



# ONWARD



Newsletter of Hallfold United Reformed Church

October 2020

Hello Hallfold Friends,

Who would have thought that we would still be in restrictions, eight months after our original lockdown? It seems even more depressing now the weather is going colder and the nights are drawing in. There is good news however, Hallfold URC is up and running.

We have held three services so far; Rev Daniel Harris conducted the first service, the Elders the second, and last week Jane Gilpin led the harvest service. (If you missed it, non perishable goods for the Food Bank are still being accepted.) Everyone is doing an excellent job of social distancing, wearing masks and sanitising before entering church and the people who have attended, feel safe and are glad to be back.

So far communion has not been celebrated, but we are hoping that a safe way of serving the bread and wine will be devised very shortly. The preachers for the next few weeks are: 11<sup>th</sup> October - Rev Daniel Harris (Communion Service) 18<sup>th</sup> October - Phillip Bauckham, 25<sup>th</sup> October - The Elders, 1<sup>st</sup> November - Ian Butterworth, 8<sup>th</sup> November – The Elders (Remembrance Service).

A sad piece of news is that Gillian Dawson feels she cannot currently continue in her role as secretary. At their last meeting the Elders nominated Karen Grayson to take on the role. This nomination has, of course, to go forward for acceptance at a church meeting. This meeting will be taking place on 25<sup>th</sup> October after worship and the elders urge as many people as possible to attend. (Please do not feel pressured into coming if you have any health concerns or are in a high risk group.)

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## **Mission Aviation Fellowship** - Submitted by Brenda Garside

Hallfold has supported the work of MAF over many years – we have heard about their work when John Richardson has visited and led our worship. I receive newsletters; the most recent one was dedicated to the life of the co-founder of MAF, Stuart King, who passed away in August this year.

A former RAF pilot Flight Lieutenant Stuart was one of the first pioneers to take aircraft to the remotest parts of the developing world. He gave up his career as Chief Technical Officer at RAF Duxford to pursue a vision of using aircraft to bring help, hope and healing to those in need.

Struck by the isolation of countless people living behind physical, economic and political barriers, Stuart joined fellow Christian airmen to establish MAF in 1945 with the aim of reaching the earth's most remote communities using aviation and technology. His determination and sense of adventure led him on a survey flight across eastern and central Africa in 1948.

Stuart and his colleague, former RAF Squadron Leader Jack Hemmings flew a tiny 2-seater Miles Gemini all the way from Croydon to East Africa 4000 miles away. With little more than

a map and a compass, they plotted a route across Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Kenya and the Belgian Congo using the River Nile as their guide. Following their initial flight, Sudan was identified as the African nation most in need of MAF's services. Stuart based himself in southern Sudan and many adventures followed, each one bringing its own unique blessing as MAF planes and partners helped sow a million Gospel seeds.

MAF's work developed across Africa and as the organisation continued to grow Stuart returned to the UK to oversee MAF's operations in Folkstone, Kent. In 1987 he handed over leadership of MAF UK after more than 40 years' service, although he remained very much involved, regularly visiting the Folkstone office providing encouragement and advice.

From small and struggling beginnings in post-war Britain, MAF now flies to more than 1400 remote locations across 26 developing countries – more destinations than any airline on the world. The aim – now as then – is:

To see isolated people physically and spiritually transformed by God's love.

Thanks to Stuart's lifetime commitment to reaching the lost, the lonely and the languishing, MAF has gone from strength to strength. Forever more, it will be his legacy to the world.

'MAF is a family and I am grateful to be part of it, and for the part God has enabled me to be involved in. I want to thank my MAF family for 75 years of faithful support – we could not have done it without you. May God bless you and make you a blessing to others.' Stuart King – 13 March 2020 on celebrating his 98th birthday at the MAF UK office.

In 2016 Stuart was asked to write a prayer encapsulating all the MAF holds dear:

Lord, thank you for your peace, protection and provision.

We pray that MAF will always have:

One purpose – the glory of God

One pathway – the will of God

One passion – the love of God

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Hallfold now has a team of cleaners who have kindly volunteered to regularly give up some time to keeping the church premises spick and span. The building is being kept free of clutter so cleaning is much easier than when surfaces and cupboard tops were piled up with "stuff". At the moment the rota means each team of three people are on duty for a couple of hours on Saturday morning, once a month. If there is anyone else who feels they would like to be on a team please contact Mary Cawley.

There are so many people who work voluntarily to keep Hallfold the wonderful place it is. Volunteers do not necessarily have the time **but** they have the heart. Thank you volunteers for all you do.

Matthew 12:25 Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

Corinthians 13:11 Finally brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.