

Services for October

- 1st 11.00am Prof. Dave Matthews
Harvest Festival
- 8th 10.00am Revd. Ann Henman
Holy Communion
Junior Church
- 8th 6.00pm Revd. David Williams
United Service at St Mary's
- 15th 10.00am Aylesbury Creativity Group
Junior Church
- 22nd 10.00am Mr Terry Stewart
- 29th 10.00am Mr Ken Harris



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

Princes Risborough

Methodist Church

'The Messenger' *October 2017*



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

Princes Risborough Methodist Church

Wycombe Road

Princes Risborough

Buckinghamshire

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Material for the October Messenger to the Editor
by Sunday 12th November at the latest please.

Please note the next Messenger will be edited by Peter Willetts
pandbw@waitrose.com

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 October

	Duty Stewards	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
1 st	Mrs C Palmer	Mrs M Stevens & Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens Mrs J Gerrard	Harvest
8 th am 8 th pm	Mr M Pullen	Mrs T Shepherd Mr J Needham	Mrs T Shepherd Mr J Needham Mrs M Judd	Miss P Scott
15 th	Miss M Dore	Trout family	Mrs & Mrs N Trout	Mrs S Wilson
22 nd	Mrs M Judd	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake & Mrs C Palmer	Mrs S Hunnisett
29 th	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mrs M Stevens

Weekend	Flowers	Grass Cutting	Cleaning
31/1	Miss P Scott	Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens
7/8	Mrs D Robbins	Mr J Needham	Miss P Scott
14/15	Mrs W Carter	Mr G Hudson	Mrs B Hudson
21/22	Mrs B Oates	Mr N Trout	Mrs K Trout
28/29	Mrs M Stevens	Mr C McMullan	Mrs F 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 them 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 October

30 th September:	Church open for Harvest gifts
1 st October:	Harvest Lunch
2 nd October:	Silent Prayer at St Dunstan's
3 rd October:	Church Forum 8pm
8 th October:	Fairtrade Stall
5 th October:	Christian Aid Lunch
5 th October:	SALT
7 th October:	Wesley Afternoon 2pm—4.30pm Haddenham Methodists
8 th October:	Deadline for November Messenger
8 th October:	Joint evening service
8 th October:	Prisons Sunday
13 th October:	Mercy Ships Concert
14 th October:	'Book Fest' 10.30am – 4pm Stone Methodist Church
14 th October:	Action For Children Quiz—AMC 7.00pm
15 th October:	Later
17 th October:	Tuesday Fellowship
19 th October:	SALT
22 nd October:	Deadline for Shoeboxes
28 th October:	Ellesborough Band 7.30pm Fairford Leys (for Karibuni)

Future Dates

12 th November:	Joint Service
19 th November:	"Carmina Burana" PR Music Soc—Wycombe Swan
24 th November:	Barn Dance Chinnor V Hall £7.50 7.30pm—10.30pm
17 th January 2018:	Pastoral Committee
May 2018:	Circuit Holiday

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

Maureen Judd

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

From the Manse ...



Dear Friends

I was approached the other day by a Market Researcher who wanted to talk to me all about supermarkets. One of the questions was about advertisements and I remembered the Co-op tag line:-

"We go further so you don't have to" That got me thinking.

I used to know someone who regularly sold items on eBay. They bought stuff from Woolworths and immediately sold it on eBay for more money than they paid for it – it's the *"we go further so you don't have to"* principle – people were willing to pay more for the privilege of having their shopping sent to them. In our affluence, we are becoming a lazy nation, willing to pay someone else to do it for us.

Then I think of how that might apply in our spiritual lives. There are two applications of this law as I see it. Firstly we are forgiven people. We live in the shadow of the cross – that is to say that we live because Jesus died for us, for the forgiveness of our sins – we live because he went further so we don't have to!! Our relationship with God is repaired through Jesus and we can come to him as we are.

However, there is a second part to this, which is, that even though Jesus *"went further so we don't have to"*, we cannot sit back and wait for God to come to us. We cannot pay someone else to do it for us, we have to have a RELATIONSHIP with Jesus not just a passing interest. It is not possible to use our affluence in this case. Jesus calls us to follow him not watch him, to have a deeper relationship with him. So how can we do that?

