

Open Day and Anniversary 2012

On Saturday 30th June, on our Anniversary Weekend, we held an Open Day. The plans for the new building were available for viewing and I had been delving into the documents and photos, newsletters and event programmes stashed away in the vestry which are helping me piece together some of the past history of the church. Some of the photos were put out on display together with photos and cine films brought by some of our folk showing pantomimes and parades which were so much part of our history. We had photos of some of the leading characters in the church's leadership and of the inside of the old-new church (newer than the current building, but no longer in use as a church).

The scout groups also came along with photos, films and memorabilia from their long relationship with the Macedonia.

It was a great opportunity to walk down Memory Lane and to meet with some of our old friends.

The following day, we held our Anniversary service - 147 years of worship! As part of that service, I shared a passage from a handwritten document I'd come across called "The Story of 80 years - 1865 - 1945" which describes life as it was in those early days of our history. I have transcribed it so if you'd like to have a read, [click here](#). It wasn't attributed, but it was in an envelope containing photos many of which belonged to Lillian Williamson - so if you do have any clue who might have written it, do let us know.

Our weekend was rounded off as we welcomed folk from the churches in the Failsworth Churches Unite (FCU) network for a Summer Songs of Praise. Each church selected a favourite hymn/song and shared a little of what the song meant to them. A wonderful time of worship and praise and a 'reet gudd sing' but tinged with a little sadness as we took the opportunity to say farewell to Stephen and Linley from the Salvation Army who are moving on to pastures new. The smiles and the tears intermingled as we shared a cuppa together afterwards.

We have come to value these FCU events as whilst we recognise that denominations have their place as human organisations, when we ignore the boundaries and come together in worship, God's name is truly glorified!

Thank you Tracy!

Only a few weeks after handing over the Secretary role to Mary, Tracy Jackson lost her long-running battle against a variety of health problems. Tracy worked hard to keep the Macedonia ticking along and we owe her a great debt of gratitude. During her stint as Secretary, she had several stays in hospital. Whilst her health gave us serious concerns on numerous occasions, her drive and enthusiasm for making sure things kept moving never waned. The stream of commands, suggestions and wacky ideas kept us all on our toes. To know Tracy was to love her and she was always preparing a meal for this person, doing the shopping for

that person, inviting so-and-so round for tea, putting the needs of others before her own.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Wallace, Nick and Naomi and their families.

Rest in peace, Tracy!

Welcome to our new Church Secretary!

At the recent Church Meeting, Mary Heywood has very kindly agreed to act as our Church Secretary following Tracy's decision to stand down. As we welcome Mary into the post, we also say a big 'Thankyou' to Tracy who has supported us in this way for the last couple of years or so, in spite of some real health challenges.

Happy New Year from all of us here

What will 2012 bring, we wonder? We didn't predict the amount of rain which poured down on us before Christmas, though it didn't stop us stepping outside to sing some carols on Christmas Eve! But at least we didn't have the snow and ice which made life so difficult last year, especially for those who are not so nimble any more.

Nor did we predict the fact that someone decided to find a new home for the lead flashing on the roof which invited the rain to come in out of the cold!

But the Building Project is quietly chugging forward. We're starting to get down to some detail with the architect and the builder so I am hoping we will have some more detailed plans to share in the not too distant future.