

VALE OF AYLESBURY

METHODIST CIRCUIT

MAGAZINE



Stoke Mandeville –2016 Church Anniversary cover story on pages 6 - 9

April, May, June

2020

PASTORAL LETTER - Rev Richard Atkinson



In our house we have been on a journey of discovery over the past few years. It sort of coincided with the children going to University and parental relief that certain regular dishes that appeared on the Atkinson table could be relegated to more occasional use once there was just the two of us. This alongside concern about cookery books

gathering dust propelled us into a new habit of either selecting a book or a cuisine to be the focus of our weekly menus.

It means I have discovered things I did not know. When boiling cauliflower adding milk keeps the florets a brighter white and reduces odour, more intriguing is that if you place blanched green beans in a tomato sauce, they will warm up but not continue cooking. In addition, we have delighted in a variety of different dishes with very few horror stories. The thing that always impresses me is how in the cuisines that come from poorer parts of the world few ingredients can be used to make spectacular dishes without having to invest hours preparing. Our eating habits have changed, our children think it is crackers but for us it has been a real eye opener. I suppose it helps that we both like eating and I find cooking really relaxing but the real bonus is the way we have discovered of releasing yet more flavour.

Our lives are comprised of routines, patterns of doing that can easily become the unchallenged norm, this is true of life as much as it is of the church. How many of us sit in roughly the same space each week? Have you ever tried to worship from the opposite side of the church? I remember at college being sent to preach at a new build, a coming together of two congregations which had been open for less than a year. The steward who looked after me was keen to warn me about the peculiar way the service ended as one of the churches had had coffee after service the other not so half the congregation left to talk outside before departing while the others talked in the hall with a warming brew prior to making their way home. Habits become part of us and it is not always easy to embrace the mind set of change even though we may benefit. Just consider those who have been strongly advised to quit smoking yet some seem either unwilling or unable to break the habit.

The same could be said of what we might call our “holy habits”, the patterns of discipleship which are there to enable our journey but with which we struggle. How many of us can testify to a struggle with prayer, or Bible reading or some other aspect of church life?

This situation encouraged a Methodist Minister called Andrew Roberts to reflect and ultimately produce a book entitled Holy Habits in which he uses the picture of the early church in Acts 2:42-47 to identify 10 habits that we all should be working on. The staff team and others have looked at this resource and think there is something in it which should benefit us all. I suppose the aim is to encourage us to be a circuit of Holy Habits or more accurately of advanced holy habits correctly of more Holy Habits. Over the next few months you will be hearing more of this in meetings and from the front of church with the hope of launching this in the early autumn.

I want to assure you that this is not going to take over, we are talking about tweaking in the main rather than anything new. For each habit we will take time, we suspect about 3 months for each. During that time the habit in question will occasionally come to the fore, it will NOT be the focus of everything for the three months but will be inviting us to respond not with great stretches of time but tweaking , encouraging us to strive to follow the pattern of the earliest Christians and enhance our spiritual journey. There will be times where some churches or individuals can give example to the rest others that may be a challenge to us all. The staff feel this is a potentially exciting journey. There are no precise details as yet, we are hoping that the president and Vice President of Conference might be involved as there is a strong suggestion they will be spending some time in the Circuit.

I really would want to encourage the whole circuit to run with this with the assurance if it does not appear to work it will be dropped. I suppose if we are concerned to grow and make new disciples this could be a way forward. It will invite us all to think, to embrace new possibilities as well as celebrating what our churches do well. While the emphasis will be in each local church the hope is that this process will generate times for the circuit to come together so we can share and hear of how this process is touching lives in other parts of the circuit. I commend this exciting possibility to you; my hope and prayer is that it will allow a positive tweaking which will enable all our churches to benefit.

Please pray that Holy Habits might transform all our churches and bring us all closer to our loving God.

Blessings

Richard

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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.

