

# **VALE OF AYLESBURY METHODIST CIRCUIT MAGAZINE**



**Stoke Hammond - Wednesday Coffee Morning (see page 9)**

**JULY AUGUST  
SEPTEMBER  
2014**

## **CIRCUIT MINISTERS (Until 31 August 2014)**

**Rev. David Jenkins** (Superintendent) Tel: 01296 488963  
Email: [davidjenkins@clara.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ireland.fred@gmail.com)  
With pastoral care of: Christchurch (Thame) (LEP), Chinnor,  
Cuddington and Haddenham

## **CIRCUIT MINISTERS (From 1 September 2014)**

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

Email: [revhelenkirk@sky.com](mailto:revhelenkirk@sky.com)

With Pastoral Care of the Aylesbury Methodist Church and Community Centre

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

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With pastoral care of the Ecumenical Church at Fairford leys

**Rev. Fred Ireland**

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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.**

LETTER TO THE CIRCUIT

NUMBER 23/29

Charity Number 1134235

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



Rev David Jenkins

Dear Friends,

During the last 10 year I've been the Superintendent of 3 different Circuits without changing house!

How much the original Aylesbury Circuit (Aylesbury, Fairford Leys, North Marston, Princes Risborough, Stoke Mandeville, Stone, Waddesdon, Weedon, Whitchurch and Wingrave) has been enriched by the presence of Cheddington, Stewkley, Stoke Hammond and Swanbourne! And how much that grouping has been further enriched by the presence of Chinnor, Cuddington, Haddenham and Christchurch, Thame!

It has been an immense privilege to be the Superintendent Minister of what has eventually emerged as the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit.

There is a great deal to look forward to.

We are very fortunate indeed in the appointment of Rev. Helen Kirk to be the new Superintendent from September.

She will find loyal and supportive colleagues, a well balanced and able Circuit Leadership Team, a dedicated team of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, people in each church looking after that church's resources.

She will find deeply caring people in every church, buildings that are well looked after, and a strong spirit of mutual co-operation.

She will also discover some churches struggling with vulnerability, yet with signs of vitality too.

Helen will see new people coming through the doors of Aylesbury each week and the steady growth of the church on Fairford Leys.

She will also encounter mixed levels of co-operation with other churches.

We are particularly fortunate when other Christians work very positively alongside us, as happens in many of our places of worship.

I hope that Helen and Andrew and their family will find a similar depth of joy and fulfilment from being among you as Paula and I have undoubtedly felt.

September also sees a change of role for Rev. Keith Edwards, and, again, I hope that Keith and Dawn will find great happiness in ministering among 6 special church communities.

For Paula and me there are new discoveries and opportunities to be made in Reading.

All of us are in good hands because we're in God's hands.

With loving care,

David

## A personal letter from Rev. David Jenkins

I am grateful to my colleagues and to all of you for your care of things while I was on sabbatical.

Although Paula's father died when the sabbatical was only two days old, it has been very valuable to have space to respond to family needs, but also to practice for concerts, compose, downsize, see family and friends, go out to places, worship regularly as part of a congregation, run, walk, get used to a new computer and make decisions about finances and the house to which we'll be moving.

On the day the sabbatical finished, I learned that I will have paid work in the new Basingstoke and Reading Circuit in September, being part of a team in the area where I'll be living (Caversham) and in Reading town centre, working alongside two ministers whom I have met and for whom I already have high regard. I don't have any further details as I'm due to meet them to discuss it further, but I'm very pleased because I didn't want to completely retire yet as I feel that the sense of calling to serve as a minister is as strong as ever and I seem to have plenty of energy too!

There had been some conversations with people we just happened to meet in Reading of the "too coincidental to be coincidences" sort when we first knew about the house we are due to go to and these seemed to be around the possibilities of continuing service, not only of finding somewhere to live.

The sabbatical has given valuable space and time to refocus for this next sphere of life.

In the meantime, until the end of July, I have the great joy and privilege of being a minister here and I look forward to all the different adventures we will share in worship and in other aspects of our life together.

With loving care,

David

## Prayer for the Quarter

We thank you, Living God, for all that's past and for the innumerable blessings of your presence in our lives day by day.

