

Services for April

- 1st 10.00am Easter Day
Miss Marilyn Dore
All-Age Worship*
- 8th 10.00am Mr Colin Watts*
- 8th 6.00pm Joint Service at St. Mary's
Church*
- 15th 10.00am Mr Richard Maguire*
- 22nd 10.00am Revd Michael Hunt
Junior Church*
- 29th 10.00am Revd Carina Shergold
Junior Church*



Tea and coffee will be served after
the morning service.
Please join us in the hall.

Princes Risborough

Methodist Church

'The Messenger'
April 2018



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

Circuit Website: www.aylesburyvale.org.uk

Steward contact: Mr Mike Pullen

Tel: 01844 343188

email: mhpullen@waitrose.com

Magazine Editor: Mr Peter Willett

Tel: 01844 343487

email: pandbw@waitrose.com

**Material for the May Messenger by
 Sunday 15th April at the latest please.**

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

Rotas for April

	Duty Stewards	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
1st	Mr M Pullen	Mrs T Shephard Mr J Needham	Mrs T Shephard Mr J Needham	Miss P Scott
8 th 10 am	Miss M Dore	Mr & Mrs D Robbins	Mr & Mrs D Robbins	Mrs S Wilson
8 th 6 pm			Mrs M Judd	
15 th	Mrs C Palmer	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mrs M Stevens
22 th	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mrs B Oates
29 th	Mrs M Judd	Mr J Drake Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake Mrs C Palmer	Mr J Needham

Weekend	Flowers	Grass Cutting	Cleaning
31/1 April	Mrs D Robbins	Mr B McCleery	Mrs S Wilson
7/8		Mr J Needham	Miss P Scott
14/15	Mrs C Palmer	Mr K Smith	Miss M Dore
21/11	Mrs C Palmer for Mrs W Carter	Mr B Palmer	Mrs C Palmer (YDA)
28/29		Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens



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 April

1 st April	Dawn service
1 st April	Fairtrade stall
4 th April	Closing date for job application
5 th April	Christian Aid Lunch
15th April	Messenger Deadline
15 th April	Later
17 th April	Tuesday Fellowship
21 st April	Lighthouse Quiz
27 th April	Breakout
27 th April	Princes Centre Quiz
29 th April	Cake and Plant stall
30 th April	Silent Prayers at St Dunstan's



Future Dates

7 th – 11 th May	Circuit Holiday
8 th May	Methodist Women in Britain
10 th – 20 th May	Thy Kingdom Come
26 th June	Church Forum
21 st July	Concert

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

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

From the Manse ...



Easter is on the 1st April this year and so you may be reading this after the pinnacle of the Christian year is now behind us. With our Easter celebrations over I wait with baited breath for the first shop to start advertising Christmas, that is of course after they have had a sale of Easter eggs. But it is a long time before the secular world will engage once again with the Christian calendar. So what next? Do we just tidy up the shiny paper and coloured boxes that our own Easter eggs came in and wait patiently for Halloween or 5th November? The answer, of course, is 'no'.

So what do we do? Or perhaps more importantly, why do we do it? In June we will have our Circuit Consultation which will focus on how we plan for the future, how we plan for growth. The questions we need to ask ourselves are familiar ones:

Why do we exist?

What is our purpose for being?

Have we any specific objectives in our work for God in this place?

I believe it is time for the church to cast a new vision. We have just celebrated the risen Christ, what does that mean to us as a church and as individuals? How does that affect the way we do things in church and the way we live out our lives? Two key texts spring to mind when considering this, Matthew 22:34-40 The Great Commandment, and Matthew 28:18-20 The Great Commission. I commend them to you for your reflection.

In our world everything has a purpose including the Church. Over the coming months I would like us to reflect on our purpose and to make a plan for the future. A plan that is real and that recognises our strengths and our weaknesses and that also recognises that "church" happens every day of the week.

So I ask you to think and pray seriously about the "who, what and why" of our church so that when the time comes our discussions will be fruitful.

May God bless you

Keith Edwards

Church News

Junior Church

1st April, Easter Day, will be All Age Worship with Junior Church on **22nd** and **29th April**

Fran McMullan

Fairtrade Stall.

The stall in March took £38.00. Thanks to all who contributed.

The next stall will be after the service on **1st April**, so please have a look and buy something delicious if you can!

Judith Gerrard

Retiring Collection

There will not be a retiring collection in April as we have the Easter Offering envelope appeal.

Judith Gerrard

Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Robinson Trout



who will be 14 on 4th April.

