

Services for February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am Rt Rev Dr Andrew Shergold  
9<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Rev Ms C Collins  
Holy Communion  
16<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Rev Mr H Moon  
23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am Mr Richard Maguire

Services for March

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 11.00am Rev Dr Sonia Hicks  
(NB time District Chair  
change) Church Anniversary  
9<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Rev Mrs R Williams  
16<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Miss Marilyn Dore  
23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am Rev Mr H Moon  
30<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Rev Mr R Atkinson  
(NB Clocks Holy Communion  
go forward)

Princes Risborough

Methodist Church

'The Messenger'

February / March 2025



LENT

This magazine comes to you with the  
good wishes of the Church

**Princes Risborough Methodist Church  
Wycombe Road  
Princes Risborough  
Buckinghamshire**

**Minister: Rev Mr Heegon Moon  
Tel: 07432 992358**

**Superintendent Minister: Rev Mr Richard Atkinson  
Tel: 01296 339889**

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

**Steward contact: Mr Mike Pullen  
Tel: 01844 343188  
email: [mhpullen44@gmail.com](mailto:mhpullen44@gmail.com)**

**Interim magazine Editors: Mr Neville Trout / Mrs Vicky Spires**

**Material for the April / May double edition Messenger to the editors, by Sunday 9th March at the latest, please.**

*This Church is proud to be a member of 'Churches Together in Risborough' associated with The Baptist Church, Elim Church, St. Dunstan's Church, St. Mary's Church, St John's, Kimble Free Church, Speen Baptist Church and St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church.*

*Rotas for March 2025*

	<b>Duty Steward</b>	<b>Welcoming Stewards</b>	<b>Bible Readers</b>	<b>Tea/coffee</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr J Needham	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mrs V Spires
9 <sup>th</sup>	Miss M Dore	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Miss P Scott
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake & Mr N Marriner-Kyle	Ms Y Ayoola
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mr M Pullen	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Ms V Spires
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M Stevens	Mrs M Stevens	Mrs M Stevens	Mrs S Wilson

<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Grass Cutting</b>
1/2		Miss M Dore	Mr B McCleary
8/9	Mrs D Robbins	Mrs B Hudson	Mr G Hudson
15/16		Mrs F McMullan	Mr C McMullan
22/23	Mrs M Judd	Mrs D Pullen	Mr M Pullen
29/30		Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens

If unavailable, please arrange an exchange or replacement, notify the steward, and amend the porch and vestry lists. If you would like to be involved as a welcoming steward or Bible reader, or any other rota please speak to Joe Needham (07507 416421) or one of the other Stewards.

Those who kindly provide flowers, please leave the wrappings in the vestry so that the stewards have something to wrap the flowers in when they distribute them after the service.

## Rotas for February 2025

	Duty Steward	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr J Needham	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mrs Y Ayoola
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mr M Pullen	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake & Mr A Rogers	Mrs F McMullan
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mr N Marriner -Kyle	Mrs M Stevens & Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens & Ms Y Ayoola	Mrs S Wilson
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs J Gerrard	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Mrs T Shephard & Mrs V Spires	Mrs M Stevens

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting
1/2	Mrs M Stevens	Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens
8/9	Ms P Scott	Miss P Scott	Mr J Needham
15/16	Ms V Spires	Mrs K Trout	Mr N Trout
22/23	Mrs M Stevens	Mrs N Baker	Mr K Smith

### Volunteers Wanted

If any of you can help with taking a turn as a Welcoming Steward (being there to greet people as they arrive for church, give out hymn books, etc as required and to take the offertory forward during the service) it would be much appreciated. The more help we have the fewer occasions that each person does it – note that it does require those involved to arrive at church about 30 minutes before the service starts.

Some of us also do the Bible Readings, but there is no obligation to do those as well if you don't want to. If you are able to help, please let me know so that I can include you on the rota in future months. *Joe Needham*

**Rest Day**— Rev. Heegon Moon's 'day off' is revised to Monday from Friday; please try to respect this whenever possible.

