

# ***VALE OF AYLESBURY***

## **METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **MAGAZINE**



Weedon Chapel Window— see page 8 for cover story

**January February**  
**March**  
**2020**



### **Rev Richard Atkinson**

There is often music playing in the study when I am working. Usually it is just by way of background but I love the moments when the music breaks through and grabs my attention. You need to know that usually my iPod is on shuffle so I have

no idea which album is going to come along next. There are some that always grab me, I cannot hear the opening strains of Mozart's bassoon concerto without the hairs of the back of my neck going into overdrive, there are some dramatic or discordant pieces that always invade as do certain voices that stand out from the crowd like Louis Armstrong or Katie Melua. The best times though is when from nowhere a piece of music just grabs and envelops, touches and brings blessing. So today I was sitting at my desk dealing with some Safeguarding matters and into my ear came the strains of piano music composed by Louis Moreau Gottschalk who some regard as the father of syncopation and therefore by default the father of jazz and blues and by connection a vital voice in the origins of modern music.

Why it struck today I do not know, at other times it is there in the background but today it took over and for a short while I wallowed in the glorious soundscape being delivered. Music, and especially of an instrumental kind, has a real ability to touch, to move. In a lot of songs we respond to the words (and rightly so) but when there is no voice or the singer is warbling in a language we do not know it strikes me that the actual music can speak volumes.

Music is a gift of God. I could wax lyrical on the history of sound and the suggestion that humanity might have sung before we spoke or consider the question of how musical our brains are; the oldest, in evolutionary terms, part of our brains is vital to music appreciation but instead just want to encourage us all to listen.

To let music speak its own distinct language so that the vocabulary of sound might resonate with us. Why is it that a piece of music can cause us to shed tears or express an affinity with our sadness or propel us into higher levels of joy even though this may have been far from the composer's intention? How can music speak? Are we guilty of being so obsessed with words that we risk alienating ourselves from the healing qualities of the soundscape that composers of every genre offer?

Don't get me wrong I am not anti-words, they have an important function. The hymns and songs we use have a crucial role in the collective worship of the church and for many are a vital tool in our developing spirituality. You only need to listen to Paul speaking to the Ephesians and the Colossians encouraging them to make music in their hearts by singing hymns, psalms and spiritual songs to know that words have a real significance and should not be ignored or underestimated. I could suggest so many pieces where reading the words could aid us to reflect on the mystery of faith but.....

There is beauty without language. Felix Mendelssohn wrote a number of, so-called, songs without words where he tried to convey meaning without a syllable. So I want to ask the question whether should we be encouraging ourselves to listen and see how music can inform our spiritual journey? Finding time to listen purposefully may have real importance if we can educate ourselves so to do.

Blessings, Richard

## **CIRCUIT MINISTERS**

**Rev. Richard Atkinson** (Superintendent) Tel:01296 488963

Email: revrja@outlook.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,  
Swanbourne and Wingrave.

**Rev. Keith Edwards** 01296 423363

Email: ulysee798@gmail.com

With pastoral care of Haddenham, North Marston (LEP),  
Princes Risborough, Stoke Mandeville, Stone, Weedon (LEP),  
Waddesdon, and 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

**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 Richard Atkinson.....	Saturday
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 the Quarter:**

**Saturday 11th January** at Stoke Mandeville  
10.00 am Circuit Gathering to consider the  
Conference Report ' **God in Love Unites Us**'  
(Details overleaf)

**Friday 7th February** at Stewkley—The Royal Butler -  
William French—Hear anecdotes from his time  
serving our Royal Family and other Celebrities.

**Sunday 29th March** at Aylesbury Methodist Church  
'The Crucifixion' at 3.00 pm.

*(Repeated at St Peter and St Paul, Tring on  
Sunday 5th April at 3.00 pm)*

# God in Love Unites Us

This is a report published by the church looking at marriage and relationships and asking questions about whether we should change our understanding and position.

It stems from the government's decision to change the definition of marriage to allow same sex marriages. The report is Methodism using its processes to respond. We are a democratic movement so for significant possible changes there is always a consultative process which normally results in what is termed provisional legislation which is what the recommendations at the end of the report are.

