

# ***VALE OF AYLESBURY*** **METHODIST CIRCUIT** **MAGAZINE**



**Welcome to Stewkley Church - see page 4**

## **JANUARY FEBRUARY** **MARCH** **2014**

## **CIRCUIT MINISTERS**

**Rev. David Jenkins** (Superintendent) Tel: 01296 488963

Email: davidjenkins@clara.co.uk

With pastoral care of:

Princes Risborough, Stoke Mandeville, Stone, Weedon (LEP)  
Whitchurch and Wingrave.

**Rev. Irena Byron** Tel:01525 240105

Email: irena.byron@methodist.org.uk

With pastoral care of:

Cheddington, North Marston (LEP), Stewkley,  
Stoke Hammond, Swanbourne and Waddesdon

**Rev. Keith Edwards** 01296 423363

Email: ulysee798@gmail.com

With Pastoral Care of the Aylesbury Methodist Church and  
Community Centre

**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. Fred Ireland**

Tel: 01844 212019

Email: ireland.fred@gmail.com

With pastoral care of: Christchurch (Thame) (LEP), Chinnor,  
Cuddington and Haddenham

**For a full list of ministers' and contact details please  
see the Circuit Directory.**



Rev David Jenkins

Dear Friends,

Because I'll be on sabbatical from the end of January to the end of April I am particularly conscious of how much I owe my colleagues. The arrangements are that Rev. Fred Ireland will be Acting Superintendent and on call for Princes Risborough; Rev. Keith Edwards will be on call for Stoke Mandeville, Stone and Weedon; and Rev. Irena Byron will be on call for Whitchurch and Wingrave. (The same arrangement will be followed in August.)

While I'm at it, I might as well tell you about Irena's sabbatical! That will be from the end of April to the end of July. I'll be the main point of contact and will be on call for Cheddington and North Marston; Rev. Fred Ireland will be on call for Stewkley and Waddesdon; and Rev. Keith Edwards for Stoke Hamond and Swanbourne.

I'm aware that my colleagues, who already have more than enough to keep them occupied, will be taking on extra, and I am very grateful to them.

In the Circuit we seek to work as a team-the Ministers and Lay Workers; our Circuit Leadership Team; our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders; our Treasurers and Property Stewards for example.

And in the life of each of our churches it is this concept of working as a team that enables us to move forward in our mission.

You might like to pause for a moment to think of whom you are linked with in the team of your local church.

Methodism links us with the wider team of District, Connexional and even international co-operation.

It may not be too fanciful to suggest that there is a model here for world peace and co-operation. It may not be entirely coincidental that the first meeting of the United Nations was at a Methodist Church (Westminster Central Hall).

If working together is part of our Methodist DNA it should certainly extend to our relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Charles Wesley expressed it this way,  
“Oh, that mankind might taste and see  
The riches of His grace!  
The arms of love that compass me  
Would all the world embrace.”

When his brother John declared “the world is my parish” he pointed towards the universal, unlimited concern and commitment that the people called Methodist could bring to a wider understanding for humankind.

That is a very important aspect of our mission for us to continue to live out together.

With loving care,

David

### **Prayer for the Quarter**

We thank you, Lord Jesus, for one another; for the pastoral support and belonging and friendship and fellowship we experience in our local church and in the wider Circuit, as well as with many other people in a variety of contexts.

Deepen our commitment to working with others as an expression of your prayer that your will might be done and your kingdom come on earth as in heaven.

Amen.

### **Cover Page**

This time we show Mary and Lynda ready to welcome the congregation to the Harvest Festival at Stewkley in October. Unfortunately it needs a colour picture to show the church at it's colourful best; if you are interested and can go to the Website **[www.aylesburyvale.org.uk](http://www.aylesburyvale.org.uk)** to the Stewkley pages You will find a report of previous celebrations on the Church Events page.



REV HELEN KIRK

We are delighted that our new Superintendent Minister from September 2014 will be Rev. Helen Kirk.

