

Services for May

7th 10.00am Rev Keith Edwards
Holy Communion
Junior Church

14th 10.00am Rev Steve Williams
Junior Church

See page 4

6.00pm Christian Aid Service at our
Church

See page 4

21st 10.00am Rev Carina Shergold
Junior Church

28th 10.00am Café Church led by WOW

See page 4



Tea and coffee are served after the morning service. Please join us in the Hall.

Princes Risborough

Methodist Church

'The Messenger'
May 2017



*This magazine comes to you with the
good wishes of the Church*

Princes Risborough Methodist Church
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Material for the June Messenger to the Editor
by Sunday 14th May at the latest please.

This Church is proud to be a member of 'Churches Together in Risborough' associated with The Baptist Church, Elim Church, St. Dunstan's Church, St. Mary's Church and St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church.

Rotas for May

	Duty Stewards	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
7 th	Mrs C Palmer	The Trout Family	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mrs V Spires Lane
14 th am	Mrs C Palmer	Mr & Mrs D Robbins	Mr & Mrs D Robbins	Mrs B Palmer
14 th pm	Mrs C Palmer	Mr J Needham	Mr J Needham	
21 st	Mrs M Judd	Mrs F Sheppard Mr J Needham	Mrs F Sheppard Mr J Needham	Mr J Needham
28 th	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mrs D Stevens

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting
6/7	Mrs M McMullan	Mr D Stevens	Mrs M Stevens
13/14	Mrs C Palmer	Mrs G Hudson	Mr G Hudson
20/21	Mrs D Robbins	Mr P Willett	Mr P Willett
27/28	Mrs D Robbins	Mrs C McMullan	Mr C McMullan

If unavailable, please arrange an exchange or replacement, notify the steward, and amend the porch and vestry lists. If you would like to be involved as a welcoming steward or Bible reader, or any other rota please speak to Joe Needham (01844 343246), or one of the Stewards.

Those who kindly provide flowers please leave the wrappings in the vestry so that the stewards have something to wrap them in when they distribute after the service. We could always do with more than is provided so if anyone has any suitable paper please leave that in the vestry or the vase cupboard.

Diary Dates for May

2 nd & 9 th May	Methodist Women in Britain events
4 th & 17 th May	Safeguarding Meetings
5 th May	Christian Aid Clothes Show
7 th May	Dedication of fruit trees
7 th May	Retiring Collection
7 th May	Fairtrade stall
8 th May	Bereavement Drop-in
10 th May	Organ Recital AMC
11 th May	SALT
13 th May	Concert at St Dunstan's Church at 7.30pm
14 th May	Christian Aid Service at our Church at 6pm
14 th — 20 th May	Christian aid Week
14 th May	Messenger material deadline
17 th May	Tuesday Fellowship
20 th May	Christian Aid Lunch
22 nd May	Later
25 th May	SALT

Future Dates

16th June	Karibuni Children Fun Day
27 th June	Church Forum at 8pm at Church
29&30 th June, 1 st July	PR Music Society - The Gipsy Baron
30 th June	Princes Centre Quiz and Bingo evening
12 th July	Visit to Harris Manchester College
16 th July	Church BBQ in garden following Church Service
24-28 July	Lighthouse

Weekly Church Notices: Please contact Mrs Maureen Judd by telephone (01844 344935) or e-mail - maureenjudd@maureenjudd.plus.com by noon on Friday with any information regarding weekly notices. *Maureen Judd*

Rest Day—Rev. Keith Edwards' 'day off' is a Wednesday; please try to respect this whenever possible.

From the Manse ...



Easter has happened and we are hurtling towards Pentecost and it seems to me that the seasons of the church year come in rapid succession and hardly give us time to think. We often say to ourselves – “there’s always tomorrow” but I came across this amusing story:

‘An older lady was in the hospital reading her Bible when her doctor came in for his visit. She asked him how she was doing. He told her to read, Hebrews 13:8, which says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever," meaning she was about the same. However, she reversed the numbers and read Hebrews 8:13, "Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away,"!!!’

