



The Messenger

March 2016



This magazine comes with the best wishes of Princes
Risborough Methodist Church

Princes Risborough Methodist Church

Wycombe Road, Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire.

Minister : Rev. Keith Edwards

Tel : 01296 423363

Superintendent Minister : Rev. Helen Kirk

Tel:01296 488963

Steward contact : Will Richmond Tel: 01844 342448

Circuit Website: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Magazine Editor : Mrs. Barbara Oates

Tel:01844 344264 e-mail: barbara.oates123@btinternet.com

Sub Editor : Peter Willett e-mail: pandbw@waitrose.com

***Material for the April Messenger to the Editors by Sunday, 13th
March at the latest please.***

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

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

We have a special blue-lidded bin in all of our houses here in Aylesbury as part of the governments recycling scheme. It's one of the ways we can show good stewardship of the world and its resources. Taking the time to sort out our waste and then reuse or recycle it is hard work. It requires time and effort to avoid creating masses of waste.

One of the reasons we recycle in Aylesbury and in fact all over the county is because of the European Packaging Waste Legislation. That is something I am very familiar with from my previous job as Packaging Development Manager in The Body Shop and from my time as manager of a packaging development laboratory in Unilever Research. If a company, County Council or Country don't reach specific recycling targets they are fined. But the sad thing that I discovered when in the industry was that quite often companies were prepared to take the fine. It was easier to pay a fine than to be bothered with the real issue of waste and its effects on the environment.

We are in the season of Lent. Easter is only days away (27th March). I wonder how many of us have spent our time in Lent reflecting on our relationship with Jesus? On how much of our lives is wasted by diversions

and material comforts? Are we good stewards with our lives and our time? Or are we creating masses of waste.

Our society is adept at creating waste in the name of pleasure. Wasted time, wasted money, wasted lives Instead of pursuing the truth's of life, it seems we are content to "pay the fine" and live the life we think we want. It seems easier to pay the fine. But what is the fine for us? It is death!

Jesus came to show us how to live in relationship with God. Easter is the time that we remember how he took our sins, our waste, and died on the cross so that we might be forgiven by God. But not only that, he was raised to life, he conquered death. In following him, we too are given the hope of new life, to live as forgiven people, to have eternal life. Jesus has "paid the fine in full" for those who believe in him. That offer is there for all of humanity yet still we find it hard to accept, still we try to pay the fine ourselves because we think it is easier than following Jesus.

So this Easter time, I pray that each of us will reach out to the risen Lord and accept his offer to pay our fine, and in doing so experience a new and living relationship with Him.

Yours in Christ, **Keith Edward**

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Junior Church & Creche -

Unusually there will be no Junior Church in March as we have three 'family' services on 6th, 13th and 27th. -- *Fran McMullan*

A handwritten-style graphic that says "Happy Birthday" in a cursive font. The word "Happy" is on the top line and "Birthday" is on the bottom line. There are three small stars to the right of the word "Happy".

To Sarah Haydon who will be 15 years old on 3rd March and Adam Judd who will be 14 on 8th March.

Breakout - Meets fortnightly on Fridays from 4pm to 6.45pm at the Oasis Centre in Bell Street. Risborough.

This is a lively action packed club for 7 to 11 year olds, led by members of the Lighthouse team. All are welcome to come and find out more about our amazing God! The Breakout team leaders are members of various churches in the town. The club will meet on 4th and 18th March. For more details please contact: Doline Gadd; 01844 216502
Doline.gadd@gmail.com

Later -



is a group for young people aged 11 to 17 (*apologies from the Editor for the error last month in putting a younger age group!*) in our area held on the evening of the 3rd Sunday of the month from 6-8pm at our Methodist Church, but organised by CTR. The next is Sunday, 20th March.

The evenings feature food, a space to chat, a range of games /activities and a short interactive 'God slot'. For more information please contact our Minister, Rev. Keith Edwards
ulysee798@gmail.com;
Rev. James Tomkins (St. Dunstan's Church)
jamestomkins@btinternet.com or
Fran McMullan chris-fran@live.com

If anyone has any large bean bags that the club could use please can you tell Fran. To add a bit of variety to these meetings if you have a hobby or craft that you think the teenagers would enjoy please let Fran know.

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Lighthouse



Christian Holiday Week
25th - 29th July

Fundraising Quiz Night at St. Mary's Church 30th April 7.30pm start. £5 per person. Raffle and 'Heads and Tails' game will also be held on the night. Bring your own drinks and nibbles (*no red wine please as spilled wine will stain the flooring*). Donations for Raffle prizes gladly received.