Helen has previously served as a minister at Crewe and latterly in the Dane and Trent Circuit. Part of her role during this time was to be Superintendent of the Middlewich Circuit which merged with other neighbouring circuits to become Dane and Trent. Helen has also served as District Probationers secretary and is currently Deputy Chair of District.

She has a BSc in Pharmacy and a BA in Pastoral Theology.

She describes herself as being “fascinated by Jesus Christ, continually challenged by his good news and constantly seeking to fulfill my role as one of his disciples”.

Her passions in ministry include being a storyteller to all ages, working with children and young people, finding ways of creating community, and developing times and places that enable people to encounter God in a meaningful way. Helen is keen to explore how we encourage people to move from belonging to a growing discipleship.

Helen’s husband, Andrew, is deeply supportive of her ministry. Their sons, Joel and Sam will both be at University when Helen begins her ministry here.

Her interests include gardening, swimming, watching sport, reading, the theatre, dancing, and, wait for it-laughing!

We look forward to experiencing how Helen’s gifts, personality and commitment will help to move us on in our following of Jesus.

David Jenkins

## ***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
- 31 Relations with people of other faiths

## **Dates**

Tuesday 25 February 7.45 pm Circuit Meeting at Stoke Mandeville

Friday 7 March 2.00 pm Women's World Day of Prayer at Stone  
(but see below)

Thursday 13 March 7.45 pm Circuit Local Preachers and Worship  
Leaders Meeting at Aylesbury

Wednesday 26 March 7.30 pm Piano Recital by Philip Dyson  
at Aylesbury

## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

Services will be held on FRIDAY 7th. MARCH at various venues around the Circuit.

The Theme: Streams in the Desert has been developed by the Christian Women in EGYPT.

In 2013 Services were held at the following locations:

Aylesbury at St. Mary's, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Cheddington Methodist, Chinnor Congregational Church

The Church at Fairford Leys, Haddenham Methodist Church

Princes Risborough Baptist Church, Bell Street

Stewkley Methodist Church

Stoke Mandeville at St. Mary's Church

Stone Methodist Church, Swanbourne Methodist Church

Thame : St Marys Church, Church Road

Waddesdon Methodist Chapel, Wingrave Methodist Church

More information on Page 19 and Circuit Website later

## **Ministers' Rest Days:**

Rev David Jenkins - Friday

Rev Fred Ireland - Monday

Rev Irena Byron -Monday

Rev Keith Edwards -Wednesday

Rev Anthony Howells -Friday

**Please respect their days off and avoid contacting them  
except in an emergency**

## FAIRTRADE MATTERS

At the last Circuit meeting in September 2013, the Circuit churches were encouraged to self assess whether they met the requirements to be a considered a Fairtrade Church. It is good to hear that this discussion has been included in the Agenda of Church meetings. Although not specified within the requirements to be a Fairtrade Church, it is perhaps implicit that 'Fairtrade Matters' should, as it is the case with Circuit Meetings, be a standing item in any Agenda.

The basic expectation is that, where a Church makes a commitment to be a Fairtrade Church, members MUST see that the church:

- uses Fair trade tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which they have responsibility.
- Moves forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit.
- promotes Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight (24 Feb - 9 March 2014) and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.

So where can you buy Fairtrade goods? You can find products in a whole range of outlets such as those run by volunteers (like myself), those linked to other Christian activities such as Churches, Charity shops or Book shops, as well as in General Stores but perhaps more regularly in specialist Fair trade shops and in supermarkets.

Where you buy is a matter of personal choice and convenience but you may wish to bear in mind the following. Supermarkets tend to only work with those who can produce large, consistent volumes in items such as Tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits, snack bars, bananas, chocolate products as well as wine and beer.



There are only a limited number of producers/ co-operatives who are capable of meeting the demands of supermarkets: hence lines are generally more restricted than for the likes of organisations such as Traidcraft, who endeavour to help producers work up to the levels that allow them to trade in both food products and crafts.