Christian Aid

The regular monthly luncheon will be held on Thursday **5th April** from 12noon till 1.15pm in the Baptist Church Upper Hall.

Margaret Stevens

United Services

These monthly evening services starting at 6.00pm are held either in our Church, the Baptist Church or St. Mary's Church.

The next service will be held on Sunday **8th April** at St Mary's Church.

Mothering Sunday service

A Special **Thank you** to members of Junior Church for the beautiful posies presented to everyone, not just the ladies, on Mothering Sunday. Even though this act of kindness has happened over many years, it is still a lovely surprise and very much appreciated. Of course none of this would happen without our lovely Junior Church leaders!

Chris Palmer

Preachers at our services in April

After the Easter day service led by Marilyn Dore, there is a welcome return from Colin Watts and Richard Maguire on the following two Sundays. However, on 22nd April, planned as a 'Local arrangement', we will be welcoming Revd Michael Hunt, an Associate Minister from St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, and on 29th April, when Rev Olufimi R W Cole-Nijii was planned to preach, we will be welcoming Revd Carina Shergold in her place.

Peter Willett

Our Jingers Choir is busy rehearsing for their upcoming concerts in the local community. Please consider purchasing their DVD which costs only £8 and is guaranteed to raise your spirits.

Our application to Tesco for a further grant was successful so do not forget when you next go shopping there to ask for some blue tokens and keep them for when the opportunity comes for you to use them to vote for the Princes Centre. The size of the grant will depend on the proportion of tokens the organisation receives. The next Quiz night is arranged for Friday **27th April**, meeting at 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start. The cost will be £10 per person for the quiz, including a meal, but if you wish to join in with the bingo this is a little extra.

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 have recently experienced a problem making a donation to the Princes Centre via the web site we have been informed that the company is working to resolve the problem as soon as possible. If you would like to book a hall or offer support in any way please ring Kim, our manager, on 01844 345105.

Maggie Wooster Keyte

Silent Prayers

The next meeting will be at St. Dunstan's Church Hall, on Monday **30th April** at 8pm.

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. The meeting starts 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.

Princes Centre Update - March 2018

We hope we have seen the back of the cold winter and that warmer spring weather arrives soon. The recent snow meant that in the interests of health and safety, the centre was closed for two days.



With the encouragement of Bucks County Council, who wish to see the success of the Princes Centre replicated throughout the county; the trustees have recently finalised the transfer of operations of the Bourne End Day Centre from the Freemantle Trust, and we are now overseeing the running of that Centre. The existing clients are very pleased with all the new activities that have been introduced and numbers are steadily increasing. It is anticipated that this additional undertaking will eventually be very beneficial to the Princes Centre.

There have been several meetings with community groups in Bourne End and it is envisaged that they will give good support for this centre; and already they have received three generous donations from community leaders towards purchasing more equipment for clients' use. None of the support we receive from our local community will be channelled to Bourne End.

The Princes Centre recently hosted the Rotary Club Film Night, providing a dinner for the members. Princes Risborough Rotary Club have been staunch supporters of the Princes Centre over the five years we have been operating. Other community groups may also wish to consider requesting a get-together and evening meal here. We just provide home-cooking, nothing too fancy, but the price per head can be very reasonable in comparison with restaurants. Mid-day lunches are also available.

We had some Buckinghamshire County Council youth workers recently entertaining our clients, and one of the activities, a clever catch ball, was such a great hit, that it will be repeated.

We recently received some very welcome donations from the Risborough and District Community Association, The Black Dog Band and Banjovi Revival and from residents of Bledlow, who attended a community lunch. All the donations are ring-fenced for use in upgrading the buildings of the Princes Centre. Now the toilet upgrading is completed, a small but very useful cupboard has been built in the entrance hall, which will house wheelchairs and walking frames. Although not a very big project, it involved the re-siting of a radiator and has enabled a lot of other pipe work from the adjacent room to be hidden from view.

Tuesday Fellowship

At our Fellowship meeting in February we were very pleased to welcome Jeanne Stephens and her Guide Dog, 'Breck'. Jeanne told us all about her life being blind, how she ran a Pre-school, took photographs which she passed around for us all to see, made cards and did many other things. She told us how much she relied on her Guide Dog. 'Breck' made himself comfortable lying at Jeanne's feet and when we were having our refreshments made himself a friend of everybody there. We gave Jeanne a donation of £40, which she wished to go to 'Guide Dogs for the Blind', and an acknowledgement has been received from them with their grateful thanks.



Jeanne with Breck

We wish to thank Noreen and Vic Baker for introducing us to Jeanne and Breck and also for transporting them to and from the meeting.

