

# ***VALE OF AYLESBURY***

## **METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **MAGAZINE**



Whitchurch Family Meal– Cover story Page 8

**January, February,  
March  
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

*Cuddington and Haddenham until Feb 29. 2016.*

**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** minister@rwm32.plus.com

(from 1st. March 2016) With Pastoral care of Thame

(Christchurch) LEP, Chinnor, Cuddington and Haddenham

**Rev Stephen Watts**, (Supernumerary) 01296 747892

Mobile: 07887481225 revswatts@btopenworld.com

With Pastoral care of *Thame (Christchurch) LEP and Chinnor  
until Feb 29. 2016.*

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



## LETTER TO THE CIRCUIT

**Rev Helen Kirk**

I recently showed a group of schoolchildren around one of our circuit churches. At the end of the 'tour' the children asked me all the usual questions - pointing at fixtures and fittings they asked what various things were for; pointing at my neck they asked why I wore a 'dog collar' (the name is usually enough to cause fits of giggles at the thought of an adult wearing a canine accessory!) But the best question came from a boy who simply asked 'Why is the church here?' Why indeed! There are reasons that relate to the history of Methodism; others that concern the prominent local families who built that particular chapel but there is a far more fundamental question for all churches. Why are we here? What purpose does the church serve in the villages and towns where our buildings reside?

The church is far more than any building; the church is first and foremost a community; a community of faith who seek in worship to recognise the presence of God in all things and to follow the teachings of Jesus. Therefore we are far more than a social club; we are about hope and love, tolerance and forgiveness, justice, reconciliation and peace. We are a community who celebrates life and birth and new beginnings as we meet together around a table to share food whether it be tea & cake; soup & sandwiches; bread & wine.

But because we have as our model a love that is eternal we are a community that is not afraid to deal with the big issues of life; to talk of pain and fear; death and suffering as we know One whose presence is constant. And in these ways we link the past to the present and offer hope for the future. We are a transformative community that seeks to subvert all that holds and binds human beings bringing release and freedom; a community willing to sacrifice itself for the love of others for that is what Jesus did.

What is the church here for? It is here for you whether you come in need or joy; whether you believe or don't; the church is that community that exists without for anyone who does not yet belong. Is that true for us?

**Prayer:**

Come as living stones, the thumb print of the mason on each heart.

Come as living stones, the imprint of the maker on each soul.

Come as loving stones, the honing of life's suffering on each mind.

Come to be made into a house, a community of God's purpose, a place of habitation and welcome, a place to come to and a place to go from. (*Kate McIlhagga*)

## **Mission Shaped Intro Course**

New world, new church? Our world and lives change at an ever faster pace, but how does the church respond to this change?

MSi is a 6 session course that uses creative activities, film clips, presentations and discussions to help us rediscover our mission and re-imagine our churches.

The course will take place at Christchurch Thame 7.30 -9.30pm on the following evenings:

Session 1: 15<sup>th</sup> February – rediscovering mission and what that means for the church

Session 2: 21<sup>st</sup> March – changing world, changing church

Session 3: 18<sup>th</sup> April – re-imagining church: community

Session 4: 16<sup>th</sup> May – re-imagining church: worship

Session 5: 20<sup>th</sup> June – re-imagining church: discipleship

Session 6: 18<sup>th</sup> July – where do we go from here?

All are welcome. Please contact Rev Helen Kirk for more details [revhelenkirk@sky.com](mailto:revhelenkirk@sky.com) 01296 488963

## **Ministerial changes**

We are pleased to announce that from 1 March Rev Romilly Micklem will be joining the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit as minister of Christchurch Thame, Chinnor, Haddenham & Cuddington.



Rev Dr. Romilly Micklem

I am very much looking forward to ministry at Christchurch Thame, Cuddington, Haddenham and Chinnor, and also to working alongside new colleagues in the Aylesbury Circuit. There are still a couple of months to go before I start, however—and in our more immediate future, Bridget and I look forward with less excitement to the prospect of de-cluttering and packing up our home of 24½ years in preparation for the big move from our house in Hampton. We are not quite sure whether to be grateful that our two sons (early and mid-20's) are currently away from home...