'**No Limits**' is a church service for teenagers and young people, offered as a follow-on to the evening 'Fiesta' held daily during Lighthouse week. It meets at St. Mary's Church on the first Sunday of every month 4-6pm. If you have any queries contact Lizzie Tinsley
lizzie.nolimits@gmail.com

Craft activities: Please start collecting **rolls of wallpaper, jam jars and empty tins** for craft activities. Let Fran McMullan know if you have any donations.

Mothering Sunday

On 5th and 6th March, Mothering Sunday weekend, we have a team of International Children's entertainers/puppeteers coming to the Circuit and we'd like as many children/adults to sample what they have to offer

Ian and Elaine Coules have been all over the world, teaching children and adults about God using puppets. Everyone can be involved because they will hold a workshop on the Saturday and following tea we will have a demonstration.

The workshop starts at 2pm followed by a Faith Tea and then a short presentation plus the Circuit Band. It closes at 7pm.

There is no charge for this event, just come along and bring food to share for tea.

More information from
Rev. Steve Watts -
revswatts@btopenworld.com
Tel 012967+7892
rmobile 07940882886

Please support this event!

Concert on Friday 22nd April we look forward to a visit from one of our modern songwriters and performers, Noel Richards with his wife Tricia who come to Aylesbury to perform

On a personal note, this and the puppet weekend are two events which I am promoting when my tenure at Thame and Chinnor comes to an end. Please support us in these two new ventures.

- *Steve Watts*

Shoeboxes - We have received the official 'Thank you' Poster which is displayed on our Church Notice board for the shoeboxes we sent out for Christmas.

Our 30 boxes contributed to the wonderful total of 39,031 boxes, an increase of over 4,000 from last year, taken to some of the poorest people in Eastern Europe.

If you wish to find out further information and look at some of the pictures please go to their Website www.linktohope.co.uk Thank you for your continued support. - *Pam Scott*.

Mothering Sunday

6th March

'Mother knows best!'

One day four Ministers stood talking and, as so often happens, conversation soon drifted to shop talk.

'I prefer the King James version of scripture' said one 'for its eloquent use of the English language.'

A second Minister reckoned that no bible could match the New American Standard for its faithfulness to the original Greek and Hebrew text.

'That may well be.' Said the third, 'but I prefer the New International version for its contemporary language and easy readability.'

There was a thoughtful period of silence and then the fourth Minister said *'I like my Mother's translation best.'*

It was with some surprise that the others said *'We didn't know that your Mother had translated the bible.'* *'Yes, she did.'* He replied. *'She translated it into her daily life, and through her translation that I came to know God.'*

Why have a Pancake Party?

Shrove Tuesday was fast approaching and it seemed a good idea to mark the day with traditional pancakes; so why not have a party? If we did we would enjoy ourselves in a warm comfortable home with nourishing pancakes. Still a good idea, but then the thought, *"We are so fortunate to be able to do this, while many thousands, indeed millions of people have no food, little clothing, shelter from the winter weather and no home and this is just in the UK"*

So the idea developed and many of you came to the Pancake Party and were generous with your donations and hopefully enjoyed good Christian Fellowship.

Your generosity means that we can send **£200** to The Whitechapel Mission in order to help those so less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you most sincerely for supporting our event.

The Whitechapel Mission

At the Whitechapel Mission, we have been helping Londoners to help the homeless since 1876, meeting the specific needs of each man and woman who walks through our doors. We are a

Volunteer-led work with very few staff, but this does not mean we are a small organization.

- We see as many as 300 people a day, looking for our assistance.
- We see as many, if not more than the other day centres in London.
- Our impact is as high, if not higher than other day centres.
- We can do this for a fraction of the cost of other day centres.
- We do this without any statutory funding.
- We do this without spending a penny of your donations on fundraising or administration.
- We recognize the true strength of our volunteers.
- And we recognize the value of everybody coming through our doors.

First, we help the homeless by meeting immediate needs: food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. In our recovery programs, we address deeper needs for life-skills and job skills training, and addiction recovery. We measure our progress against four criteria, which indicate to us that a life has been transformed from homelessness to hope: connection to family, commitment to sobriety, a job and a place to live, and a plan for the future.

Today, The Whitechapel Mission is a results-oriented organization that is recognized as one of London's most effective.

Our Purpose

The Whitechapel Mission is called to serve the men and women caught in the cycles of poverty, hopelessness and dependencies of many kinds, and to see their lives transformed to hope, joy and lasting productivity.

