

# **VALE OF AYLESBURY**

## **METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **MAGAZINE**



Stone Methodist Church— see page 9 for cover story

# **January February**

## **March**

### **2019**

## PASTORIAL LETTER



### **Rev Helen Kirk**

When my youngest son was 6 years old, he was given the role of a wise man in the local children's nativity. The part consisted of dressing up in a robe and crown, walking onto the stage, kneeling solemnly before the Christ child and as he gently laid a gift in the crib he had to say: 'Here is Myrrh'. We practised at home. What could possibly go wrong?

When the great day came there was a problem, Sam was always a little boy and so the robe he had to wear swamped him and the crown slipped down over his eyes. The evening of the performance arrived and as he walked onto the stage his crown slipped once more covering his whole face. He lifted this temporary blindfold, saw for the first time the large audience and panicked: all rehearsals went of the window as he threw his gift at Mary and shouted, 'There's more!'

We so often lump the wise men or magi into the nativity story and yet theirs is really a separate tale; in fact, it has its own season called Epiphany. The feast epiphany is on 6<sup>th</sup> January every year - not that we really celebrate this in the Methodist church. However in some parts of the world Epiphany is a big deal: this is the day children open presents; many countries have their own version of a special epiphany cake and in some communities songs that are sung from house to house (In England we used to call this wassailing)

So, does it matter that often our only nod to Epiphany is that we remember it as the day we have to take down the Christmas decorations?

I think Epiphany and the story of the Magi have much to teach us as we begin the new year:

It is a story about searching for God and finding him in unexpected places; of stepping out in faith and not quite knowing where we'll end up; of going in the wrong direction but not giving up. And when we finally realise what matters most we become willing to stand up to others who might have a very different agenda.

We do not know what 2019 will hold for any of us, in our personal lives, our churches or our nation: for some it may offer opportunities and new beginnings, for others great change and upheaval. Perhaps in 2019 we need to 'get wise' -

To look for God's presence in the midst of our world for that is his promise – a faithful and constant presence. Will we realise him? Be surprised by him or be too preoccupied to look?

To trust in his guidance even if he might take us in directions we do not want to go.

To have a hope that is beyond the everydayness of our lives; that lifts our heads and, in small ways, gives us the courage to live justly and generously.

Just like my son, we may not always get it right but with God there is always more (not myrrh) – the best is yet to come!

Every blessing for 2019

## **CIRCUIT MINISTERS**

**Rev. Helen Kirk** (Superintendent) Tel:01296 488963

Email: revhelenkirk@sky.com

With Pastoral Care of the Aylesbury Methodist Church and  
Community Centre and Wingrave

**Rev. Donna-Marie Broadbent-Kelly** (Probationer Presbyter)

Tel:01525 240589

Email: rev.donnabk@gmail.com

With pastoral care of: Cheddington, Stewkley,  
Stoke Hammond, and Swanbourne

**Rev. Keith Edwards** 01296 423363

Email: ulysee798@gmail.com

With pastoral care of: North Marston (LEP),  
Princes Risborough, Stoke Mandeville, Stone, Weedon (LEP),  
Waddesdon, Whitchurch.

**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** , (Authorised minister),

Tel 01844 202425 minister@rwm32.plus.com With Pastoral care  
of Thame (Christchurch) Chinnor, Cuddington and Haddenham

**Rev Olufemi R W Cole-Njie** (Temporary stationing by Conference)

kenfem.njie@gmail.com

**Rev Dr Hayford Ofori-Attah** (Supernumerary)

Phone: 01296 749172

Email: hoforiattah@btinternet.com

## **Ministers' Rest Days:**

Rev Helen Kirk ..... Friday  
Rev Donna-Marie Broadbent-Kelly ..... Friday  
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.