We also trust you for all that's to come and offer ourselves anew to serve you through the joy and wisdom and inspiration of your Spirit deep within.

Through Jesus, our Lord, Amen.

## **Ministers' Rest Days:**

Rev David Jenkins	- Friday
Rev Helen Kirk	- 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**

### **AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH and COMMUNITY CENTRE**

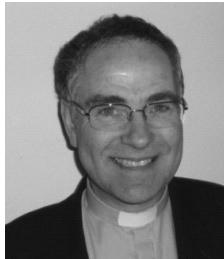
*Do you need a venue for your  
Child's Party? We are offering a special rate for the hire  
of the Hall for Children's parties.*

*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)





## Thank You David

David Jenkins was never slow to give private and public thanks for the work of others. As he prepares to 'retire' to Reading with Paula this summer, it is now our turn to thank him.

We can do so by considering 5Ms – his Memory, Ministry, Methodism, Music and the Man himself.

As we all know, his **Memory** is phenomenal. Not only does he memorise sermons, but he has a great skill of remembering names, faces and personal situations. This is only possible through his taking a real interest in the lives of those he meets.

This was reflected in his caring **Ministry**, initially focused on Aylesbury and latterly focused on other circuit churches. An encourager and enabler, he gave full support to those entrusted with church office and as an excellent listener, was able to offer guidance and wise counsel to those who sought it.

**Methodism** seems a natural home for such a methodical man. From his carefully written and filed sermons, well managed meetings, two friction free circuit enlargements and prompt responses to all forms of communication, he has been very easy to work with at both circuit and church level.

**Music** is obviously very important to David. A prolific composer, excellent pianist, accomplished singer and all-round musical entertainer, he has given lots of pleasure, and helped fund-raising with his absorbing hobby. We look forward to enjoying his Farewell Concert at Aylesbury on 26<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm, with all proceeds going to Wingrave's Building Fund.

Finally we have the **Man**. With a great sense of humour, albeit terrible jokes, David is modest, caring, considerate, inclusive and motivated by a deep personal faith. Wonderfully supported by Paula, we wish them both a very happy 'retirement' whatever form that takes.

For those distressed by rumours that retirement meant Banana Bear would have to go into care, fear not! The care will be provided by David's grandson and we are sure they will both be very happy together. So in a slightly gruff voice, from all the circuit, we say, "Bye, bye Banana Bear!"

Peter Green

**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

## **Dates**

### **CIRCUIT EVENTS**

**Sunday 13 July 6 pm** Circuit Songs of Praise Service at Aylesbury

**Saturday 19 July 7pm** David Jenkins in Concert at Stoke Hammond—"Treasures to explore"

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00 pm Aylesbury Methodist Church,** David Jenkins' Farewell Concert to raise money for Wingrave 's Building Fund.

**Sunday 27 July Circuit Service at 3pm** at Aylesbury led by Rev. Fred Ireland as a farewell to David and Paula Jenkins

**Sunday 31 August Circuit Service at 3pm** at Aylesbury led by Rev. Peter Hancock, Chair of Northampton Methodist District, to welcome Rev. Helen Kirk

**Tuesday 16 September 7.45pm** Circuit Meeting at Stewkley

**Thursday 25 September 7.45pm** Circuit Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting at Cheddington

### **Local Church Events**

Monday 11th—15th Aug, Fairford Leys, Holiday Club

Thursday 25th Sept Fairford Leys, Harvest Thanksgiving

Saturday 27th Sept Fairford Leys, Harvest Supper

Sunday 14th Sept 6pm Waddesdon, Family Service and auction of produce

### **Cover Picture**

**The Stoke Hammond Coffee morning** has been a feature of our outreach now for a number of years and is supported by folk from the village and our members with about 20 people meeting each week . We would welcome visitors from around the Circuit - ( details on page 16)



## Rev Helen Kirk

Introductions can often be difficult; that awkward moment when you must talk to a stranger for the first time or worse the cringe worthy jokes of the compare as he introduces an act. At least you can skip the introduction in a book.

Introductions can be an exciting possibility of things to come or the exact opposite! Introductions can be difficult and I have been asked to write one here; worst of all, the task is to introduce myself.