Which is it for you? Whilst the writer of Hebrews was writing about the "old covenant," the words could just as accurately describe each and every one of us. Like it or not, we are all growing old and eventually we will vanish away from this world. God's Word describes our life on this earth as a "flower of the field" that passes away (James 1:10) and "a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14).

We don't like to think of life in that way. We live in an age that likes to think it makes things that last. We have our plastic and non-breakable jars and cups. We buy a car battery and are given a guarantee that it will last as long as we own our car. So, we would like a guarantee that our bodies could last forever, and somebody — usually trying to sell us something — may try to tell us they can. However, that's just not the case.

Admitting that we are "vanishing away" can be a frightening thought. It can also be comforting. If we allow ourselves to be wrapped up in material things, death means losing everything we consider to be of value. But, if we lay up treasures in heaven, it is an opportunity to shed troubles of this world and enjoy an eternity in the presence of our heavenly Father. Which is it for you?

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NLT).

Grace and Peace to you.

Keith Edwards



Church Services for May

At the end of our Holy Communion service on Sunday 7th May, which will be led by Rev Keith Edwards, we will be going to the bottom of the church garden to dedicate the fruit trees planted there in memory of Rev Geoffrey Bending. Some members of Geoff's family hope to be present at this dedication ceremony. There will be a 'plan B' for the ceremony if the weather is inclement.

On Sunday 14th May, we will welcome Revd. Steve Williams, an associate minister at St Mary's Church, as our preacher at our morning service. Some members of the church will already know him, as he is the Treasurer of our local U3A. His wife, Rose, also an assistant minister at St. Mary's Church, has spoken at a Tuesday Fellowship meeting, and leads the "Bereavement Drop in" which is advertised on page 7.

The evening service on the second Sunday of the month is usually a United Service between ourselves, St. Mary's Church and the Baptist Church, where we use the three churches in rotation. This month's service will be in our church and will be a Christian Aid service, which will be organised by Valerie Adams from St. Mary's Church.

On Sunday 21st May, there is a welcome return of Revd. Carina Shergold to lead our morning worship.

On Sunday 28th May, the WOW Group will be leading the morning service, which will take the form of a Café Church style service. For those who have not experienced this style of worship; it is an informal service with the congregation seated around tables with breakfast being served before and during the service. Try it if you haven't been to one yet!

Easyfundraising



Easy Fundraising does exactly what it says – it raises funds for a good cause (e.g. Princes Risborough Methodist Church) with minimal extra effort required on your part.

If you (or other family members if you do not do internet shopping) would like to join the eight of us currently registered, then go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and register – selecting Princes Risborough Methodist Church as the cause you support. Then all you need to remember is that when you want to do online shopping you first of all log on to the easyfundraising website, and then find the retailer you want.

Try it! It's easy and worthwhile!

'One Can Trust'



Food bank serving families in need.

Since 2011, One Can Trust has operated a **foodbank** based in High Wycombe, serving the town and South Buckinghamshire.

Growing quickly to address a growing crisis of **food poverty** we collect over £150,000 worth of food every year from all over the community.

We sort it, store it and create **food parcels** that have fed well over 20,000 adults and children.

Our Church box goes to the Food- bank HQ in High Wycombe, before distribution. A list of needs is on the box in the church hall.

Smile ...

War heroes

"Daddy, what is that?" said a little boy looking up at a plaque on the church wall. He replies that it was in memory of those who died in the services. The boy asked, "Did they die in the morning or evening services?"

Submitted by Joyce Gilyead.

Princes Risborough Music Society



Princes Risborough Music Society is a friendly Society of about 60 members. Rehearsals are at Princes Risborough Secondary School on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome. Please contact the Membership Secretary on 01844 344083.

The Summer Concert will be held on 29th & 30th June and 1st July, at 7.30 pm at Longwick Village Hall. We will be performing a concert version of "the Gypsy Baron" by Johann Strauss.

Tickets price £12.00 will be available from The Risborough Cook Shop, Art and Office, Information Centre or Choir Members and online at www.princesrisboroughmusicsociety.com.

