

STOKE MANDEVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

*FLOWER FESTIVAL AND CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
May 24th & 25th 2008*

It is a pleasure to report on the hugely successful Flower Festival which was held as part of the Church's celebration of 50 years since the foundation stone of our building in Eskdale Road was laid.

Representatives from Circuit Churches were invited to take part and were given a hymn to work with. They developed the theme of the hymn and designed the most beautiful floral arrangements to add to our own.

The celebration continued on Sunday, 25th with our Anniversary Services. The evening service was a Circuit Service led by our Minister, the Rev. David Jenkins.

David suggested that we should remember with affection all the events in the life of the Church over the past 50 years, that we should not worry unduly about the future but rather deal with the here and now by moving on with optimism.

It was great to see a full church with people from all parts of the Circuit and St. Mary's Parish Church, that optimism is certainly fuelled by the demonstration of support from the Circuit for which we thank all who worked so tirelessly and expertly to make this weekend so memorable.



Arrangements by the Stoke Mandeville team reflecting this Golden Anniversary

This beautiful arrangement just below the pulpit was also designed by the SMMC Team



The ANNIVERSARY CAKE



The cake was made by Mrs Ruth Watkins and enjoyed by many after the Evening Service



St. Mary's Parish Church

visitors to the Chapel on the Saturday and Sunday were greeted in the entrance lobby by an arrangement from **St. Mary's Parish Church** illustrating 'He's got the whole world in His hand '



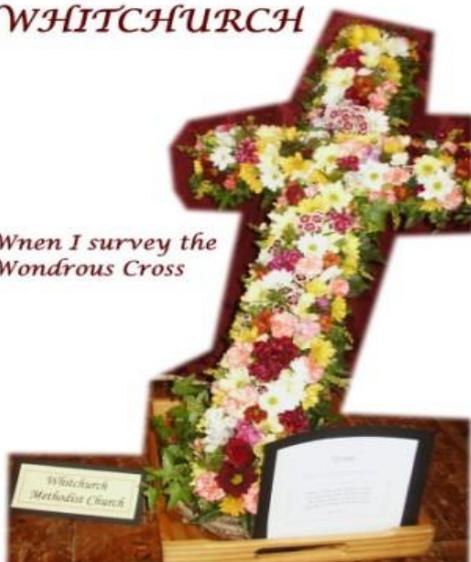
NORTH MARSTON

Tell me the stories of Jesus.

Moving into the Chapel and across the back, the stage was decorated by a number of arrangements the first being by **North Marston** depicting the hymn 'Tell me the stories of Jesus '

WHITCHURCH

When I survey the Wondrous Cross



Whitchurch Methodist Church

Next was the contribution from **Whitchurch** on the theme of 'when I survey the Wondrous Cross '



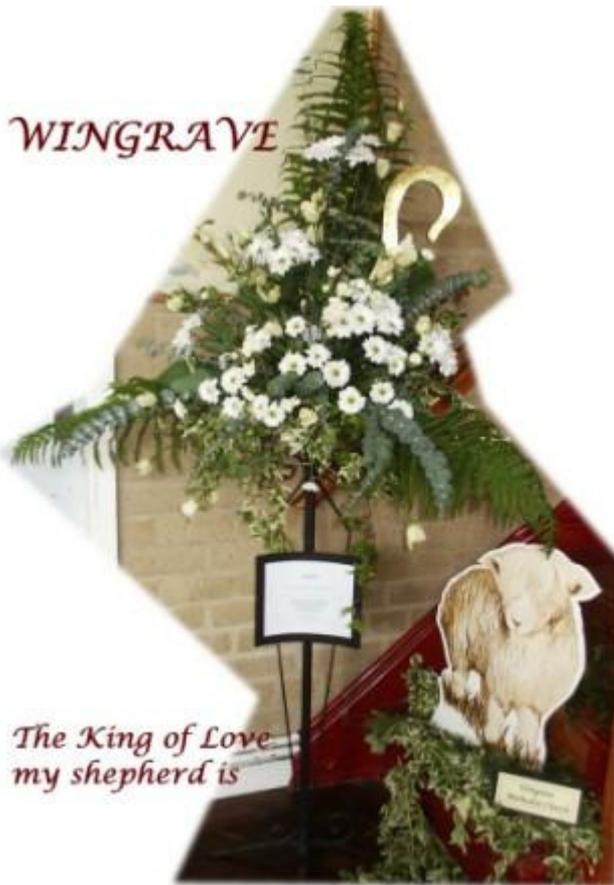
The **Swanbourne** creation on the theme of 'Eternal Father, strong to save' made a striking centre piece for the stage display.



It was appropriate that the arrangement from **Stone** had it's feet firmly on terra firma with a depiction of the popular modern hymn 'One more step along the world I go'



The final presentation on the stage was from **Stoke Hammond** illustrating the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful'



A freestanding display at the foot of the stage steps had been designed by **wingrave** on the theme of 'The King of Love my Shepherd is'

Moving on round the Chapel the visitor found the window - ledge displays



STEWKLEY WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS AND SCATTER.

stewkley provided an imaginative display involving flower arrangements accompanied by farm yard models to depict 'we plough the fields and scatter'



WADDESDON Onward Christian soldiers.

The far centre window ledge was filled with the **waddesdon** display on the theme of '**Onward christian soldiers**'



There could be no other theme for the **Stoke Mandeville** arrangement but '**The church's one foundation**'

Moving across the front of the Chapel visitors could admire the wonderful display shown on the front page and resist the temptation of the Anniversary cake before they came to the next displays from Circuit Churches



The display by **Cheddington** on the hymn 'For the beauty of the Earth'

CHEDDINGTON FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH.



PRINCES RISBOROUGH Think of a world without any flowers

The arrangement from **Princes Risborough** on the theme of the modern hymn 'Think of a world without any flowers'



***AYLESBURY** As the bridegroom to his chosen*

Last but not least was the arrangement from **Aylesbury** on the theme of a little known hymn 'As the Bridegroom to his Chosen'

We are indebted to Yvonne Keep who did much of the organising, to Charles Gibbs who chose the themes and with Yvonne was responsible for the SMMC flower arrangements, and to all the artists from around the Circuit for the time and effort put into the design and creation of all these magnificent displays which helped to make the weekend so memorable.

Yvonne also prepared the exhibition of photographs and other memorabilia, set out in the Guild Room, which was enjoyed by so many visitors and members.