It is really important to note that the proposals are not what Methodism wants to do, rather they are something for opinions to be expressed on. In effect the working group had to proffer something that could form the basis of what could be voted on at Synod and at Conference. The proposals are not fixed, there is the opportunity to amend them by a process that will be advised in November which will inform discussions at Synod and Conference level. So, in real terms the proposals in the report could be very different by the time they get to Conference. So please do not assume that the proposals in the report are going to become the Methodist position in all our churches as well. The report is worth reading and I would hope folk will do so before deciding on their response.

Copies are available from the AMC Office or can be viewed on the NEWS/ CIRCUIT INFORMATION page on the Circuit Website, along with a study guide and other papers. These and other background information can also be downloaded from the Methodist Church of Great Britain website.

In this Circuit, there will be a day looking at the report at Stoke Mandeville on January 13th, and there will be discussions in all our churches as well. Our legal process does not allow a meaningful vote at church or circuit level, but a conversation which will inform reflection at Circuit Meeting where our Synod reps will hear something of the mood of the circuit

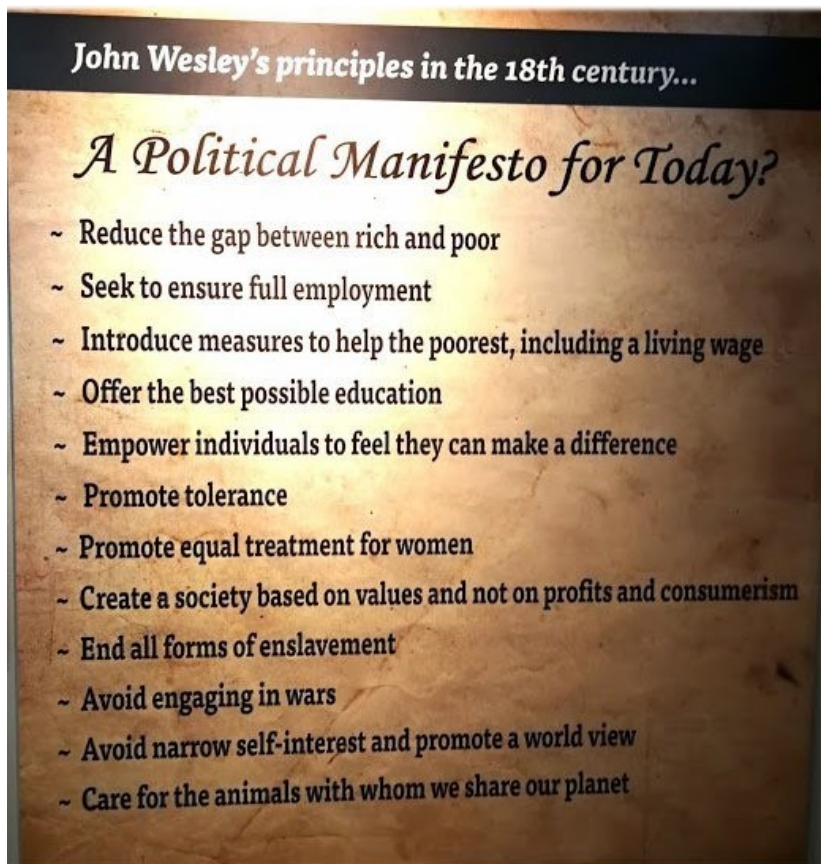
One of the key points made is that we are a people of contradictory convictions, the report does not expect unanimity. Some will see the proposals as a breath of fresh air others will throw their hands up in horror. However, the real need is to hold together as a community of

love, there is much about which we may disagree, and we live with that tension

PLEASE hear the idea that this is something to allow a vote at Synod and Conference level, not an indication of intent by the church. It is a response to the fact that the understanding of marriage in law has changed. I am sure amendments will flood in, what will come from this it is difficult to predict. Our real responsibility is to look at this but focus on the key calling of being church; a diverse community bound together by the love of Christ.

