



A hope and a future after Church razed to the ground

The Independent Methodist Church in Radcliffe, Bury was built in 1892 and destroyed by fire a few days before Easter – the final service being on Palm Sunday. A passing local milkman spotted the blaze and raised the alarm, but despite the valiant attempts of over 40 firefighters the 116 year old building couldn't be saved. The cause is suspected as being arson, after youths were seen fleeing the scene shortly before the blaze was discovered.

Used for regular church services, the building was also being utilised by the charity Transglobal Humanitarian Aid which was formed 20 years ago by Ian and Raluca Siddall. Although Ian died in 2006, Raluca continued his work and the church stored furniture that had been collected ready for sending to a care home for the elderly in Romania.

Raluca says "I don't have anything now and it's so frustrating. All the work that Ian put in has gone. I really don't know what will happen now. I will try to carry on, but it will be hard. I can't believe that the church has gone'.

Church leader Graham Walsh said "I am still in shock and bewildered that the church has gone. Because I am involved in trying to sort out the mess, the period of reflection hasn't fully taken place. There is a sadness and a loss, but there is also anxiety about the future. I don't want the church to close forever.

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Our photo winners

In our last edition of clarity we launched our 2007 competition. It was time for all promising photographers to show us their hidden talents, submitting interesting photographs depicting church interiors, exteriors and representations of church life.

After much deliberation the judges made their final selections and we are delighted to announce the winners.



Assembling of the rainbow was the subject of Alan Wheeler's photograph, taken at Stansted Free Church. Our judges were unanimous in choosing this photograph as winner of both the representations of church life category and the overall winner.

The photograph shows Mike Dyer, a Methodist local preacher and deacon, and on the ladder Henry Playle, the local URC Youth and Children's Work Training and Development Officer. The front of the church was cleared for the Children's Noah drama and the rainbow made the show all the more realistic. Hanging the rainbow from the high beams of the church was a tricky job! Well done Alan!

Alan wins £50 for himself, £100 for Stansted Free Church and £500 of resources, with which they plan to buy a portable folding screen for the

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Wedding claims

Have you heard the one about the reception in a marquee where the bride's family ran a single extension lead from the house to power the lighting, disco and PA system? The fuse blew, the lights went out and guests were injured trying to exit the marquee when they tripped over the guy ropes.

Or the snowfall that blocked the road to the church? We hired a fleet of Land Rovers to get the guests to the church on time.

What about the Grandma who bled on the wedding dress whilst she made alterations – or the Reverend who spilt ink on the dress?

Wedding photographs that need to be re-taken because the original film was damaged. Wedding presents stolen from the reception on the big

day. A wedding cake damaged in a car crash. The wedding rings being lost.

These are just a few of the insurance claims that we have dealt with. We can't promise to make the preparations for your big day go without incident, but if things do go wrong we can help you to put them right.

With the average wedding now costing almost £20,000, it makes very good sense to take out specialist insurance cover where premiums start as low as £45.

For further information simply call us on 0845 60 61 331 and one of our friendly staff will be able to help you.



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Our winners

overhead projector and folding display boards for presentation of the Pilots' activities.

Richmond Church in the Penzance Circuit was the subject of Lawrie Richardson's photograph, which won the church exterior category. Lawrie was absolutely delighted with the news.



He won £50 for himself and £100 for the youth project at Penzance Methodist Church.

Knitivity was on show at Christ Church, Ross on Wye, in the Hereford Circuit. Don Nicholson's photograph of the



scene won the church interior category. He won £50 for himself and £100 for Christ Church.

Many thanks to everyone who entered the competition and congratulations to the three winners.

Home security precautions

To ensure that your home does not become one of the "crime statistics", here are a few hints to help in home security during the summer months.

- ◆ Ensure your windows and doors are shut and locked. One in five burglars don't use force and one in three enter through a back window.
- ◆ If you are replacing your windows, consider specifying laminated glass. Ensure that there are no external glazing beads. Fasteners and stays should be key lockable.
- ◆ Use time switches, which are available from DIY stores, to turn lights and radios on/off when you are out or away.
- ◆ Don't tempt thieves. Keep valuable possessions locked away and out of sight.
- ◆ Get a friend or neighbour to look after your home when you are away by collecting the mail, drawing curtains and generally making the place look lived in.
- ◆ A burglar alarm is a very good deterrent. There is a wide range of products available from 'wire-free' systems to professionally installed systems.
- ◆ Never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place, such as under the doormat or in a flower pot. These are places thieves will look first.
- ◆ When moving into a new property always change the door locks and any alarm security codes.
- ◆ Fit a strong, lockable, high gate across the alleyway to stop a thief getting to the back of your property, where they can work undisturbed. If you share an alleyway with a neighbour, ask their permission and for help with the cost.