At our meeting on **17th April** we have Rev. Peter Viney coming to talk to us. New members are always welcome to join us.

Pam Scott

Easter Offering 2018

The money raised through the Easter Offering will go into the World Mission Fund, which supports God's Mission in 65 Partner Churches outside Britain and Ireland, through Mission Partners, Nationals in Mission appointments, Scholarship and leadership training and other grant giving.

Easter Offering Gift Aid envelopes are available for your gifts. Please give generously to provide the necessary resources so that God's love may be shared in practical ways throughout the world. Please will you return these via the Church collection at Easter or via your Pastoral visitor by the end of April.

Thank you for your generous and sacrificial giving, your prayerful support and interest.

Pam Scott

Services in Holy Week

Maundy Thursday: 29th March (*This is an up-date from the March Messenger, as you should have received this magazine before the end of March. Ed*).

The Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion will be at 8.00 pm, and will be conducted by Rev. Keith Edwards.

Good Friday: 30th March

There will be a joint service in the Baptist Church, starting at 10.00 am, between us and the Baptist Church, which we are responsible for organising, and we have arranged for Mr John Shaw to lead it.

After this service we will walk with members from the Baptist Church to the Elim Church car park for the CTR Good Friday Service, which will start at 11.15 am. Other churches in CTR will be having "Walks of Witness" from their respective churches, all converging at the Elim Church.

Easter Sunday: 1st April

Sunrise service:

We will meet with other local churches in the Whiteleaf Cross car park at 6.00 am, to walk to the area above Whiteleaf Cross, for a short 'sunrise service' that starts at 6.10 am. This will be followed by a bacon sandwich and a hot drink.

Morning service:

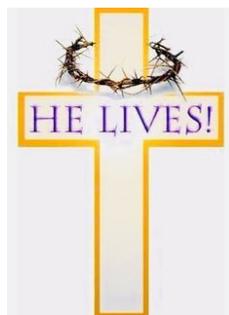
This "All Age Worship" service at our church, starting at 10.00 am, will be led by Marilyn Dore.

Easter Cross:

Throughout Lent we have been placing symbols on the Lenten cross to remind us of the journey Jesus took.

However, on Easter Day, you are invited to bring flowers and greenery to decorate the cross at the start of the service.

Marilyn Dore Joe Needham and Peter Willett



Fundraising made easy

Easyfundraising



Easyfundraising does exactly what it says; it raises funds for a good cause, which in our case is Princes Risborough Methodist Church, with minimal extra effort required on your part.

If you or other family members do internet shopping, why not join other members of the church, who have already registered, by going to www.easyfundraising.org.uk to register? You select Princes Risborough Methodist Church as the cause you support. Then all you need to remember when you want to do online shopping is to first of all log on to the easyfundraising website, and then find the retailer you want.

Try it! It's easy and worthwhile!

Methodist Women in Britain

On Tuesday 8th May at 2.30pm there will be a "Methodist Women in Britain" meeting at Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church for people from the Aylesbury Vale, High Wycombe and Amersham Circuits. The speaker will be Sandra Goodwin, Connexional President of MWIB. Men and women are welcome to attend.

I will sort out transport for those wishing to attend.

Pam Scott

Circuit Holiday

You are invited to join Rev Helen Kirk from 7th – 11th May at Suncliff Hotel in Bournemouth. The cost is £355 per person. At the time of going to print there are 32 people booked on the holiday. There is one single room (£50.00 supplement) and a few twin and double rooms left, so hurry up and book your place if you want to go! Included in the cost are trips each day to local places of interest.

If you want further details please contact Pete & Jane Honeyball on 01844 351096.

Lighthouse

Lighthouse Quiz Night.

The quiz night will be held on Saturday, **21st April** at St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, with a prompt start at 7.30pm. The cost is £5.00 each, but you will need to bring your own drinks and nibbles (no red wine, as spills will stain the church floor). There will be a raffle and a 'heads and tails' game. Offers of raffle prizes will be welcomed. There will be tables of eight, and to book a table, please phone Jamie; booking is essential!



Jamie Carter (01844 273286)

A Prayer for Easter

When our faith stands at the grave,
grieving for a stone that's rolled away,
forgive us.

When our faith is short of understanding
though the truth is there to see,
forgive us.

When our faith, beset by doubt, sees no further
than an empty tomb today,
forgive us.

Bring to mind the cry of Mary,
'I have seen the Lord!'
and grant us faith to believe!

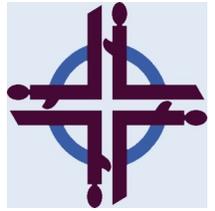
http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Easter.htm#ixzz59kNsJMg6



Snow-Service!