Any questions please do ask

*Richard*



## COVER STORY

### The Chapel Window—Weedon

William Rolls and his wife Maria lived in the early part of the 19th century and had 9 children, some of whom were born in Weedon, at Weedon Hill Farm. Their eldest child, named William, married Elizabeth Battams in 1840. Chapel House, the home of Charles Seamons, was at that time a farmstead and was split into two with the newlyweds living in one part. William still worked for his father at Weedon Hill Farm but in 1850 became a grocer. There were three grocers at that time but within a few years there was only William. The shop was on land where the amenity area now stands.

In 1851, the farmstead was pulled down and a new house erected and in 1854, the old Chapel burnt down, and the new Chapel built, both by Charles Seamons. But the Chapel was not then as it is now. Edmund Rolls was their eldest son and later became the grocer and preacher. A memorial plaque to him is displayed in the Chapel. Elizabeth's husband William died in 1860 and Elizabeth died in 1871 and was the first person to be buried in Weedon. The land of the churchyard was owned by Charles's brother William who lived at



Penwick Furlong and he is reputed to have harvested a row of potatoes to allow the burial. The stone was erected much later and serves as a memorial to William who is buried in Hardwick.

William's younger sister was also an Elizabeth, Elizabeth Ann and she married John Gardiner in 1848 and had two children: Jessie born in 1850 and Thomas in 1851 in Lambeth. Elizabeth died in the

Cholera epidemic in 1854 and the window is in her memory.



Thomas was 62 when he died, so he was only 3 years old when his mother died. Edmund's seventh son was also an Edmund, known as Ted and was Joan Rolls' father. His eighth son was Joseph Thomas Seamons Rolls and was 27 years of age when he managed the conversion of the Chapel. I have copies of the letters he received but sadly not of those that he sent. Sadly, Thomas died during the rebuilding and it was taken over by his daughter Edith. Well actually she was not his daughter but the daughter of his wife Martha who had been married to Henry Hales. Thomas married her in 1878 after the death of Henry and assumed her name. Why? Well the Hales family had a successful business going back some years and it paid him to keep the name as it helped in the business of Gold and Silver lace making for the Theatrical work. Thomas was at some time the

manager of Drury Lane Theatre.



So sometime in May 1913 the window was ready and installed but the renovation of the rest of the building was not completed until September 1913 when Miss Hales unveiled the window and the service was taken by Edmund,

son Rev. William Rolls and Tom's brother. The window cost £110, the pulpit etc cost £50 and the organ £158.

I don't know when the rest of the building was converted but the cover photo show it as it was in 1913.

*The window photographs were taken by Andrea Sheppick in 2010*



## 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 of each month - 12 noon - 1.30 pm	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £8.00
Stoke Hammond	Wednesday 10.30 - 11.45 am	Coffee Morning at Village Sports Club
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
Chinnor -	Wednesdays 9.00– 11.30am (term time)	Tots & Toast -Drop in group for parents/carers with babies and toddlers. Toys/crafts/singing stories & refreshments. For more details Text Liz on 07720647914
Stewkley	Wednesday 10.30 – 11.30 am  Friday 7.30pm 10th & 24th January 7th & 21st February 13th & 27th March 10th April	Daisy Club for children from birth to school age— term time only.  Mutual Fellowship  Various speakers.  Contact John Jones 01525 217795  Good Friday Meditation
Whitchurch	Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon 'Little Steps' fun for babies, toddlers and par- ents.	A mums & toddler group meeting. With toys, crafts music and snacks. Every- one 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 Coral 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:**

Thurs 6.30 - 8.00 pm (term time) Activity Club

(Youth club for 7-11yr olds)

Traidcraft (Fairtrade) sales

Bring and Buy table for nominated charities (Sunday)

Wednesdays 9 – 11.30am Tots and Toast—

Parent and Toddler group (under 5's) - term time only

#### **Fortnightly:**

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

Table Tennis, Scrabble, Pizza etc.