Part 2 of this handy list will be published in our next edition, but it is also available in full on our website.

A Church on 'The Rock' since 1769

Methodism in Gibraltar began in 1769 with a group of soldiers the best known of whom was Sgt. Henry Ince, who was himself a Methodist lay preacher. Sgt. Ince became famous in Gibraltar through his work in the Upper Galleries, or Great Siege Tunnels as they are known today. It was his home that provided the first meeting place for Methodists in Gibraltar.

In 1809 the first Church was built, then later a school and manse were added. As Methodism grew the mission spread into the southern part of Spain where Churches and schools were established.

The Church moved to its present location in 1956 when the old church and manse were sold. The building was reconstructed into its present shape, and from here the Church has become the spiritual home not only of Methodists but of Christians from many backgrounds who live and work in and around Gibraltar.

In 1997 the Church in Gibraltar became part of the then London South West District and is now in The South East District with the Superintendent Minister Revd Fidel Patron.

The Methodist Church in Gibraltar is a growing and vibrant community of committed Christians whose life is

centred in joyful, meaningful worship, strong fellowship and prayer.

Methodist Insurance are proud that they have worked hard in arranging the

insurance for the church, bringing it firmly within the family. No longer the Methodist Church in Gibraltar, but the Methodist Church of Gibraltar.

They can be found at 297 Main Street, just along from the Governor's residence. Also on the premises you will find a Christian Bookshop "Words Aflame" and "The Carpenter's Arms" café.



Jubilee prize winner

In the last edition of clarity we were wishing Rebecca Lloyd the very best of luck in the last of her eleven professional exams.

Not only did Rebecca pass the Risk, Regulation and Capital Adequacy exam, but she has also been announced the winner of a Jubilee Prize for being the youngest newly qualifying associate in Manchester for 2007.

Congratulations Rebecca!



Rebecca Lloyd

Good news!

Emma McManus has worked in the Claims Team at Methodist Insurance for over ten years, helping many of our customers when they have needed to make a claim.

On 16th April she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl called Grace Louise, who weighed in at 6lb 6oz. Congratulations to Emma and her husband Joe.



Increasing interest in Home Shield

“In the last 6 months, since the launch of Home Shield, our new home and contents insurance policy, we are delighted to report that the level of enquiries for our policy been very encouraging,” said Paul Rowley, Head of Insurance Operations, “I would like to thank all our staff, and our customers who are contributing to this success.”

At a time when insurance policies are becoming more and more complex and one often needs a magnifying glass to read the small print, it is reassuring to know that Methodist Insurance are still focusing on an easy, customer friendly approach to Home Shield and taking every opportunity to talk with customers about their insurance options and coming up with an insurance policy which is ‘tailor-made’ for their own circumstances.

Home Shield offers an excellent package of cover with the added ‘bonus’ of a special discount for all Church members, automatic cover for children’s possessions whilst at College or University, enhanced cover in December to cover the Christmas period and many more additional benefits.

Charity donation

In addition our Home Shield policy is helping to make a difference to scores of Methodist Churches and charities across the UK, and overseas too. Included with every policy is a charitable donation made by Methodist Insurance to the charity of your choice – this donation is equivalent to 20% of your first year’s premium so the combined effect of these 20%’s really do make a difference. Already this year donations have been made to MRDF, Christian Aid, Cancer Research,

NCH and British Red Cross.

If you would like to receive a Home Shield quotation either now, or some future date, please fill in the enclosed card and we’ll be delighted to help.



