been a part of a delegation visiting Christians in that war-torn and devastated country. She spoke of how the church continued to face persecution from all sides and had its numbers decimated but that above all Christians there needed to know that we were still praying for them. She assured them we were – and I hope that includes us all!

Then news from our Stamford Circuit. You will I know be delighted to learn that Sarah Lamb, our Children and Families Worker, has been accepted for training as a Methodist Minister and will be beginning her studies part time at The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham whilst continuing to work in our Circuit. Please remember her and her family in your prayers as she makes this adjustment to a challenging and exciting time in her life. This month also see the re-invitation process commence for Andy Fyall as our Superintendent as his present invitation runs out in 2019. Please remember Andy, Helen and The Circuit Invitation Committee as they seek the mind of Christ in this. And of course, the Barn Service takes place this month on **May 13th** at **5.00pm**, preceded by a Barn Dance the evening before. If you haven't yet been to either of these, please do come – they are great fun and a lovely way of getting to know folk in the Circuit better as well as worship God in a different setting!

Back at base we join with The Family Circle on the morning of **May 6th** for their anniversary and give thanks for the vital and unique place that women hold within the life of this and every church – something which in the history of the church we have sometimes been slow to acknowledge and honour. And then on **May 27th** we share together in one of the least regarded but arguably one of the most important festivals of the Christian Church on **Trinity Sunday** as we remember God around us, beside us and within us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So, may you have that same sense of the presence of God in all things wherever this month may take you.

With love and prayers,

Leo