I originate from Hull and hopefully when you read this Hull City will have won the FA Cup (although probably not!). My mum & dad, brother & sister, nieces & nephews and numerous extended family all still live there. However I have lived in various different places:

Leicester where I studied Pharmacy - Plymouth working on a project with street children - Lichfield as a circuit Youth worker - Bristol training for the ministry and Cheshire as a minister for 17 years in two different Appointments.

I am married to Andrew who, for the last few years has worked as a teaching assistant in an autistic unit within a primary school. He is partially sighted (so if he misses an offered handshake he is not being rude just unable to see it) but continues to cycle everywhere; he sings, plays the drums & is a mean pantomime villain as well as being interested in sound & vision technologies.

We have two sons: Joel is 20 and studying Primary Education at Chester University and Sam is 18 and will hopefully be starting university in September studying Music Technology. Anything else I say about them will be adjudged (by them) to be 'embarrassing mum syndrome' however, needless to say, we are very proud of them both.

As for myself ....well, I could talk about my interests in sport, books and story; I could tell you of the things I have done in my ministry: schools work; messy church; building projects; community engagement and so on but it all sounds so dry on paper. Instead, when we meet, why don't we put the kettle on and have a chat; that always seems like a far better way of getting to know one another.

And I do look forward to getting to know you; to walking together on the next stage of each of our journeys and, as we discover more about each other, we will also discover more about Christ.

Every Blessing

Helen Kirk

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

Solomon Awadzi. 4 Plover Walk Aylesbury HP19 0FQ 01296 489384  
Email: [solokawadzi@hotmail.com](mailto:solokawadzi@hotmail.com)

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

**Magazine items not later than 1st. August 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](mailto:solokawadzi@hotmail.com) **and copied to:** Rev David Jenkins  
[davidjenkins@clara.co.uk](mailto:davidjenkins@clara.co.uk) **Not later than ...1st August 2014**

Details of changes to existing information in the  
**Circuit Directory** should be sent immediately they occur to:  
[davidjenkins@clara.co.uk](mailto:davidjenkins@clara.co.uk) and to: [r.collis245@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://www.aylesburyvale.org.uk)

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

Fairford Leys: [www.fairfordleyschurch.org.uk](http://www.fairfordleyschurch.org.uk)

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Fairford Leys: Admin Office. E-mail: [Enquiries@FairfordLeysChurch.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@FairfordLeysChurch.org.uk)

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Brenda Willet. E-mail [pandbw@waitrose.com](mailto:pandbw@waitrose.com)

**Stewkley :**Lynda Hart. E-mail: [lynda.hart@pacomms.com](mailto:lynda.hart@pacomms.com)

**Thame:** Janet West. E-mail: [janet-w@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janet-w@tiscali.co.uk)

**Weedon:** Ralph Followell. E-mail: [ralph.followell@btopenworld.com](mailto:ralph.followell@btopenworld.com)

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

Celebrating the life and times of  
**George Griffin**  
**Famous 19<sup>th</sup> century Wingrave composer**  
– your chance to enjoy a commemorative village concert!

**St Peter & St Paul's Church,  
Wingrave**  
**12<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 7pm**

**Wingrave Methodist Church** invite you to this amazing event, where the profit for the evening will go to the Methodist Church Building Fund (with thanks to Wingrave Parish Church for allowing it to be held under their roof). Tickets are priced at £10 and will include finger buffet, glass of wine, or a soft drink which will all be served afterwards.

This concert will be based around the life and music of one of Wingrave's best known characters - George Griffin (1816-1903). This local Baker and Postmaster published two books of Psalm tunes and anthems in his mid-twenties and went on to write "Samuel - The Oratorio" widely performed until the 1930s. In the 1700s, the country musicians took the musical skills essential for local dances and entertainments and used these to enliven the singing in Church! To accommodate the musicians and singers, Galleries were often put up in the West end of the church, although most of these were lost in the later "Victorianisation" of churches throughout the land. The Chiltern West Gallery Quire performs in costume, playing and singing the music and psalms heard in and around country churches from 1700-1850. The concert in Wingrave will incorporate some period dances which could have been seen in the Chiltern countryside



If you are interested in learning more about this fascinating period of our local history, please visit our website: [www.cwgq.co.uk](http://www.cwgq.co.uk)

- or contact Jenny Ellis: 01462 629539 or [jenifer.ellis47@hotmail.com](mailto:jenifer.ellis47@hotmail.com)

For enquiries and more details of the concert or to book seats (tickets can be collected on the night), please contact: Chris Skidmore [christine.skidmore@tesco.net](mailto:christine.skidmore@tesco.net) or Sandra Purrett [hostsandra@gmail.com](mailto:hostsandra@gmail.com) or Jenny Ellis (as above).