Our Goal

To be the most effective provider of compassionate care and life transformation for hurting people in London. We promote the concept of being part of the Mission and taking ownership of the Mission. Any and all who come are welcome. The services we offer are built upon trust and belonging. We are an inclusion centre rather than an exclusion centre.

A Story You Made Possible

Jane ran away from home at 14 following years of physical and sexual abuse by her father and later by her step-father. Now a regular visitor to the Womens Centre, she says "Knowing that there is someone there who cares, someone who accepts you the way you are and they are ready to listen. They care

about me and they miss me if I don't turn up and that really makes me feel really special, well at least to someone."

Since 1876, The Whitechapel Mission has been called to serve the men and women caught in the cycles of poverty, hopelessness and dependencies of many kinds, and to see their lives transformed to hope, joy and lasting productivity. - *Vic Baker.*

Please continue to collect mainly small sized clothes for both men and women together with toiletries which may be stored on our premises. Items can be collected – please speak to one of the Stewards. Information on urgent needs can be found on the website.

Lent Course for 2016

... is based on 'Face of Mercy', organised by Churches Together in Risborough (CTR)

The remaining two sessions will be held at Costa Coffee in Princes Risborough High Street on Thursdays 3rd and 10th March.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start with a variety of speakers.

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Sunday, 6th March.

As many of you will recall, the Café Church seating arrangements are different from our usual set up. Chairs are set round the tables as in a Cafe, and as you come in there is a scrumptious breakfast available: juice, coffee, tea, brioches, croissants and jam. Once everyone has helped themselves, the service starts in an informal way with worship songs, and eating is encouraged during the service!

Our Minister Rev. Keith Edwards is leading this one, so expect full use of the screen and some audience participation. In spite of, or because of, warnings that it was going to be a 'different' form of worship, the last one was packed and there wasn't room to move, but you will be pleased to hear that new smaller tables this time will make it more comfortable for all. It's different, but our older as well as younger members enjoyed it last time.

If you didn't come to the last one, do try it. - *Judith Gerrard.*

Church Anniversary

13th March at 11am

It is a tradition in the non-conformist churches, including the Methodist Church, to celebrate the anniversary of the forming of the church fellowship and/or the opening of the building with an annual, specially significant, service and a birthday party of some sort. Whatever the real relevant dates, it is often held in the spring like an official birthday. We traditionally have ours in March.

This special occasion is a time to enjoy our worship and fellowship together, and for young and old to be inspired by what are and what we might be able to do in the future.

This year the Risborough Methodists have been meeting for 167 years. Our present Methodist church building was opened in 1867 and so is 147 years old.

Our Anniversary Family Service on Sunday 13th March will be led by Rev. Dr. Ralph Waller at the later time of 11am. He is the

Principal of Harris Manchester College in the University of Oxford and Director of the Farmington Institute. He is also a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford. In 1994 Dr. Waller won the UK Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. In 1992, 1997 and 2006 he was a Select Preacher to Oxford University. Dr. Waller, a Methodist Minister, is a former chairman of the Faculty of Theology and teaches and researches in the areas of Modern Church History and Religious Thought. He is a trustee of various charitable trusts and is a Governor of Cumberland Lodge. He has been awarded several Honorary Degrees from universities in America and Europe. He is also the author of a very significant number of books. Vic Baker recommended him to us as he has had the benefit of hearing him preach, and says he is a lovely Christian gentleman. So don't miss the occasion if you can help it!

As is our custom, the party aspect of the birthday celebration will take the form of a lunch following the service. We will serve soup followed by quiche or pizza with salads and potatoes, and a selection of puddings. You can come to the lunch even if you

don't come to the service! There is a list in the church porch for you to sign up if you would like

to come, and also volunteer to prepare a dish if you wish (expenses will be paid) or wash up afterwards. Everyone is welcome, and tickets for the lunch are £5 for adults, £2.50 for children.

Any profit will go to charity, exactly which one to be decided at the Church Forum.

- *Judith Gerrard.*

News - *of John Hunt*

Some of us will remember John who used to worship with us regularly when he lived locally. His father was a local preacher in the circuit.

John now lives in a care home in Surbiton, and receives the Messenger each month. I am pleased to say that when I contacted him recently he sounded in good spirits, and although he had been in hospital in December was recovering well. It's good to have news of friends who have moved away.

- *Judith Gerrard.*

Joint services -

These 6pm services which have been running for some years alternately in our Methodist Church and St. Mary's Parish Church, now include our friends from the Baptist Church whilst their Minister, Rev. Richard Allwood has been indisposed. We are grateful to Rev. Keith Edwards and Rev. David Williams for leading them so successfully.