Sabbatical – Rev Keith Edwards

It doesn't seem that long ago that I had my last sabbatical, but it was in fact in 2013 looking at and visiting Mega Churches in Australia.

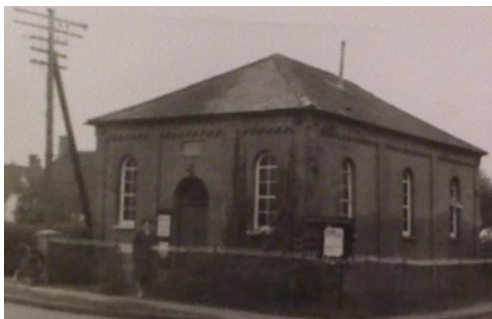
This year I will take my sabbatical from 20th April until 20th July. Many of you will know that I have been making items out of recycled wood that range from small wooden crosses through chopping boards all the way up to a full size summer house made from pallet wood (245 pallets to be precise!)

When I agreed to become minister for Haddenham, it was with an eye to developing some form of "Art, culture and spirituality centre" within the community. So my sabbatical this year will focus on Art and Spirituality and specifically on my learning some new techniques in woodworking, especially in hand carving and whittling.

Whilst I am on sabbatical, the main point of contact for pastoral emergencies will be Rev Richard Atkinson.

Blessings

Keith



STOKE MANDEVILLE CHAPEL

From early records it would appear that Buckinghamshire was regarded as something of a mission field in the early 19th century, with Methodist

preachers coming out to the villages, preaching wherever they were welcome. The farming communities embraced the new Methodism, house groups formed. These led to the desire for places of worship, a chapel in Stoke Mandeville, built in 1815, being cited as one of the earliest. It was probably a Primitive Methodist Chapel, but there are records of a Wesleyan Chapel being opened in 1818. A census in 1851 showed both chapels to be flourishing with congregations of over 70 persons at each of two services each Sunday in the Wesleyan Chapel.

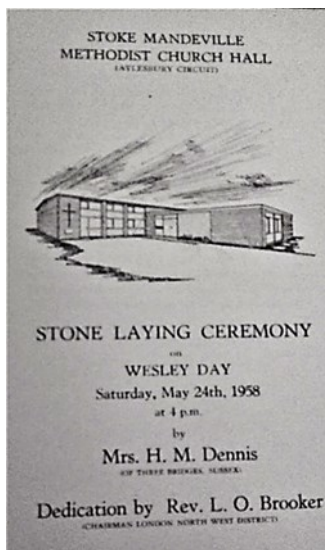
The land and building cost at that time was £125. After about 50 years the building became unsafe and was rebuilt at a cost of £180. The chapel, rebuilt in 1868, can still be seen today as a house conversion along the Risborough Road

It served the Community for almost 100 years but became structurally unsound; remedial work proving to be impossible. These premises were also inadequate for the village, which was growing rapidly, and it was obvious that the need for a new church was pressing.

A scheme was started in earnest in 1947 and enabled Stoke Mandeville to purchase a new plot of land in Eskdale Road which was dedicated on 'Wesley Day May 24th.

1951. The foundation stone of the new building was laid on 'Wesley Day 1958. The new building was designed to cater, as far as possible, for all the varied activities connected with the church, Not only as a place of worship but also as a centre of Christian

work. In addition to the money raised by the generosity of members and friends of the Stoke Mandeville Society, by subscriptions and special



functions, the opportunity for building at that time was made possible by the generous grants from the Joseph Frank Benevolent Trust and the General Chapel Committee.

Together with the allocation to the Stoke Mandeville fund of the sum realised by the sale of the Southcourt site. This gift from the Southcourt



Trustees was greatly appreciated.

The architect included in the main cost of the sum of £500 for certain interior furnishings which were in keeping with the general scheme of the building, many items were donated and presented by members and friends of the church., such as

kneelers and altar cushions made by the late Miss Eyre, the stand for the font, made by Mr Peter James, hymn books in memory of the late miss Nora Brown.