## From the Manse ...

Dear Friends, I hope you all had a joyful Christmas and that this new year brings blessings to each one of us.



As I write this in the middle of January, I'm reminded of how challenging it can be to navigate these uncertain times. Yet, the beginning of a new year always feels like a special moment—a chance to reflect, find hope, and start anew. For us, as Christians, it's also a time to think about how we mark this fresh beginning with faith.

The Beatles famously sang, "All you need is love," and February is a month when love often takes centre stage. Many of us celebrate St. Valentine's Day by expressing affection for our loved ones. But historically, Valentine's Day wasn't just about romantic love. It was also a time to honour love in all its forms—between parents, children, siblings, friends, and, most importantly, the love of God for His creation. But have you ever thought about how conditional human love can be? Are there things that could cause someone to stop loving us? If we're honest, the answer is probably yes. Human love, while beautiful, is often imperfect.

God's love, however, is entirely different. It is unconditional and unchanging. Nothing we do can make God love us more, or less. While our actions may distance us from God, they can never separate us from His love. God's love is the purest and most profound we could ever know. As Valentine's Day celebrates love, March also marks the beginning of Lent—a season when we reflect on the ultimate expression of love: God's gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. John 3:16 reminds us of this truth: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (NIV). This February, may you feel deeply loved—not just by those around you but by the God who loves you unconditionally. As Alexander MacLaren beautifully said: "God's love is not drawn out by our loveliness but wells up, like an artesian spring, from the depths of His nature." Let this truth encourage you: God's amazing love for you is constant and eternal.

As we step into this new year, we have the chance to leave behind the burdens of the past. Whatever challenges or sorrows 2024 brought, that chapter has closed. Of course, no one knows exactly what the future holds. There will be moments of joy and moments of difficulty—for us as individuals, as a nation, and as a church. But one thing is certain: God will be with us on every step.

As we journey through 2025, let's place God at the centre of our lives. May we echo the words of the Covenant Prayer: "I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will..." Whatever lies ahead—whether challenges or opportunities—let us trust God to guide and strengthen us. Let's seek His will and remain faithful in our relationship with Him.

As we begin this new year, may we walk in faith, trusting God's hand to lead us through whatever comes next. Amen.

## Tuesday Fellowship

Our meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> February at the Church at 2.00pm will be our AGM which will be chaired by Rev. Heegon Moon when we look back over the last year and look forward, please come with suggestions for our future meetings.

At our meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March at the Church at 2.00pm Gerald Tomkins will give us a talk called 'Classical musical and religion - Mozart'.

New members are always welcome to join us.

*Pam Scott*

## SALT Group

The SALT group (Sharing And Learning Together) has now commenced a series of Bible Studies on Women of the Old Testament – though men are quite welcome at SALT and I certainly appreciate it when I'm not the token male presence!

Our meetings in both February and March will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> via Zoom, so if you wish to join us please contact me for the Zoom logon ([jdneedham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jdneedham@hotmail.co.uk)). As the days lengthen towards the end of March, we may move to face-to-face meetings, any change will be advised through the notices.

Meetings start at approx. 7.30pm with a period of informal chat as people join, with Bible Study from 8pm. Even if you have not been before, you are welcome to join us (each study session is 'self-contained' so attendance at every meeting is not essential).

*Joe Needham*

## Table Top Games

We meet every **Friday** between 10.00am to around 12.00 noon, to play Scrabble, Upwords, and Rummikub, to name but a few. The attendance fee is £2.00 and refreshments will be served.

*Sue Wilson*

## Church Forum

The next Church Forum will be on Tuesday 25th March at 7.30pm at the Church. Agenda and Reports will be circulated prior to the meeting.