Wednesday Afternoon 3.00 -4.00pm House Group (as announced)

Bible study—Sunday 7.30—9.00am

#### **Monthly:**

4th Sunday 12pm –Sharing Lunch (not August) All welcome

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

**Eco Church** - Chinnor Churches Go Wild - Christians Caring for God's Earth. Environmental surveys and sharing experience on maintaining grounds.

**Christians Together in Chinnor**—Sharing faith in working together. Taking the Church into the community and to local events.

### **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

### **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.

### **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.

Might you, or someone you know, be interested in attending **Parentalk?**

Parentalk gives parents the opportunity to share experiences, explore parenting principles, watch real life stories and animations, befriend other parents and more.

The sessions are for an hour and a half and the course is run over 6 weeks. Children are welcome and will be catered for.

As to what we would do: we will watch DVD clips, discuss different topics, share experiences, drink tea and coffee and eat biscuits and cake!



**If you are interested, text or speak to Mel on 07717121887 or Email: [familyworker.amc@gmail.com](mailto:familyworker.amc@gmail.com)**



*Mel Brown our Family Worker*

# **STEWKLEY METHODIST CHURCH MUTUAL FELLOWSHIP**



**COME AND JOIN US ON**

**7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.30PM**

**FOR A VERY LIVELY EVENING WITH**

**THE ROYAL BUTLER  
WILLIAM FRENCH**

**HEAR ANECDOTES FROM HIS TIME SERVING OUR  
ROYAL FAMILY AND OTHER CELEBRITIES**

# 125th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND CUDDINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

**17th -18th AUGUST 2019**

What a weekend of Celebration, activity, and an opportunity to thank God for 125 years of our Church on this present site.

17th August from 11.am - 4.00pm The Church was a hive of activity with demonstrations of crafts and the opportunity for visitors to try them out and take the finished results home. We



We would like to thank all those who responded to our invitation to join us. Many took home stones that they had decorated and flower arrangements that were imaginative and colourful to grace any home. Books turned into hedgehogs with amazing ease and although more challenging, mastering the art of creating pillow lace and quilting. Bible journaling was another way of illustrating passages after reading from the Bible. Drawings of how the passage spoke to individuals highlighting the significance to the reader. My thanks go to all our crafters who made the day fun, creative and instructive, and for all who learnt from their skills. The wheels of activity were oiled with a choice of beverages and delicious cakes and biscuits!!



We had some visitors from the Circuit and the village who enjoyed trying their hand at crafts that appealed to them. Those of you who came it was a joy to see you. It was a day to remember.

**Sunday 18th August.** This began with a lunch for 40 invited guests. Friends of the Church who had supported us over many years. Small decorated tables with chairs around allowed guests to sit around with their finger food and soft drinks and enjoy the wonderful food and excellent company and conversation.





It was wonderful to meet old and new friends especially those who were part of the Sunday school in the 1950's through to 1970's. What exciting stories were shared and the shield and photographs of their many successes in the National Scripture Exam. (Archive books were on display illustrating so many activities over the years and were enjoyed by guests between lunch and the service at 3.00pm.) Such a long history of families in the village joining in worship and preaching over the decades. Sunday School meeting in the morning and a service in the evening as there wasn't room for everyone to meet at the same time.

We had 2 videos – a new innovation for us. Peter Wenham – a local Historian gave a synopsis of the history of the Methodist Church in Cuddington, before it was on our present site. This was very informative, instructive and challenging as we heard facts that brought it alive. How important our history, when we see how God has moved in response to the dedication and prayers of His people.

The second video was of a previous Pastor and his wife from the Aylesbury Vineyard Church. They were unable to be with us, but it was good to hear what they had to say. They had been such a support and encouragement over many years. They recounted the meetings that were held when a Pastor from South Africa came to Cuddington, when the Church was full every evening. These meetings were such a blessing and lives were changed. People came from the Churches in the area. When our Church was refurbished in 2010 someone gave a gift to replace their chairs and they gave us the ones that we sit on now, and the carpet tiles that were surplus to their requirements. Such a blessing, saving us hundreds of pounds. God provided for us in an amazing way both financially and with gifts such as the chairs and flooring. This helped to make the transformation that you can see today.