This month the planned service on 13th March has been replaced by a special service in the Baptist Church. Please read the article printed on the next page and also make a note of the forward dates

- .

20th March at PR Baptist Church
10th April at our Church
8th May at St. Mary's
12th June at PR Baptist Church
10th July at our Church
11th September at St. Mary's
9th October at PR Baptist Church
13th November at our Church.

(Apologies from the Editor for incorrect information last month - still it had the desired effect in greater support!)

Christ in the Passover

We, at Princes Risborough Baptist Church, have great pleasure in inviting all those in the Fellowships making up Churches Together in Risborough to this special presentation of:-

'Christ in the Passover'

*at 6pm on Palm Sunday,
20th March at the Baptist Church
conducted by Julia Pascoe, UK
Director of "Jews for Jesus"*

and includes a detailed description of the original Jewish Passover, with all its ingredients and symbolism fully explained. Then, in addition, the translation of that tradition into the Sacrament of Holy Communion, through the new meaning given by Jesus in the Last Supper.

During this presentation, we shall be invited to take part in Holy Communion.

We do hope that as many of you as possible will come to this meaningful and memorable experience. .- *Anthony Knight*

Please note that this service is in place of the planned Joint Service of 13th March.

Woman Behold Your Son -

*Today I do not want to be a
branch of the vine
Or a part of the body
Or a sheep in the flock of
the*

*Good Shepherd
Or the bride of Christ
Or a disciple
Or a servant
Or an inheritor of the
Kingdom*

*Or a citizen of Heaven
Or visited by angels
Or greatly blessed
Or deeply troubled
Or someone else's mother
I just want to get my son
down*

*from this wooden thing
and*

*take him home
And make him better
And give him something to
eat*

*And hear him laugh
And persuade him to give
up being the Messiah and
go back to carpentry.*

(Adrian Plass)



As in previous years, services in Lent begin with a short liturgy and a symbolic object arranged alongside the Wooden Cross. During Lent the Cross is displayed in our Church porch window.

Maundy Thursday, 24th March
8pm Holy Communion

Good Friday, 25th March
10am Service at the Baptist Church followed at 11am by the CTR Procession of Witness.

Easter Sunday, 27th March



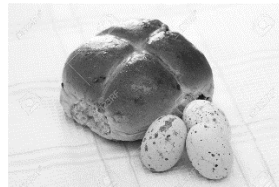
6am - Easter Sunday Sunrise Service - As usual there will a sunrise service meeting at the Whiteleaf Cross car park before walking across to the top of Whiteleaf Cross. After the short service there will be hot drinks and bacon sandwiches as we gather together in fellowship as Churches Together in Risborough. Please note that

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the clocks will have gone forward a few hours earlier and wrap up warmly.

10am - Morning Service.
Immediately prior to the service we are all invited to decorate our Church Wooden Cross with flowers and greenery.

An Easter Blessing
From Princes Risborough
Methodist Church
An Easter Blessing to you and
your family.



As you eat your Easter Egg and enjoy the holiday, take time to remember the reason for this celebration.

The reason for Easter s YOU!
God loves YOU.



(The above blessing was pinned to small eggs distributed by the Bakers at the Pancake Party)

Easter Egg Facts

- ✓ The Cadbury's factory in Birmingham produces .5 million crème eggs every day.
- ✓ The largest Easter egg hunt on record was in Florida and had 9,753 children looking for 501,000 eggs.
- ✓ The most expensive egg to date was the Diamond Stella egg, which was made from diamonds and came in at a whopping £50,000.
- ✓ Statistically speaking, when it comes to eating a chocolate bunny 76% people bite off the ears first. 5% chose the feet for their first nibble and 4% go for the tail.
- ✓ On average each child in the UK receives 8.8 Easter eggs every year – this could easily double their recommended calorie intake for a whole week.
- ✓ One in five children has admitted to making themselves ill by eating too much chocolate – how many adults can say the same?

Easter Quiz

1. Which day falls 40 days after Easter Day?
2. What is the first day of Lent called?
3. What is eaten on Easter Sunday to symbolise new life?
4. What name is given to the week before Easter?
5. What is the Thursday before Easter called?
6. Which animal did Jesus ride when he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?
7. Who said 'He is not here. He is risen'.
8. Who took the body of Jesus and buried it in a tomb cut out of the rock?
9. Who told the disciples after the death of Jesus 'I have seen the Lord'.
10. What did the disciples do when Jesus was arrested?

(Answers on page 24)

Carry on Camping!