*Pam Scott*

## *Diary Dates for February*

10th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3.00pm
13th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm
18th	Tuesday Fellowship, 2.00pm
27th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm

## *Diary Dates for March*

1st	Ladies' Breakfast, St Mary's Parish hall, 9.00am
4th	Shrove Tuesday
5th	Ash Wednesday
7th	World Prayer Day, St Dunstan's, 11.00am
10th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3.00pm
13th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm
18th	Tuesday Fellowship, 2.00pm
23rd	Karibuni Concert, Wycombe Swan, 3.00pm
25th	Church Forum, 7.30pm
27th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm
29th	Men's coffee morning, Church, 10.15am

## *Regular events*

Fridays Table top games, 10.00 -12.00

## *Future dates*

18th April - Good Friday & CTR service of witness

20th April - Easter Day & CTR Sunrise service

## **Bereavement Drop In**

This group meets on the second Monday of every month throughout the year offering a warm welcome to anyone struggling with the grief of bereavement. We share together over a cup of tea or coffee, talk about our experiences or just listen. Many find comfort in talking about their loved ones with others who know what they are going through.

We next meet on 10th February and on 10th March in the Chapter House at St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, at 3.00pm, and everyone is welcome, of any faith or of no faith at all. Please contact Rose Williams if you need further details.

*Revd Rose Williams 01844 274225*

### Prayer Circle

The Prayer Circle is 'here for you' so if you know of someone who would appreciate our prayers, please contact anyone in the table below.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Prayer Circle.

Name	Preferred contact	Email/Mobile
Vicky Spires	Email or text but calls in evening	E: vixspireslane@gmail.com M: 07786901454
Anna Rogers	mobile	E: amrogers@talk21.com M: 07496853701
Chris Palmer	Email	E:chris@palmershous.co.uk M: 07709556785
Maureen Judd	Email	E: maureenj148@gmail.com
Beverley Hudson	Email	E: beverleyshudson@gmail.com M: 07969366625
Neville Trout	Email	E: Kathryn.trout@tiscali.co.uk
Kathryn Trout	Email	E: kathryn.trout@icloud.com M: 07716904157
David Robbins	Email	E: drobbuk@yahoo.co.uk
Judith Gerrard	Email	E: judithgerrard.ww@btinternet.com

*Vicky Spires*

### Weekly Church Notices

Please contact Mrs Maureen Judd by telephone, 01844 617650, or email: maureenj148@gmail.com by noon on Friday with any information to go into the weekly notices.

### Church Anniversary

Our Church Anniversary Service on Sunday 2nd March will be led by Rev'd Dr Sonia Hicks, chair of our Methodist District, at the later time of 11am. We very much look forward to welcoming her, and hearing her message for us.

The service will be followed by lunch at approximately 12.30: a choice of main course, and a selection of puddings. I will confer with likely cooks as to whether we prefer casseroles or quiches for the Spring lunch!

During February there will be a list in the church porch for you to sign up if you would like to come, and also volunteer to prepare a dish if you wish (expenses will be paid) or wash up afterwards.

Everyone is welcome, even if you are not at the service beforehand, and tickets for the lunch are £5 for adults, £2.50 for children.

*Judith Gerrard*

### Men's Coffee Morning

You and any friends and neighbours are invited to join a coffee morning run by the men of the church on 29th March between 10.15—12.00.

*Neville Trout*

### Charity Concert for Karibuni Children

As part of the celebrations for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Karibuni Children, there will be a Charity Concert of '100 Years of Big Bands' at the Wycombe Swan on Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm. Music is from the LP Swing Orchestra with singers Matthew Ford & Nicola Emmanuelle.

Book online at [www.wycombeswan.co.uk](http://www.wycombeswan.co.uk) or Tel 0343 310 0060 or see [www.lpswingorchestra.com](http://www.lpswingorchestra.com) for further information.

*Joe Needham*

### World Prayer Day or WWPD

The WPD will be held at St Dunstan's Church on Friday 7th March at 11.00am, and this year it has been prepared by the Cook Islands.



I look forward to welcoming you to the service and to the refreshments after.

*Vicky Spires*

# THANKS

## Christmas Banners

Many thanks to Lorraine for the beautifully crafted banners we have to display in the church. The two Christmas themed ones were recently repaired by Lorraine and hung each side of the church over the Christmas period. Many people commented that they looked lovely, and a close inspection revealed the impressive amount of work which had gone into them. Thanks Lorraine.