Looking back over times past makes me realise that the autumn of 2015 marks the point where I have spent half my working life – sixteen years – in secular employment, and the other half either training to be a minister or in unpaid and stipendiary ministry in the United Reformed Church. Back in 1999 I left my senior post at UBS Warburg in the City of London and started ordination training alongside Methodists and Anglicans in the Cambridge Theological Federation.

Having completed training in 2003, I worked as an unpaid assistant in ministry at Kingston URC while I studied part-time for my PhD.

In 2009 I was called to my current pastorate at St Andrew's Walton-on-Thames, where the congregation was very understanding and supportive in allowing their new minister extra study time to complete the doctorate, which I did in 2010. Since then, my focus has been on practical rather than academic ministry—although I do maintain a research interest in the history of traditions which lie behind the United Reformed Church.

The earlier part of my life was also grounded in the URC: I am a son of the manse, as was my father before me; there are ministers on Bridget's side of the family as well. But I trained initially as a modern linguist and went on to work in the professional services sector, ending up leading IT projects and change management programmes in the UK, Europe and North America.

I have been asked to say something about future plans. My first priority is to listen and learn, as I get to know the people and the situations of the congregations—and to understand their hopes, their aspirations and their needs, as we all seek to discern Christ's kingdom purpose for us and witness to his truth and love.

Romilly Micklem

## **New Circuit Meeting Secretary**

Peter Honeyball will have completed 6 years' service as Circuit Secretary in 2016 and will be retiring from that office. A new Secretary will be required.

If you are interested please contact Rev Helen Kirk on 01296 488963 or revhelenkirk@sky.com

## **COVER PICTURE STORY**

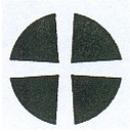
Harvest was celebrated with a superb family service taken by the Rev Keith Edwards, at Whitchurch this year, and following its success last year, generations joined together for a fabulous three course dinner, beautifully executed by Mrs Cheryl Foulger-Alderman.

It was so successful in fact, that a date was set for a Christmas supper.....a nod to the fellowship of our lovely chapel from years gone by.

## **Ministers' Rest Days:**

- Rev Helen Kirk - Friday
- Rev Irena Byron - Monday
- Rev Keith Edwards - Wednesday
- Rev Anthony Howells - Friday
- Rev Romilly Micklem - Monday

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



*Vale of Aylesbury  
Methodist Circuit*

# **THE CRUCIFIXION**

by

**JOHN STAINER**



**An act of worship for Congregation and Choir  
depicting the events leading up to  
Christ's death upon the cross.**

**Presented by the Circuit Choir together with  
the Choir of Tring Parish Church and friends  
from other local churches and choirs under  
the direction of Cliff Brown**

**Led by the Rev Helen Kirk**

**Aylesbury Methodist Church**

**Sunday 13th March 2016 @ 6.00 pm**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**If you would like to participate as a member of the Circuit Choir for this  
event, please contact Brenda Horne **01296 428580****

# CHINNOR METHODIST CHURCH NEEDS YOU

## ADOPT-A-BRICK

Chinnor Methodist Church has made good progress with fund-raising for the refurbishment of the chapel. We have so far reached a total of £132,000 towards our target of £215,000. Now we need your help to push this on to the next stage.

We estimate that we will need 1760 bricks to build the re-designed entrance hall and we are proposing an “adopt-a-brick” scheme. We suggest that each brick should cost £10. There is no upper limit on the number of bricks any individual may wish to adopt.

We can accept cash or cheques, made payable to Chinnor Methodist Church. Cheques and cash can be left with our Treasurer, Cathy Whiteway, (4 Oakley Road, Chinnor, OX39 4HZ) or with either of the Stewards (Anne Marie Lord or Rod Thorpe). If anyone would like to pay by bank transfer, then the account details are as follows:

Account name: Chinnor Methodist Church

Sort Code: 72-00-01

Account number: 57448304

Please use a reference made up of the donor’s name and the letters AAB.

If the donor is a UK taxpayer, please provide their name and address so we can claim Gift Aid.

It is our intention to create a board to be hung in the chapel listing every contributor.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We look forward to your support.