There is a vast range of Fair trade goods available in most supermarkets - just look out for the Fairtrade symbol and many do their own Fairtrade brands. While the price includes a premium for the producer, this does not necessarily mean the item is more expensive. However it does mean the producer gets a guaranteed price his goods, even when markets are dropping.

What you do does make a difference. Fair trade does matter and it should be something that applies to all goods no matter who produces them or where they are produced. One of my personal self checks is to ask: Am I paying a Fair price for this product? If not who is paying?

If you want more info on Fairtrade why not visit :  
<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>

If you want to browse the range of items available why not visit :[www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk)

Rod Thorpe - October 2013



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

# ***PIANO RECITAL***



## ***PHILLIP DYSON***

### ***International Concert Pianist***

***WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 @ 7.30 pm***

***Entrance: £12.00, or £10.00 if booked in advance***

***(Students half price). Tickets on sale***

***1st February from the Church Office or***

***Derrick Matthews (01296 488076)***

***Proceeds in aid of the Buigiri School for the  
blind in Tanzania, also for the Church  
upkeep.***

## **Waddesdon Methodist Church**

We are planning to hold a Jig Saw Puzzle  
Festival on  
**May 24th, 25th and 26th 2014**

This is a new venture which will hopefully  
appeal to all those Jig Saw Puzzlers in  
the  
Circuit.

We need donations of completed puzzles  
of a variety of interesting topics with ei-  
ther 500 or 1000 piece to display.  
and  
boxed up ones to re-sell.

The proceeds to go to the Church Roof  
Appeal  
and  
The Epilepsy Research Charity

**For further details email:  
[coralsoulsby@talktalk.net](mailto:coralsoulsby@talktalk.net)**

**ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE -- January—March 2014 issue**  
should be forwarded to the following Email addresses

Solomon Awadzi. 4 Plover Walk Aylesbury HP19 0FQ 01296 489384  
Email: solokawadzi@hotmail.com

Items for the Magazine should be copied to: Rev David Jenkins Email:  
davidjenkins@clara.co.uk **and** Roy Collis see below

**Magazine items not later than 1st. February 2014**

**DATES OR REQUESTS FOR THE PREACHING PLAN should be sent to:** Solomon Awadzi. 4 Plover Walk Aylesbury HP19 0FQ 01296 489384  
Email: solokawadzi@hotmail.com **and copied to:** Rev David Jenkins  
davidjenkins@clara.co.uk **Not later than ...1st February 2014**

Details of changes to existing information in the  
**Circuit Directory** should be sent immediately they occur to:  
davidjenkins@clara.co.uk and to: r.collis245@btinternet.com

**ITEMS FOR PUBLISHING ON THE WEBSITES**

Items for publishing on our websites can be sent at anytime to the  
appropriate Editor who will be delighted to hear from **you!**

**WEBSITE ADDRESSES**

Circuit: www.aylesburyvale.org.uk  
Aylesbury: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk  
Fairford Leys: www.fairfordleyschurch.org.uk

**WEBSITE EDITORS**

Circuit Site : Roy Collis. E-mail: r.collis245@btinternet.com  
01296 630989 - 5 The Greenwood, Aston Clinton, HP22 5FX  
Aylesbury: Peter Green E-mail: peterb.green@ntlworld.com 01296 424653  
Fairford Leys: Admin Office. E-mail: Enquiries@FairfordLeysChurch.org.uk

**CIRCUIT WEBSITE –SUB EDITORS**

**Cheddington:** Janet Banham. j.banham@btinternet.com  
**Princes Risborough:** Marilyn Dore. E-mail mjdore@talktalk.net  
Brenda Willet. E-mail pandbw@waitrose.com  
**Stewkley :**Lynda Hart. E-mail: lynda.hart@pacomms.com  
**Thame:** Janet West. E-mail: janet-w@tiscali.co.uk  
**Weedon:** Ralph Followell. E-mail: ralph.followell@btopenworld.com

**NB. More volunteers as Sub Editors would be more than welcome. ( contact Roy)**

**Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church**  
**On Friday 14th. March 2014 from**  
**6.00 TO 7.30 pm.**

Are organising a

**JUMBLE SALE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE KARIBUNI TRUST and STOKE MANDEVILLE CHURCH FUNDS.**

We would value your support for this event.