The new building was opened by Mrs L O Booker in the October of 1958 Over the next 60 years improvements such as a porch, replacement windows, and a disabled toilet were added.

In the years that followed the church, in addition to holding morning and evening services, which were well attended, had a strong Sunday School, a Youth Club and a Wesley Guild. Sunday school outings and tea parties were very popular events as well as the annual Wesley Guild Christmas Party.

For many years the church maintained its Community Contacts by having a 'Pop in' afternoon on Fridays, by holding Jumble Sales, Christmas Bazaars all of which were well supported by the local community, an open fellowship during the week was open to anyone who cared to come and that was supported by members from around the Circuit.

Harvest Festivals and the Church Anniversary were notable events, which included a Saturday Evening event, which normally included an excellent meal and entertainment, often provided by the members themselves.

From all accounts It appears that the new building was a great success with a very active society that had a very effective ministry in Stoke Mandeville. during the latter part of the 20th century.

In 1969 the membership was about 70. The Sunday School, Youth Club and Wesley Guild were still going strong and in fact even into the 2000s the Wesley Guild still attracted members and was the only one remaining in the Circuit.

As families grew older many moved away and there was steady decline in membership. Exactly when this started has been difficult to determine, but the last family that attended regularly moved away in 2009 and for over 10 years now we have had no members aged below 25 and no children attending any services except very occasional visitors.

In 2007 the Church Council agreed to let the 'Primary' room to the Karibuni Trust for a period of 3 years, the arrangement to be reviewed after 3 years. This meant a loss of some amenities, mainly storage space, but enabled them to establish their International HQ for what is now KARIBUNI CHILDREN, and the church has been pleased to be able to support their work. In more recent years the kitchen has been upgraded and the stage area converted to storage space with the aid of a grant from the Lottery's Award for All Scheme.

As our membership has grown older and further reduced by deaths, transfers and infirmity, there has been an adverse effect upon our income.

We have looked at the potential for growth and identified some areas of possibility. One suggestion to increase our contact with the community was to hold a monthly Lunch Club on the 1st Friday of each month and this was implemented by two of our members, with some other help, in 2015. After a slow start it became very successful, sometimes serving 30+ lunches. It was supported by villagers and regular visitors from around the Circuit but didn't add to our numbers at worship, and eventually failed due to lack of regular helpers. A familiar pattern when there is only a small number to call upon!

When the final call came to 'Plan for Growth or Closure', it became obvious that we neither had the human or financial resources to implement a plan for growth and reluctantly have had to plan for closure.

Looking back over fairly recent years there have been some very good moments and our remaining folk have been very loyal and worked hard to try to keep things going, no names are mentioned in this account, but they will know who they are. Some of the highlights are illustrated on the next page.



2008 50th Anniversary of the Stone Laying

A wonderful weekend with a Flower Festival with contributions from all round the Circuit, far too many to show all of them here



2015 200th Anniversary of Methodism in Stoke Mandeville

Another great weekend, we have been so fortunate to have two very talented flower arrangers that have made these occasions so memorable.



1st Friday Lunch Club – Christmas 2017.

Just one of the special lunches provided during the 2015 – 2019 period by our excellent Catering Team. The food and the fellowship will be missed.

Over the years the church has supported many well known charities such as RNLI, the local Air Ambulance Service, Methodist Homes and the Methodist Missionary Funds; most consistently supported has been the AFC Action for Children, formerly the National Children's Home NCH, a number of members held League of Light Boxes, the time honoured way of giving to AFC/ NCH, these were faithfully collected every year.

So much has had to be left out but it would not be right to forget all the Preachers who have served the church at Stoke Mandeville so well. Such a wide variety of styles but all with the same commitment to serve Our Lord.