## **Dates For this Quarter:**

### **January**

Saturday 19th at 7.00pm Karibuni Quiz night (*see page 7*)

### **February**

Saturday 9th at 7.30 pm an Evening of Flanders & Swan  
(See page 21)

Saturday 23rd District Youth Event at Bicester

### **March**

## **Friday 1st: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

There will be Services at various times and venues within the area of the Circuit. These are listed with further details, on the Circuit Website [www.aylesburyvale.org.uk](http://www.aylesburyvale.org.uk)

## ***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



Karibuni Children: Transforming Young Kenyan Lives

# KARIBUNI QUIZ NIGHT 2019

FAIRFORD LEYS COMMUNITY CENTRE  
HP19 7HT

**7:00PM | 19TH JANUARY 2019**  
**INCLUDES FISH AND CHIP SUPPER**

TICKETS £12 | TEAMS OF 6-8  
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND NIBBLES

**FOR TICKETS:**  
**EMAIL [juwat69@gmail.com](mailto:juwat69@gmail.com)**  
**01296 641261**



# **WELCOME!!**

## **REV DR HAYFORD OFORI-ATTAH (RETIRED)**

I moved into the Circuit on July 2018 with my wife Agnes after a nine-year stay in London. I candidated for the ordained ministry from the Scotland District in 1987, in my final year as a postgraduate student of the University of Strathclyde. Before that I was employed by Woodlands Road Methodist Church (Glasgow) to offer pastoral support to overseas students in the then two universities of Glasgow (Glasgow and Strathclyde). I trained for the ministry at Wesley House from 1988 to 1991 completing the Cambridge Theology Tripos as an affiliated student of Fitzwilliam College in 1990. My first circuit appointment was in September 1991 in the Goole Circuit in the then Yorkshire District. I was ordained the following year at the Newcastle Conference. My family and I moved to the Leeds District in 1993 and served in the Pudsey & Farsley Circuit for 7 years. I was then stationed in the Bradford West Circuit, West Yorkshire District in 2000 as a Superintendent Minister for 9 years. This was followed by my final circuit appointment in the Lesnes Abbey Circuit in the London District first as a circuit minister and later as a Superintendent minister from September 2010.

Agnes and I have been blessed with three children: Rhoda (Pharmacist & actress), Grace (Consultant Psychiatrist & Scriptwriter) and Samuel (Dentist). Agnes is a social care worker. We are eagerly exploring the beautiful environment and getting to know people and the churches in the Circuit. Thank you for the warm welcome you have given us.

Rev Ofori-Attah serves in the circuit as a Supernumerary minister.



## COVER STORY from STONE



The cover photo is a **FIRST SUNDAY CAFÉ** with customers enjoying chicken drumsticks in Henry VIII style: no bones on the floor though! All profits from that day went to the DEC Emergency Appeal for the victims of the Indonesian earthquake / tsunami; in total we sent over £200.00.

The Café has been a successful venture, but in a different way to that which we intended! We wanted to raise funds for a much-needed toilet suitable for the elderly and disabled who use the Chapel. We hoped that it would attract passing bikers and hikers, enjoying the beautiful countryside around the village; hardly any came! But village folk came, enjoyed their meal and fellowship together, and continue to come. Several regular 'customers' are elderly and live alone and a meal shared in friendly company is a real treat for them. We almost decided to have a day off on Easter Sunday but were very pleased we didn't when one lady told us, "I'm so glad to come here today, as otherwise I would have seen no-one over the whole weekend."

When our new toilet was completed, it was decided to use the money raised to refurbish the Chapel kitchen; this project is now well under way.

The Chapel plays a central part in village life: letting charges help to maintain the building; more importantly, regular use keeps the Chapel's profile in the minds of our neighbours. Local artists have a weekly meeting, the over 60s Club meets monthly as does the Open Fellowship. The WEA hold two termly sessions, the U3A Photo Group meet regularly, a Walkers' Group call in for refreshments following their fortnightly rambles. Most importantly, the *Sees the Day* group [for those with learning/physical problems] come along twice every week for their folk to enjoy a quiet time of activities and friendly contact. There's always a special Coffee and Carol morning in December hosted by *Sees the Day* to which all friends and neighbours are invited when we sing carols and hear the Christmas story.