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer on 2nd March arrived on a snowy day, would you believe! So, for safety's sake, we advised everyone who was taking part that we did not expect them to travel or walk at any risk to themselves. However, the committee members, who live close enough to walk did just that, and we were joined by a few others making in all around 15 ladies who braved the elements. We made coffee before 11 am and enjoyed a beautifully decorated fruit cake, made by one of the members from St Theresa's Church. Following refreshments we proceeded to St Theresa's Church and, seated in a circle where the choir usually sits, shared a simplified version of the service, 'All God's Creation is Very Good', written by the women of Suriname, the focus being the abuse of our planet and living creatures, particularly through our use of plastic. The readings were shared between most ladies present and all joined in the singing of the first and last hymns. The first being "O Lord My God", and the last was, as is traditional, "The Day thou Gavest Lord is Ended", both unaccompanied! We were ably led by Liz Duffy who is the representative from St. Theresa's Church, and all agreed that this was a meaningful time of worship and praise. Finally, everyone was invited to turn to the back cover of their service book, where there was a picture of a green sea turtle, where we could write a personal commitment to care for God's creation.



In 2019 the Women's World Day of Prayer falls on St David's Day, 1st March, and will be prepared by the Women of Slovenia '**Come – Everything is Ready.**' Our own Methodist Church will be the venue and I look forward to us welcoming the ladies (and men) from other churches in the town.

Chris Palmer

Our service on 4th March was led, at short notice, by the WOW Group, due to us not wanting Rev Ann Henman travelling from snow-bound rural Oxfordshire to lead it. Thank you to the WOW Group for stepping in at short notice.

Report of Church Forum Meeting

(Pam Scott, as Church Forum Secretary, has circulated the minutes of the 6th March Church Forum meeting to church members and she has placed a copy on the church notice board in the porch. However, there must be other people who would like to know what happened, but have not received a copy, especially those wider readers of this magazine, so I have taken the liberty of highlighting a few items which I think might be of interest. Peter Willett)

Appointments

David Robbins wished to step down as Church Representative to the Circuit Meeting and Margaret Stevens was appointed in his place. Barbara Oates and Maureen Judd were thanked for all they had done in the past for the Junior Church as they are now coming off the rota of helpers.

Editorial note:- As appointments are made at this Church Forum meeting, I thought it was a good opportunity to list all those who have some responsibility for doing something in our church, whether they have been appointed or have just volunteered for a specific job. This list is printed on the centre pages, so that it can be removed for reference purposes.

Planning for the future

There will be a Circuit Consultation on 20th June at Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church to instigate our Circuit discussion in response to the Methodist Conference giving churches two years to write and submit plans for either a 'Plan for Growth' or an 'End of Life Plan'. As a Circuit, we need to identify areas of growth, with each church considering how to reach out to people in the Community, to look at where it is now and how best it can go forward, and how it can work with the other local churches and witness within the Community. We have been asked to make an effort to attend this Circuit Consultation to learn more.

17th March 2019 Church Anniversary

Next year marks 150 years since the construction of the main church building, and it was agreed that we would like to celebrate this anniversary in a special way than from 'normal'. Vic Baker has agreed to find a preacher for this Anniversary service.

Safeguarding

A new First Aid kit has been purchased and is soon to be put up on the kitchen wall together with a notice indicating the location of the nearest Defibrillator.



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. We next meet on **27th April.**

Doline Gadd
dolinegadd@googlemail.com

VACANCY

There is a vacancy for a Part Time Administrator for the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit and Aylesbury Methodist Church community Centre.

The Circuit is a group of 18 churches mainly located in Buckinghamshire and the Community Centre is a thriving town-centre meeting venue.

The post holder will work 20 hours spread over the 5 week days, providing administrative support to the Superintendent minister, Rev Helen Kirk (5 hours a week) and providing oversight of the Community Centre, including all bookings (15 hours a week).

The successful applicant is expected to possess excellent administrative and communication skills, well developed interpersonal and computer skills, including web site skills, have DBS accreditation, and will be sympathetic to the values and ethos of the Methodist Church.

The salary is £10 per hour with an optional Contributory Pension, 28 days annual leave based on 4 hours a working day. The closing date for applications is **4th April.**

For more information, or an application pack, phone 01296 426526 or Email office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Youth Matters



Later Group for 11-18 year olds

The Later Group continues to meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month, which this month will be **15th April**. There are ten who regularly attend, and a few others who come occasionally. Most are from families who attend local churches but a few are from non-church families.