This Saturday at Synod, we learned about Holy Habits. There are 10 Holy Habits from Acts 2 in verses 42-47

Biblical Teaching	Service
Prayer	Fellowship
Making More Disciples	Breaking of Bread
Gladness and Generosity	Worship
Eating Together	Sharing Resources

Perhaps October could be for you the month of Holy Habits – try them and let me know. If you're stuck there are many resources on the internet at <http://www.holyhabits.co.uk/>.

Yours in Christ – Keith

Church News

Junior Church

The dates for **Junior Church** are 8th (Kathryn Trout & Pam Scott) & 15th **October** (Fran McMullan & Judith Gerrard).

Fran McMullan

Church Forum – Tuesday 3rd October at 8.00pm

The Agenda and Reports will be circulated prior to the meeting. Please try to attend this meeting if you are able.

United Service — with St. Mary's Parish Church and the Baptist Church.

These services are held either in our Church, the Baptist Church or St. Mary's Church. We are grateful to the ministers for leading these services.

The next service will be held on **Sunday 8th October** at St Mary's Church when the preacher will be Revd. David Williams.

Advance Dates:

12th November at the Baptist Church

No United Service in **December**

Tuesday Fellowship

Our August meeting was held in the garden of Vic and Noreen Baker. The weather was very kind to us and we had a very enjoyable afternoon, with some of us even playing badminton on the lawn while others watched on and laughed!! Thank you to Noreen and Vic for their hospitality and a superb tea.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th October at the Church at 2pm when Brenda Willett will talk and show us slides from a recent holiday entitled 'Avignon in History'.

All are welcome to join us.

Pam Scott

Christian Aid

The monthly lunches are held on the first Thursday of the month at 12 noon at the Baptist Upper Hall. It would be lovely to see more people from our church attending.

Margaret Stevens

Family & Elderly Shoebox Appeal 2017

Please see the article on Page 9 of the September Messenger for further information and poster in Church porch. All items need to be with Pam by **22nd October at the latest.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Pam Scott

Mercy Ships Concert

This special event on 7th October at the Elim Church is now sold out.

Pound Coins

Chris Palmer reminds us that the 'Old' Pound Coin will no longer be accepted by the banks after Friday 13th October. Beat the deadline by putting your pound coins in the collection box next Sunday!

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.

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.

Marilyn Dore

Thank you from the Editor



I am grateful to Neville & Kathryn Trout for agreeing to edit this Messenger.

I'll be back editing the November edition, and then the Trouts will take over again to produce the combined December 2017/ January 2018 edition. I have been around this month to send on items that I have received, but it will be important to send items for the combined Messenger directly to Neville and Kathryn, as I won't be in a position to check my emails then; many thanks.

We continue to be grateful to Marilyn Dore and Margaret Stevens for their proof-reading skills, however, as always, us editors take full responsibility for any errors that you, the readers, find.

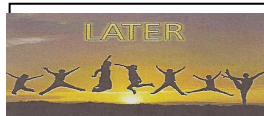
I hope you enjoy and value reading this month's Messenger.

Peter Willett
Messenger editor

Transport to Church

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

Youth Matters



The Later Group

The Later Group meets at our church on the third Sunday evening of the month. Our next meeting will be on **15th October**.

We welcome a number of 11-17 year olds, with an average of 14 each session. There are various activities including table-football and snooker.

For more information please contact our Minister, Rev. Keith Edwards ulysee798@gmail.com; Rev. James Tomkins (St. Dunstan's Church) james.tomkins@btinternet.com or Fran McMullan chris-fran@live.com

Fran McMullan



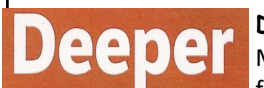
Youth Service for school years 7-13

Meets on 1st Sunday of the month at St Mary's Church from 4-6pm.



Informal Bible Study for school years 10-13

Meets on 2nd Sunday of the month at St Mary's Chapter House from 6-8pm.



Deeper Worship Evening for anyone

Meets on 4th Sunday of the month at St Mary's Church from 6.30-8pm.