Pete Honeyball



## Jigsaw Festival

The friends and members of Chinnor Methodist Church have been busy fund raising for much needed refurbishments to the building. The idea of a Jigsaw Festival was something a bit different from the usual concerts and coffee mornings. Before the festival, about 80 1000-piece puzzles were made up and framed or shrink-wrapped for display - like an Art show. A number of Church members and other Chinnor residents spent hours doing this - one lady completed 23! One of the most difficult puzzles was a 3D Big Ben over 1 metre tall which once assembled would not fit into a car and arrived by Camper van. Many preloved and new puzzles were donated to be sold and there was a separate Puzzle room and Children's room with both logic puzzles and normal puzzles to work on, over a cup of tea or coffee and cake. Overall, £780 was raised. Thank you to everyone who was involved.



Thanks and best wishes Liz Thorpe



## **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2016      29 February - 13 March**

The slogan for the fortnight is: Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers!

As Martin Luther King famously said, 'before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'. Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally.

Many are unaware that the people who grow some of our food can't always feed their own families with an effective diet. By using Fairtrade products as part of our breakfast and other meals we can support farmers and workers to put food on the table to help physical and mental development of their families.

### **So what Fairtrade products could you consider for breakfast?**

-Bananas-Coffee- Dried Fruit- Fresh Fruit - Honey- Juices - Nuts/Oil Seeds/Oil - Quinoa (can be used in or as porridge) - Rice (in a Kedgeriee) - Spices- Sugar- Tea.

Some items, such Muesli, are already prepared for you. Also, remember that some UK milk is now sold on the basis the farmer gets a proper price for the product.

## **How much might your Fairtrade breakfast benefit the producer?**

Whatever the price of the product on the shelf, the FAIRTRADE Mark ensures that the producers have received what is agreed as a fairer price, as well as the Fairtrade premium to invest in the future of their communities. The Fairtrade price applies at the point where the producer organisation sells to the next person in the supply chain (usually an exporter or importer). It is not calculated as a proportion of the final retail price, which is negotiated between the product manufacturer and the retailer. Therefore regardless of what you pay, the producer is assured a fair price plus a premium, the difference is shared by the others involved in the supply and distribution chain.

## **What can you do?**

Try to buy and Buy to try FAIRTRADE Products. (Watch out for the FAIRTRADE symbol)

Ask others if they use FAIRTRADE products and if they will give you a portion to try.

In addition to a taste good experience you should also be entitled to have a feel good experience knowing that your breakfast habit is doing more good than just to you.

If you wish to explore more visit [www.Fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.Fairtrade.org.uk) or [contact Rod Thorpe](#)



Rev. Jill Marsh  
Director of Mission  
Northampton Methodist District

Dear Colleagues,

As requested I've written a bit that could be included in a church or circuit newsletter... about our Marriage and Relationships conversations.

"This year's Conference asked the Methodist people to come together prayerfully for conversations about whether or not we should re-visit our current understanding of what marriage is. In this district we have organized occasions at which people are invited to gather together to talk about this question and to bring your views and experiences to share.

Why do I care, as Director of Mission, about these Marriage and Relationships conversations?

Firstly because relationships matter hugely: we all have relationships, all our relationships make a difference to us, we all have different relationships (even when they are with the same people) and I believe God cares about how we relate to each other. Secondly because I want us all to feel confident in our care for others, whatever relationships they are in, and I believe we will get more confident as we talk with one another. Our mission is only really effective if we can reflect God's love as clearly as possible, whatever the family context.

So far we have held three of our District Gatherings and the facilitators have been impressed by the honesty of views and the kindly way that people helped each other to express what we feel and believe about the important question of what marriage is today. So the feedback process has begun!

There are materials for you to use with house-groups, or youth groups, or among your own family and friends. Please be in touch if you would like them... or lots of them can be found on the Methodist Church in Britain website. If you'd like to attend such a gathering for conversation the next nearest ones are shown in the advert below

The sessions begin with prayer and a reminder that the current Methodist definition of marriage is that it is 'a life-long union, in body, mind and soul, of one man and one woman'. During the session we will talk about how the Bible is important and how we interpret what it means for today. We will talk about the changing types of family life, nearly all combinations of which are likely to be present within the outreach of your circuit's work. We will discuss, together, about what the opportunities and also the challenges might be if we decided to re-visit the Methodist Church's definition of marriage.

This is what we are being asked to consider prayerfully...

Do we think we should re-visit our definition of marriage in the light of the changes around us, or not?

