

VALE OF AYLESBURY

METHODIST CIRCUIT

MAGAZINE



see page 8 for cover story.

October November

December

2017

PASTORIAL LETTER



Rev Helen Kirk

I have often had the question 'what is a Methodist?' but I was slightly taken aback when the question was 'Why are you a Methodist?'

Well, I'm a Methodist because that's the church my mum & dad went to and made me go....even when I didn't want to!

I'm a Methodist because as a teenager this was the church with the best youth group and it was fun.

I'm a Methodist because I like a good sing, the people are friendly and caring and there's always tea and cake.....

I'm a Methodist because the values of community, justice and meeting social needs are important to me.

All this is true but really I am still a Methodist because it was amongst the Methodist people I discovered Jesus.

However it was a long time before anyone introduced us. I belonged, sang, ate cake and took part in events for many years before anyone told me that this was personal; that the story of Jesus was really a story of the deep deep love that God had for me and his creation. And when I realised how much I was loved, I was shocked and disturbed; it changed my life.

I honestly think without that introduction, without Jesus, I would have drifted away from the Methodist church. I would have had many fond memories of the church; no doubt I would have still wanted to get married there and possibly have my children baptised there; I would probably carry the values of justice and integrity but that would have been it. I would have been like the countless others who say they have 'a Methodist background' but no real faith.

So I thank God that someone had the courage, a long time ago, to talk to me about what they knew of Jesus.

I have realised this summer that I have completed 20 years in ministry and in those 20 years I have been involved in many initiatives: courses on faith; community outreach projects; fresh expressions of church; alternative acts of worship all designed to engage people with Christianity.

They are all good and valid forms of outreach but I do wonder sometimes if we would be better simply explaining what it is about Jesus that makes us follow him; if we introduced people genuinely to the Jesus we know. As we begin the new Methodist year with all the flurry of activity that it involves may we not forget why we do what we do and maybe, just maybe, we might have the courage to tell someone WHO we do it all for.....not for the church but for God who loves us so much through Jesus.

Happy Methodist New Year!

Helen

A Prayer

May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of Christ dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.

May the peace of Christ my Saviour
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self-abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

Kate Barclay Wilkinson (Singing the Faith 504)

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

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:

SATURDAY 7th October, Methodist Church, Chinnor
at 7.00pm. Concert by **Voice Versa –It's a Wonderful World**

SATURDAY 14th October, Methodist Chapel, Stone.
10.30 am – 4 pm **FIRST EVER VILLAGE 'BOOK FEST'**

Saturday 28th October 2017 CHARITY CONCERT at The
Church on Fairford Leys. At 7.30 pm. In Aid of Karibuni
Children by the ELLESBOROUGH SILVER BAND

FRIDAY 24th November BARN DANCE at Chinnor Village
Hall 7.30—10.30pm

SATURDAY 9th December at Stewkley—Christmas Lunch,
by ticket only.

**For further details of these events see the posters on later
pages.**

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

Circuit Caravan and Camping Weekend 2017

Due to the success of last year's event and many requests to go again this year 13 units including 26 adults and four children from 5 different churches attended the weekend at Anita's Camping site near Banbury.

The main event began on Friday evening with a supper of jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings and accompaniments and a range of deserts. On Saturday there was an opportunity to visit two National Trust properties one of which was a pleasant walk from the site.



As can be seen from the photograph we had a rally field to ourselves and were able to appreciate the wonderful country side. As we had perfect weather we were able to fully enjoy all the planned activities.

In the evening a communal barbecue was enjoyed by all. As always in such events the shared food was magnificent as was the fun and fellowship we shared throughout the weekend.



On Sunday morning we were delighted that we were joined by five adults and four children from the camp site at our outdoor service. It was a really joyful occasion and our thanks as always go to Pete and Jane Honeyball for their musical accompaniment and to Helen for her inspiring message.

We were able to book a marquee at a pub beside the canal where many of the campers were able to enjoy further fellowship over Sunday lunch.

Cover story



The Wesley Centre at North Marston was officially opened by the Chair of the Methodist Northampton District the **Rev Peter Hancock** on 18th June 2017 at a Special Service which was well



attended by folk from the Village and around the Circuit. The old Methodist Church has now become a multi-use community hall intended to be used in the following ways: a History Club

Heritage Centre, Sunday School, occasional services, mid-week events and meetings, regular village coffee stop, Brownie venue, social gatherings such as for Baptism and Funeral gatherings, family anniversaries and parties and even business meetings. Think of a community use and The Wesley Centre offers the answer.



It was the gathering point for members of the congregation to process to the Service in the church on Pentecost Sunday (see the Cover Picture).

Access to the building is wheelchair friendly and everyone is welcome.