Breakout We meet Fridays from 5 - 6.15pm at

Elim Church, during term time, and have games, craft, lego, puzzles as well as watching an episode of an exciting DVD called Friends & Heroes, where we watch the adventures of a group of friends who also tell a Bible Story which is part of the theme for that particular week. For dates of the next meeting contact me.

Doline Gadd

dolinegadd@googlemail.com

SALT (Sharing And Learning Together)

SALT Group will meet at 7.30 pm on October 5th & 19th at the home of Maureen Judd (any changes to venue will be made through the weekly notices) for Bible Study, discussion and Fellowship. If you are interested in joining the group please contact either Maureen, Victoria Haydon or Joe Needham.

Breakout

The Breakout club for young people on Fridays at the Elim Church will meet this term on:

October 6th & 20th.

November 10th & 24th.

Special Sundays - 8th October

The second Sunday in October is designated Prisons Sunday. It starts a week in which, following an ecumenical initiative started in 1975, Christians are encouraged to think and pray about offenders, prisoners, victims, prison workers and their respective families.

Perhaps as a worshipping and praying community we could use this as a focus for intercessory prayer and contemplation during the week 8th - 14th October?

More information at:

www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/methodist-special-sundays/prisons-sunday

Fairtrade Stall

The stall in September took £53.25. Many thanks to all who contributed by buying the goods.

The stall in October will be after the service on 8th October instead of on the first Sunday in the month. Please support it if you can.

Judith Gerrard

Missions Report

Our Church contributions this year towards Methodist World Mission and Mission in Britain Funds are as follows:

World Mission

Collecting boxes	£125.53
Self Denial	£ 48.75
Donation from Church Funds	£ 130.00
Total	£304.28

Mission in Britain

Collecting boxes	£83.00
Retiring Collection	£81.25
Church Anniversary Lunch	£120.00
Donation from Church Funds	£20.00
Total	£304.25

These amounts have been sent to the Circuit Mission Treasurer. In addition to the figures above, £135 was contributed during the year to the Easter Offering.

Thank you to all those people who have boxes and save regularly and to all who have contributed in any way towards this total. Thank you to the Church Forum for agreeing to contribute £150 from Church Funds towards Missions. Your continued support for Methodist Missions is much appreciated.

Pam Scott

STOP PRESS

Circuit Holiday next May.

We will be staying at the Suncliff Hotel in Bournemouth from Monday 7 until Friday 11 May 2018. The cost of the holiday will be £355 with a supplement of £20 for single rooms.

If you would like more details please

ring: PETE & JANE HONEYBALL on 01844 351096 or 07703 174 656 (Jane)

email: peter.honeyball@btinternet.com

Harvest Festival - 1st October

The arrangements for the service at 11am and the lunch afterwards were in the September Messenger, do contact Judith on 01494 449732 if you want to come to the lunch but haven't signed up yet.



Any profit from the lunch and the sale of fresh harvest goods will go to "All We Can", the Methodist development charity. Gift envelopes for All We Can will be available at church that day too.

All of the dried goods will go to Whitechapel Mission, to be used for their tireless work with homeless people in east London, which includes providing more than 250 cooked breakfasts daily.

The items they most needed at the end of August were: hot chocolate, sugar, coffee, honey, baked beans, plum tomatoes, and biscuits. They also use cereals, porridge, tea, squash, ketchup, tinned meat, fish and fruit, and pot noodles. But you can look on their website, which they update regularly, at www.whitechapel.org.uk to see all the other items they use and what is most needed at the time. Remember that with all these goods it is quantity they require, not top-quality brands.

The church will be open between 2.30 and 3.30pm on Saturday 30th September to receive anything you may want to bring for the display, as well as foliage and flowers; and help with setting up the display would be much appreciated. You can also leave items in the church from Friday onwards.

There will be no retiring collection in October as we will have the Harvest appeals.

Judith Gerrard

God with mammon?

Some of you may be aware of two microfinance initiatives which I support – "Lend with care" and "Shared interest". Some of you may also be supporters. Being involved in the production of the Messenger has stimulated me into a decision to share my enthusiasm for these two organisations with you – one this month and another in the future.