A booking has been made at Mayfield Park (2 miles North of Cirencester) for our circuit camping weekend on 1st - 3rd July. Caravans, motorhomes and tents are all welcome. Cost will be £20 per night with electricity, £18 per night without. A £50 excess charge has been paid which will enable the whole group to stay until mid afternoon on Sunday.

Please let us know if you are interested, there need be no commitment at this stage but some idea of numbers and outfits would be useful so we know what to book, so please respond to Chris or Arthur Sara t (h)01296484310 (m) 07515472825.

Self Denial -

Thank you very much to all who contributed towards the total of £75.00 (plus some Gift Aid to be added) received in the Self Denial envelopes during January. Thank you for your continued support for The Methodist Church Fund for World Missions. - Pam Scott.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

29th February - 13th March

The slogan for the fortnight is:

*'Sit down for breakfast, stand
up for farmers!'*

Look out for Fairtrade breakfast ideas: muesli, dried fruit, honey, marmalade on our stall and in the shops, and start the day feeling good.

We continue to make an effort to 'Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers!'

In this special fortnight there's plenty we can do in the first half of March to reflect on how dependent we are on farmers all over the world for our breakfast ingredients. Fruit juice, tea, coffee, sugar and oranges for marmalade are all brought to us by the hard work of farmers who may not earn very much. We can look out for Fairtrade products, especially for breakfast, which support workers by paying a fair price so that they can put food on the table for their own

families. We can recommend Fairtrade products which we think are delicious (those biscuits!) to our friends, and we can ask our friends if they use anything Fairtrade and if we can try it. The next stall is during Fairtrade Fortnight after the service on 6th March.

In February our church Fairtrade stall took £50, so thanks to all who contributed.

In the meantime watch out also for

The Real Easter Egg



The Real Easter Egg is the UK's first and only Fairtrade charity egg to explain the story of the Easter. Please choose Fairtrade chocolate eggs when shopping this year.

One Can Trust -

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.*

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Tuesday Fellowship

At our meeting in January Vic Baker came and gave us a very interesting and amusing talk about his many years work as a Pharmacist from which I think we all learnt a lot about this occupation. Thank you Vic.

Our next meeting on the 15th March at the Church at 2pm will be our AGM when we look back over the past year and look forward to the next. New members are always welcome to join us. - *Pam Scott.*

Communication!

A vicar was visiting and there was no response from one house, even though it was obvious that someone was inside. He left his card with "*Revelation 3.20*" written on the back. The following Sunday there was a note in the offering bag with "*Genesis 3.10*" written on it.

(Over to you!)

Character

is how you treat those who can do nothing for you.

A reminder

Ministers' rest days -

Rev. Keith Edwards, -
Wednesdays
Rev. Helen Kirk - Fridays.

St. Patrick's Day



17th March

Some St. Patrick's Day groaners:

Q: Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?
A: *Regular rocks are too heavy!*

Q: Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?
A: *Because they're always a little short!*

Q: How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?
A: *He's Dublin over with laughter!*

Q: What would you get if you crossed Christmas with St. Patrick's Day?
A: *A St. O' Claus!*

Mops, buckets, dusters and elbow grease!



Saturdays, 5th & 12th March

Although we do have a regular Church cleaning rota there are always extra jobs to be done. Please try to spare an hour or longer to help. Tea and coffee makers are welcome too.

A list of jobs will be printed and hopefully ticked off as accomplished by 13th March.

In addition if anyone would like to add their name to the usual cleaning or grass cutting rotas it would certainly spread the load!

Wanted - a small, ideally armless desk chair for use in church for the operation of the hi-tech machine!

Church Forum

Tuesday, 8th March at 8pm.

Can you count? We need a new Treasurer as Joe needs a break. Please search your souls.....

Agendas and Reports will be circulated soon. Come along – don't miss out on what is always an interesting evening.

All those in favour!

1. *At a recent committee meeting of my Club I proposed a motion to adopt a by-law which provided that the person suggesting an idea didn't necessarily have to be chairman of the sub-committee named to develop it. The motion was carried – and I was made chairman of a sub-committee to see that this rule is carried out!*

2. *From the minutes of an engineering meeting – 'Since the former secretary had left the area and the former minutes could not be found it was moved, seconded and carried that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted as they would have been read had they been found'.*

Christmas Spectacular

10th November - 23rd December
2016 2pm & 7pm

The largest Christmas show in the country!

This 3 hours performance delivers an extravaganza of non-stop singing, dancing, music, humour and variety. Word of this amazing show has spread and it is now generally recognised as being the largest show of its kind in the country, if not Europe. Up to fifty coaches per day travel from all over the country.