The members have worked faithfully in God's service for many years. They have reflected on the positive impact the Church has had, over a number of generations and have come to the conclusion that, due to changing social trends affecting village life, their task is finished and they can now hear the reassuring words

' Well done, good and faithful servant. '



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 Friday 10th Apr 7.30pm	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £8.00 Mutual Fellowship— Good Friday Meditation Rev Broadbent-Kelly
Stoke Hammond	Wednesday 10.30 - 11.45 am	Coffee Morning
Stoke Mandeville	Most Fridays 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 10

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

Other Special Gatherings

Chinnor - Wednesdays 9.00– 11.30am term time Tots & Toast -Drop in group for babies and toddlers with parents/carers

Toys/crafts/singing and story. Refreshment. Text Liz on 07720647914

Cheddington	Mondays 9.30 -11.00 am (except holidays)	The Toast Baby & Toddler Group
Stewkley	Wednesday 10.30 – 11.30 am Friday 7.30pm -10th April	Daisy Club for children from birth to school age— term time only. Mutual Fellowship Good Friday Meditation Rev Broadbent-Kelly Various speakers. Contact John Jones 01525 217795
Swanbourne 	Fridays 10-30am in the Chapel: stories, songs, prayers, nibbles, ba- bies, toddlers, mums & carers all very welcome	Pram Service will con- tinue—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 1st & 3rd 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:

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)

Tots and Toast—Parent and Toddler group (under 5's)

Wednesdays 9 – 11.30am - term time only

Fortnightly:

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

Table Tennis, Scrabble, Pizza etc.

Wednesday Afternoon House group—2.30pm—4.00pm (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

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.

Waddesdon

Weekly:

Babies and Toddlers group: THE STAY & PLAY GROUP will meet during term times only on MONDAYS 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Monthly:

1st. Monday Friendship Club 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

UPCOMING EVENTS AT AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Please be reminded to send details of your events to Shirley at Aylesbury in order to avoid any clash so that we are able to support each church event whenever possible

Sat 25th April - Aylesbury Festival Choir concert

Wed 13th May - Annual Organ Concert

15th – 19th June – Circuit Holiday to Eastbourne

3rd – 5th July – Circuit Camping weekend

Sat 11th July – Karibuni Event at Aylesbury Methodist Church – start time to be confirmed

Sun 19th July – Circuit Songs of Praise at Aylesbury Methodist Church

Wed 26th September – Action for Children Quiz – starts 7.00 pm

Sat 17th October – Alfie Charity Event – starts 3.30 pm

Sat 28th November – Aylesbury Festival Choir – starts

5th or 12th December – Aylesbury Methodist Church Christmas Tree Fest – start time to be confirmed

LIVE SCREENING from the AMC

The technical problems with the live screening of the Aylesbury Methodist Church 10.30am services have been overcome and live streaming has now been resumed via the thesundayservice.org and YouTube.

Only people we have permission to film will be seen on screen.

If you have a suitable device you can now join us on-line live if you cannot attend in person or watch the recording later (if you nodded off during the sermon)

Use this link to find the Services: <https://thesundayservice.gallery.video/aylesburymethodist>

Dates for the Quarter

Saturday 4th April at 3pm at Stewkley- **Film Frozen 2**

Sunday 19th April 3pm at Stoke Mandeville -**Circuit Service**

A celebration of the 200 years ministry of the Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church

Saturday 23rd April at 7pm at Stewkley - **Film Suffragette**

Further details on facebook—"Stewkley Movies at the Chapel"—free admission, but donations gratefully received, refreshment on sale.

Saturday 9th May at 7.30pm at Waddesdon – **Anniversary Concert**

LIVE BAND CONCERT In the School Hall by the LAID BACK

BAND Tickets for £5 each. Contact Coral Soulsby 01296 707298

coralsoulsby@talktalk.net

There will be a Buffet with proceeds going to the Church

Maintenance Fund

Sunday 21st June at 5.00 pm at Swanbourne -

Circuit Service at Brises Farm.