During the service many of the 'old' hymns were sung which held many memories for each of us and a dear friend accompanied the singing which almost lifted the rafters. It was special to have these friends with us. Many people wanted to share how their lives had been changed and what being part of the fellowship meant to them. Two former Sunday school pupils who had taken part in the Scripture Exams and had stories to tell of the Bible teaching that they received. God had become real to them, as they were encouraged to tell Bible stories in their own words.

Who has despised the day of small things....Zechariah 4:10. There were boards of photographs of projects that began in our Church but outgrew the premises and now have become nationwide. Leaflets were given as people left after the service as time didn't allow to share in detail. Here are some of the articles.

/continued overleaf

1 Service in CMC to pray for British Jews in 2001. Beginning of an 11year series of National meetings held in London meeting every 3 months. After 3 years we went to Israel to pray. Special time. Eventually taken up by 'Ebenezer ' group and we felt we could hand the work on to them.

2 'Transformations One' Video. As a result of communities working and praying together with unity across denominations causing countries and areas being transformed, we decided to show the video and the response was so profound we ended up repeating the showing 10 times. We bought hundreds of copies to give away. A Church army Worker was so impacted holding meetings in Aylesbury that after 2 or 3 years he felt called to the Ministry and left the area. Real progress of Christian outreach into the community, Street Angels, Town Pastors and even new Churches.

3. 2011 we held a teaching and ministry weekend led by 2 of the International Directors of Ellel Ministries. This was very well attended, so much so that we outgrew the capacity of the Chapel. We moved to a new venue in Saunderton and people came from Oxford, Reading, Coventry, North London etc. Seven years later the meetings moved to the Church of the Holy Spirit Aylesbury. A new course called Explore, and usually only held in one of the centers, will begin in Aylesbury February 2020. 5 weekends a year for 2 years.

4. In the last year we felt the Lord asked us to do a series of Presentations about Israel. A DVD of one version 'Background to Balfour' is available if you are interested.

We praise God for all these opportunities to serve the community.

To close our service, a Minister friend of the Church over many years, closed with a short talk, and with prayer. He also prayed with those who asked for prayer for specific needs at the end of the service.

One precious family of 3 generations, who had been part of the Church for many years, came from Huddersfield. It was the Mother's birthday, so she helped us cut the Anniversary cake at the close of the service; A Double Celebration!!

We were so pleased to have a good number of friends from the Circuit to share the day. We had good wishes from former Ministers who were unable to be with us.

It was a very special weekend and thanks go to those who worked so hard to make it a success. You know who you are!!

## CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Arthur Sara has, I suspect, held this post since its inception, and would like to step down. We need to respect his request. So we are looking for someone to take over.

What does it involve?

The appointed person would, importantly, work with the Superintendent and the staff to oversee Safeguarding within the circuit. The key responsibilities are:

1. With the Superintendent to keep a list of all circuit DBS holders and advise when a new DBS is required
2. With the Superintendent to keep copies of all written risk assessments from around the circuit
3. With the Superintendent to advise churches when policies need to be updated and to offer advice where appropriate
4. To keep lists of who has completed the foundation Level training and work with the Circuit Trainers (Arthur Sara and Pete Honeyball) to provide training opportunities
5. To send information on to church safeguarding officers from District and Connexion
6. To be a point of contact and advice for the church safeguarding officers
7. To attend district safeguarding consultations on behalf of the circuit
8. To attend the circuit leadership team meetings when appropriate.

**Hopefully the demands will not be too onerous. If anyone is interested please speak to Richard Atkinson**

## COFFEE MORNING AT PRINCES RISBOROUGH



The men of Princes Risborough Methodist Church had organised a series of Coffee Mornings early in 2019. The purpose was not fund raising, but fellowship for the men and the guests attending, however any profits were put into the church's fund, supporting a number of charities.

As Autumn approached it was suggested that "the Men" organised another series of Coffee Mornings. The response from the men was excellent and coffee mornings were arranged in September, October and November; the three coffee mornings raised about £150.00 which was added to the Charities Fund as before.