If you need transport the Community Bus will be running- please contact 07941963097

HELP US DRIVE YOUR COMMUNITY BUS



We need more volunteer drivers for the "Little Green Bus".

- Flexible hours
- Full training given

If you know anyone who would be interested contact 07876 681847 or visit www.racb.co.uk/contact-us/

Junior Church

The dates for Junior Church are 7th, 14th and 21st May

Fran McMullan

Retiring Collection

There will be a retiring collection after the service on 7th May for our charity, 'One Can Trust'.

Fairtrade Stall

Thanks to all who supported the stall in April, which raised £59. I hope to have the stall again on 7th May, back to my usual first Sunday in the month.

Judith Gerrard

Transport to Church

If you require transport to or from any of the Sunday services or other events please speak to a Steward.

Birthdays



Happy birthday to Brandon Paul who will be 10 years old on 9th May.

Church Friends

It has been so nice to see Huw Griffiths in our congregation recently, it is always a pleasure to welcome you to worship with us, Huw.

Chris Palmer

SALT

Everyone is welcome to this small, informal group. Come along and share lively discussion on a variety of subjects with some bible study thrown in for good measure!

We will meet on Thursday, 11th and 25th May at 7.30 pm at the home of Maureen Judd.

For more information please speak to Maureen Judd, Victoria Haydon or Joe Needham.

Victoria Haydon

Tuesday Fellowship

Our March meeting was our Annual General Meeting which was chaired by Rev. Keith Edwards. We reviewed what we had done over the past year and looked forward to the year ahead. From our funds accumulated during the year we agreed to donate:-
£50 to our Church Funds
£50 to DEC 'East African Crisis Appeal'
£50 to Dementia UK
£50 to WaterAid

We next meet on **Wednesday 17th May** when we are to have an afternoon outing to the Bluebell café at Marsworth using the Risborough Community Bus.

Pam Scott

The Later Group



The Later group meeting in March welcomed 19 teenagers to our church. There was the usual offer of table tennis, table top football, snooker, giant jenga and the wii. Plus the paper aeroplane challenge (making and flying a paper aeroplane from the platform, through to the porch – where it had to land into a box on the floor). The winner, Holly, won an Easter Egg. Hot dogs and chips, followed by cookies kept them well fed for the evening.

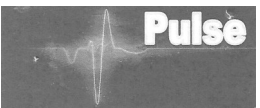
The 'God slot' was led by Ryan Romano (St Mary's youth worker) and he used the projector to show a clip of Shrek the movie to illustrate the subject of 'Good Friends', along with a three-legged race, requiring them to depend on each other, which caused much hilarity! The session was designed to help them think about what a friend should be and to encourage them to become that type of friend. They looked at a reading from the bible: John 17 v. 20-23 to see that just before Jesus was arrested and crucified he prayed for his disciples; asking God to protect them and keep them united. They also looked at Luke 22 to see how Jesus forgave Peter and gave him a new beginning, showing him very clearly that he put his hope and trust in him.



Our next meeting will be on **Sunday 21st May** and we hope to make use of the lighter evenings and offer some activities in the garden.



Youth Service for school years 7-13
Meet on 1st Sunday of the month at St Mary's Church from 4-6pm.



Informal Bible Study for school years 10-13
Meet on 2nd Sunday of the month at St Mary's Chapter House from 6-8pm.



Deeper Worship Evening for anyone
Meet on 4th Sunday of the month at St Mary's Church from 6.30-8pm.

Visit to Harris Manchester College Oxford

When the Rev. Dr. Ralph Waller was a preacher at our church some time ago, he gave us a general invitation to visit Harris Manchester College, with the suggestion that he could organise a tour of the college and a lecture about what they do.

Vic Baker has been following up this invitation, and he has had the following reply from Rev Dr Ralph Waller:

"Thank you for coming back to me. I think that the best date for us will be Wednesday 12th July. May I suggest that you arrive at about 2.15 pm and I will arrange a tour of the College, a lecture, and tea and get you on the way back home by 4.30 pm."