To ensure that nobody is washed or blown away, this Service, to be led by Rev Richard Atkinson, will take place in the barn.

Look out for more details on the Circuit Website!



*Vale of Aylesbury
Methodist Circuit*

Songs of Praise 2020

*Congregational hymn singing
presented by the Circuit Choir
together with friends from
other local choirs.*

Great Hymns

With Great Tunes

Come along for a Great Sing

*Led by
Rev Donna-Marie Broadbent-Kelly*

***Aylesbury Methodist Church
Sunday 19th July @ 6.00 pm***

EVERYONE WELCOME

ECO CHURCH

Back in 2000 the Methodist Church created an Environmental Policy. It set out areas where it saw individual churches could either adapt or adopt practices that would make a difference to the environment. The Methodist Church has taken a strong stance on environmental issues for some years now which has recently translated into a partnership with Eco Church (A Rocha) and the launching of Eco Circuit and Eco District.

In response to the partnership **Bala Gnanapragasam, Vice-President of the Conference of the Methodist Church, added: “**

This year is the tenth anniversary of the publication of the report 'Hope in God's Future' at the Methodist Conference. Our hope is in a faithful God who delights in creation. This hope blossoms when we are turning words into action. The current Living Lent campaign gives us an opportunity to pray and reflect on changes that we can make in our lifestyles.

Both Living Lent and Eco Church are opportunities for us to join with ecumenical partners. Now Methodist Circuits and Districts are able to join Eco Church alongside Church of England Dioceses and United Reformed Church Synods. Together, we can take action to protect God's creation for future generations.

Latest figures seen suggest there are 176 Methodist Churches signed up as Eco Churches and that in May 2019, the Methodist Church in Stafford -u-Avon was the first Methodist Church to achieve the Gold Award.

For those interested in exploring matters further the following organisations and websites provide resources and information.

www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk.

www.Operationnoah.org (search: 'How green is your church')

www.Methodist.org.uk (search: eco circuit)

www.Greenchristian.org.uk (search: resources- leaflets- check up pdf)

www.carbontrust.com

Contributed by Rod Thorpe.

Theology in Hymnody

We all have favourite hymns; good tunes, rousing words, happy memories of singing with family or friends. Putting the tunes aside for a moment and looking a little deeper into the words we can discover the aim of the hymn-writer: expressing their theology and getting us to engage with it by singing along.

Theology – the ‘study of God and religious belief’ is key to our relationship with God, the church and each other. In the Christian church there are four identified theological strains:

- **Formal** – the wisdom of theologians and other great thinkers
- **Normative** – the ‘tradition’; scripture and the creeds, official church teachings and policies, authorised liturgies
- **Espoused** – what groups and individuals say about their beliefs, perhaps drawn on Formal and Normative
- **Operant** – what groups and individuals actually do - theology in people’s actions rather than what they say.

Singing the Faith and its predecessor, Hymns and Psalms, contain many hymns that follow a pattern in their expression of theological strains. Formal theology is a tough one to spot unless you are a scholar of Barth or Bultman, I’m too new to this game to identify those references in hymns but there is a strong presence of the other three.

Many of our hymns start with *normative* references to scripture, Old Testament descriptions of prophets or Jesus’s teachings and miracles. By the end of the hymn they have moved into espoused treaties to express the feelings of joy in God’s grace and forgiveness and operant to act upon it in the contemporary world.

Take the time to look up the examples below and judge for yourselves; some well-known, some rarely sung, and see if you agree:

StF 277 'My song is love unknown'. This reminds me of school and my youth in the church. A haunting normative catalogue of Jesus's life which expresses wonder at his sacrifice – lists his origins (sent by God), trials (his crucifixion and incarceration in the tomb) and miracles (curing the blind and lame). The last verse ends with a touching espoused anticipation of the kingdom of heaven 'This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend'.