If you are interested in coming along to Norfolk, please advise Barry Palmer or Vic Baker. We Now have a definite date of **7th December.**

One overnight stay, day one travel to your hotel for an early dinner, then onto the show. The following morning visiting Norwich before heading home. Cost £149 pp. Travel by Motts coaches. Cost includes entrance to the show and dinner, bed and breakfast at the hotel.

Look on line at
THURSFORD.com.

6 things to think about on Mothers' Day!

1. You spend the first 2 years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then spend the next 16 telling them to sit down and shut up.
2. Grandchildren are God's rewards for not killing your own children.
3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young
4. Children seldom misquote you, in fact they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
6. . We child proofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

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Silent Prayer

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

*April 4th;
May 9th;
June 20th;
August 1st;
September 12th;
October 24th;
December 5th*

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

All are welcome to these meetings of any faith or none. Each meeting lasts about 45 minutes to an hour. We begin with some simple relaxation exercises, a short passage from the Bible to reflect upon in the half hour of silence, followed by a time of sharing of our experiences if people wish.

The Revd James Tomkins (01844) 275944 or
jamestomkins@btinternet.com.

Prayer

Hello God, I called tonight to talk
a little while –
I need a friend who'll listen to
my anxiety and trial
You see, I can't quite make it
through a day just on my own
I need your love to guide me, so
I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you please to keep
my family safe and sound
Please fill their lives with
confidence for whatever fate
they're bound
And give me faith, dear God, to
face each hour throughout the
day
And not to worry over things I
can't change anyway

I thank you God for being there
and listening to my call
For giving me a helping hand
when I stumble and I fall
So thank you God for listening to
my troubles and my sorrow
Good night God, I love you lots –
I'll call again tomorrow!

(Contributed by the Drakes)

R.O.P.E.

Relief for Oppressed People Everywhere

Please hand used postage stamps
with a border of 2" to Judith
Gerrard for them. This year they
celebrate their 25th anniversary
with a Thanksgiving Service at
King's Church, Amersham on
Saturday, 5th March

Christian Aid

There is the usual monthly
luncheon on Thursday, 3rd
March, from 12.15pm at the
Baptist Church Upper Hall.

The Christian Aid 'Souper Soup
Lunch' is on Friday March 18th
in St. Dunstan's Church Hall
12.15 - 1.45 pm Soup, crusty
bread and a hot drink £4.50p.

– Margaret Stevens

To the point!

A young curate applied for
a job with a Christian charity and
on that part of the application
form where it said "*Briefly
describe yourself*", he wrote
"*Concise.*" He got the job.

The Princes Centre News -

We continue to appreciate the wonderful support shown to the Centre by our local community. This is benefitting not only those of our residents with various physical, mental or learning disabilities, and those elderly who wish for companionship and enjoyable sociable activities, but also the many unpaid carers who are able to obtain respite from their duties. None of us can foresee our future and we all may also benefit from the presence of the Centre in years to come.

It was sad to hear of the untimely death of David McLauchlan MBE, who was a very willing helper with our street collections and our thoughts are with his family.

We are very grateful to the organisers of the Kop Hill Climb for their recent offer of a grant for £5,000 and to the Carrington Charitable Trust for a donation of £1,000. These will be used for the next refurbishment project when we have accumulated enough funds. This involves the reroofing of the Learning & Development area along with internal restructuring.

Recently a number of 16 and 17

year olds who are involved in a

government backed programme (*National Citizen Service*) came to arrange a tea party for the clients which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. This was all enabled by The Challenge [www.the-challenge.org] who recently sent a donation to our funds.

Following a visit from the Office of the Lord Lieutenant, the Centre has been nominated for the Queen's Award, apparently one of the highest awards bestowed to a company. We hear the result in July.

Recent donations have been received from TSB, Chiltern View Magazine, Marks and Spencer, a collection in memory of Peter Wotton [a former trustee of Risborough Cares Charity], the Black Dog Band and Banjovi Revival, and a number of other individuals, one of whom is a client of the Centre who greatly appreciates the services provided. We would like to thank all these people for their thoughtful generosity. A raffle held by the staff raised a further £115.

If you would like to offer support in any way Kim would welcome a phone call from you on 01844 345105. - Maggie Wooster.

Women's World Day of Prayer



Friday, 4th March at 11am

This year the service will be held in St. Dunstan's Church, Monks Risborough, starting at 11am and has been prepared for us by the women of Cuba.

This day of prayer begins when the sun rises over Samoa, and the great wave of prayer continues until the last service is held as the sun sets over American Samoa, by which time an estimated 3 million men, women and young people, in 170 countries and islands, will have prayed with and for the people of Cuba.