*Judith Gerrard*

## Reverse Advent Calendar

Once again PRMC rose magnificently to the challenge of advent *giving*, rather than receiving a gift from an advent calendar.



All of the gifts of (mainly) food, which by Christmas had accumulated into a bit of a mountain in the porch, have been sorted into items suitable for Whitechapel Mission and those with shorter dates which have gone to “One Can Trust” in High Wycombe.

It took me several journeys to carry all the boxes to the One Can collection point in West Wycombe, and there are a similar number of boxes set aside for Whitechapel, which will be kept in the church shed for the moment. Thank you for your generosity.

*Judith Gerrard*

## Men's Breakfast

Nine of us joined together for breakfast in January. As our usual venue was temporarily closed, we decamped to the Crew Café in Wades Park for a very sociable 90 minutes or so. The food was good, I anticipate that we will be back!

Our next venture is likely to be to the golf driving range— watch this space

We are very pleased to announce that Mags West, our current manager at Bourne End has gained a Distinction on her EPA following a long training period. She is now a Chartered Manager. With the reorganisation of management, she will soon be taking on the role of Centre Manager in Princes Risborough, whilst Kim has been promoted to General Manager. Our new Manager for our centre at Bourne End is Marina Glen and Lyndsey Hayward has been promoted to be Deputy Manager there. We wish them every success in their new roles.

Due to a large legacy received last year which has made this project possible, work to replace the downstairs roof is about to start. Scaffolders will be here first, then the solar panels will be removed, then the roof will be replaced before the solar panels are reinstalled and finally the scaffolding will be removed. We anticipate the work taking 6-8 weeks to complete. A smaller project is the replacement of the front fascia. Internal changes include moving furniture around in the rooms downstairs. The IT room is now in what was the quiet room along with the sofa, table and chairs. We have purchased two new laptops for the clients and look forward to seeing them being used.

If you would like to support the Princes Centres in any way or if you or your loved one would like a free taster of what we have to offer, please contact Mags on 01844 345105 or Marina at Bourne End 01628 52702.

*Maggie Wooster Keyte*

## Christmas tree competition 2024



John Bush, our preacher on the day, had the challenge of judging our inaugural Christmas tree challenge at the Carol service on 22nd December. The six entries (from groups that use the building) were all imaginative and attractive but the winner of the box of biscuits was the U3A “out with Friends” group. Thank you to all that were inspired to take part.

## Princes Centre

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.



December was a busy month at the Princes Centre. A big event was the *Jinglers* performing their 'Farewell Concert' at St Mary's for Rev David Williams, one of our trustees who has now left the area to move to Wales. They wanted to thank him for all his support over the years. It was a huge success. David was an enthusiastic participant of the *Jinglers*. A collection was organized outside Tesco's to advertise our presence in the town and we raised just under £900 including Gift Aid. We are very grateful to the generous shoppers who donated and all the helpers who endured the cold. The money will be used to enhance the experiences of our clients.



There were lots of preparations for Christmas and activities including special Christmas dinners for the clients and volunteers. Some of the trustees joined the staff in dressing up as elves to assist with the catering. Our cook, Jackie, did an amazing job. There has been dancing, singing and lots of fun with entertainment from the Hillbillies, the Black Dog Band and Elvis and also a group of pupils from Risborough Secondary School who came along to sing carols for the clients.



## Mercy Ships

We have an extra collection on the first Sunday of February for our current charity, Mercy Ships, which is a global Christian charity that follows the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus to bring hope and healing to those suffering from disability, providing free surgical care in some of the poorest nations. £145 has been raised by our church collections to date.



*Judith Gerrard*

## Action for Children

The Christmas day collection was £55, which has now been sent to Action for Children, who campaign for a safe and happy childhood for every child. Last year, they helped to support over 600,000 families, children, and young people with many projects, and were recently able to give vulnerable children a much appreciated Christmas present.