Go to **www.wesleycentre.org** for more information on upcoming events at the centre

which include the monthly “Wesley Flics”

COME AND SEE!

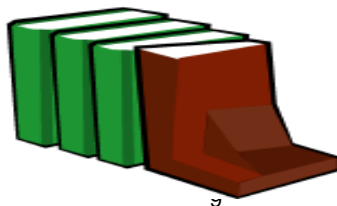
Pictures by Clare Hurrell

**GET READY FOR THE
FIRST EVER VILLAGE 'BOOK FEST'
SATURDAY 14th October
Methodist Chapel, Eythrope Road, Stone.
10.30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**



Those
l...o...n...g winter evenings are on the way –
what do you look forward to?
Curling up with a good book of course

Now's the time to sort out the books you no longer need,
then bring them along and enjoy a
cup of tea/coffee while you browse
to find new ones



BARN DANCE



Barn Dance and Ploughman's Supper with Bodger's Wood Band Caller: Terry Phipps

Bring your own wine, beer and glasses
(soft and hot drinks available)

Friday 24 November 2017 from 7.30 till 10.30 pm

Chinnor Village Hall

Church Road, Chinnor, OX39 4PQ

Tickets: £7.50 (£2.50 under 18s) available from:
Jane Honeyball (01844 351096) or Liz Thorpe (01844 351565)

All proceeds to Chinnor Methodist Church Building Fund





CHARITY CONCERT



ELLESBOROUGH SILVER BAND

are hosting

An Evening of Light Classical Music and Film Themes

In Aid of Karibuni Children

On Saturday 28th October 2017 at

7.30 p.m.

*The Church on Fairford Leys, Hampden Square,
Fairford Leys, Aylesbury
HP19 7HT*

*No tickets will be issued; we will be asking for
donations on the evening.*

Refreshments will be available in the Interval



Registered UK Charity Number 1044872



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 10.00 am - 12.00 noon	Maisie's Coffee Morning Fairtrade goods, bring and buy items usually on sale. Choirs use church Sun and Wed evenings. Pilates classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays WEA day school in Oct, Nov, Mar and Apr. plus U3A meetings
Stewkley	3rd Saturday each month 12 noon - 1.30 pm December Lunch Saturday 9th	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £7.50 By Ticket only
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 £3.00
Thame Christchurch	Tuesdays & Fridays 10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee Mornings
Waddesdon	Thursdays 10.00 am - 11.30 am Alternate Tuesdays. 11.00 am - 2.00 pm	Coffee Morning Light lunches 12

Wingrave	Tuesdays 12 noon - 1.30 pm	Nup End Cafe Lunches
Wesley Centre North Marston	Friday 10.00am to 1200 noon	Coffee Mornings - Come and help establish a meeting point for coffee and a chat with friends

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 7.30 pm - on 13th & 27th Oct 10th & 24th Nov 1st & 15th Dec	Daisy Club for children from birth to school age— term time only. Mutual Fellowship Various Speakers For further information 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— Services: Oct 13th, Nov 10th and Dec 8th 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: Mrs. Pearl Riley 01296 483547
- Boys Brigade Tuesdays 6.00 - 9.00 pm
Contact: Mrs. Margaret Miskin 01296 422919

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 1st and 3rd 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 1st and 3rd 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.

/Over

LEARNING AND GROWING

Waddesdon (cont.)

Fortnightly

The Women's Hour meets on Wednesdays in the School Room at 2.30pm. It's an opportunity to meet friends and catch up on their recent activities while enjoying an informal afternoon of favourite poems, readings, and hymns. Newcomers are most welcome.

Weekly

Wednesdays in Term Time - a Children's Club for 6 - 8 year olds meeting at 6.30 - 8.30pm

[Waddesdon Shell Group] Wednesday Evenings

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.

VOICE VERSA



It's a Wonderful World

**A vocal quartet of classically trained singers
accompanied by Marjorie Holliday on the piano**

Saturday 7th October 2017 at 7:00 pm

Chinnor Methodist Church
62 Station Road, Chinnor, OX39 4PZ

Tickets: £5 (£3 children) available from:
Jane Honeyball (01844 351096 or Anne Marie Lord (01844 352120)