While worship and prayer are the prime 'reason to be', an integral part of working out '*Our Calling*' is fund raising for various Charities and this plays a large part in the Chapel's life and witness: Christian Aid, WaterAid, Leprosy Mission, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Bible Society and Whitechapel Mission, are just some who benefit each year. Then there's our big effort for the local work of Action for Children – December Saturdays Soup Lunches - when a wide assortment of delicious soups can be enjoyed for a donation.

**Keep an eye on the Circuit website in 2019 for *NEWS FROM STONE!***

## Eco Church in action in Chinnor

Is your treasurer looking at the cost of heating your Church over the Winter months?

Could the cost be reduced? Eco church invites both churches and their individual members to assess their fuel consumption and consider what could be done to reduce consumption and maximise the benefits of the fuel used.

At Chinnor the treasurer reports a significant reduction in costs since the revamp. Those using the premises benefit from rooms reaching a good temperature more speedily, in part through an updated boiler and in part through improved heat retention. Obviously the supplier chosen is also a factor in determining cost. If considering a change, Eco Church would encourage checking out those suppliers that operate on Eco friendly practices.

## Enquiry

Has anyone come across, or have experience of schemes where churches combine to buy fuel supplies? I came across a website (see below) giving info about a company called '2buy2', which by its name indicates it has a church focus.

The link takes you to a site which has a Methodist Church heading and highlights how a group of churches can bulk buy and get reductions as a result.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/climate-change/carbon-reduction-opportunities/energy-buying/>

It may be that it would be worthwhile finding out how many might know about or be interested in this scheme that appears to be supported by the Methodist Church.

## Fairtrade

Many of you will have read or heard about how Traidcraft has been assessing its viability to continue trading.

In September 2018, after some 40 years of trading, market conditions and exchange rates led Traidcraft to announce it was handing out redundancy notices and needed to revisit its trading model.

In November 2018, after consultations Traidcraft announced it would continue trading.

The process has not been easy for Traidcraft or many of its craft suppliers some of whom have been informed that no more orders will be placed.

So what does it mean?

**Traidcraft will:**

- continue to operate but based on a different model from 2019 with a reduced staff.
- return to its roots of operating more through churches. (85% of Fairtraders are motivated by faith.)
- concentrate on more profitable lines.
- offer fewer craft lines.
- establish more grocery lines
- set a new higher bar for ethical trading.

-develop means to respond to new shopping trends, including vegan and organic, alongside Fairtrade.

-encourage practices and sales methods to reduce packaging and transport.

While there will be changes at Traidcraft, producers will also be able to find outlets for their fair trade products through other companies and businesses.

As for Traidcraft, there is still an element of 'watch this space' in terms of seeing what lines will be retained or introduced and how they showcase their products. (ie electronically or catalogues or both). This will become clearer as 2019 progresses and the new model comes into effect.

## **Circuit wise**

- -Fairtrade items will still be available through Rod Thorpe.
- -Please get in touch if you would like to place an order- with sufficient notice, it is possible to bring ordered items to Circuit meetings.
- -Please self assess whether your church is maintaining the necessary commitment to be considered a Fairtrade church
- -Remember, regular orders allow for bulk buying and sharing orders between churches and customers at a cheaper price.

If you have any questions please get in touch.

## **Easter 2019**

If you are reading this in January it may seem premature to be thinking about Easter, particularly as in 2019 it is about as late as it can get. When you do get round to buying Easter Eggs please remember to check out the Fairtrade options and whether the Real Easter Egg, with its leaflet telling the story of Easter, might be an option. Alternative, 'free from' ethical options are also available.

## **Toilet Twinning**

Many churches, individuals and organisations have twinned their toilets with another in part of the world where facilities for, and education about, managing human waste need improving. It may be you or your church has already received congratulations for twinning one or each of your toilets!

The benefits of personal hygiene and sanitation are well known to many. By twinning a toilet this knowledge is shared and facilities are improved.

For a flat payment of £60 (the average cost for improving a latrine), you get a framed certificate, giving the location of a toilet of your choosing from a list of countries in Africa and Asia. The improved latrines usually involve local people in the design and choice of materials; a practice that means the facility is appropriate, sustainable and affordable.