The theme of the service is "*receive children, receive me*". So is this service simply about children? The New Testament reading is taken from Mark

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Chapter 10, verses 13-16: "*let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs*". In Jesus' day, society was male-dominated; women and children were thought of as chattels, and were expected to stay in the background and not be seen in the company of a teacher and his disciples. Jesus overturned the social norms of the time by accepting women and welcoming children. The children were most likely brought by their mothers and grandmothers, so in receiving them also, Jesus brought them honour.

Jesus was demonstrating that God's love is available to everyone irrespective of their place in society; to those who have no power or voice; those who are vulnerable or considered worthless; members of marginalised groups.

So the message of this service is that we are called to accept every human being as unique and equally worthy to God - Young and old, rich and poor, just and unjust - whoever they are.

Music is an integral part of Cuban worship, and the songs in the service reflect this, many being of South American origin.

Also included in the service is reference to the delicate, fragrant, butterfly Jasmine flower. This is Cuba's national flower and is a symbol of the resistance and struggle for freedom by the Cuban people. Women used to hide messages in them, but today the butterfly Jasmine is a sign of commitment and inspires us to be united in the building of God's Kingdom, giving fragrance and beauty to life.

So, whether you are young or old, man or woman; whether it is raining outside or blowing a gale; come along to St Dunstan's on 4th March and be transported to a different world, where there is warmth, hope, music, and life, and where everyone is accepted in God's all-embracing love.

Members of our Methodist Church will be taking part in the service, so please come along to support them and stay to enjoy the refreshments afterwards with folk from all the Churches Together in Risborough. You will be made warmly welcome.

Those taking part are asked to arrive at the Church at about 10am in order to run through the service.

- *Chris Palmer & Kathryn Trout.*

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The Crossing

You're crossing the road at a zebra;

I've stopped to allow you to pass.

You're only three feet from my windscreen

I wait and I watch through the glass.

You look straight ahead as you're crossing;

You don't seem to notice I'm there.

A smile or a nod would be pleasant

But you're not even turning to stare.

It's not a big thing that I'm doing,

I don't grudge the time that it takes,

I didn't feel cross or resentful

When I saw you and put on my brakes.

But how nice if you'd just mouth a "thank you",

Or wave as you go on your way.

I'm a person - I'm real, not a bundle of steel!

And politeness would brighten my day.

- *Janice Booth*

SALT

*(Sharing & Learning
Together)*

Everyone is welcome to join this informal group meeting on Thursday evenings in private homes, beginning with a cup of coffee. The next meeting is on 17th March at the home of Maureen Judd.

John Wesley's Plea -

It has been said that John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, and a man who never left his Anglican roots, had more influence on this country during the 18th century than any other person alive at the time. The following quote sums up a man who was on fire for the Gospel and it is perhaps a timely reminder for all of us of what commitment means

"Give me 100 preachers and worship leaders who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be ordained or lay, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the Kingdom of Heaven on earth."

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Princes Risborough Music Society -

At the Wycombe Swan there will be an evening of two Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Grand Duke* on Sunday, March 20th at 7.30pm.

Tickets from Elephant's Trunk, Art and Office, Information Centre, Choir members and at www.princesrisboroughmusicsociety.org. If you need transport the Community Bus will be running- please ring 07941963097.

Vale of Aylesbury Circuit Holiday

Friday 6th to Tuesday 10th May

Please refer to last month's magazine for full details of this holiday. But if you would like more details please ring: Peter and Jane Honeyball on 01844 351096 or Ken and Sylvia Austin on 01844 213285.

Clocks go forward an hour on 27th March!

Jumble sale

Friday, 18th March from
6pm to 7.30pm at Stoke
Mandeville Methodist Church
in aid of the Karibuni Trust &
the Church

Please contact Yvonne Keep on
01296 484803 if you have jumble
to offer. The Church will be
open from 9.30am on the day.

Quiz answers -

1. Ascension Day.
2. Ash Wednesday.
3. Eggs.
4. Holy Week.
5. Maundy Thursday.
6. Donkey.
7. An angel at Jesus' tomb.
8. Joseph of Arimathea.
9. Mary Magdelene.
10. Ran away and left him.

Babies - A small child
came home from school
and told her Mother they
had learned in English class how
to make babies. More than a little
surprised and trying to keep
cool, she asked the child to
explain. *"It's simple,"* she
replied, *you just change the "y" to*
an "i" and add "es."