The meetings offer table tennis, table-top football, snooker, giant Jenga and the wii, plus our lovely large grass area outside to run around in. There are additional activities and challenges as and when we think of them!

At the end of each evening there is a 'God Slot' when we rely on a member of the clergy from different churches in the town to provide a 10 minute thought-provoking activity or discussion. Revd James Tomkins from St. Dunstan's Church, continues to coordinate 'volunteers' for the God Slot, and keeps parents updated with a monthly email reminder of the meeting dates. Ryan Romano from St. Mary's Church attends each Later Group meeting and works directly with the young people and has a good relationship with them. Chris and I set up the hall and equipment, and organise food and drinks. This ensures there is always enough adults present for safeguarding purposes.

We hope that a few more teenagers will join in the coming months to swell the numbers back up to 16/17 per meeting.

Fran McMullan



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.

Circuit Plan

As it is becoming more difficult to fill all the appointments on the Circuit Plan, Rev Helen Kirk is intending to hold a course in the autumn to explore ideas and offer help to enable us to take our own services.

Concert

Vic Baker is organising a concert for Saturday, 21st July, to be followed by an afternoon tea. Please watch out for further information and give it your support.

'Thy Kingdom Come'

This is a Countrywide Prayer Initiative between 10th & 20th May and our Circuit is to be involved and is asking each church to take part in this and do something to recognise this. During this time, there will be a 5.00pm Circuit Service at Swanbourne on 13th May and a 6.00pm Circuit service at Aylesbury on 20th May (Pentecost Sunday).

Next Church Forum This will be held on Tuesday, 26th June, at 8.00pm



Cake and Plant Stall

We will have a springtime Cake and Plant stall after the service on **29th April**. This gives everyone plenty of notice to make a cake, or jam, or any kind of comestible, and also to sort out some spare plants or seedlings that others might want for their homes or gardens. In fact anything that you think we could sell will be welcome on the stall (look out those white elephants), even if it is not a cake or a plant.



This year the Forum decided that we will give the proceeds of the stall to "Wycombe Homeless Connection".

Any help will be appreciated in collecting items from friends, setting up and manning the stall, and of course coming to buy things on the day!

I will co-ordinate our efforts, so contact me on 01494 449732.

List of who's responsible for doing what in our church

Management		
Steering Group		Minister Church Stewards David Robbins Fran McMullan Pam Scott
Representatives to Circuit Meeting		Church Treasurer (Alf Rogers) Church Steward (Mike Pullen) Margaret Stevens
Church Forum Secretary		Pam Scott
Finance	Church Treasurer	Alf Rogers
	Church Auditor	Richard Pearce
	Envelope Secretary	Margaret Stevens
Safeguarding Officer		Fran McMullan
Services		
Church Stewards		Mike Pullen Marilyn Dore Maureen Judd Judith Gerrard Chris Palmer
Communion Stewards		Vic Baker Noreen Baker Fay Sheppard Maureen Judd
Worship Leaders		David Robbins Maureen Judd Victoria Haydon
Ways of Worship (WOW) Group		Maureen Judd
Junior Church Co-ordinator		Fran McMullan
Organist		Peter Willett
Rotas	Flowers	Diana Robbins
	Welcoming stewards	Joe Needham
	Bible readers	Joe Needham
	Refreshments	Pam Scott

Committees		
<i>Property</i>		
Property Secretary	Barry Palmer	
Property Stewards	Barry Palmer	Mike Pullen
Fire Officers	Barry Palmer	Mike Pullen
Church cleaning & grass cutting rotas	Chris Palmer	
<i>Pastoral</i>		
Pastoral Secretary	Fay Sheppard	
Pastoral Visitors	Chris Palmer	Judith Gerrard Diana Robbins Marilyn Dore Margaret Stevens Pam Scott
Cradle Roll Secretary	Chris Palmer	
Communications		
Messenger Editor	Peter Willett	
Website sub-editors	Marilyn Dore	Brenda Willett
Weekly notices	Maureen Judd	
Outside Notice Boards	Joe Needham	
Church based groups		
SALT	Joe Needham	
Tuesday Fellowship	Pam Scott	
Later Youth Group	Fran McMullan	
Representatives		
Missions Representative	Pam Scott	
Social Responsibility	Judith Gerrard	
Action for Children	Judith Gerrard	Marilyn Dore
CTR Representatives	Barbara Oates	Joe Needham
Lighthouse Representative	Fran McMullan	
Rep to WW Day of Prayer	Chris Palmer	
Street Fair Co-ordinator	Fran McMullan	