StF 540 'The day the universe was started'. An unfamiliar hymn but with a clear structure. An accessible normative creation story building up through the birth of the earth and creatures culminating in an espoused promise that everyone has '... this special place in time and history'. An ideal setting for prayers

StF 243 'A rich young man came seeking - ...'. Another rarity which contains normative descriptions of Jesus' teachings (the rich man entering the kingdom of God), parables (the widow's mite) and miracles (feeding of the five thousand). It ends in operant with a focus on personal wealth entreating us to '... keep our care for money from turning into greed...'

StF 637 'Soldiers of Christ, arise'. This hymn ticks several boxes with strong normative references to armour and battles, operant directives to '...wrestle, and fight, and pray...' and in the final lines an espoused reference to heaven 'Till Christ the Lord descends from high, and take the conquerors home.' A powerful 'going out' hymn.

StF 673 ‘Will you come and follow me’. Another favourite of mine giving an interesting twist on the operant theme voicing the calling from God’s point of view. It lists things that may happen if you follow Christ: ‘...care for cruel and kind’, ‘...risk the hostile stare’ ‘...kiss the leper clean’, ‘...set the prisoners free’, ‘...use the faith you’ve found’. In the last verse it flips to the first person ‘...Let me turn and follow you...’ and an espoused ‘Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me’.

StF 707 ‘Make me a channel of your peace’. Based on the prayer of St Francis this is an atmospheric operant hymn offering the singer up as a conduit for God’s work to counter hatred, injury, doubt, despair, darkness of spirit and ends with espoused belief in eternal life. Another prayerful hymn. And now the big hitters:

StF 404 ‘God’s spirit is in my heart;’. A catchy espoused hymn with a sing-out operant refrain describing God’s calling ‘...give the good news to the poor..’, ‘tell blind people that they can see...’, ‘set the down-trodden free...’. The verses contain normative references to Jesus and his teachings ‘Just as the Lord sent me, so I’m sending you out to be...’ and ‘Don’t carry a load in your pack; you don’t need two shirts on your back...’

Stf 409 ‘Let us build a house where love can dwell’. An inclusive hymn with normative references to ‘saints’ and ‘prophets’ which then moves onto operant – ‘... a house where love is found’ and ‘...a house where hands will reach’. The last verse is espoused ‘... all are named, their songs and visions heard’. Particularly appropriate around call to worship.

StF 156 'From the breaking of the dawn'. A favourite discovered in recent years. A charming reflective hymn with memorable espoused line as an interleaved refrain – '...stand on every promise of your word'. It describes faith in covenant with God and his forgiveness, guidance and grace. A reflective hymn appropriate for many parts of worship, for example as a call to worship or with prayers.

StF 693 'Beauty for brokenness'. Another modern hymn and one that really hits the spot. An unusual refrain structure gives interest as it lists issues with the world '...justice, joy and peace' and the potential solutions; 'Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills, work for all people...' and '...havens from fear, cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share'. The last verse brings an operant request to 'Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame' to help us carry out God's work.

As illustrated by these examples Singing the Faith shows normative, espoused and operant theology in many of the hymns it contains. Why not take the time to revisit your favourites in Singing the Faith (and Hymns and Psalms too) and see what you can discover anew? While you are there look at some you don't know and see what jumps out at you now.

Steve Kemp



Parent Support Group

Time 10:30am - 1:00pm

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

Mobile - 07966 36268



FAIRTRADE MATTERS – From simple actions

While there have been many changes in 2019, and we embark on a new decade with hope, the experiences of poverty, erratic/ low or no income and debt remain a reality for many; no matter in what part of the world they might live.

Fairtrade is unlikely to be an answer in its own right but it can assist individuals, families and communities and give encouragement and motivation to others.

As Methodists, we are encouraged at the start of each New Year to make a Covenant. We are asked to be perceptive, receptive and active. We are encouraged to look at the world around us, consider what we have or have not done and to do things that might be uncomfortable for us.