How might this decision impact on our pastoral work and on our missional work?

If you are not able to come to a gathering see if you can talk with somebody who has been able to come along. You might like to organize more conversations locally. All feedback will be welcome.

If you are unable to come to any of the gatherings but have comments or questions that you'd like to feed back to the Connexional team then you should please contact me at;

Rev. Jill Marsh

Director of Mission

Northampton Methodist District

52, Adderley Road, Leicester, LE2 1WB

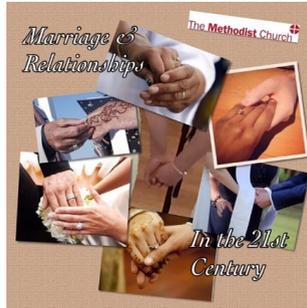
07745 020597 [jill.marsh@methodist.org.uk](mailto:jill.marsh@methodist.org.uk)

Thanks, Jill Marsh

/over

# The **Methodist** Church

## Northampton Methodist District Marriage and Relationships in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



Join the conversation honestly, prayerfully and graciously at a Methodist Church near you or travel a little further to find a date and time that works for you.

**Questions we will look at together include:**

- *Is there a 'norm' now for patterns of family life?*
- *How should the Methodist Church respond to changes in society?*
- *Do you think you know what others within your Church think about all this?*
- *How can we live with difference within the Church?*
- *What challenges and opportunities are there for our mission*

Day	Date	Month	Time	Circuit	Church	Address
Tue	8th	Dec	7.30pm	Banbury	Marlboro Rd MC	Marlborough Road Methodist Church, Banbury, OX16 5BZ
Wed	20 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	7.30 pm	Amersham	St. John's	60, Woodside Road, Amersham, HP6 6AN

## ***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



## The Women's World Day of Prayer

is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

Through World Day of Prayer, women around the world affirm their faith in Jesus Christ, share their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs, affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world.

**It is a movement symbolised by an annual day of celebration on the first Friday of March every year.**

**The Service for the Day of Prayer for 2016** has been written by the **Christian women of Cuba** on the theme entitled **“Receive Children, Receive Me“**

Full resources can be found at: [www.wwdp.org.uk/resources/](http://www.wwdp.org.uk/resources/) or by writing to or phoning:

Women's World Day of Prayer Commercial Road Tunbridge Wells Kent, TN1 2RR Tel. 01892 541411 Email: [office@wwdp.org.uk](mailto:office@wwdp.org.uk)

There are usually over 12 Services in our area; those already arranged are shown in the table opposite.

**DESPITE THE NAME EVERYONE IRRESPECTIVE OF AGE OR GENDER IS VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE SERVICES.**

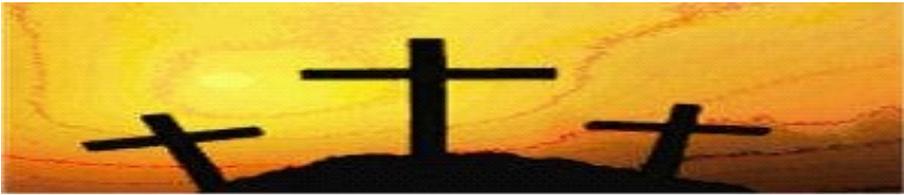
For the latest information please see the Circuit Website

# Women's World Day of Prayer

**FRIDAY MARCH 4th 2016**

**Services within the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be held at the following churches:**

CHURCH	TIME	
Aylesbury Holy Trinity Church Fairford Leys Church	1.30 pm. 7.30 pm .	
Chinnor Community Church in High St.	10.30 am. 7.30 pm.	Refreshments will be served after both of these meetings
Haddenham Roman Catholic Church	7.30 pm.	
North Marston	2.00 pm.	At Waddesdon
Princes Risborough	TBA	
Stewkley	10.30 am.	
Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church	2.00 pm.	
Stone	2.00 pm	
Swanbourne Meth- odist Church	7.30 pm.	
Thame	TBA in January	See Circuit Website for up- dates
Waddesdon Methodist Church	2.00 pm.	
Weedon	TBA	
Wingrave	TBA	



