

AND FINALLY...

❖ Congratulations to Silas!

Congratulations to Silas and Lauren on the birth last Tuesday morning of their son Wesley, weighing 8lb and 15oz.

❖ The Sowerbys Are Moving

Barbara, Steve & Alex Sowerby will be moving to Norfolk on *Friday 17th August*. Their new address will be:



❖ Home Insurance That Gives A Gift To Your Church

Is your home insurance up for renewal? If so, consider getting a quote from Methodist Insurance. If you go on to choose Methodist Insurance they will donate 20% of your first year's premium to the church or charity of your choice. For a free quotation, call 0845 60 61 331 and quote reference MCD12.

❖ Methodist Website

The Methodist Church website (www.methodist.org.uk) has been updated. The site now has a cleaner look, an improved search facility and a structure that makes it easier to find the things you are looking for.

It also has a map for finding your nearest Methodist church and an advanced version that displays Methodist church locations and a range of information about our churches alongside data from other sources. This will improve people's understanding of local and national demographics, and churches reach out to their local communities more effectively.

PRAY FOR PALESTINE...

"Living in Gaza feels like living in a prison," a young Palestinian explained. "It is like living with handcuffs on your hands." Because life has got harder in Gaza in the past few years, many Christians have emigrated to safer places. "The number of Christians has become less. Five years ago there were about 2,500 in Gaza; now we estimate the number is much lower."

Conditions are especially hard for young Palestinian Christians in Gaza, where the restrictions make their lives very different from that of their Western counterparts. Until they reach the age of 35, they cannot cross the border with Israel. When a Christian girl wants to go to university, she has to dress in an appropriate way. "When you don't use the headscarf, you attract attention," one young woman said. " Hamas doesn't like Christians."

Despite these pressures, many young people remain active in the church in Gaza and are involved in Christian ministry. But they have seen a gradual change take place since Hamas took over from Fatah in 2006. During the time that Fatah was in power, life was arguably better for Christians. Another Palestinian shared that children now sometimes throw stones at her. Almost on a daily basis, people call her names because she is a Christian. "We also want to live outside Gaza. There we can have a better and simple life, we can have better education. There will be no shooting, no rumours of war. Here in Gaza you see all the time bad things happen."

Please pray:

- For the remaining Christians in Gaza, that they would know God's grace and peace
- For strength and wisdom for the new pastor of the Gaza Baptist Church
- For God's guidance for young Christians who feel imprisoned in Gaza and dream of leaving for another country.

The editor next week is Steve. Please place items for the newsletter in the pigeon hole, send an e-mail to newsletter@wesleyhall.org.uk or call Steve on [REDACTED] by Wednesday afternoon.