VALE OF AYLESBURY METHODIST CIRCUIT MAGAZINE



The 'TOAST' in sessionCover story page 10

October, November, December 2016

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Rev. Helen Kirk (Superintendent) Tel:01296 488963 Email: revhelenkirk@sky.com With Pastoral Care of the Aylesbury Methodist Church and Community Centre

Rev. Irena Byron Tel:01525 240105

Email: irena.byron@methodist.org.uk With pastoral care of: Cheddington, North Marston (LEP), Stewkley, Stoke Hammond, Swanbourne and Waddesdon

Rev. Keith Edwards 01296 423363

Email: ulysee798@gmail.com With pastoral care of: Princes Risborough, Stoke Mandeville, Stone, Weedon (LEP), Whitchurch and Wingrave

Rev Anthony Howells, (Authorised minister),

Tel: 01296 424980 Email: ah@hobbit.ndo.co.uk With pastoral care of the Ecumenical Church at Fairford Leys

Rev Dr. Romilly Micklem . Tel 01844 202425 minister@rwm32.plus.com With Pastoral care of Thame (Christchurch) Chinnor, Cuddington and Haddenham

For a full list of ministers and contact details please see the Circuit Directory.

LETTER TO THE CIRCUIT



Rev Helen Kirk

Why?!

Not the demand of an inquiring child but the question that was asked of us by Rev Jill Marsh, District Director of Mission, at the circuit consultation in June.

She began with the simplest of questions: Why were we there at that meeting? For some of us the answer was because we had to be there!

Why? Because we had a particular role in the life of the church

Why? Because we had taken on a responsibility or were fulfilling a calling

Why? Because we believed in the central message of the grace and love of Jesus Christ that is the cornerstone of the church

Why? Because our lives had been touched, changed and enabled by Christ and we wanted others to have the same experience.

'Why?' is a good place to begin.

Many years ago a young woman and her son walked into a service I was leading; she had no church background but after going through a very difficult time in her life was now reaching out to find some sense of meaning and purpose. Thankfully she found it within that congregation; she became a Christian and was baptised and welcomed into membership. She was a gift to the church because she constantly asked the question 'why?' Why do you do that in worship? Why do you have that meeting? Why do you 'do church' in that way? She made us think about the reason for everything; to value the things that promoted the love and grace of Jesus as well as giving us the courage to stop those things that 'we had always done' but which added little to God's mission and purpose in the world.

'Why?' Should then be the beginning of all our church policies and activities.

So as we begin another church year let us have the courage to ask 'why' we do all we do. Perhaps we will find a renewed energy as we realise the value and purpose of so many things we take for granted. Perhaps we will find a freedom to let go of things that no longer matter....perhaps. However one thing is sure: we will continue to persevere as Christ's presence in the communities where we live and serve, offering grace and peace to all and everyone.

Why? Because that is what Jesus calls us to do.

Helen

Prayer for Quarter

My eyes be open to your presence,

my ears to hear your call.

My heart be open to your love and in your arms to fall.

My mind be open to your word,

my soul to heaven's cure,

that I be open to you Lord,

this day and ever more.

Nick & Anita Haigh; Singing the Faith 560

A notice to all Regular Preachers and Church Stewards

Can You <u>Please</u> assist in the preparation of the next Preaching Plan by completing your 'Availability Form' or 'Plan Notes' for your church by 1st November

The Guidance Notes for making your entries can be found in the list of Publications on the Circuit Website which all preachers and stewards have access to. If you can't find them Email Roy!

Reminders will be posted on the Circuit Website and/ or sent through the Website Email.

Ministers' Rest Days:

RevHelen Kirk-FridayRevIrena Byron-MondayRevKeith Edwards-WednesdayRevAnthony Howells-FridayRevRomilly Micklem-Monday

Please respect their days off and avoid contacting them except in an emergency.