Although a December Coffee Morning was not envisaged, when the church decided to support YDA (Young Deaf Activities), who use our premises, another one was arranged for 14 December; it seemed an excellent opportunity to raise funds for YDA.

It is hoped this provided an occasion when church members and YDA supporters were able to get to know each other better for the mutual benefit of both parties.

As far as the men of PRMC are concerned, the fellowship has been really good to the extent that other activities could be considered to strengthen this fellowship. **Just watch this space!!**



## **Parent Support Group**

**Time 10:30am - 1:00pm**

**18th January 2020**

**15th February**

**21st March**

**16th May**

**20th June**



**Princes Risborough Methodist Church**

**Wycombe Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks. HP27 0DH**

**If you have a hearing-impaired child aged 5 years or under we would love to meet you. Our aim is to empower and support families to make informed choices. We aim to offer support and advice to families, covering a wide range of topics and issues linked with deafness.**

**Come to YDA's Parent Support Group to meet other parents and children, share experiences and guide us on topics you want access to.**

**if you are interested please contact:**

**Jade Costello ‘**

**Parent Support Group Manager**

**Email - [jade@yda.org.uk](mailto:jade@yda.org.uk)**

**Mobile - 07966 36268**



## **Fairtrade matters:**

Recognising progress. Moving forward.



2019 is likely to hold different memories and prompt different reactions for each of us: some positive, some frustrating and some that stimulate a wish for better times.

2019 marked 40 years of Traidcraft; something that was quite an achievement given the concerns in late 2018 that it might collapse as a business. Your continued support of Traidcraft gives hope, employment and increased comfort to so many. If you are able to support Traidcraft, there is a ripple effect to individual's lives and wellbeing across the World.

2019 also marked 25 years since the creation of the Fairtrade Foundation by organisations including The WI, Oxfam, Christian Aid, CAFOD, and Traidcraft. Their drive, with that of others, has resulted in 1.5 million farmers and 1,200 producers becoming involved in the Fairtrade movement.

The Fairtrade Foundation helped set the standards for how trade should operate to be fair to all involved and particularly the producer. It introduced the iconic Fairtrade logo to guide consumers on what products meet Fairtrade standards. It is a logo that confirms prices paid, protect the grower/producer from exploitation. It is a logo that indicates the payment of a premium in the price structure. A premium which can then be used to promote changes in communities where producers and farmers live. The premium enables:-

- children to go to school, breaking poverty cycles:

- villages to develop clean water supplies, saving time collecting water and aiding sanitation and hygiene.

- producers to invest in their businesses, having more confidence in the level of business and income they can expect.

The impact of the Fairtrade Foundation, as an innovating force, can be seen in its achievements of being involved in seeing the introduction of Fairtrade tea, coffee, fruit juice, wine, rice, honey, charcoal, rubber and sustainable Palm Oil.

To find out more please visit their website at [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

**How can you help** The Fairtrade Foundation and Traidcraft make further progress in aiding individuals to work their way out of poverty?

- Look out for the Fairtrade logo on products
- Consider buying Fairtrade Easter Eggs in 2020
- Visit [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk), and encourage friends and family to do the same or
- Browse, promote and share the Traidcraft catalogues. (see info below)
- Seek out opportunities to buy Traidcraft at your own or a nearby church.

**Catalogues :** are available through Rod Thorpe. Orders made through Rod incur no delivery charge and result in a 10% donation from the sale price goes to Christian Aid.

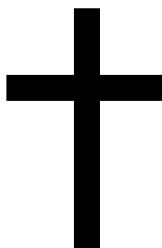
Please ring 01844 351565 for catalogues or more information.



*Vale of Aylesbury  
Methodist Circuit*

## **THE CRUCIFIXION**

By  
**JOHN STAINER**



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

**Presented by the Circuit Choir together with the Choir of St Peter and St Paul,  
Tring and friends from other local churches and choirs under the direction of  
Cliff Brown**

**Led by the Rev Richard Atkinson**

**Aylesbury Methodist Church**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 3.00 pm**

**(Repeated at St Peter and St Paul, Tring on**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 3.00 pm)**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



# YOUR CIRCUIT WEBSITE

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

The Circuit Website, in its current form, went 'live' in December 2015 since then, it has had, on average, over 6000 visitors each year; are **you** in that number?

