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**StAG’s NEWSLETTER**

**July/ August ‘23**

Dear All,

“Hot July brings cooling showers!” Did we all learn those verses at Primary school? It is still June as I write and we have just had a huge downpour! It is much fresher and there are still the most beautiful wildflowers around so maybe our weather is getting a bit mixed up!

 John Knight has passed on our donation of £240 to Christian Aid. Many thanks for your contributions!

We are all looking forward very much to Walt’s Ordination at 2.30pm on Saturday 29th July. We are delighted and honoured that it is being held at our church! Please will you all make quite sure that you have signed the notice (by the piano in the Meeting Room) so that our catering team can put on our usual wonderful refreshments!

**SYNOD MODERATOR**

On Saturday 10th June, the induction service for our new Moderator, Revd Clare Downing, was held at Chorley URC. It was a very happy day with warm sunshine, a packed church plus many people following the service on livestream. Revd Fiona Bennett (General Assembly Moderator) led the service and Revd Dr John Bradbury (General Secretary of the URC) gave the address. Representatives of other denominations and the Mayor of Chorley welcomed Clare to the North West. Following the service, trees were planted in the church garden by Clare, Fiona and John.

Clare will serve as our Moderator for 3 years. She was previously Moderator of Wessex Synod and served as General Assembly Moderator for 2020/22. T.E.

We will not be seeing our minister, Jackie, for a few months as she is now on Sabbatical until the end of August, but as you will see from Laura’s list, we are well served with some exceptional leaders at our Sunday services.

PREACHERS, JULY-DEC., 2023

2-7 Closed for Ironman event

9-7 Mrs Gill Dascombe

16-7\* Mr Walt Johnson

23-7 Rev Peter Wightman

30-7 Rev Alan Kennedy

6-8 Mr Lawrence Heath Moore

13-8 Rev Walt Johnson

20-8\* Rev Jim Hollyman

27-8 Rev Alan Kennedy

3-9 Mr Alan Nuttall

10-9 Rev Tony Burnham

17-9\* Rev Jacky Embrey

24-9 Rev Alan Kennedy

1-10 Mrs Gill Dascombe

8-10 Rev Alan Kennedy

15-10\* Rev Walt Johnson

22-10 Rev Jim Hollyman

29-10 Mr George Grime

5-11 TBA

12-11 Mr Leo Roberts

19-11 Rev Walt Johnson

26-11 Rev Tony Burnham

3-12 Rev Jim Hollyman

10-12 Mr Alan Nuttall

17-12\* Rev Walt Johnson

24th and 31st to be arranged.

As our new Moderator, Clare Downing, is unable to come on 5th November, as we had hoped, I am now trying to fill that date, and will tell you as soon as I can. Shalom,   Laura

*Please do NOT forget that church is closed this coming Sunday (2nd July) due to the Bolton Iron Man Event.*

**Thursday Friendship Circle Summer Meetings**

29th June... RHS Bridgewater... meeting at 11.30 a.m.

13th July.....tba

27th July.......Joyce Borland

10th August ...tba

24th August ...tba

7th September...tba

24th September... tba

 *(Oh dear! – that looks bad! Must all think!! M)*

**Donation Sunday** – as church is closed for the first Sunday in July, our donations for the Destitution Project and Emmaus’ Lucie’s Pantry will be collected the following week. Both these charities are really desperate for donations and are so very appreciative of our help. They both say how very grateful they are and thank us most sincerely!

**Family and Friends**

As I have heard nothing officially from our family or friends about health or successes, I can only presume we are all well and enjoying this amazing Summer!! I know many of us are enjoying holidays and even visits from far-off-family members, so I hope all are well!

**Dates for Diary**

23 July – Church Meeting

29 July – 2.30 at St A&Gs - Walt’s Induction

**SHALOM**