## **Circuit Lent Study 2014**

Another Story Must Begin' is a series of bible studies for Lent based on the book and dvd of Les Miserables. Keith Edwards selected this as the topic around which to base our discussions. The group met each week at the home of Elizabeth and David Wilson in Chinnor, who extended a very warm welcome, and treated us to coffee and biscuits!

Each session began with prayer and then the group watched a section of the dvd, followed by bible readings and discussion. During the first four sessions we studied a different character each time and explored the dilemma arising between keeping the laws or following our moral conscience. It was interesting to see how the story unfolded and how it could be compared to passages in the Bible, especially those focused on forgiveness. It was particularly good to share fellowship with friends from other churches in the circuit, namely Aylesbury, Chinnor, Thame, Cuddington and Princes Risborough. We were also very grateful to Keith for leading this study and for encouraging us in our discussions

## **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 -11.30 am	Coffee Morning
Wingrave	Tuesdays 12 noon to 1.30 pm.	Nup End Cafe Lunches Resuming 14 January 2014

## OTHER SPECIAL GATHERINGS:

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 Service this  
quarter will be on  
July 1st.

No more until these  
services resume in  
the Autumn

## WADDESDON METHODIST CHURCH

**Saturday 19th July** - Lunches will be served from 11am - 2pm

There will also be stalls such as a tombola.

**25th August (Bank Holiday Monday)**

Cream Teas will be served from 11am - 5pm

**Tuesdays 8th & 22nd July; 5th & 19th August;  
2nd, 16th & 30th September.**

Snack lunches will be served from 11am - 2pm

We continue to raise funds for Chapel Repairs.  
Please support us if you are able to

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2014**  
**7.00 pm**

at  
**Aylesbury Methodist Church**  
**Buckingham Street,**  
**HP20 2NQ**  
**David Jenkins'**  
**Farewell**  
**Concert**



Tickets £7

**available from John and Sheila Cotton**  
**01296 681226**

*All profits to  
Wingrave Methodist Church Building Fund*

*During the interval, CDs of 'The Salisbury Suite'  
will be on sale for £7]*

To keep you all up to date with our **MOVING ON PLANS** at Stone:



This little fellow is our mascot:  
cheerfully on the move!

We have a **BIG DREAM:**  
provision of enhanced toilet facilities –  
suitable and accessible for **all members**  
of the many groups who use the Chapel

**WE NEED £10,000** to make this dream a reality  
and intend to work hard at fund raising.

One thing we do really well here at Stone is **FOOD !**  
and so we began our

### ***FIRST SUNDAY CAFE LUNCHES***

on 1<sup>st</sup> June and will be open again on  
**SUNDAYS 6<sup>th</sup> July; 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup> September**  
**between 12.30 p.m. and 2 p.m.**

when Ploughman's Lunches/coffee/tea will be on sale

Come along : enjoy a happy lunch hour and  
boost our dream – **THANK YOU**



## DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

The District Executive met for its spring meeting on a sunny day in mid-March at the district office, faced with its customary full agenda and with a couple of members unable to be with us for family reasons.

The Revd Tim Woolley, attending his last district executive as district director of mission, led the opening devotions based on the passage in Ecclesiastes 3: "To all things there is a season".

Some thoughts from Tim as he leaves the district to join the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network are below.

Roy Slocumbe, secretary to the executive

### New responsibilities

After six years as director of mission in the Northampton Methodist District, from May 1st, I will become ministry development officer for the east central region, within the dispersed connexional team of the new Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network (DMLN).

Working alongside colleagues Jane Bingham and Gill Thomas (Church and Community Development) and Lorna Valentine (Discipleship Development), I will be teaching, training and resourcing vocational discernment, plus local preachers' and worship leaders' initial and continuing learning and development.