This sounds like an interesting afternoon out, but Vic needs to know what level of support it would receive from church members before obtaining the cost of hiring a coach and making all the necessary arrangements, including publicity etc, for this outing.

To help him, Vic would appreciate a quick response from church members to register their interest. His phone number is 01844 690264.

Charity Concert

Chinnor Silver Band
Saturday 13th May 7.30 pm
at
St Dunstan's Church
Monks Risborough

Tickets £10.00 from Rachel 01844 761535, Sue 01844 275287, or online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-dunstans-church

CTR Report

This is just a quick update on a couple of items raised at a recent CTR meeting.



If you are interested to read more about prayer, mission and prayer, prayer walking and prayer on the streets, please have a look at the 24/7 Prayer website which gives you lots of information and ideas: www.24-7prayer.com/

The CTR website has recently undergone an update which makes it look more attractive and is easier to navigate, especially by iPhone. Please could you take the time to have a look at the website, www.risboroughchurches.org.uk and send me your comments; are all the links working ok? Are there other links we should be adding? Do you have any stories or reports that you would like to see posted on the website? I look forward to your feedback.

Is there anyone willing to be our representative to come alongside CTR to work with those involved in the future housing developments at Princes Risborough?

Kathryn Trout

Silent Prayers

at St. Dunstan's Church Hall on Monday evenings at 8pm

We need silence to help us get a perspective on our lives; to hear the still, small voice of God, and refresh our inner being. All are welcome.

Each meeting lasts about 45 minutes to an hour. More details from Revd James Tomkins 01844 275944 or jamestomkins@btinternet.com.

Bereavement Drop in

This group offers a welcome to those struggling with grief. We share together, drink tea or coffee, talk about experiences or just listen.

Many find comfort in talking about their loved ones with others who know what they are going through. We meet on the second Monday of the month, **8th May** in the Chapter House at St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, between 3 and 4 o'clock. Everyone is welcome, of any faith, or no faith at all. Further details from Rose Williams 01844 274225.

Crafty Sew & Sews

We meet each Tuesday in St. Dunstan's Church Hall 1.30 to 4pm. Join us and learn new skills and share knowledge. Bring your own work – Cross Stitch/Tapestry/Knitting etc. £1 per session.

Organisers: Janet East 01844 345028
Pam Scott 01844 346857.

Church BBQ

Sunday 16th July There will be a Church BBQ in the garden following the morning service.

Church Forum

The next meeting of the Church Forum will be on Tuesday **27th June** at 8.00pm in the Church hall.

Methodist Women in Britain

On Tuesday **2nd May** at 2.30pm there is to be a Methodist Women in Britain meeting at Little Chalfont Methodist Church for people from Aylesbury Vale, High Wycombe and Amersham Circuits. The speaker is to be Claire Welch from 'All We Can' (Formerly Methodist relief and Development).

All are welcome to attend. I intend to go so if anyone requires transport please let me know.

Pam Scott

Methodist Women in Britain District Day

Tuesday **9th May** 10.30am – 3.00pm at The Square Methodist Church, Dunstable LU6 3SN – 'A Baby in Bethlehem' Led by Rev. Nicola Jones. Refreshments are available, but you are asked to bring a packed lunch. Further details are on the poster in the Church Porch.

Pam Scott

Church Anniversary

Service

It was good to welcome back Rev David Jenkins and his wife, Paula, when David, who was on top form as ever, led an inspiring church anniversary service in March.

During the service presentations were made to Joe Needham and Barbara Oates, to thank them for their huge contribution to the life of our church upon them retiring as Church Treasurer and magazine editor respectively. David thanked Joe for all his work in keeping the finances in such good order over the years, and he thanked Barbara for producing such an excellent magazine for over 30 years. Although Will Richmond was not well enough to attend the service, David spoke of him expressing everyone's appreciation of his years as a steward, including a number as Senior Steward; and a gift will be given to him.

Marilyn Dore Judith Gerrard and Barbara Oates

Lunch

Thank you for all the teamwork in producing the lunch for 37 people on Sunday. All the planning and setting up meant it went very smoothly with everyone seeming to find things to do to help out.