CIRCUIT PRAYER DIARY

ON THE FOLLOWING DAY EACH MONTH PLEASE PRAY FOR:-

1 Aylesbury Church and the community it serves 2 Cheddington Church and the community it serves 3 Chinnor Church and the community it serves 4 Cuddington Church and the community it serves 5 Fairford Leys Church and the community it serves 6 Haddenham Church and the community it serves 7 North Marston Church and the community it serves 8 Princes Risborough Church and the community it serves 9 Stewkley Church and the community it serves 10 Stoke Hammond Church and the community it serves 11 Stoke Mandeville Church and the community it serves 12 Stone Church and the community it serves 13 Swanbourne Church and the community it serves 14 Christchurch, Thame and the community it serves 15 Waddesdon Church and the community it serves 16 Weedon & Hardwick Churches and the communities they serve 17 Whitchurch Church and the community it serves 18 Wingrave Church and the community it serves 19 Our Circuit Leadership Team 20 Our Ministerial Team and their families 21 Those involved in Hospital, Prison Ministry and Town Centre Chaplaincy 22 Our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders 23 Youth work around the Circuit 24 Relations with local Christians 25 Those who have been bereaved 26 People who are ill 27 People caught up in natural disasters 28 People living in conflict situations

- 29 The life of our nation and those who lead
- 30 Action to protect the global environment

Dates-

Saturday	3rd October 7.30pm at Wingrave - Harvest Supper			
Monday	31st October 4.30pm Fairford Leys - Light Party			
Saturdays	22nd October & 19th November at Aylesbury			
	- "Messy Church"			
Saturday	19th November 2.30 pm. Stoke Hammond Autumn/			
Christmas Bazaar.				
December 24th Christmas Eve at:				
Aylesbury:	4.00 pm.to 6.00 pm. "Messy Christingle"			
Fairford Le	eys: 4.00 pm. Crib service			
	11.30 pm. Holy Communion			
Princes Risborough: Holy Communion service 8.00 pm.				

Thame: Christingle Service at 4.00 pm. Communion at 9.00 pm.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH and COMMUNITY CENTRE

Do you need a venue for your Child's Party?

We offer a significant discount to members for the hire of the halls for these and other Social Events.

For all bookings please contact Carla Barnes or one of the volunteers in the Church Office for

more details at: Buckingham Street Aylesbury HP20 2NQ

Tel: 01296 426526

Email: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

The office hours are 9:30 to 13:30 during weekdays.

Swanbourne Outdoor Service – 26th June 2016

For ten years, since celebrating the centenary of the present chapel building and 150 years since the first chapel, we have held an outdoor service at Swanbourne, thanks to Ruth and David, one of our chapel members and her husband, whose farm is very near the chapel. Secklow Brass, run by another member and her husband, has always provided the splendid accompaniment to the hymns.

Since my involvement with the Circuit Education and Youth Committee, we have made it an All-Age service with a Young People's activity round the village beforehand. This year, Irena's story for the service was about Zacchaeus, so the activity theme was trees, with words to collect from trees in the village Millennium Wood. In the service itself, our Sunday School provided a short but dramatic sketch of the story, which involved a step ladder and laurel branches!



Over the years, the beauty of the farm site, the cream teas and the acoustics of the barn, which we use if the weather is not kind (and this year the fields were waterlogged) have brought our friends from all over the circuit.

Teas in the chapel



We were also delighted this year to have the input from the Aylesbury Church Youth Choir, who went down a storm!

Can we book them for next year??

The Youth Choir

The collection which was made for Make Lunch, which provides meals in the holidays to families that need them, raised £243.85, and the donations for teas added £37.81 to our Chapel Funds.

So many thanks to all who supported and worshipped with us. If you haven't joined us before, then make a note of the last Sunday in June – a date fixed to fit in with a window of opportunity when the barn is empty.

Thank you all again, and we hope to see you next year. *Frankie Fisher*

STOKE HAMMOND— WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

On December 1" 1993, we held our first coffee morning at Stoke Hammond Methodist Chapel.