All proceeds to Chinnor Methodist Church Building Fund

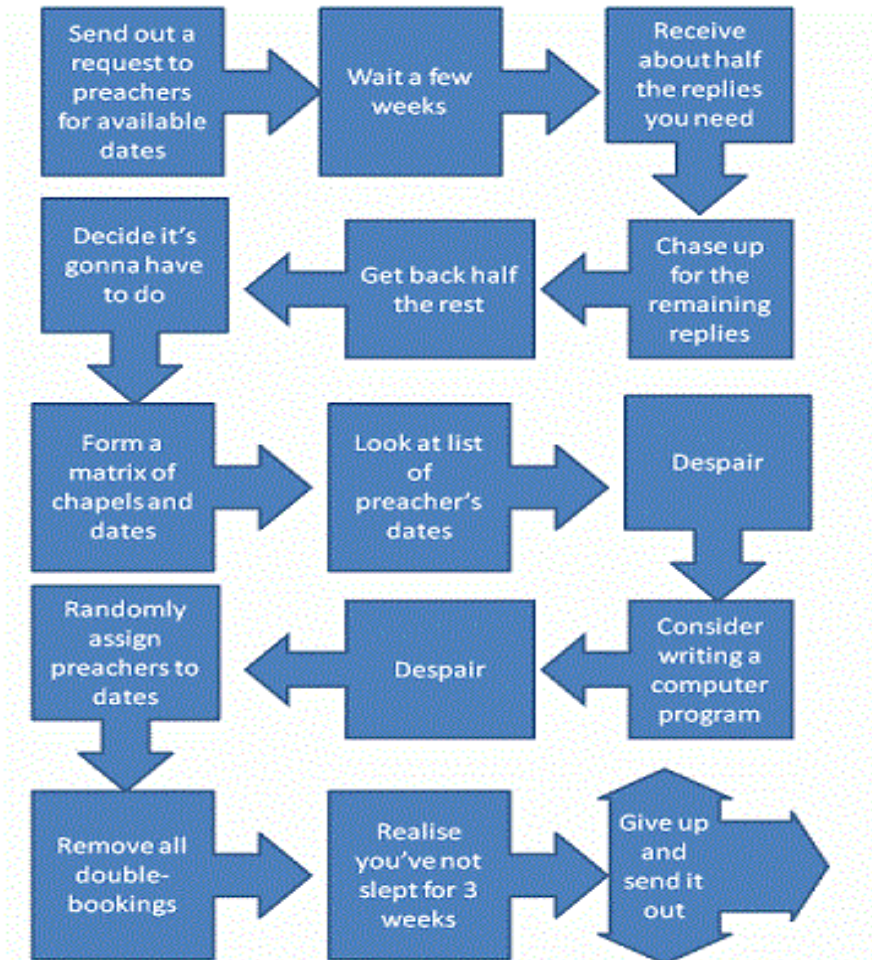
**voice
VERSA**



CREATING THE CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN

You may recall having seen the Flow Diagram below in a previous issue, it is of course meant to be a joke.

As a representation of what Supers used to go through it was, and may be still is for some, too near reality to be funny. Fortunately we have moved on and the Super only loses a few nights sleep! Part of the problem was the fact that the information arrived in so many forms that there was a good chance of it being lost, forgotten or misunderstood.



Some sections of the Circuit Website form a facility to assist the preparation of the Preaching Plan, these are collectively known as the CHRESTOS Tools (generally known just as CHRESTOS) which allow the participation of all involved with the Plan preparation; the whole operation is controlled by the Superintendent Minister. Chrestos enables regular preachers to input their available dates on line by completing a simple form. The system builds a data base showing when and where each preacher will be available. Some Visiting Preachers need to be invited in the traditional way; Chrestos has a list of VPs who have preached in the Circuit recently. Nominated Local Church Officers, normally a Steward, can submit information on special services, invited preachers, changes of service times, etc. again using a simple form on line. A **deadline** is set for all this information to be entered.

CHRESTOS puts all the information in one place and in writing but any system is only as good as the information it receives!

After the deadline the system is switched to Planning Mode and makes a Planning Grid available to the Plan Admin Team, which once had to meet to deal with all the paperwork, but now operates on-line.

Ministers can fill in their own appointments in their own area on the Planning grid which is effectively an online version of the Plan. The Super then fills the vacant appointments using the information from CHRESTOS

This online system, which we started using seriously for the Jan-March Plan in 2016, has reduced plan preparation from weeks to days. **We are still on a learning curve and still hoping for 100% cooperation from the churches.**

When the grid is complete it is converted to our traditional publication format and a draft put on the website for anyone to make comment upon.

A final version is normally on line and ready for printing in 7-10 days after that but that depends upon folk being **alert and responsive** to promptings on the website and in Emails.

IF ASKED, DO YOU DO YOUR BEST TO HELP?

ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE:

Items for the January—March 2018 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 November 2017

AMENDMENTS to CIRCUIT DIRECTORY:

Details of changes to existing information in the **Circuit Directory** should be sent immediately they occur to:

Rev Helen Kirk: revhelenkirk@sky.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** : pe-
terb.green@ntlworld.com 01296 424653

Roy Collis for the **Circuit Website:**
r.collis245@btinternet.com 01296 630989

or

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01296 423363