The hot soups were successfully organised as usual by Pam Scott, and the slow cooker method seemed to be a good idea to take the pressure off the hob space. The quiche makers did a splendid job and there was not a crumb left afterwards, and Kathryn Trout chose just the right snacks for the children. The desserts were amazing as always.

Don and Sue Wilson were very committed "washer-uppers"; we didn't mean to let you do it all!

After all the expenses were paid, there was a surplus of £120.00, which is our church's annual contribution to Home Missions.

Judith Gerrard



**Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre**
Buckingham Street, Aylesbury

**32nd ANNUAL
ORGAN CONCERT**

Presenting Concert Organist

Piers Maxim

**Director of Music
Malvern Priory and President of
Aylesbury Festival Choir**

WEDNESDAY 10th MAY 2017

@ 7.30 pm

(Doors open at 7.00 pm)

Entrance: £12.00

Or £10.00 If booked in advance.

(Students entrance free)

**Tickets available from the Church Office
on weekday mornings or direct from
Derrick Matthews (01296 488076)**

Lighthouse - 24th to 28th July



At a recent Lighthouse planning meeting, there was a request for two important roles that need to be filled:

- An admin assistant to Elaine Hassel; a couple of hours on Saturday/Sunday to issue the children's tickets, and/or helping in the mornings during Lighthouse week when the children arrive each day.
- A Little Lighthouse (preschool age) co-ordinator; to shadow the current co-ordinator this year and take over the role from 2018.

This is a reminder of items needed for this year's Lighthouse Week.

Donations may be stored at Church.

- Old tights/pop socks
- Socks (*for puppets*)
- Large plastic yoghurt pots
- Wallpaper (*table covers so the pattern doesn't matter*)
- Buttons
- Used birthday or special occasion cards
- Small plastic plant pots

We are also asked to remember that cake donations are needed during the week for the café.

Thanks,

Fran McMullan

Presentations at the church anniversary



Barbara Oates writes; "During the service it was astonishing to hear my eulogy; I thought for a moment I had died without noticing! But then I realised I was to be presented with a beautiful orchid and a most generous gift token in appreciation of a few shifts of producing our Church Messenger. Thank you so much.

As a result I now have a new digital camera which I shall enjoy enormously; I might even take a photograph of the orchid. I certainly have had withdrawal symptoms since resigning as magazine editor, for although the Messenger was time consuming, I must admit to rather missing the cut and thrust, (*but not so much that I wish to re-apply for the job*), but no doubt I shall quickly come to terms with my new life. My husband, Peter, says he sees much more of me, but whether he is pleased about that I could not possibly say. Sincere thanks also for the many years of fellowship and enormous kindness and friendship I have enjoyed over the last 52 years as a result of choosing to be involved with the Risborough Methodist Church way back in 1965! It was one of the best decisions I ever made; how fortunate we all are, to be part of our fantastic Methodist Church family! Brilliant isn't it?"

Joe Needham writes; "Just a brief note to say thanks to all of you for the card and gift presented to me yesterday. A complete surprise to me which was why I was speechless at the time (I also struggled to recognise who David Jenkins was talking about when he spoke about the wise contributions made at circuit meetings, etc).

The other good news for those who haven't yet heard is that following David Robbins plea at the Circuit Meeting earlier this month, an offer of help has been made by a member at Aylesbury. I've yet to sort out the handover arrangements with him, but will be doing so over the coming days & weeks so that I can finally bow out of the role after over 22 years."

Karibuni Children Fun Day

Transforming young Kenyan lives.

Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

There will be a family Fun Day on Saturday **17th June** at Fairford Leys Community Centre from 11.00am to 4.00pm where there will be stalls, games, BBQ, music and much more!

Will Richmond

At the Church Anniversary some presentations were made on our behalf by David Jenkins, and Will was mentioned in dispatches!