I shall also be involved in continuing ministerial learning and development for presbyters and deacons, as well as being a tutor for initial ministerial formation on the Queen's connexional course.

More information on the DMLN and its activities can be found on the district website:

<http://northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/discipleship-ministries-learning-network-east-central-region/>

Although I will no longer be offering regular preaching dates around the district, I will continue to reside in the district and to serve it along with the Lincolnshire and Nottingham and Derby Districts.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Northampton District in this new capacity, and to meeting up with old friends at synods!

Tim Woolley

### Library

Susie Palmer from the district office appeals for Methodist books

The Northampton District office is based in Bouverie Court in Northampton, along with the Church of England Diocesan Resource Centre. The diocese maintains a library on site, open to all, and we would like to add a collection of Methodist orientated books: commentaries, biographies, liturgies, etc.

If you have any spare books, or perhaps know of a minister who is retiring and who would like to pass on their books to a good home, please consider donating them. Collection can be arranged within Northamptonshire; further afield, please ask. Excess books will go to a local Christian charity.

Contact me at: [northampton.distoffice@gmail.com](mailto:northampton.distoffice@gmail.com) or telephone 01604 630128. Thank you.

### **Lay job vacancies**

The Northampton District is extremely fortunate to be very well served by a significant number of lay people who fill a wide range of posts, and without whose diligent and prayerful input the district would not be able to function as effectively as it does.

One of the standing agenda items for the district executive is to consider nominations and appointments for posts that become vacant. As we approach the spring synod, which is the annual time for confirming all district appointments, the executive, on behalf of the district, gave thanks for the service of all those who fill posts, particularly as it considered a number of vacancies including:-

- \*District secretary for further training for ministers and deacons
- \*District secretary for further training for lay workers
- \*District property secretary
- \*A vacancy on the candidates committee
- \*District representative to the local worship leaders and preachers trust
- \*District schools officer

Anyone particularly interested in any of these posts should contact either the district chair, the Revd Peter Hancock ([phancock002@googlemail.com](mailto:phancock002@googlemail.com)) or Roy Slocombe, the executive secretary ([roy.slocombe@btconnect.com](mailto:roy.slocombe@btconnect.com)).

Anyone who feels called to help the work of the district in any way should also contact either Peter or Roy, as there are always ways to make use of skills and graces that people are able to offer.

Due to timing issues, we are not always able to publicise vacancies as quickly as we would wish, and the opportunity to line up successors to enable an orderly transition is something that can only benefit the work of God in the Northampton District.

## Synod Report – Spring 2014

Synod this year was held in the centre of England at the Redmoor Academy in the Hinckley circuit in Leicestershire. It meant an early start for us in the south of the district and the waiting coffee was very welcome.

After the usual short time of worship we settled down to business. Conference has directed that a process be initiated for the exploration of the role and responsibilities of the District, its Synod and the District Chair particularly in relation to Mission, Discipleship and the Ministries Learning Network. Entitled 'Larger than Circuits' we considered the size of Districts and whether the District was the best way to formulate Mission and the Ministries Learning Network. It is a two year project and all Districts will participate, including children, and responses will be collated in the report. How can we reshape/ regroup the connexion or is it best left as it is.

Are districts too large?

Are Districts necessary?