Top tips - a holiday checklist

Enjoy your holiday from the moment you leave your front door. Now that you've booked your holiday, what else is left to do but sit back and enjoy? If you want to avoid a stressful start to your holiday try following our checklist:



Don't Forget

- ✓ Insurance: As soon as you book your holiday, make sure you arrange UK Holiday Insurance. It doesn't cost much and gives you piece of mind if things should go wrong.
- ✓ Travel tickets: Without your tickets you will have trouble getting on the train or coach.
- ✓ Make all luggage easily identifiable: There's nothing worse than losing your luggage on holiday, so make sure you can instantly tell yours apart from everyone else's. You may feel stupid with a pink ribbon tied round your case but at least you'll know it's yours.
- ✓ Turn off central heating: Don't waste your money by leaving the heating on for 2 weeks!
- ✓ Set up timer switches for some lighting to come on at night and help keep burglars away.
- ✓ Dispose of fresh food in fridge: Get rid of anything that'll go out of date or you'll regret it when you come back.
- ✓ Water any house plants: Do this before leaving, or better yet, give your neighbour a spare key and ask them to help you out while you are away.
- ✓ Lock all windows and doors: Simple enough, but often overlooked, and no one wants to come back off holiday to find their home is bare.
- ✓ Cancel milk and daily paper deliveries: Who wants to come home to a pile of old newspapers and sour milk?

You name it, we'll help you in the fundraising

Church extensions, crèche equipment, new chairs, support for missionaries – the financial pressures on each one of our Churches can seem never ending. And whilst we cannot promise to offer a 'bottomless pit' of financial support, Methodist Insurance have just launched a new way of helping Churches with their local fundraising projects.

As you may have read elsewhere in clarity, every new Home Shield policy comes with an automatic 20% charitable payment to the charity or Church of your choice and now we are able to produce personalised leaflets especially for your Church's project. A number of Churches have already

adopted this scheme – they simply provided us with details of the appeal and a picture of their Church or the project and we then produced a quantity of personalised leaflets, free of charge, for them to distribute and use amongst their congregation and friends. They decide how to use the leaflets, there's no limit to the type of project nor the number of people that they share the scheme with.

If you would like further details on this scheme and how you might be able to use it, please contact us on 0845 60 61 331 or e mail enquiries@micmail.com and we will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.



Presidential visit



Revd. Keith Davies, Revd. Dr. Martyn Atkins, Chris Nock and Paul Rowley.

On Friday 11th April Revd. Dr. Martyn Atkins, President of Conference, visited Methodist Insurance to meet the staff. It was part of President's weekend visit to the Manchester and Stockport District and he was accompanied by Revd Keith Davies, District Chair.

More resources on the web



As was reported in the last edition of clarity, we are constantly updating the number of resources and scope of information on our web site. We are pleased to say that visits to the site are now at record levels and one of the most popular section is the Resource Centre which has been recently updated with information relating on Churches Together events, Firework displays, First Aid, Fresh Expressions, Theft of Metal, Walks, Trustee Indemnity and our guide to Health and Safety in Churches.

www.methodistinsurance.com



UK HOLIDAYS

If you are having a UK holiday then our Travel Shield holiday policy will give you all the protection you need.

Just call today on 0845 60 61 331, or fill in the enclosed enquiry card.

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plus business equipment up to £10,000

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plus unlimited cover on freezer contents

plus garage contents (excl. car) now increased to £5,000

plus credit card cover for lost & stolen cards or fraudulent use

plus cover for your childrens' items whilst at college or university

plus relatives possessions covered whilst in a care home

and so much more...

FOR A FREE QUOTATION CONTACT **0845 60 61 331**
www.methodistinsurance.co.uk

SUDOKU

9			4				7
		2		1	9		
	5		9			3	
	3		7	5	4		
2							6
		9	6	4		1	
	8			2		7	
		7	1			8	
1			7				3

If you, like many others, have been 'hooked' by Sudoku puzzles, then here's your chance to pit your skills against each other. See how long it takes you to complete the puzzle above and then go to our web site and complete the entry form. No prize this time – just the fun of taking part!

Enter at:

www.methodistinsurance.co.uk/sudoku

On the road

Over the next few months we will be at a number of exhibitions – if you are planning to attend please do drop by and see us as it's always nice for us all to meet each other face to face.

We have currently confirmed our attendance at:

Methodist Conference July 3 - 10

Northern Christian Resources Exhibition, Harrogate September 25-27th.

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Radcliffe fire

Hopefully we will be able to build a new church on the site. There is a spiritual need in the area."

We are working closely with Carr Greenwood Smith loss adjusters and the Church to help them through this difficult time.

The church are filled with hope and are looking to grow following the fire, with a new modern purpose built property in the heart of Radcliffe, which will help them to reach out to the local community.

How far has your mug travelled?



Revd Keith V Garner and his executive leadership team enjoying a brew at their offices in Sydney Australia, before starting their Annual budget marketing meeting. When asked what about the mugs Keith said "that's no way to talk about Bolton Wanderers."



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