If you have jumble to donate or can offer help at the event please ring Yvonne Keep on 01296 484803. Arrangements can be made to collect jumble at a time convenient to you.

Alternatively the Stoke Mandeville Church will be open from 9.30 am. on the 14th. March when jumble can be dropped in.

**You Help and Support will be greatly  
appreciated**

**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH and COMMUNITY CENTRE**

*Do you need a venue for your*

*Child's Party? We are offering a special rate for the hire  
of the Hall for Children's parties.*

*For these and all other bookings please  
Contact the Church Office for more  
details at:*



Buckingham Street  
Aylesbury HP20 2NQ  
Tel: 01296 426526

E-mail: [office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk](mailto:office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk)  
Office Hours: 9.30 am—12.30 pm Monday—Friday

## **LEARNING AND GROWING**

### **Aylesbury**

J Team (Sunday School) Sundays 10.30am  
Contact Mrs. Vivienne Kemp 01296 399315  
Girls Brigade Mondays 5.30-7.30pm  
Contact Mrs. Linda Gill 01296 429218  
Banner Group Tuesdays .2.00pm-4.00pm  
Contact Mrs. Brenda Horne 01296 428580  
Tuesday Fellowship 1<sup>st</sup> & 3rd Tuesdays 2.30-3.45pm  
Contact Mrs. Pearl Riley 01296 483547  
Boys Brigade Tuesdays 6-9pm  
Contact Mrs. Margaret Miskin 01296 422919

### **Chinnor: Regular Activities**

#### **Weekly:**

Activity Club (Youth club for 7-11yr olds)  
Thurs 6.30 - 8.00pm (term time)  
Traidcraft (Fairtrade) sales  
Bring and Buy table for nominated charities (Sunday)

#### **Fortnightly:**

On Sundays 6.15—7.15 pm when there is no Evening Service  
House Group: at 16 Old Sawmill Place .  
Contact Elizabeth Wilson 01844 354487  
Fellowship Group: Tuesday from 10.30 am  
Friday 7-9pm (fortnightly) Friday Night Club (all ages) -  
Table Tennis, Scrabble, Pizza etc.

**Monthly:** Exploring Faith. Monday 8.00- 9.30pm

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

##### **Fortnightly:**

Mothers Bible Study- 10-12am Tues or Weds morning  
for mums  
Mums prayer group: Friday 9-9.30am - for those attending  
St Andrew's School  
Ignite - Sunday 7.30-9.00pm - for 14yr olds to explore faith  
and life issues

## **Haddenham**

### **Monthly**

Haddenham Fellowship Group— evening meetings, Contact Mrs Mary White 01844 291677

## **Princes Risborough**

SALT (Sharing And Learning Together)

"TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP - We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Church at 2.00pm for a time of Fellowship together with a varied programme, followed by a cup of tea and chat, everyone is welcome to join us at these meetings."

## **Stoke Mandeville**

### **OPEN FELLOWSHIP**

The Open Fellowship meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month at 2.30 pm.

Everyone is welcome to these meetings for an hour of fellowship, followed naturally by a cup of tea..

### **TABLE TENNIS**

Table-tennis may normally be played in the main hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays in most months.

