

ASA NEWSLETTER

ALL CHANGE

This time next year the veil will have been lifted and Conference will have voted on changes to ASA after the 10 year review has led to proposals to bring the system more into line with what we all understand to be the purpose of appraisal. All I can tell you at the moment is what you probably already know having read the Conference report in the Recorder.

Quite how the changes will affect what we currently do, and quite when the changes will come into effect is unknown at the moment, but changes there will almost certainly be. Until we know what's what we must all do our utmost to make the existing system work best we can.

The wonderful thing about being a Methodist though (or at least one of them) is that we live on change continually. We were brought up on it and thrive on it. We embrace change willingly and are certainly not afraid of it, so I am totally confident that when we know what changes are to be made to ASA we will all knuckle under and make the new system work as well as we are able to.

So change is not a problem, but uncertainty can be and there the only comfort I can give is that as soon as I know what is likely to happen I will let you know. Until then please keep on keeping on.

DAG CHANGES

Bella Dean has stepped down as Chair of the DAG after six years and is replaced by **Bernard Gudgin**. We shall miss Bella's calm and steady hand, but Bernard will make an excellent replacement.

Steve Mann moved from the District last August and the vacancy that created was filled by **Dorothy Hewitson** who is the minister in Banbury. Before becoming a minister Dorothy was an accompanist so has experience of ASA from both angles

Roy Bills has retired owing to his wife's failing health.

SUPPORT EVENING

The Support evening at Roade was not as well attended as last year, but the dozen or so accompanists who turned up all felt the evening was worthwhile. The hot topic was the proposed changes to ASA.

REFRESHER DAY

Saturday 16th September 2006
Roade Methodist Church

Apologies for the mix up over the date and the venue, but please do your utmost to attend the Refresher Day at Roade on 16th September. Rev Alison Tomlin, Chair of District, is to lead the day on Enneagrams – I am assured they are nothing to do with the health of your heart or crossword. I know nothing about the subject, and if you want to find out more pitch up at Roade on 16th September at 10am. Chris Hodgson will be sending out more details soon.

How to get to Roade

Roade Methodist Church has the advantage of being the most central Methodist Church in the district and easily accessible from all directions. Roade lies about 5 miles to the west of Northampton on the A43, and the Methodist Church is in the middle of the village next to the pub. You turn left off the main road and keep following the road.

From the North (and South)

Exit the M1 at junction 15 and follow the A43 toward M Keynes for about 2 miles before turning left into the village

From the West (Oxford direction)

Take the A43 to M1 – junction 15a and the south on the M1 to junction 15 then as above

From the East (Nene Valley & Peterborough direction)

A45 to Northampton then A43 towards M Keynes – over the M1 –and then as above.

AMONGST THE ACCOMPANISTS

Bill Black from Market Harborough who had transferred as an accompanist into the district in 2002 died suddenly at the beginning of May whilst on a walking holiday in Yorkshire

Ursula Cox from Higham on the Hill has retired as an accompanist. I shall miss her support. Maureen Timms and I spent a wonderful day at the regional consultations in York last year with Ursula. To say that she was an interesting lady with a wealth of experience of all manner of things is an understatement.

John Moore. I ask for your prayers for John. He cannot be at the Refresher Day because he will be in hospital. John says he will value your prayers for his health and strength.

And finally.....

To those of you who have not yet sent me a closure form please, please, please can you do so **soon**.

GOODBYE & HELLO

On 1st September the Oxford and Leicester District becomes the Northampton District. In terms of geography we lose the St Neots Circuit and gain Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire. In ASA terms this means we lose one accompanist and one minister and gain seven accompanists and twenty ministers. I plan to incorporate the new members to our scheme only after existing pairings have been completed so I hope the changes will be gradual and not all at once. The training day on 16th September will be a good forum for the new accompanists to meet us and us them. The Methodist Church has worked hard to ensure the changes which are being made to many district boundaries at the beginning of September occur as smoothly as possible, and on a local note Alison Tomlin, our District Chair, is anxious that we give a warm welcome to all new members to the District.

Jane Proctor (District Appraisal Officer)

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