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Church	Other Days	Good Friday
Aylesbury	Maundy Thursday 7.30 pm Com-munion Service	10.00 am Service
Chinnor	The Christian communities of the village parade a Cross around the village on Good Friday morning. With readings, songs and drama taking place at intervals along the route, then to Chinnor Hill. The walk starts at the lych-gate of St Andrews Church. A short sunrise service takes place on the hill on Easter Sunday during which the Cross is taken down. Full details TBA in the New Year on the Circuit Website.	
Cheddington		9.15am. Raising the cross outside the chapel. Followed by All age Wor-ship at 10.30am at St Giles.
Haddenham	Sunrise service, Easter Day, held in St. Mary's School grounds. Time TBA.	10.15 am Walk of Witness from Townside Green to St. Mary's Church for service at 11.am
North Marston	Some service every day. See Circuit website for details	

<b>Church</b>	<b>Other Days</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
Princes Risborough	Maundy Thursday: Communion 8.00 pm	10.00 am at Baptist Church 11.00 am Witness Walk
Stewkley		Meditation at 7.30 pm
Stoke Mandeville		11.50am. Walk of Witness from SMMC to St. Mary's followed by service at 12.00 noon
Stone		10.00 am Witness walk from school gates  11.0 am Family Service at Chapel
Thame (Christchurch)	TBA when new minister arrives	TBA when new minister arrives
Weedon		At Whitchurch
Whitchurch		9.30 am service
Wingrave		TBA

**Further details will be announced on the New Circuit Website in the New Year:**

## **LEARNING AND GROWING**

### **Aylesbury**

- J Team (Sunday School) Sundays 10.30am  
Contact Mrs. Vivienne Kemp 01296 399315
- Girls Brigade Mondays 5.30-7.30pm  
Contact Mrs. Linda Gill 01296 429218
- Banner Group Tuesdays 2.00pm-4.00pm  
Contact Mrs. Brenda Horne 01296 428580
- Tuesday Fellowship 1<sup>st</sup> & 3rd Tuesdays 2.30-3.45pm  
Contact Mrs. Pearl Riley 01296 483547
- Boys Brigade Tuesdays 6-9pm  
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 - 8.00pm (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 7-9pm (fortnightly) Friday Night Club (all ages) -  
Table Tennis, Scrabble, Pizza etc.

#### **Monthly:**

- Exploring Faith. Monday 8.00- 9.30pm

#### **Ecumenical Groups/ Activities:**

#### **Fortnightly:**

- Mothers Bible Study- 10-12am Tues or Weds. morning  
for mums
- Mums prayer group: Friday 9-9.30am - for those attending  
St Andrew's School
- Ignite - Sunday 7.30-9.00pm - for 14yr olds to explore faith  
and life issues

## **Haddenham**

### **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 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the church at 2.00pm for a time of Fellowship together with a varied programme, followed by a cup of tea and chat, everyone is welcome to join us at these meetings."

.—see the **Circuit Website** for details of these meetings

## **Stoke Mandeville**

### **Fortnightly:**

The Open Fellowship meets at 2.30 pm. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays in most months.

## **Stone**

### **Monthly:**

The Fourth Tuesday Fellowship meets at 2.30pm

Contact Mrs. Sue Spinks 01296 748369

## **Weedon**

**Monthly:** Monday Bible Study Group



## VALE OF AYLESBURY CIRCUIT HOLIDAY 2016

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

You are invited to join Rev Helen Kirk for our 2016 holiday to Devon and the English Riviera. We will be staying at the delightful **De La Mer Hotel in Babbacombe**. It is a privately-run hotel and we will be the only guests there so we will have the run of the place!

It is just a very short flat walk to see the amazing views from the Babbacombe Downs overlooking Torbay. The village of St Marychurch, the famous Babbacombe Model Village, the Cliff Railway or Bygones Victorian Museum are an easy 10 minute stroll away. You will be able to visit these during your leisure time on the holiday (entry at your own expense).

Cost of the holiday is **£309.00 per person**. A deposit of £50.00 per person will be required to secure your room, optional insurance is also available at £15.00 pp.

There is a **limited supply of single rooms** available without supplement. They will be allocated on a first come, first served basis as we receive your deposit and booking form (attached with this Itinerary).

All cheque payments are to be written out to: **Traveltime World**.