Following on from the tribute to Will that Judith Gerrard made in the April Messenger; I would like to add that he and I served together a lot of years ago, and I think I am right in saying that it is well over twenty years since Will began his term of office! Since then many stewards have come and gone, but he has been there throughout, and a number of those years being senior steward, when he also attended circuit meetings. Of course it is a steward's task to read if no-one is available on a particular Sunday; Will not only did this but his name always appeared on the reading rota as well. And because at the time the rest of the team were still working, it was always Will who would be on duty at funerals and other occasions when a steward was required during the week. And we must not forget Will faithfully produced the printed weekly notices to save the steward from reading them all out; a job he still continued to do even after he became too ill to attend church.

For many years the Historic Churches bike riders would find the church open, with Will reading his 'Telegraph' and waiting to offer welcome refreshments on the designated Saturday.

Just as, for more years than I can remember, there has always been a Christmas tree at church provided by Will. And when it wasn't so easy for him to man handle the tree himself he had it delivered, and then connected lights to a time switch so that it could be seen from outside.

Dear Will, we thank you for all the ways in which you have faithfully served PRMC, and we look forward to when you have regained your strength, so that you can return to worship with us and keep a check on the team of stewards!

Chris Palmer

We gratefully acknowledge all the recent donations from people sponsoring Revd. David Williams' Kilimanjaro climb. We have also received two donations from the National Citizen Service group team, "Reiss", from their summer fundraising campaign, and donations from St Dunstan's Church, Monks Risborough School Nativity Play, and several other generous donations from residents, some through 'My Donate', and others through standing orders.

If you wish to contribute financially to our continuing refurbishment needs, you can donate on line by visiting www.princescentre.org.uk and by clicking on the 'My Donate' button. If you would like to book a hall or offer support in any way please telephone Kim, our manager, on 01844 345105.

Dawn Service Easter Day



At 6.00 am on Easter Sunday, the resurrection of Jesus was celebrated by members of the various churches in Princes Risborough coming together for a sunrise act of worship. The group met at the top of Whiteleaf Cross which overlooks Princes Risborough. This is a most moving and joyful way of celebrating Easter. Following the short service everyone enjoyed hot drinks and bacon rolls. The picture shows a small section of the group attending, the sunrise service.

Vic Baker

Princes Centre Update



THE PRINCES CENTRE
AWARD WINNING DAYCARE
Charity Number 1151083

We are delighted that the Princes Centre has just been presented with two awards at the SME (Small Medium Enterprise) Business Awards Ceremony. We won the "Community Business of the Year Award" [mostly due to the business acumen of our Chairman, Matthew Walsh]; and our Manager, Kim Challinor, has very deservedly won the "Employee of the Year Award".

Following repair work at Tring Baptist Church, whose premises we are using for our Outreach Centre, volunteers will shortly decorate a lounge area, and it will be furnished thanks to a grant from Tring Council and the Tring Dementia Group. There was no local initiative to continue the much-needed service in that area, which is why we have expanded in that direction. Client numbers there are slowly increasing. Client numbers here in Princes Risborough are at an all-time high, which is very pleasing.

Work is progressing on the landscaping of the clients' garden area using the grant received from Tesco for this purpose. We are hoping that it may be possible to incorporate a ramp to enable wheelchair access to it. As our buildings are on three different levels, there is quite a problem trying to work out accessibility solutions for wheelchair users.

Plans to refurbish the clients' toilet areas and the provision of further facilities for staff and visitors are progressing satisfactorily and further enquiries are taking place concerning the restructuring of the porch to the lower hall, so as to enable the provision of new doors [being funded by the Risborough Masons] to enable improved access and security.

We recently had another successful quiz and bingo evening raising nearly £500.00. Kim is using the money raised from the quiz evenings to enhance the experience of our clients, and visitors were shown the new comfortable arm chairs she had recently purchased for their use. The next quiz and bingo evening will take place on Friday, **30th June**. Please remember to put the date in your diaries and telephone Kim if you would like to come along. It's a fun way to show your support for the Princes Centre.

Safeguarding

The Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe environment where children and vulnerable adults can meet free from physical, sexual or psychological abuse, by providing the necessary training, not only for 'good practice,' but also to identify abuse from elsewhere and how to respond to that.