We had decided to hold weekly coffee mornings on a Wednesday to make regular use of our new kitchen, Vestry, and toilet extension. We chose not to charge a set price, but to put a bowl on the table for people to make a donation ~ we still have the same arrangement today. On that first occasion, 15 people came and as it was close to Christmas we had mince pies to go with the tea and coffee.

We drew up a cake rota, and now several ladies take turns to provide delicious home-made cakes or savouries.

The first week's donations amounted to £6.35p, and although that seems a very modest amount, the money collected over the years paid for a replacement pipe organ for the chapel, which two of the

founder coffee morning members play at Sunday Services, and now supplements chapel funds. We average about 20 people each week, but on a recent occasion there were 29 present.

Having put pen to paper I could almost write a book about what goes on at the coffee morning. It is such a happy place to be, and just like a family — only we don't squabble!

Thank you for inviting us to tell you about our weekly coffee morning. Do call in if you are passing between 10.30 and 12pm on a Wednesday.

Margaret Aitkin

Cover picture Story Cheddington Methodist Church -- The Toast



'Toast' is a group set up in 2007 by two young church mums, Nicola and Debbie, for pre school children and their carers, to meet and socialise in our hall each Monday morning in term time. The church provided start-up funding for toys, cups and plates etc., and facilities such as a

changing table and storage space plus a large noticeboard. Subs, now £1 per child, have long since covered the original funding, and many purchases since.

The title refers to the initial idea, borrowed from Nicola's twin sister's church in Lancashire, for Toast (instead of biscuits!) to be provided mid-morning. This is still very popular, and currently about a dozen children love sitting together round our cheery small tables, eating buttered toast.

When Nicola went back to full-time work in January 2015, I researched the register and estimated that at least 100 different families had attended Toast over the years (more now!). It continues as a very friendly group, and creates a good introduction for new families in the village, and is much appreciated by childminders, including several grandmas – Rev. Irena and grandson Thomas are regular attenders!

Our church members set up tables etc. in the hall after morning service on Sunday. We have all the usual range of toys, including the ever-popular playdough, and a craft table. A weekly craft activity is often organised by the members, who also clear away at the end, before we sit round and sing – a recently introduced and now compulsory session. When the usual leaders of the singing were away one week I tried to skip it, but the children sat themselves down in a circle and waited!

As ever, we need more helpers; being there every week takes its toll on the two elderly helpers.

End of year party next week – who knows what September will bring!

Janet Banham 12/7/16

More news from Cheddington

Despite our reduction in numbers and the illnesses and incapacity of some of our members we are still reaching out to the community at every opportunity. At the end of July we started a Music Opportunity Evening for the secondary pupils in the village and received an encouraging response. The idea developed from a visit by the Circuit Music Group who led an evening service for us in October 2015; we all loved it. That inspired us, with our Churches Together group, to try to engage the young musicians in the village; our Chapel is the ideal location to make as much noise as they like. The idea is that youngsters come along, bring their own music, to help them overcome their embarrassment and find some common ground. We provide refreshments and conversation,

At the second meeting on 2nd. September we decided to move to a monthly meeting on Sunday evenings when the Chapel is empty. This we will give them something to do during the dark evenings of Autumn and Winter and encourage them to bring along a few friends.

Later in September (weather permitting) we are hoping a start will be made on our roof repairs, for which we have received a much welcomed donation.

Then during the season of Advent we will have our usual village Christmas tree on the forecourt of the Chapel, but this year will have a child size manger scene, which we hope will generate interest from villagers. The figures will be completed during our Advent Messy Church afternoon; the framework of the scene being completed by one of the villagers.

Hopefully we will remember to take some photos that can then be put on the website.

We value your interest and prayers

Janet Banham and Cathy Craft

Wallace reaches 50th

anniversary of his ordination

The recent Methodist Conference met in Westminster Central Hall, London in June/July.

A new president and Vice-President were elected: the Rev Dr Roger Walton, and Rachel Lampard, MBE, respectively. One of their first tasks was to send out letters to long-serving and respected ministers one of whom was our friend and colleague the Rev Wallace Edwards.