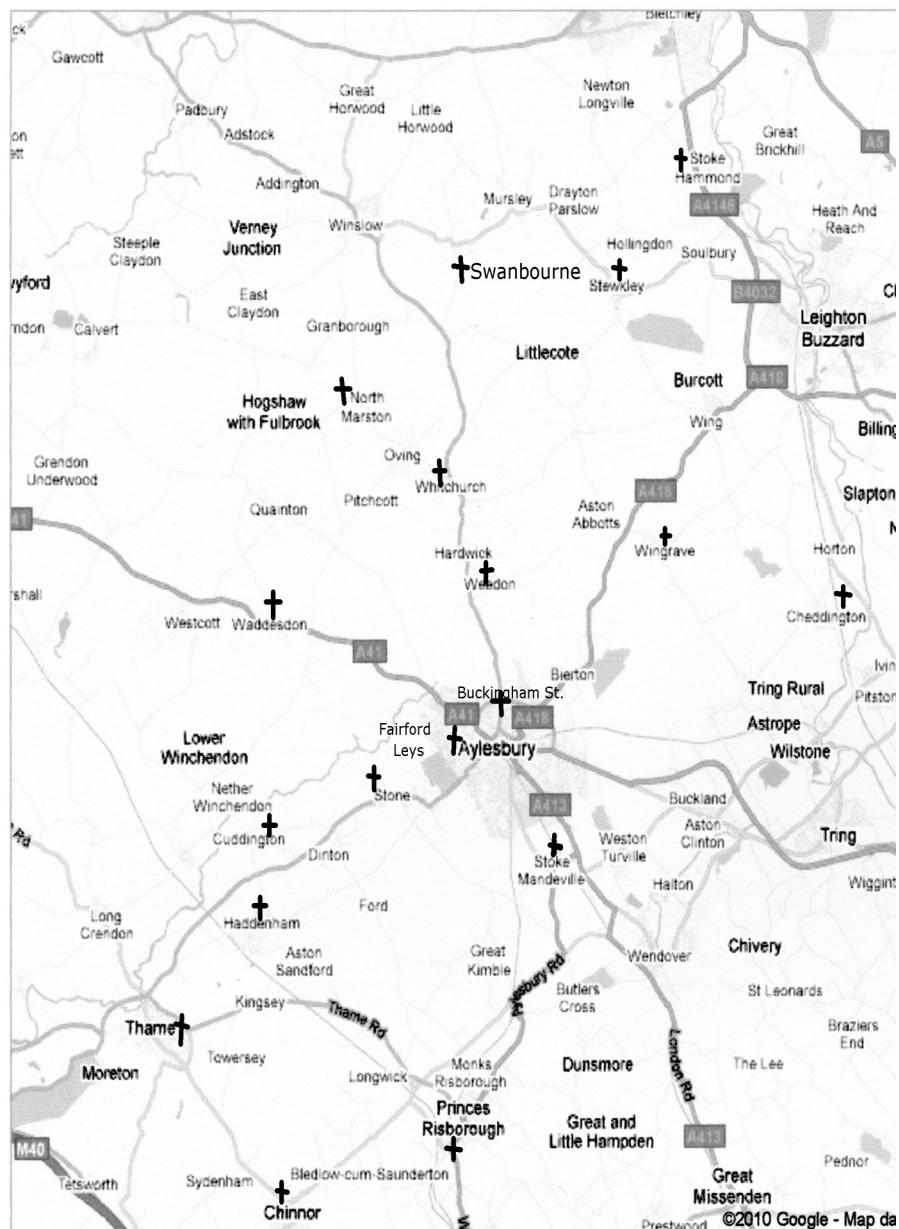
Does it require another tier between Conference and District or Conference and Circuits to organise specific proposals – e.g. 'Regrouping for Mission?

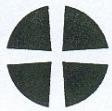
Should circuits work more closely with neighbouring circuits?

How would such things as Safeguarding, Property, Manses and Stationing, to name but a few, be organised if there was no District.

There are 252 churches in the Northampton District in 23 Circuits and there are 31 Districts in the Connexion. There is a lot more information on 'Larger than Circuit' in the Synod Spring Agenda which can be borrowed from Ministers or Synod Representatives. Also in the Agenda are various reports regarding the life of the church.

# MAP of THE VALE OF AYLESBURY METHODIST CIRCUIT





*Vale of Aylesbury  
Methodist Circuit*

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## *Songs of Praise 2014*

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### **‘YOUR TOP TWENTY FAVOURITE HYMNS’**

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

*The result of Your choices will be revealed  
and ‘sampled’ in ascending order by our  
Superintendent Minister, the  
Rev David Jenkins*

*Great Hymns*

*With Great Tunes*

*Come along for a Great Sing*

***Aylesbury Methodist Church  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July: 6.00 pm  
EVERYONE WELCOME***

.....  
**To Vote:** *Ballot forms will be made available at all  
churches. Alternatively, just advise your three favourite  
hymns by e-mail to: [derrick.matthews@btinternet.com](mailto:derrick.matthews@btinternet.com)  
(Closing date 30<sup>th</sup> June) 24*