The actions could be as simple as;

- -changing buying patterns, moving away from 'my usual', to try an ethical version.
- -giving thought to what the impact is of a purchase for those involved in its production, be it benefits to income or the loss of environment, in terms of soil or water.
- -asking questions; something which can be the basis for initiating change.-caring about a situation, and by doing so stimulate the potential for change
- -Changing what you do, think or buy can challenge others' attitudes and generate changes in others' behaviours.

While Fairtrade matters, so do we all. With attitudes of caring for all, the prospect of sharing resources and earth's provision increases.

Please pray that 2020 may be a year of seeing further progress in mutual support and meeting the needs of each other.

EASTER 2020: Easter Sunday is on 12th April 2020

Although the Love story of Christmas and Easter are intertwined, it seem incredible that as early as mid January, the first Easter Eggs were spotted in the shops.

If your interest is in presenting an egg with the Easter message, why not check out 'The Real Easter Egg'.

It is Fairtrade, plastic free, palm oil free and provides a leaflet on the story and meaning of Easter.

Contact Rod Thorpe for info or to get your egg.



*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 29th March 2020 at 3.00 pm

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

EVERYONE WELCOME

Refreshments will be served in the Hall after the service.



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

ANNUAL ORGAN CONCERT
35th ANNIVERSARY



***Presenting the outstanding
International Concert Organist***

Ian Tracey

***Organist Titulaire of
Liverpool Cathedral***

WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2020 at 7.30 pm

***Entrance: £15.00 or £12.00 if booked in advance.
(Students entrance free)***

***Tickets on sale from the 1st April, available from the
Church Office on weekday mornings or direct from
Derrick Matthews (01296 488076)***

Circuit Camping and Caravan Event



Dates - 3rd – 5th July 2020

Venue - Bridge Villa Camping and Caravan Park Wallingford OX10 8HB

Cost - £27 per unit per night (includes 2 People and electricity)

This site is within easy walking distance of the town and the Thames River. On our previous visit we thoroughly enjoyed the excellent facilities and the opportunities this offers for walking, links to other places of interest and the chance to explore historic Wallingford.

This year we have been allocated an area for ourselves so please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to join us on this fun filled weekend. A deposit of £10 will secure your pitch and the payment can be sent to us as this year we are making a group booking.

The programme will follow the usual format with a communal meal on the Friday evening, walks or other activities on the Saturday followed by a bring and share barbecue in the evening. There will be a short service on Sunday morning and the possibility of a pub lunch for those who wish.

For more information or to book your pitch contact
Chris Sara telephone 01296 484310
Mobile 07515472825 email chrisara096@gmail.com



YOUR CIRCUIT WEBSITE

www.aylesburyvale.org.uk

The Circuit Website, in its current form, is now over 4 years old, it has had, 95,350 visitors to the HOME page. The next most popular page to visit is the CIRCUIT DAIRY which has been visited 31,700 times.

The question is, are you in that number?

There is a wealth of information there and 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 Diary

Are you willing and able to serve your church in this way? If you are, please Email

r.collis245@btinternet.com

If you have difficulty finding your way around the Website—contact me.

Roy

ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE:

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

Solomon Awadzi **01296 489384**

Email: solokawadzi@hotmail.com

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

Please submit Magazine Items by the 15th MAY 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 and to: r.collis245@btinternet.com

ITEMS FOR PUBLISHING ON THE WEBSITES:

WEBSITE ADDRESSES:

Circuit: www.aylesburyvale.org.uk

Aylesbury: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Fairford Leys: www.fairfordleyschurch.org.uk

All enquiries or suggestions should be addressed to::

Peter Green for the **AMC Website** :

peterb.green@ntlworld.com **01296 424653**

Roy Collis for the **Circuit Website:**

r.collis245@btinternet.com **01296 630989**

or

Rev. Keith Edwards ulysee798@gmail.com **01296 423363**