For more information and opportunities to support this programme please visit [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org).

Contributed by Rod Thorpe



## WHERE and WHEN TO MEET AROUND THE CIRCUIT


For a chat over a Cuppa or even a Meal



Aylesbury	Mon. To Sat. 10.00 am - 12 noon	Tea and Coffee
Cheddington	Open Doors— Fridays 10.00 am	Tea, Coffee , Light Refreshments & Fellowship
Fairford Leys	Saturdays 10.30 am - 12.00 noon	Coffee Morning coffee/tea and biscuits
Haddenham	Tuesdays 10.00 am - 12.00 noon	Maisie's Coffee Morning Fairtrade goods, bring and buy items usually on sale
North Marston - Wesley Centre	Friday 10am-12pm 2nd Wednesday in month 12pm-2pm.	Coffee mornings Monthly Lunches
Stewkley	3rd Saturday each month 12 noon - 1.30 pm	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £7.50
Stoke Hammond	Wednesday 10.30 - 11.45 am	Coffee Morning
Stoke Mandeville	Fridays (Not 1st in Month) 2.00 - 4.00 pm Monthly: First Fridays 12.00 - 2.00 pm	'POP-IN' for a cup of tea/ coffee and a chat.  Light lunches £3.50
Thame Christchurch	Tuesdays & Fridays 10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee Mornings

Waddesdon	Alternate Tuesdays. 11.00 am - 2.00 pm	Light lunches
Wingrave	Alternate Tuesdays	Nup End Cafe Lunches

## **Other Special Gatherings**

Cheddington	Mondays 9.30 -11.00 am (except holidays)	The Toast  Baby & Toddler Group
Stewkley	Wednesday 10.30 – 11.30 am  Friday 7.30pm Jan 11th , 25th Feb 8th , 22nd and Mar 8th, 22nd.	Daisy Club for children from birth to school age— term time only.  Mutual Fellowship, Various speakers. Contact John Jones 01525 217795
Swanbourne 	Fridays 10-30am in the Chapel: stories, songs, prayers, nibbles, babies, toddlers, mums & carers all very welcome	Pram Service will continue—for next Services Contact : Frankie Fisher on 720454
Whitchurch	Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon 'Little Steps' fun for babies, toddlers and parents.	A mums & toddler group meeting. With toys, crafts music and snacks. Everyone is welcome.

## **LEARNING AND GROWING**

### **Aylesbury**

J Team (Sunday School) Sundays 10.30 am

Contact: Mrs. Vivienne Kemp 01296 399315

Girls Brigade Mondays 6.15 - 7.30 pm

Contact: Sarah Davidge 01296 437852

Banner Group Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Contact: Mrs. Brenda Horne 01296 428580

Tuesday Fellowship 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 2.30 - 3.45 pm

Contact: Ms Carol Soulsby 01296 707298, Ms Angela Smith  
01296 483696

Boys Brigade Tuesdays 6.00 - 9.00 pm

Contact: Mr Steve Kemp 01296 399315

### **Monthly Bible Study:**

Dates to be advised on website

### **Chinnor: Regular Activities**

#### **Weekly:**

Activity Club (Youth club for 7-11yr olds)

Thurs 6.30 - 8.00 pm (term time)

Traidcraft (Fairtrade) sales

Bring and Buy table for nominated charities (Sunday)

#### **Fortnightly:**

Friday 7.00 - 9.00 pm (fortnightly) Friday Night Club (all ages)

Table Tennis, Scrabble, Pizza etc.

#### **Monthly:**

Exploring Faith. Monday 8.00 - 9.30 pm

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

#### **Fortnightly:**

Mothers Bible Study 10.00 am -12.00 noon

on Tues. or Weds. morning for mums

Mums prayer group: Friday 9 - 9.30 am - for those attending  
St Andrew's School

Ignite - Sunday 7.30 - 9.00 pm 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 meet at the Church on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Church at 2.00 pm for a time of Fellowship together with a varied programme, followed by a cup of tea and chat, everyone is welcome to join us. Contact Pam Scott 01844 346857

.—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 2.30 pm  
Contact Mrs. Sue Spinks 01296 748369

### **Waddesdon**

#### **Monthly:**

1st. Monday Friendship Club especially for the Over 50s meeting at 2.30 -  
4.30 pm. This is very much a social get together and anyone is welcome.

