

Somewhere . . .

Sometime . . .

Someone . . . told you

The Story of Light!

Somewhere might have been home, or church, or a concert, or walking with a friend.

Sometime might have been over a period of years, a week, an hour, a moment . . . decades ago or days ago.

Someone may have been single or plural; teacher or preacher; family, friend or stranger. It may even have been the writer of a book!

Wherever, whenever, whoever . . . thank God they did!!

*Having heard it, we continue to listen, to hear more and more of
The Story of Light, as Sunday by Sunday we re-tell it in church.*

And listening, we hear that God wants the story to be re-told.
We are aware of God's Spirit at work, calling us to join in.
We recognise our responsibility and look for ways to respond.

'The Story of Light' is here to help us to do that . . .

Someone...Somewhere...is waiting to hear The Story of Light. Your Story of Light.

If they don't hear it from you they may never hear it from anyone.
Now is the season to shine!

"Sharing stories is the basic stuff of human community. We're known through our stories and we know others through theirs. It's ordinary and everyday but vital for relating to each other. This is at the heart of Christian witness too. We're called to tell a story, our story – the story of God's love revealed to us in Jesus. The Story of Light is unashamedly an impetus to evangelism – telling good news.

It's both invitation and resource.

Invitation to let the light shine brightly in words and actions in the communities to which we belong; resource as we share experience and ideas through the Story of Light initiative."

Rev Roger Walton (Chair of West Yorkshire District and 2016 – 2017 President of the Methodist Conference)

It has been remarked that we Methodists are good at 'mission' – we make lots of contacts with those outside the Christian faith, offering hospitality and friendship, but poor at 'evangelism', which is a broad range of activities that enable us to share our faith.

The Story of Light initiative can help us to turn what we already do as mission into effective evangelism. It can also spark new ideas for sharing our story.

There are five phases to The Story of Light initiative:

- 1. PLAN.** (FROM Spring to Advent 2016). This is a time for those in the church and circuit leadership to be thinking and praying about what The Story of Light might look like locally.
- 2. PREPARE.** (Advent 2016 to April 2017). A time for congregations to be enthused about The Story of Light. There needs to be much prayer and thought about how we share our faith.
- 3. EVENT/PRESENT.** (Easter to Pentecost 2017). Now is the time to shine, as we invite friends, communities, user groups, to events where we can share something of who we are as people of faith.
- 4. SHINE.** (Pentecost 2017 onwards). As people have responded to The Story of Light, so we need to welcome and nurture them.
- 5. REFLECT.** (Autumn 2017). A time to reflect on The Story of Light and the ways in which we told it. How has it changed us? What have we learned?

Look out for the Story of Light booklets in your church.

Find out more from the West Yorkshire District website <http://www.westyorkshiremethodist.org.uk>.
Or from Rev. Nick Blundell tel: 01274 416506 email: nickcblund@gmail.com

**"In him was life, and that life was the light of all.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1)**