## **Stone**

Fourth Tuesday Fellowship 2.30pm

Contact Mrs. Sue Spinks 01296 748369



## 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. to 12 noon	Tea and Coffee
Cheddington	Open Doors—Fridays 10.00 am	Tea, Coffee , Light Refreshments & Fellowship
Fairford Leys	Saturdays 10.30 am. to 12.00 noon	Coffee Morning coffee/tea and biscuits
Haddenham	Tuesdays 10.00 am. to 12.00 noon  10.00 am to 12 Noon	Maisie's Coffee Morning Fairtrade goods, Home made jams & garden pro- duce usually on sale. Museum open in Old School room
Stewkley	3rd. Saturday each month 12 noon to 1.30 pm.	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £6
Stoke Hammond	Wednesday 10.30 to 11.45 am	Coffee Morning
Stoke Mandeville	Most Fridays 2.00 to 4.00 pm.	'POP-IN' for a cup of tea/ coffee and a chat.
Thame Christchurch	Tuesdays & Fridays 10.00 am. to 12 noon	Coffee Mornings
Thame Christchurch	Mondays 10.00 am. to 11.30 am.	Family Pop-in for Parents and Toddlers. Playtime & Light Refresh- ments
Waddesdon	Thursdays 10.00 am. to 11.30 am	Coffee Morning
Wingrave	Tuesdays 12 noon to 1.30 pm.	Nup End Cafe Lunches Resuming 14 January 2014



## OTHER SPECIALGATHERINGS:

Cheddington

Mondays 9.30—  
11.00 am  
(except holidays)

The Toast  
Baby & Toddler  
Group

Swanbourne



Tuesdays  
2.00 pm in the  
Chapel: stories,  
songs, prayers &  
nibbles & play

Pram Services to be  
held on Jan. 7th,  
Feb. 4th, Mar. 4th.  
and  
Apr 1st

## Change of Email address

As from 1st January 2014, Solomon Awadzi's email address for  
Aylesbury Vale Methodist Circuit activities will be

:

**solokawadzi@hotmail.com**

Please amend this in your address book and use it when you send  
documents for inclusion in the Magazine or dates for the Plan.  
See page 12 for full details

Please get the spelling of surname right or else it will go astray.

The previous one remains my personal one.

# VALE OF AYLESBURY CIRCUIT HOLIDAY 2014



Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> (4 nights)

Based at  
Mercure Hotel  
SWANSEA

Optional Excursions  
at

£315 pp ( £50 Deposit + £23 insurance if re-  
quired)

(Single rooms available on first come first served basis)

**Booking:** forms available (from stewards)  
or ring Carly Raikes (M-Th) 01296 314322  
or download from the Circuit Website

**Enquiries** to: Carly Raikes 01296 314322  
or

Pete Honeyball 01844 351096

# **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**(INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDENOMINATIONAL)**

## **Streams in the Desert**

Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the voices of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is extensive. An international committee works from New York and each participating country has its own National Committee. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on March 7th, women and men will gather to celebrate using a programme of worship offered this year by women in Egypt.

The theme of our service is 'Streams in the Desert' and we are asked to reflect on our Christian role of being a 'stream in the desert' for those who experience spiritual 'drought'. We believe that the service from Egypt has universal appeal.

One of the oldest civilisations in the world, Egypt has long been home to Coptic Christians. Since the uprising in 2011 there has been conflict between religious groupings. Political change affects individual lives and we pray with the women of Egypt for peace.

We envisage a great wave of prayer, rising with the sun over the island of Samoa and sweeping across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, coming to rest in American Samoa some 36 hours later. By then WWDP services will have been celebrated in over 170 countries.

All are welcome to attend, men and women and people of all ages. For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, see the WWDP website: [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

## Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy

### Update to Aylesbury Churches: Nov 2013

#### Note from the Chair of the Trustees

Revd Canon Andrew Blyth

As 2013 draws to a close we felt it was important to let you all know some of the amazing progress that has been through the Chaplaincy during the year. We are also beginning to plan our activities and budget for 2014, and need to share some of the challenges we see coming along.



From our governance point of view we are still seeking to expand the Board of Trustees, particularly in the area of finances, as Treasurer. Looking ahead into 2014 we currently know where approximately 50% of our expected expenditure will be coming from and are seeking to increase the support from amongst churches and individual Friends to meet this shortfall, and ideally to increase spending in future years.