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Circuit Service

Sunday, 13th March at 6pm

'The Crucifixion'

By John Stainer

An act of worship for in
Aylesbury Methodist Church -
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.
The Service will be led by Rev.
Helen Kirk.

If you would like to participate
as a member of the Circuit Choir
for this event please ring Brenda
Horne on 01296 428580.



If you haven't tried this, do it!
Just make that extra effort when
shopping online. A simple way
of raising money for our Church
funds without extra cost.
www.easyfundraising.org.uk

-Joe Needham

Transport ... If you need transport to a Church service or event please ring Beverley Hudson on 343932 and she will try to help

800 acts of kindness

A village in North Somerset has undertaken 800 individual acts of kindness to celebrate its local church.

The village of Congresbury has exceeded its challenge of more than 800 good deeds to celebrate 800 years of its local parish church, St Andrews. The 3,500 villagers took part in the anonymous *Love Congresbury* project, where the good deed is written on a small note and posted at the church.

One of the organisers of *Love Congresbury*, an active member of the church told us that the deeds "*range from somebody mowing somebody's lawn, giving somebody a lift to hospital, giving aid to Calais.*" She said she was "absolutely amazed; it's been wonderful to think that so many people have embraced it, of all ages, all backgrounds of faith, of no faith." She said that it was a way of enforcing community and "spreading God's love thr

March diary -

- 3rd : Christian Aid Lunch
- 3rd : Lent Course at Costa Coffee
- 4th : Women's World Day of Prayer 11am
- 4th : Breakout group meet - 7-11 year olds
- 5th/6th : Circuit Weekend - Puppets
- 5th : Church spring cleaning day!
- 6th : Mothering Sunday
- 6th : Café Church with Fairtrade Stall
- 8th : Church Forum
- 10th : Lent Course at Costa Coffee
- 13th : Circuit Service at AMC
- 13th : Last date for the April Messenger
- 12th : Church spring cleaning day!
- 17th : SALT group meet
- 18th : Breakout group meet - 7 to 11 year olds
- 18th : Jumble Sale at Stoke Mandeville
- 20th : LATER group meet - 11-17 year olds
- 20th : Christ in the Passover at the Baptist Church 6pm
- 27th : Clocks so forward one hour
- 27th : Easter Morning - please bring flowers to decorate the Cross!

Forward dates-

- 4th April - Silent Prayer time at St. Dunstan's Church
- 22nd April - Aylesbury Concert
- 30th April - Lighthouse Quiz Night

Stewards' rota:

- 6th : Mr. Will Richmond (342448) 13th : Mrs. Judith Gerrard (01495 449732)
- 20th : Mr. Mike Pullen (343188) 24th @ 8pm : Miss Marilyn Dore (345537)
- 27th : Mrs. Maureen Judd (344935)

March Rotas

Welcoming Stewards :

6th : Mr. J. Needham and Mrs. F. Shephard

13th : Mr. and Mrs. J. Drake

20th : Mr. and Mrs. G. Hudson

27th : Mr. and Mrs. B. Palmer

Bible Readers :

6th : Mrs. F. Shephard and a Junior Church member

13th : Mr. J. Drake and Mrs. D. Robbins

20th : Mr. and Mrs. G. Hudson

27th : Mrs. B. Palmer and Miss M. Dore

Church duties :(Saturdays)

5th :

12th :

19th : (YDA)

26th :

Cleaning

Mrs. F. McMillan

Mrs. C. Palmer

Mrs. B. Hudson

Mrs. K. Trout

Grass Cutting

Mr. C. McMullan

Mr. B. Palmer

Mr. G. Hudson

Mr. N. Trout

Flowers :

6th : Mrs. B. Palmer

13th : Mrs. D. Robbins

20th : Miss P. Scott

27th : Mrs. D. Robbins

Refreshments :

6th : Mrs. B. Palmer

13th : Mrs. B. Oates

20th : Mr. J. Needham

27th :

If unavailable for any date listed, please arrange an exchange or replacement, notify the Steward and amend the porch and vestry. Please contact a Steward if you are able to offer help with any of these duties.



in March 2016

6th : 10am Café Church led by Rev. K. Edwards

13th : 11am - Church Anniversary
Led by Rev. Ralph Waller

20th : 10am Mr. Terry Stewart
6pm 'The Passover' at the Baptist Church

24th : 8pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service

25th : 10am Good Friday Service at the Baptist Church
followed at 11am by the CTR Procession of Witness

27th : EASTER MORNING (when we decorate the Cross)
6am Sunrise Service at the Whiteleaf Cross
10am Rev. Steve Watts/ Holy Communion Service

Refreshments are served after Morning Services