Also included in the price is Luxury Coach Travel supplied by Plastows Travel of Wheatley. They will supply a modern coach which will be driven by Gordon McCallum. The coach will be equipped with toilet and coffee machine.

Four nights in the hotel

Breakfasts and three-course evening meals

En-suite rooms with TV and tea and coffee-making facilities

No lift in hotel but ground floor rooms available

Bar and Lounge (exclusively for us)

Porterage included

Three included excursions (see Itinerary)

Evenings of fellowship

**PROPOSED ITINERARY:** (subject to change due to weather and operational circumstances)

**Day 1:** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Board our tour coach at your chosen departure point and we will make our way west to Babbacombe. We will make a lunch stop on the way and will arrive at the hotel in plenty of time to freshen-up before dinner.

**Day 2:** Saturday – **Dartmoor** is on the menu today. We will make our first stop at **The House of Marbles** which is always an interesting stop. Continuing on we will travel onto **Dartmoor** and will make our lunch stop atop the Moor in the village of **Princetown**. We will finish our day with a visit to one of the most peaceful places in England, **Buckfast Abbey**.

**Day 3:** Sunday – A relaxing day for you today. If you like you could walk (5 minutes' flat walk) to St Marychurch United Reformed Church for their morning service. Later we will travel to **Brixham**, an atmospheric fishing town where trawling was first practised and established. We return to **Torquay** and you will be able to wander around the marina area or visit the local shops before returning to the hotel.

**Day 4:** Monday – Everybody loves **Sidmouth** so that is our destination today. Beforehand we will pop into the **Donkey Sanctuary** for a short visit. You will have ample time in Sidmouth for lunch and a walk along the Promenade before we return to Babbacombe, travelling the scenic route via Dawlish and Teignmouth.

**Day 5:** Tuesday – I am afraid we are going home today and we certainly will not be hungry, having enjoyed the sumptuous and plentiful hospitality of the De La Mer. We will be making a lunch stop on the way home and will arrive in the local area in the late afternoon.

If you prefer to stay around the hotel instead of joining the coach on the outings that is fine. It is a lovely area to explore and relax, or you could walk part of the South West Coast Path (5 minutes' walk away).

As well as being a relaxing time away, our Circuit Holidays give an opportunity to meet new friends in our extended Circuit. On this holiday we praise God each morning with a short devotional time. For those who choose, we also enjoy fellowship together in the evenings.

**If you would like more details please ring:**

**PETE & JANE HONEYBALL on 01844 351096 OR RING KEN & SYLVIA AUSTIN on 01844 213285.**

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**For Booking Form or see Website**



## WHERE and WHEN TO MEET AROUND THE CIRCUIT



Aylesbury	Mon. To Sat. 10.00 am. to 12 noon	Tea and Coffee
Cheddington	Open Doors—Fridays 10.00 am	Tea, Coffee , Light Refreshments & Fellowship
Fairford Leys	Saturdays 10.30 am. to 12.00 noon	Coffee Morning coffee/tea and biscuits
Haddenham	Tuesdays 10.00 am. to 12.00 noon  10.00 am to 12 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 to 1.30 pm.	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £7
Stoke Hammond	Wednesday 10.30 to 11.45 am	Coffee Morning
Stoke Mandeville	Most Fridays 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Monthly: First Fridays 12-2pm	'POP-IN' for a cup of tea/ coffee and a chat.  Light lunches £2.50
Thame Christchurch	Tuesdays & Fridays 10.00 am. to 12 noon  Tuesdays 2.00pm - 4.00pm	Coffee Mornings  Safari Cafe
Waddesdon	Thursdays 10.00 am -11.30 am Alternate Tuesdays. 11.00am.to 2.00pm.	Coffee Morning  Light lunches

Wingrave	Tuesdays 12 noon to 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
Swanbourne 	Tuesdays 2.00 pm in the Chapel: stories, songs, prayers & nibbles & play	Pram Service will continue—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 p.m. 'Stepping Stones' for young people	A mums & toddler group meeting. With toys, crafts music and snacks. Every- one is welcome.  This offers an open invitation for wor- ship time for <u>all</u> the family. Just turn up, you will be very welcome.

## Calling all Photographers

The Ecumenical Focus group in Chinnor has encouraged the Flower and Produce Show to provide a photography class called 'Reflections'.