Contact Barbara Warne 01296 651417.

*/Over*

## **LEARNING AND GROWING** Weedon

**Monthly:** Monday Bible Study Group

### **Thame Christchurch.**

#### **Weekly**

Bible Study on Thursday at 7.30 pm

#### **Fortnightly**

Church Singers on 2nd and 4th Monday at 7.45 pm

#### **Monthly**

WIT (Women in Thame) on Monday at 7.30 pm Varied programme of talks, activities, and a visit to the theatre.



# Parentalk

## THE PRIMARY YEARS

### **Family & Youth Work at AMC**

#### **Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre**

Buckingham Street

Aylesbury

HP20 2NQ

## **Let's Cook!**

Being a parent is one of life's greatest joys, but it is also one of its biggest challenges. Parentalk is for parents of children aged up to the early teenage years, giving you the opportunity to talk about the day-to-day challenges you face, as well as sharing the things that are going well.



### **What can you expect from Parentalk?**

Parents can have the opportunity to share experiences

Explore parenting principles

DVDs – Watch real life stories and animations

Humorous dramas

Opportunities to befriend other parents and more.

**Let's Cook** will provide the opportunity to cook, bake and eat together. **Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.**

**Please email Mel for a registration form:**

**Mel Brown**

**Family and Youth Worker**

**Email: [familyworker.amc@mail.com](mailto:familyworker.amc@mail.com)**

**Mobile: 077-171-21887**

***For further information contact Mel via the methods above***



***Aylesbury Methodist  
Church & Centre  
Buckingham Street, Aylesbury***

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Organ Event:  
We proudly present the  
outstanding**

**Scott Brothers Duo**  
**Jonathan Scott – Organ and  
Tom Scott – Piano**

***(Experience a foretaste by listening to their  
performance of  
Mozart's 'Magic Flute' Overture on YouTube)***

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
at 7.30 pm**

**Tickets on sale at the Church Office  
from early April**



# Ghanaian Night



(First of its kind)

**Presenting Ghanaian Culture and Dance  
Plus a taste of indigenous Ghanaian  
cuisine/dishes and display of artefacts**

**at**

**Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre**

**on**

**Saturday 6th April 2019**

**Time**

**6.00pm—10.00pm**

**Free Entertainment - Donations welcome!**



**Meal Tickets**

**Family- £20.00, Adults - £8.00 and Children—£4.00**

**Purchase from Aylesbury Methodist Church Office**

**Telephone 01296  
426526**





## The Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit



### Caravan and Camping Weekend 2019

Having talked to Helen and others about availability we have decided that this year the circuit caravan and camping weekend will be **Friday 14 June to Sun 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Also after consultation we have agreed to go to Cotswold view Caravan and Camping Park in Charlbury Oxon.

We have visited the site and it seems to meet all our requirements although they are not willing to take a group booking so anyone wishing to go must make their own reservation.

The site can be contacted by telephone on 01608 810314.  
Website [www.cotswoldview.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldview.co.uk).

The site have said that if people book early, January or February and tell them they are in our group then we will be pitched together.

Further information can be obtained from us and we would like to know if you have booked a pitch. We will send out reminders in January and February.

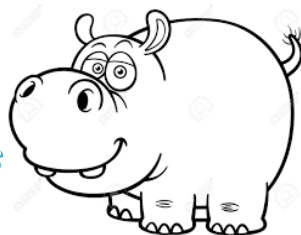
Arthur and Chris Sara  
[chrisara096@gmail.com](mailto:chrisara096@gmail.com) Telephone 01296 484310

**Aylesbury Methodist  
Church & Centre  
Buckingham Street, Aylesbury**

***Oliver & Samuel Hancock  
present an evening of***

***FLANDERS  
&  
SWANN***

***Singing many  
of their famous  
comic songs***



***SATURDAY EVENING  
9<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7.30 pm***

***Tickets on Sale from the Church  
Office from the beginning of Janu-  
ary***

***Proceeds in aid of the Church Welcome  
Project***

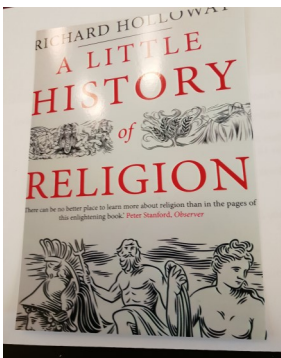
# Buried Treasure

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.”  
That’s what Jesus said.