It can be accessed on most smart Phones, tablets, laptops and desk top computers so most folk will have the ability to see what is going on round the Circuit.

What you can see is, of course, dependent upon what is posted there; have **you** ever considered writing an article or even suggesting a topic for inclusion?

It is impossible for one editor to know everything that is happening in the Circuit without your help; by far the best way to help is to become a **Sub Editor** for your church, there are some already in some churches, ideally there should be at least **one for each church!**

## Could that be you?

**Sub-editors have permission to:**

- Edit Pages
- Create/ edit articles
- Add files to the document library
- Add images to the picture galleries
- Add dates to the circuit calendar

**If you are willing and able to serve your church in this way please email [r.collis245@btinternet.com](mailto:r.collis245@btinternet.com) for further details.**

## ECO CHURCH

What do the Aylesbury churches of St Peter's, Holy Trinity, and South Court Baptists have in common with St Nicholas (Haddenham), St Mary's (Risborough) and Chinnor Methodist? **Answer:** They are all registered as Eco Churches, which is an initiative of the charity, ARocha, which has its roots in christian beliefs. Registration indicates that all have made a commitment to work towards examining their carbon footprint and what they can do about it.

The Church has its role to play in looking after the World of which we are stewards. This is perhaps emphasised by the fact that the Methodist, Anglican and URC churches along with Christian Aid, and Tear Fund are partners with A Rocha in their cause. While A Rocha may not have the profile of others such as Greta Thunberg, Extinction Rebellion, Eco Warriors or the movements relating to sustainability or plastic reduction, it is no less important.

Eco Church encourages worship communities to examine their Worship and Teaching and how they manage buildings and land. It also prompts members to consider their own attitudes and how they impact on the World by what they do.

In consequence the ideals within Eco Church could be considered to give cause for thought to:

- those who lead services,
- those who oversee church property (and finances),
- church councils,
- congregations and
- how we support our brothers and sisters around the World.

If you would like to explore more about A Rocha, please visit their website: [www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk).

Browsing the Eco Survey can also provide insight into what might be involved in becoming more Eco friendly.

If you would like to measure your church's carbon footprint, you should be able to find an assessment tool on line. One such guide is available at [www.carbontrust.com](http://www.carbontrust.com)

If you would like more info about what Chinnor is doing please contact Rod Thorpe.

## Update from Cheddington

At Messy church we had our annual Light party and the children, particularly the girls came dressed up in their party frocks. We had a games session, with parents joining in making a marble run, playing pool, ice hockey and the various craft activities that we always have available. In the Chapel we talked about donating some of our funds to children less well off and this year supported two children, one in India and the other in Myanmar and they all signed a Christmas card for them. Last year we supported Karibuni. We sang songs e.g. Walk in the Light etc and finished as always with our family afternoon tea, which everyone enjoys.

Our work with teenagers takes place on alternate Sunday evenings and last week we talked about the Remembrance exhibition that we had at the Chapel and then toasted marshmallows around a small fire pit on the forecourt of the Chapel, ending the evening with games.



In late November, both groups were involved in setting up our Nativity display outside the Chapel, this has been a real annual feature for the village, enjoyed by all.

*Cathy*

## ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE:

Items for the April—June 2020 issue should be forwarded to the following Email addresses:

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Email: [solokawadzi@hotmail.com](mailto:solokawadzi@hotmail.com)

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

**Please submit Magazine Items by the 15th February 2020**

## AMENDMENTS to CIRCUIT Database:

Details of changes to existing information in the **Circuit Database** should be sent immediately they occur to:  
Rev Richard Atkinson :[revrja@outlook.com](mailto:revrja@outlook.com) and to:  
[r.collis245@btinternet.com](mailto:r.collis245@btinternet.com)

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**Aylesbury:** [www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk](http://www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk)

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