



Dear friends,

We all love listening to stories! Whether that was the stories that we heard as children before we went to bed, or round a camp fire, to the stories we read in novels, hear on the radio, or see in television programmes or films. Everyone has a story to tell! Knowing this the Methodist Church has designated this new Connexional year as a year of storytelling and testimony. It is a time in which we are encouraged to share with our friends, family, and neighbours our stories of faith, telling others how God's story has met our story.

It's now 15 years since I first felt the call to ordained ministry, which first occurred when I was dressing up as a vicar for a costume party. Two significant faith encounters, that happened inside a Somerfield supermarket while wearing this costume, not only led me to encounter God's Holy Spirit but also led me to my calling to be a presbyter. To hear the full story, you will have to come and ask me!

In story telling God invites us to realise the truth that we are all part of God's story. As we share our honest and authentic testimony, of how God's been at work in our lives, we expand our experience of God, our understanding of ourselves, and our participation in the Body of Christ. The truth is that our testimonies are never ours alone. They are embedded within a community of faith and are part of the ongoing conversation of the Church, a conversation that helps build up faith and fellowship together.





It has been a great joy to have shared in the Alpha course that we have been running at the Church on a Monday evening (from 6.30 p.m.) that has helped us to reengage with the essentials of our faith and heard stories of how lives have been changed by an encounter with the living Jesus. This September and October we will be continuing our small group by running 'Discipleship Explored' a series of sessions that looks at Paul's letter to the Philippians and how that can help us to live out our calling as Christ's discipleship today. This will be followed by 'Talking Jesus', a new course, that helps us build our confidence to share our faith stories with others in natural and authentic ways.

The wonderful thing about your story is that no-one can deny it for you, and being able to share your story of faith will help build up the faith of others. So, in this new Connexional year I invite you to consider how God has been at work in your life. I pray that you might have the courage and opportunity to share that story with those around you and in so doing offer Christ to others.

Every blessing

David



WORSHIP at BRICKNELL & UNITED SERVICES

October 6th 10.30 a.m. Rev. Ann Rigby-Jones

13th 10.30 a.m. Liane Kensett

Harvest Festival (Please see also p. 8)