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 ring Kim, our manager, on 01844 34510501. *Maggie Wooster*



Smile

A minister went to preach at a church for the first time and he was pleased to hear that a musical group known as The Inmates from local prison would be singing. When they were announced, the group came forward and sang in a rather pained fashion. After the service, the minister asked the group leader why they used such a name. The reply was, "We are usually behind a few bars and always looking for the key."

"God can't take your call right now"

(One of the most frustrating things about living in today's society is the rampant increase in the use of automatic answering machines which click in when we try to seek help from an organisation. Have you every thought what it would be like if they used one in heaven!)

"Thank you for calling heaven. For English, press 1; for French, press 2; for all other languages, press 3. Now please select one of the following options: Press 1 for a request; press 2 for thanksgiving; press 3 for complaints; press 4 for all others.

I am sorry, all our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it as soon as possible. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to: God, press 1; Jesus, press 2; the Holy Spirit, press 3. To find a loved one that has been assigned to heaven press 5, then enter the personal number, followed by the # key. If you receive a negative response, please hang up and try again later.

For reservations in heaven, please say the word JOHN followed by the numbers 316. For answers to particularly difficult questions, please wait until you arrive in heaven."

I'm sorry, the office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Our computers show that you have already been prayed for today, so please hang up and call again on Monday. If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local clergy.

Thank you and have a heavenly day.

Contributed by Barbara Oates

Princes Centre Update

Earlier this year Maggie Wooster reported on the visit to the Princes Centre by Mrs C R Soames, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire. We are now delighted to thank her for her assistance, which has resulted in us receiving a major and very welcome grant from the Rothschild Foundation. When we have received planning permission, this will be used to make progress with the first stage of the work to the Lower Hall, which entails the re-structuring of the outer porch area to provide easier access for clients with disabilities.



The upgrading of the last two toilets in the Upper Hall area is about to start as the dampness affecting the walls appears to have dried out. A large store cupboard for all the requisite items to maintain these facilities is planned and will be constructed shortly.

We recently had a visit from Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher who was very impressed with everything that had been achieved at the centre in the last 5 years. We cannot take all the credit for that – it is also due to all the wonderful support we have received from our local community. We plan to acknowledge our major donors, supporting organisations and individuals on our web site, along with the names of people for whom others have contributed in their memory, in due course.

We are thrilled with the news that we have won the One4All Spotlight Award for Team of the Year and have been informed that we will be automatically entered into the National Finals of the SME Awards at Wembley.

We are grateful for recent donations from Lloyd Latchford, Banjovi Revival CD sales, the Bell Public House from their Bell Fest weekend and from the Whitecross Line Dancing Group. We would also like to acknowledge the other generous donations we have received from individuals which are most welcome. We have also been notified that a local resident, who recently passed away, has generously bequeathed money to a number of local and national charities including ours, in his will. It will be a while before we benefit but the altruism of this person is most inspiring.

The trustees of the Princes Centre are holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 23rd November at 18.30 in the Princes Centre and if you would like to join us that evening, you are most welcome. As an advance note for your diary, there will be a Christmas Quiz held on December 8th at 6.30 pm.

I also want to challenge the congregation to think about whether we want to be involved as a church – perhaps an item at the October or a future church forum? “Lend with care” is an initiative which provides low value loans to entrepreneurs in the developing world. In essence it is a form of “crowd funding” where the reach of the internet is harnessed to bring together those who have funds to loan and those whose business plan is assessed as viable and who need a loan. The minimum loan is £15 and the “investor” chooses which entrepreneur to allocate their funds to. They are helped in their decision through the availability of basic information such as the entrepreneur’s country, profile, activity (farmer, shopkeeper, mechanic), the amount they are seeking and the amount left to reach full funding.

The investor receives no interest or dividend but is repaid (subject to the borrower’s ability to pay) in accordance with a schedule. They can then allocate their money in another loan to another person.