The request was made to demonstrate that the church is interested in community events and is interested in community life. Indeed the local Flower Show was primarily a Church-based event when set up 105 years ago.

Entries into the photography class are open to all so if you would like to show off your craft on the theme of 'Reflections' please contact Rod Thorpe for details and the regulations that need to be met.

If interested there are also many other classes for other domestic and artistic crafts. Again details from Rod Thorpe.

### **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**

**E-mail: [office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk](mailto:office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk)**

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

Room bookings can be made through the office (email or phone)

# **NEW CIRCUIT WEBSITE**

**The WORLD'S WINDOW on the CIRCUIT**

[www.aylesburyvale.org.uk](http://www.aylesburyvale.org.uk)

**The fact that we were renewing our CIRCUIT WEBSITE has been reported in the last two Magazines.**

**In December 2015 it became a reality.**

The aim of the website is to interest and inform folk who are unconnected with our churches; it has a secondary purpose of keeping our members and friends informed of what is going on.

As we build the new Circuit Website you have the opportunity to update and expand all the local church pages.

At present there are pictures, address & location, minister's name and contact details & details of a main contact also information about services and in most cases a brief description of the society. Details of activities for some churches have been added. More detail needs to be added in many areas. You could add a potted history of the church with more pictures & more detail of the activities, particularly where these involve other churches and the community & reports on special occasions (with photographs)

If you have a regular magazine or weekly news sheet that is a good starting point which can be published in full or in part. There is a Calendar on which can be put details of regular and special events

The content is only limited by the imagination.

The golden rule should be – **Assume the reader knows nothing about your church.**

**How is this to be achieved?**

The best way is for **someone in each society** to take on the responsibility of **looking at the website, contacting the editorial team or becoming part of the Web Team.**

When changes are required they can be submitted ideally by E-mail but we will endeavour to use the information however it comes to us.

**PLEASE READ, USE, SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEW WEBSITE AS MUCH AS YOU ARE ABLE TO.**

**For more information please contact Roy (see next page)**

**ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE** -- April to June 2016 issue should be forwarded to the following Email addresses

Solomon Awadzi. 4 Plover Walk Aylesbury HP19 0FQ 01296 489384 Email: solokawadzi@hotmail.com Items for the Magazine should be copied to Roy Collis see below

**Magazine items not later than 15th March 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**

The AMC & Circuit Websites have changed but the addresses will remain the same

**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

List of **Web Team** for New Website is still to be compiled - will you be on it?

## **The Circuit Preaching Plan**

In the October to December Magazine I outlined just how our preachers and some Church Officers could help the Plan Making Team to put the plan together by supplying information on the dates they would be available to preach or the special arrangements that needed to be made for individual churches.

All this information could be passed on-line into a set of Planning tools called Chrestos which I had been installing with the help of Then Media, the firm Peter Green had described in the previous Magazine. My task had been to supply information to them so they could build the Data Base which enables the whole thing to work, then to find out how it all worked to produce the Plan that is now available; to try to discover as many of the pitfalls as possible and to pass that knowledge on to those involved to make it as easy as possible for them to make their various contributions.

All that went on during August and September so that the system was tried and tested ready to go in October.

Despite some initial reservations the co-operation for this first use of Chrestos was very good. The deadline for information input was 1st November and the Plan was virtually completed by the evening of the 5th November. There were some amendments necessary but the Plan was ready for printing by the 10th November.

The Plan may not look different but it has been produced with much less effort saving everyone's time.

All who provided their information on time are warmly thanked; we will do better next time round if everyone co-operates. To that end the next Planning Period will open on 1st January 2016—see next page.

Roy Collis

## **Dates to remember**

**Friday 4th March Women's World Day of Prayer.** At various times and locations around the circuit (see table on page 18)

**Sunday 13th March 2016 @ 6.00 pm Circuit Service.**

Aylesbury Methodist Church -The Crucifixion'.  
(see poster P9)

## **Chrestos Planning Tools**

**January 1st** The site will be open for **Preachers** to use their availability page to indicate the Sundays when they are available to preach and for **Nominated Church Officers** to update their church's planning notes to show dates when they have special services or invited preachers.

**Please try to do this in January and not later than the date at the foot of the Plan..**