The letter reads: "The Conference has noted that around this time you will be celebrating the 50th anniversary, the Golden Jubilee, of your Ordination. We very much want to offer the greetings and congratulations of the Conference as you mark this special occasion". It goes on: "May God continue to bless you in your work for Him and for the bringing in of His kingdom".

We too, people from churches where Wallace has served and still serves and preaches, offer our love and congratulations and wish both



Rev G Wallace Edwards. (Photo: Helen Edwards)

Wallace and Mary many more years of happy service.

The letter goes on to say: "During our year of office we will be exploring our theme of 'Holiness and Justice'. Holiness and Justice are intimately related. Responding to the love of God in Jesus means that we seek to live our lives in a different way, a way which seeks justice for all people."

The letter also gives details of how Methodism since its beginnings has laid emphasis on serving the poor in society.

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Leighton Buzzard

BARN DANCE



Barn Dance and Ploughman's Supper with Bodger's Wood Band Caller: Terry Phipps

Bar available: soft and alcoholic drinks, including fairly-traded

Friday 21 October 2016 from 7.30 till 10.30 pm Chinnor Village Hall Church Road, Chinnor, OX39 4PQ Tickets: £7.50 (£2.50 under 18s) available from: Jane Honeyball (01844 351096) or Liz Thorpe (01844 351565)

All proceeds to Chinnor Methodist Church Building Fund







Fairtrade Matters

The vote by the British public in the recent referendum has wide reaching implications not only within the UK but also for other nations and individuals world wide. The outcomes in terms of the impact on attitudes and trading have yet to be realised and may not be realised for some years.

But what does the referendum vote mean for Fairtrade?

The phrase Free trade was in regular use in the campaigns. The phrase Fairtrade however had little airing. Some interchange the phrases but they mean very different things.

Free trade refers to a general openness to exchange goods and information between and among nations with few to no barriers to that trade.

Fair trade refers to exchanges, the terms of which meet the demands of justice, including aspects such as a minimum wage, age of labourers, working hours etc.

The concern is that, where policies are focussed on Free trade, the markets will be more interested in increasing a nations' economic growth and have less regard for empowering marginalised producers to improve the quality of their lives. This is something that can be a factor in economic migration.

How things pan out will be down not only to the negotiations of Dr Liam Fox (as Minister for creating new trading arrangements), but also to you and me. The actions we take in relation to choices about what we buy are relevant. Also of relevance is how we wish to see workers treated; be they UK based or live elsewhere in the world. Whether workers and producers are known to us or are complete strangers, it could be argued that purchasers should exercise the same level of concern about the way items they make are made available to us.

There has been much debate over the years in respect of the benefits of Fair trade as compared to Free trade, and it is likely that neither provide the complete answer. If you would like to explore the matter further, please visit some of the many entries on the subject on the internet. Using a search of Fair trade versus Free trade should provide a good starting point. Alternatively, please visit <u>www.fairtrade.org.uk</u>.

You may also want to watch out for and explore how the vote impacts on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Policy.

Rod Thorpe

Traidcraft Fair Trade Catalogue

Thinking of others at Christmas?

Browse through the TRAIDCRAFT catalogue for your Fairly Traded Christmas gifts and essentials. Cards - Paper - Wraps - Clothes - Food -Confectionery - Household goods- Jewellery - Gifts -Hand crafted products -Organic products available -**Recycled** glassware For your copy or further detail contact ROD THORPE (01844 351565) or visit www.traidcraftshop.co.uk (NB orders made via Rod Thorpe incur no delivery

charge and 10% of product price goes to

Christian Aid)