To this end, in 2012 Pete Honeyball and Arthur Sara delivered the safeguarding foundation module to about 180 people in this circuit, but Conference has decreed that this needs to be repeated every five years, so they have initially organised the following sessions, and the people who need to attend can choose a date from either Thursday 4th May at Aylesbury Methodist Church at 2.30 pm, Thursday 4th May at Aylesbury Methodist Church at 7.00 pm, or Wednesday 17th May at Stewkley Methodist Church at 7.00 pm. Some may have already attended the first session last month.

People from our church, who need to attend, are Pastoral visitors, anyone working with 0-18 year-olds in the name of the Church, Church stewards, Local preachers, Worship leaders, Church safeguarding representatives, and young leaders (aged 16 to 18).

Others in our church, who are warmly invited, but it is not mandatory for them to attend are, leaders of other organisations working with 0-18 year-olds or vulnerable adults, who use church premises (such as guides, YDA), any other group leaders within our church, who may have adults within their particular group who are vulnerable, Property stewards and all other keyholders.

Those wishing to attend please book a place with Arthur Sara tel. 01296484310
Email ruthar@talktalk.net

Fran McMullan

Christian Aid News

The first Thursday monthly luncheon is taking a break until September and I am pleased to report that it was very well supported in April, however going forward we are now looking for some more volunteers to help in the preparation and serving of the meal.



Christian Aid Week 14th - 20th May

The united service is being held in our church at 6pm on **Sunday 14th May** and being organised by members from St. Mary's Church.

Saturday 20th May We will be holding a lunch at the Baptist Church Upper Hall from 12noon-1.30pm where there will be a plant and a Traidcraft stall. I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend. As we are no longer able to do house-to-house collections, this event represents our total fund-raising effort for the week.

Christian Aid Clothes Show

Chinnor Christian Aid group is hosting this event on Friday **5th May** in the Chinnor Village Hall. They seek donations of top quality 'as new' items – day and evening wear, special occasion outfits. Designer labels/items with price label/tag still attached will be particularly appreciated. Shoes, accessories and coat-hangers, particularly plastic or wooden, also welcome. Ladies', men's and children's clothing all accepted as long as they are in good condition. All items collected. Please contact Jackie on 01844 355953 or 07973 740338 or Lyn on 01844 352888.

Margaret Stevens



Methodist
relief and
development

Our recent retiring collections for the 'All We Can East Africa Famine Appeal' raised £80.00. The charity writes expressing their gratitude to all those who contributed, stating: *'Your gift will be put into action by our partners on the ground in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and the surrounding region, helping to improve conditions and prospects for families that are facing extreme food shortages. The United Nations have stated that there is a threat of an unprecedented level of hunger across the region. The magnitude of need is enormous: In South Sudan alone, 100,000 people are facing famine in the northern-central part of the country and a further 1 million are classified as being on the brink of famine.'*

All We Can is responding to these dire circumstances in South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen in alliance with experienced humanitarian aid partners in the country. The focus of this response is meeting urgent nutritional needs, especially for the most vulnerable such as children under five and women in rural areas where land can no longer be farmed. Moreover, thanks to your gift, we are now exploring how we can support our partners in Ethiopia and Burundi, where there is also widespread food insecurity. So thank you again for taking action and offering your support to families when they need it most in such urgent circumstances.

Marilyn Dore

God of life,
we pray for all who are stuck in
refugee camps.
May they find the strength and hope
they need,
may they be granted compassion and
safe passage,
may they find a safe place to call
home.



Amen.

Spring Clean

A big thank you to all who turned up to help with the Spring Cleaning and maintenance, over three weeks! Many hands did indeed make light work, and a lot was achieved. There was extraordinary cleaning done, as well as gardening, painting, (including the side gate for those who hadn't noticed!) cupboards and sheds cleared out and doors 'fixed'!



And though I don't want to list our helpers for fear of missing someone, suffice it to say that one of the painters was a member of the youth group!

Chris Palmer