I’ve always liked stories about buried treasure and when I visited the small Norfolk town of Swaffham, last autumn, I indulged my passion for them, when I wandered in the church, market place and museum.

The North aisle of the church was financed, in the fifteenth century, by John Chapman, who was then a church warden and much is made of his story. He is said to have been a pedlar who had a dream, that if he went to London Bridge he would hear something to his advantage. He set off at once with his dog and waited there for something to happen. After three days he met a man in a shop, who said he had a dream, in which treasure was found under a tree in the garden of a pedlar, who lived in Swaffham. John went home, dug in his garden and found an old pot. He didn’t think much about it, until one day a monk, who was travelling to the shrine at

Walsingham, read the Latin inscription on it which indicated, that there had been another pot beside it in the ground. John found the second crock. This time it held enough gold to greatly enhance the church building fund.



On a small car park, near the market place, I took a photograph of the town sign on which John Chapman, the Swaffham pedlar, is depicted. This sign was the first of the many Norfolk signs

embellished with gold leaf, made by Harry Carter, who was a teacher at the local grammar school in the mid twentieth century. The artistic talent runs in Harry’s family, for he was a relative of Howard Carter, the artist who discovered Tutankhamun’s tomb.

In the museum, an Egyptian themed room is dedicated to the memory of Howard Carter, who stayed with his aunt in Swaffham during his childhood. A model of an engine, a lectern and a model of the town, all made by Harry Carter, are also on display there. I was particularly interested in the Carter connection as Harry's son, Tony Carter, taught Geography and Geology at Wymondham College when I was a pupil there. He drew amazing cross sections of the earth on the blackboard, that other masters were reluctant to rub out. Wymondham College is only a few miles from Swaffham.

At that time the permanent school houses were being built and there was great excitement, when two workmen found a pot of silver Anglo-Saxon coins on the site. It was declared Treasure Trove at the inquest held at the College, and most of the horde is now in Norwich Castle Museum.

I think perhaps there is a message here. John Chapman went all the way to London, to seek his fortune and Howard Carter travelled all the way to Egypt, but all the while riches lay hidden almost under their noses. Maybe we don't have to go very far to find the Kingdom of Heaven either, for Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you."

Angela M. Smith

## Desmond Ffoulkes



We were all very sorry to know that our good friend and preacher, Desmond Ffoulkes had died on 7<sup>th</sup> November last. Des had fallen at home and then developed pneumonia which proved fatal. His thanksgiving service was at

Aylesbury Church on 27<sup>th</sup> November, which was very moving and a great tribute.

I met Des and his family when Janet and I moved to Aylesbury in 1963 – he and his family had moved to Aylesbury in 1961. To me he was always a real ‘gentleman’ in the best sense of the word. I thought he was one of the best Local Preachers I ever heard! I took my final LP exam at Aylesbury in 1965 and Des who had been fully accredited for ten years was also taking a voluntary advanced preaching paper at the same time, which really showed his dedication as a preacher.

I always thought his biblical knowledge and ability to explain the scripture and apply it to today’s world was outstanding. I think he owned a Greek new testament and so was able to go to the source of our scripture much better than the rest of us.

Des was also very dedicated to the work of the Junior Church and was leader of the Junior Department at Aylesbury for very many years. Once he and I were asked by the superintendent to consider reducing our Junior Church work to do more preaching. We looked at the plan and found that apart from Mr. Angood at Princes Risborough, who used to preach nearly every Sunday, Des and I preached as often as the other Local Preachers so we declined to change as both thought work with children was exceedingly important. Those were the days when there were plenty of afternoon and evening services for us to be planned at!