Homelessness seems to be an increasing problem for young people in this country, and Action for Children finds that, in many cases, young people leave home because their families cannot afford to look after them. If they then cannot access the right social support or housing for young adults, that makes it harder to find long term accommodation.

Thank you again for supporting our giving.

*Judith Gerrard*

## Ladies coffee Morning

The ladies met for a Christmas coffee morning in December hosted by Kathryn and enjoyed some delicious festive treats. A Christmas quiz on well-known carols kept us all guessing but we finally managed to work out all the answers.



It was a lovely opportunity to chat to each other and we were also able to give a donation to families in need in Risborough. Thank you to Vicky for organising the event.

*Kathryn Trout*

## CTR : Churches Together in Risborough

The main focus in recent weeks centred on the weekend of Nov 30<sup>th</sup> / Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.



On Saturday Nov 30<sup>th</sup> there was the afternoon street fair leading up to the switching on of the Town Centre Christmas Lights. During the afternoon, we joined to sing carols in two time slots accompanied by the Ellesborough Silver Band (as we had done in 2023). This drew the attention of some of those passing by, and a number of carol sheets which also included details of Christmas services at the various churches within CTR were handed out.

On the following evening at 6pm, we had the CTR Advent Service at St John's, Lacey Green with members of many of the churches taking part in the service either directly or as part of the 'enhanced' choir. Because we were 'out of town', the attendance was probably down on recent years which is probably the only downside to holding the service there.

The CTR service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held this year in St Dunstan's at 3pm on January 19<sup>th</sup> (the Sunday which falls within the week from January 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>) and was well attended with over 40 participants. Again members and representatives of the various churches within CTR took part in the service and enjoyed the refreshments.

Looking ahead, Lent begins on March 5<sup>th</sup>, and we hope that the CTR plan whereby church bible study/ house groups use the same course material and the days & timings of such groups are shared to enable church members to attend a group from another church, if they so wish, comes to fruition.

Plans for the CTR Good Friday (April 18<sup>th</sup>) service of witness in the Market Square and the Easter Sunrise service on Whiteleaf Hill (April 20<sup>th</sup>) are also being considered, and details will be available nearer the time .

*Joe Needham*

## Ladies' Breakfast

The next Ladies' Breakfast is on Saturday March 1st at 9am in St Mary's Hall. Our speaker is Susan Seward who will be telling us about Talking Local Papers for the Blind and Visually Impaired. All ladies and friends are very welcome.

Please book your place with Rose Williams (01844 274225) or email: [rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk)

*Rose Williams*

## View from the Pew

On 12th January "our very own Marilyn Dore" as she is often introduced by the steward, took the service at chapel. Part of her theme was "adoration", I suppose a continuation of Epiphany shortly beforehand. Traditionally I feel that Methodists tend to be practical folk and perhaps that "adoration" is something which does not come easily to us. Certainly, part of Marilyn's proposition was that we could easily lose focus on adoration and that our thoughts spill into, or move onto the likes of praise. I was struck by a prayer that Marilyn used in the service and thought that it would be worth printing in the *Messenger* to give us all the opportunity to reflect on it and perhaps use it in our own devotions.

*Neville Trout*

## Prayer of adoration

As the light slowly dispels the darkness of night  
And the new day begins to emerge  
You are there, you were always there  
Even when we could not see because all was dark.  
You were there. You are there.  
Waiting, longing to be made visible  
To be experienced  
To break out of the darkness in which we stumble and grope.  
In this place, in each and every place, you are.  
Throughout time. Before time. In time.  
You are.  
For you are creator and sustainer  
You are ever-present.  
For ever leaving fingerprints and footprints  
Hints of your presence  
Glimpses of your glory  
Traces of your splendour.  
Dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds  
That we may worship you  
That we may notice your prints  
That we may glimpse your glory  
And sense the trails of your splendour  
And be lost in wonder love and praise.

*Revd Peter Barber (as used by Marilyn Dore)*