WHERE and WHEN TO MEET AROUND THE CIRCUIT



For a chat over a Cuppa or even a Meal

Aylesbury	Mon. To Sat.	Tea and Coffee
	10.00 am 12 noon	
Cheddington	Open Doors— Fridays	Tea, Coffee , Light Refresh- ments & Fellowship
	10.00 am.	
Fairford Leys	Saturdays 10.30 am 12.00 noon	Coffee Morning coffee/tea and biscuits
Haddenham	Tuesdays 10.00 am 12.00 noon 10.00 am 12.00 Noon	Maisie's Coffee Morning Fairtrade goods, Home made jams & garden pro- duce usually on sale. Museum open in Old School room
Stewkley	3rd. Saturday each month 12 noon - 1.30 pm.	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £7
Stoke Hammond	Wednesday 10.30 - 11.45 am	Coffee Morning
Stoke Mandeville	Most Fridays 2.00 - 4.00 pm. Monthly: First Fridays 12.00 - 2.00 pm.	'POP-IN' for a cup of tea/ coffee and a chat. Light lunches £3.00
Thame Christchurch	Tuesdays & Fridays 10.00 am 12 noon	Coffee Mornings
Waddesdon	Thursdays 10.00 am. - 11.30 am Alternate Tuesdays.	Coffee Morning Light lunches
	11.00 am 2.00pm.	

Wingrave	Tuesdays 12 noon - 1.30 pm.	Nup End Cafe Lunches
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Other Special Gatherings

Cheddington	Mondays 9.30 -11.00 am (except holidays)	The Toast Baby & Toddler Group
Stewkley	Wednesday 10.30 – 11.30 am. Friday 7.30pm - on 7th & 28th Oct: 11th & 25th November: 2nd & 16th December.	Daisy Club for under 3s term time only. Mutual Fellowship Various Speakers Contact John Jones 01525 217795
Swanbourne	Tuesdays 2.00 pm in the Chapel: stories, songs, prayers & nibbles & play	Pram Service will con- tinue—Next Services: TBA Contact : Frankie Fisher on 720454
Whitchurch	Wednesdays 10 am 12 noon 'Little Steps' fun for babies, toddlers and parents. 1st Sunday in the Month 4.00 pm. 'Stepping Stones' for young people	A mums & toddler group meeting. With toys, crafts music and snacks. Everyone is welcome. This offers an open invitation for worship time for <u>all</u> the family. Just turn up, you will be very welcome.

LEARNING AND GROWING

Aylesbury

J Team (Sunday School) Sundays 10.30 am. Contact: Mrs. Vivienne Kemp 01296 399315 Girls Brigade Mondays 6.15 - 7.30 pm. Contact: Sarah Davidge 01296 437852 Banner Group Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00 pm. Contact: Mrs. Brenda Horne 01296 428580 Tuesday Fellowship 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2.30 - 3.45 pm. Contact: Mrs. Pearl Riley 01296 483547 Boys Brigade Tuesdays 6.00 - 9.00 pm. Contact: Mrs. Margaret Miskin 01296 422919 **Monthly Bible Study**: Dates to be advised on website

Chinnor: Regular Activities

Weekly:

Activity Club (Youth club for 7-11yr olds) Thurs 6.30 - 8.00 pm. (term time) Traidcraft (Fairtrade) sales Bring and Buy table for nominated charities (Sunday)

Fortnightly:

On Sundays 6.15 - 7.15 pm. when there is no Evening Service House Group: at 16 Old Sawmill Place . Contact Elizabeth Wilson 01844 354487 Fellowship Group: Tuesday from 10.30 am. Friday 7.00 - 9.00 pm. (fortnightly) Friday Night Club (all ages) Table Tennis, Scrabble, Pizza etc.

Monthly:

Exploring Faith. Monday 8.00 - 9.30 pm.