He and I were always good friends but laughed when we had to prepare a service together, say for Junior Church Anniversary, because we could never initially agree on the hymns. He of course was part of a very musical family so probably his choice was better than mine. For many years he ran a house group where we discussed many biblical and non-biblical topics which I always found stimulating and good sources of sermon material.

Des was born in Plymouth in 1925 and moved to Birkenhead when he was 4. His father was a merchant navy sea captain and was away a lot. There were two Methodist Churches close by in Birkenhead but the one his family attended had no youth club so he sneaked off to the other one which did. It was there he first met Kath whom he married sometime later. He trained as an architect at the Liverpool School of Architecture and then was called to do his national Service in 1948 and was drafted into the Fleet Air Arm. He was very technically minded and worked with radio and radar. He spent some time in what was then Ceylon and enjoyed dinghy sailing very much.

After his service he married Kath and their first home was in Bristol. As he worked as an architect for the local authority, when he needed a move for promotion he could choose from many places and he always tried to find a town that he thought would be a very pleasant place to live. After Bristol they lived in Cambridge then Matlock before coming to Aylesbury.

He retired from active preaching in 2016 at the age of 91! So we sadly say God Bless to a good friend and ask that God's blessing will be with Kath and the rest of the family.

*David Neville*

## Stoke Hammond !!!!!



For many of you in the circuit Stoke Hammond is just the name of a church on the circuit preaching plan. Yet for those who have visited the chapel you will know that it is a friendly congregation, small in number, but always faithful.

Stoke Hammond Methodist Church was open in October 1927. When the Old Wesleyan Chapel in Chapel Yard became inhabitable, the Methodist families of Stoke Hammond worked hard to build a new Chapel. The parents of Mary Bonner and Margaret Aitken were heavily involved in the building of the Chapel. When the Chapel opened in October 1927, Margaret's father opened up a new village shop on the same day and recalls it being a fantastic day full of much excitement and celebration.

Stoke Hammond Methodist Church was known for its Sunday School, there was not one at the Anglican Church so most of the children in the village attended the chapel for Sunday School. There were two sessions, 10.30am (for an hour) and at 2pm just before the afternoon service. Sunday school was a big part of the life of Stoke Hammond and most of its current members were part of the Sunday school and have fond memories of Sunday School parties and outings to Wickstead Park near Kettering.

This snippet of history is a reminder of the wonderful witness and service that Stoke Hammond Methodist Church has offered to the village for over 90 years.

Sadly, in recent years the congregation has dwindled despite efforts to reach out to the community. At the autumn Church council, the trustees were faced with a significant property bill and made the decision to cease to worship. This was not an easy decision but one that was supported by all the remaining members.

The Methodist church has certain procedures to follow before Stoke Hammond can be officially closed. The Circuit meeting and District synod need to approve the decision and so in the meantime there will continue to be a regular shared service with our Anglican friends in the village and the Wednesday coffee mornings will still go ahead. We will also be having a community Carol service on 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 3.00pm to which you are all invited.

On 28th April we will be inviting the whole circuit to a service of thanksgiving for the witness and service of the chapel over the years. This will be the final service in the chapel.

The congregation at Stoke Hammond feel a deep sense of loss however they also feel that this is the right thing to do. They are already looking to joining with their neighbouring churches in the new year.

Please hold them in your prayers at this time.

*Helen Kirk & Donna Broadbent- Kelly*

## ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE:

**Items for the April-June 2019 issue** should be forwarded to the following Email addresses:

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Items for the Magazine should be copied to Roy Collis see below.

**Please submit Magazine Items by the 15th Feb 2019**

## AMENDMENTS to CIRCUIT Database:

Details of changes to existing information in the **Circuit Database** should be sent immediately they occur to:  
Rev Helen Kirk: [revhelenkirk@sky.com](mailto:revhelenkirk@sky.com) and to:  
[r.collis245@btinternet.com](mailto:r.collis245@btinternet.com)

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