To me this is a way of helping others who are actively seeking to improve their lives. Often the entrepreneurs are looking to improve their lot to help educate their children or in some cases to help care for orphans or the wider family. The organisation keeps a tally of your loans and estimates the impact of the loan in terms of people helped and jobs created. You might approach these estimates with some scepticism, and the idea might not be for you or suit your situation, but if this has caused you pause for thought and you have access to the internet, further information can be found at: www.lendwithcare.org/info/how_it_works

Some parting thoughts - there is a group investment facility where like-minded investors can get together and act together. I see that there are a number of churches that have created groups and invested – should we consider doing something similar? Could we think about taking advantage of something like “Lend with care” (I’m sure that there are other similar schemes and we don’t need to restrict ourselves) and putting some of our church finances to work directly in the developing world?

Taking up Keith’s message about change and ploughs not working backwards – dare we build on the past history of Methodist social involvement but be different about how we display it in the future? Finally, can I invite you to tell us through the pages of the Messenger, about initiatives / schemes which you support. Peter Willett waits to hear from you for the November issue.

Neville Trout



The Mission to Seafarers

Caring for seafarers around the world

Pause for reflection

Some people find the night lonely and bleak – those working on their own, those struggling with illness, perhaps those who suffer from insomnia or who are wrestling with anxiety and worry. For them, the dawn can bring renewed hope. Perhaps, like me, the verse from Psalm 30 springs to mind “Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning”.

A rabbi asked his pupils who they know when the day had started. One of them answered “It’s when you can see two trees on the horizon and tell which is a fig tree and which is a sycamore tree.” Another had a different response. “it’s when you can see two animals on the horizon and tell which is a sheep and which is a goat.” “No” said the Rabbi “its is when you look into the face of another human being and see in that face a brother or sister – then you know that the night has ended and the dawn has come.”

It is a profound story. If there is one thing that we always need to sustain, it is hope. In some circumstances, it is easy to let hope die, particularly if life seems to have turned against us and we appear to have lost control over the future. Life can seem very black indeed, but in the Bible, we find the ultimate story of hope.

The Bible never suggests life will be easy. It does, however, speak of a God with whom there is always a hope and a future, although we may not know the form in which that will come. The way God often chooses to bring hope is in the way we treat each other. When you have felt without hope, it is often the kindness and compassion of another person that has opened up the possibility of a better future. All of us know that feeling.

Christians are called to be hopeful people. Surely the place to start bringing life to others is by seeing in every face we meet a brother or sister and treating them as such. That begins in our homes and on our ships. I have been on many ships where I have seen life transformed by the kindness of crews members to each other. That is when life and hope can begin. It is when you look into the face of another human being and see in that face a brother or a sister – then you know that the night has ended and the dawn has come.

*Revd Canon Andrew Wright, Secretary General – The Mission to Seafarers
(Reproduced from Flying Angel News, by permission)*



Historic Churches Ride and Stride - 9th Sept 2017

This is an annual event to raise money which is split 50% between our church, in my case, with the remaining half going to the Bucks Historic Churches Trust. The money is raised by sponsoring people to visit as many churches in the course of the day as they can, either cycling, walking or on horse back.

I took part in the event, but being a wimp I checked the weather a week before and found that both Friday and Saturday were going to be wet, but Thursday would be dry and not too windy; so I decided to do the ride on Thursday.

Thursday weather was as forecast, quite amazing! and with a friend we opted to visit churches in the Cotswolds. We started at Steeple Aston and went west to Charlbury. En route we found one of the roads was gated and, most unusually, there were about 6 gates in total, which we had to open and close. One of these sections the cows and sheep had decided to use the road as their toilet and the bike got covered in muck which I had to stop and clean off!

After a further few miles we found a lovely café so had to stop for tea and cake (obligatory!) Then it was on with the cycling, visiting Ascott under Wychwood, Leafield and Stonesfield where we considered our route back through Woodstock. Regrettably we made a slight error and found ourselves north of Woodstock on the main A44 road. We decided against cycling on this road and instead returned through Rousham to our starting point.

It had been a very pleasant ride through the beautiful Cotswolds and we had visited 25 churches and cycled 42 miles and climbed in total height nearly the height of Snowdon from sea level.

I raised a total of **£220.00** and would like to thank all who sponsored me.

Mike Pullen