#### Chaplains

During the year Mark Knight has acted as both Chaplains & Street Angels Co-ordinator. We appointed a further 4 chaplains during the year, bringing the total to 8. They have been faithfully patrolling the Town Centre and acting as a listening ear, a helping hand and a friendly face to many shoppers, visitors and workers during the day. Several people have welcomed having someone to talk through problems with, and being prayed for. They are also able to pray for 'their' areas of the town. We are praying that we will be also able to partner with organisations within the town centre to see chaplains placed within them to serve their staff. Over the coming few months we know that some of our chaplains will be leaving our organisation for a variety of reasons, or are taking a step back for health reasons, so we do value your prayers in supporting this 'frontline' work.



## Street Angels

During the year a further 13 Street Angels have been appointed, bringing the total to 21. Each weekend a team of 3 has been out on either a Friday or Saturday night, and from October we've been able to cover both a Friday & Saturday on one weekend a month. This practical ministry has been incredibly well received by local police, authorities, businesses and people enjoying a night out in the town. Many people have been helped in practical ways, and situations defused by the presence of our teams. Please keep praying for a safe, peaceful and friendly environment in our town centre late at night.



### Volunteer Support

Our volunteers are supported by Catherine & Mark, our two part-time employees who are involved at all stages during the recruitment process and beyond. Regular contact is maintained face-to-face, by email and 'phone with the volunteers to support them in the work with the chaplaincy. All our volunteers are invited to an annual review meeting, enabling them to have space to reflect on their work with the organisation.

We also arranged a Volunteer Team & Training day in April 2013 which enabled many of our volunteers to meet each other and learn skills relevant to the work of the Chaplaincy. During the Autumn we are able to join with Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy in their training programme and again many of our volunteers have valued this experience.

### Finances & other support

We received funding from 7 church groups, (5 of which have pledged funding for a number of years), as well as Thames Valley Police, AVDC, Bucks County Council and grants from the Bucks Community Foundation and Aylesbury Town Council. Holy Trinity has provided office space and Granville St Evangelical Church allow our Street Angels to meet in their premises before going each time. Thank you to all of these supporters.

In August 2013, at Church in the Park, we launched our Friends scheme and so far, a small number have joined.



With this support, and future pledges, we are in a strong position in 2013, but as our work increases our costs will increase, and we will look for further pledges of support. At the moment for 2014, we only know where approximately 50% of our annual budget (of £19,500) will come from. Ideally we would look to increase this to ensure the sustainability of the project for the coming years.

## **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF YOUTH EXCHANGE**

2013 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the youth exchange between Aylesbury Methodist Church and the German sports club T.u.S. 05 Daun (pronounced Down). For at least the last 25 years it has been the undisputed longest running youth exchange between the two countries.

In 1963 when the exchange began, it was a very brave thing to do. Memories of the Second World War were still fresh in many minds and some of the Aylesbury and Daun leaders shed tears together with memories of fighting on opposite sides. John Dimmock, like Jane Honeyball, offspring of the first Aylesbury leaders Ken and Dean Dimmock commented, "Mum and Dad would have been so thrilled and proud to know that the exchange which began so long ago is still thriving and I wish that all today's youngsters have as much fun as we did in those early days."

Judging by the fun and laughter at this year's farewell party in Aylesbury at the end of the German youngster's visit here in the summer, they certainly are doing so.

Earlier in the year 14 former youth exchange leaders along with their German counterparts were guests of the Daun MP on a memorable four-day visit to Berlin with a bonus extra day thanks to a snow-bound aeroplane. The main celebration however was in October in Daun. 30 former exchange members, host parents and leaders from across the five decades travelled by coach for a five day programme with host families and friends. This included a river cruise, wine taste and the Big Event in the Daun town hall. 150 people attended for an excellent meal, speeches, entertainment, memorabilia exhibition and the renewal of many life-long friendships.

The Aylesbury Banner Group was commissioned to produce a new 50 year banner and a commemorative colour booklet was produced in both English and German with contributions from 30 participants and local dignitaries.

The Aylesbury Group were presented with a new book of stunning aerial photos of the wonderfully scenic Daun landscape.



The fruits of that risky decision in 1963 have been 50 years of friendship, laughter and happy memories for not two separate but one large, very special international family.

## MAP of THE VALE OF AYLESBURY METHODIST CIRCUIT