Ecumenical Groups/ Activities:

Fortnightly:

Mothers Bible Study 10.00 am. -12.00 noon on Tues. or Weds. morning for mums Mums prayer group: Friday 9 - 9.30 am - for those attending St Andrew's School Ignite - Sunday 7.30 - 9.00 pm. for 14yr olds to explore faith and life issues

<u>Haddenham</u> Monthly:

Haddenham Fellowship Group— evening meetings, Contact Mrs Mary White 01844 291677

Princes Risborough

Fortnightly:

SALT (Sharing And Learning Together) Meets in homes on Thursdays

Monthly:

"TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP - We meet in homes on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Church at 2.00 pm. for a time of Fellowship together with a varied programme, followed by a cup of tea and chat, everyone is welcome to join us. Contact Pam Scott 01844 346857

.--see the Circuit Website for details of these meetings

Stoke Mandeville

Fortnightly:

The Open Fellowship meets at 2.30 pm. on the 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month Everyone is welcome to these meetings for an hour of fellowship, followed naturally by a cup of tea. Table-tennis may normally be played from 7.00 to 9.00 pm. in the main hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in most months.

<u>Stone</u>

Monthly:

The Fourth Tuesday Fellowship meets at 2.30 pm. Contact Mrs. Sue Spinks 01296 748369

<u>Weedon</u>

Monthly: Monday Bible Study Group

/over

LEARNING AND GROWING

Thame Christchurch.

Weekly.

Bible Study on Thursday at 7.30 pm.

Fortnightly.

Church Singers on 2nd and 4th Monday at 7.45 pm.

Monthly.

WIT (Women in Thame) on Monday at 7.30 pm. Varied programme of talks, activities, and a visit to the theatre.

The road to happiness

Happiness is something we create in our mind, Not something we search for and so seldom find.
It's just waking up and beginning the day ...
By counting our blessings and bowing to pray.
It's giving up thoughts that breed discontent
And accepting what comes as a gift heaven-sent.
It's giving up wishing for things we have not,
And making the best of whatever we've got.

Source- ACE 2016.



SOUP LUNCHES are here again ! at Stone Methodist Chapel SATURDAYS 10th and 17th December 12 noon - 2 pm. Raising funds for LOCAL work of Action for Children



NEW CIRCUIT WEBSITE

www.aylesburyvale.org.uk

The WORLD'S WINDOW on the CIRCUIT

Whilst this describes the primary purpose of the Website, it is also, or should be, a valuable source of information for the Circuit enabling an exchange of information between the churches and between churches and those who are responsible for administration of the Circuit.

There is now a group of Sub-Editors who can update their church information but we could do with more. They are:

Cheddington: Janet Banham. Email:

j.banham@btinternet.com

Princes Risborough: Marilyn Dore. Email:

mjdore@talktalk.net

and Brenda Willet. Email: pandbw@waitrose.com

Stewkley : Lynda Hart. Email: lynda.hart@pacomms.com **Thame:** Janet West. Email: janet1970w@btinternet.com **Weedon:** Ralph Followell. Email:

ralph.followell@btinternet.com

For articles it is still necessary to contact the main editors listed on the back page.

Many other members can access the cloud where all the detailed information is stored. Regular preachers and some church Officers have access to the CHRESTOS Planning tools that allow them to participate in some important aspects of the development of the Preaching Plan each quarter. Not everyone can see the Website but every church has at least one person who is able to keep their church informed.

It does not take much time particularly when you get familiar with the site.

ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE:

Items for the January—March 2017 issue should be forwarded to the following Email addresses:

Solomon Awadzi 01296 489384

Email: solokawadzi@hotmail.com

Items for the Magazine should be copied to Roy Collis see below.

Please submit Magazine Items by the 15th November 2016

AMENDMENTS to CIRCUIT DIRECTORY:

Details of changes to existing information in the **Circuit Directory** should be sent immediately they occur to: Rev Helen Kirk: revhelenkirk@sky.com and to: r.collis245@btinternet.com

ITEMS FOR PUBLISHING ON THE WEBSITES:

WEBSITE ADDRESSES:

Circuit: www.aylesburyvale.org.uk Aylesbury: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk Fairford Leys: www.fairfordleyschurch.org.uk All enquiries or suggestions should be addressed to::

Peter Green for the AMC Website : peterb.green@ntlworld.com 01296 424653

Roy Collis for the Circuit Website: r.collis245@btinternet.com 01296 630989 or Rev. Keith Edwards ulysee798@gmail.com 01296 423363