

Services for February

- 4th 10.00am Rev Keith Edwards
Holy Communion
Junior Church
- 11th 10.00am Rev Carina Shergold
- 11th 6.00pm Joint Service at the Baptist
Church
- 18th 10.00am Mr Steve Kemp
- 25th 10.00am Mr Ken Harris
Junior Church



Tea and coffee are served after the morning service. Please join us in the Hall.

Princes Risborough

Methodist Church

'The Messenger'
February 2018



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

Princes Risborough Methodist Church
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Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire

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**Material for the March Messenger by
 Sunday 11th February 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 and St. Teresa's Roman
 Catholic Church.***

Rotas for February

	Duty Stewards	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
4 th	Miss M Dore	Mrs M Stevens Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens Mrs J Gerrard	Mr J Needham
11 th am	Mrs M Judd	Mr & Mrs D Robbins	Mr & Mrs D Robbins	Mrs C Palmer
11 th pm			Mrs M Judd	
18 th	Mr M Pullen	Mrs T Sheppard & Mr J Needham	Mrs T Sheppard & Mr J Needham	Mrs S Hunnisett
25 th	Mrs C Palmer	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Miss P Scott

Weekend	Flowers	Grass Cutting	Cleaning
3/4	Miss P Scott	Mr B McCleery	Mrs S Wilson
10/11	Mrs D Robbins	Mr J Needham	Miss P Scott
17/18	Mrs B Willett	Mr B Palmer	Mrs C Palmer
24/25	Mrs M Judd	Mr K Smith	Miss M Dore



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 (01844 343246), or one of the Stewards.

Those who kindly provide flowers please leave the wrappings in the vestry so that the stewards have something to wrap them in when they distribute them after the service. We could always do with more than is provided so if anyone has any suitable paper please leave that in the vestry or the vase cupboard.

Diary Dates for February

1 st February	Christian Aid Lunch
4 th February	Fairtrade stall
4 th February	Retiring Collection
8 th February	SALT
9 th February	Breakout
11th February	Messenger Deadline
15 th /16 th February	St Mary's Ski Slopes
18 th February	Later
20 th February	Tuesday Fellowship
23 rd February	Breakout



Future Dates

6 th March	Church Forum
12 th March	Silent Prayer at St Dunstan's
18 th March	PRMS Afternoon Tea Concert
7 th – 11 th May	Circuit Holiday

Weekly Church Notices: Please contact Mrs Maureen Judd by telephone (01844 344935) or e-mail - maureenjudd@maureenjudd.plus.com with any information regarding weekly notices by noon on Friday.
Maureen Judd

Rest Day—Rev. Keith Edwards' 'day off' is a Wednesday; please try to respect this whenever possible.

From the Manse ...



As we head into Lent on Feb 14th I recalled the Circuit Consultation in which Rev Jill Marsh encouraged us to ask the Why? Question and it reminded me of an article I had seen. In an interview in Rolling Stone Magazine, Bill Gates was asked, "Do you believe in God?" He said:

I agree with people like Richard Dawkins that mankind felt the need for creation myths. Before we really began to understand disease and the weather and things like that, we sought false explanations for them. Now science has filled in some of the realm — not all — that religion used to fill. But the mystery and the beauty of the world is overwhelmingly amazing, and there's no scientific explanation of how it came about. To say that it was generated by random numbers, that does seem, you know, sort of an uncharitable view. I think it makes sense to believe in God, but exactly what decision in your life you make differently because of it, I don't know.

This question is the question I wish more of us ,who say we believe in God, would ponder. It's the "Now, so what?" question. We say we believe in Jesus..... so what?" How do we live differently? How do we show the Jesus lifestyle in our own lives? Ask yourself "Now, so what" about...

the way you treat your family?
the way you treat your employees or boss?
the way you choose how you spend your money?
the way you choose to look at people of different cultures and races?
the way you view truth, morality, goodness, and virtue?
the way you treat the poor, the disenfranchised, the left out, the voiceless, the vulnerable, the widow, the foreigner, the ill, your enemies, the old, and the young?

The "Now, so what?" question is the question begging to be answered — answered with changes in our lives because we believe Jesus stated and demonstrated the truth of God; truth we are going to do our best to live! So perhaps during Lent you can ask yourself – “what decisions in my life will I make differently because it does make sense to believe in God?”

Grace and Peace

Keith

Church News

Junior Church

Dates for February are 4th and 25th.
Fran McMullan

Fairtrade Stall.

The stall in December and January took £61 and £23.50 respectively, thanks to all who helped and supported it in various ways.

The next stall will be after the service on 4th February, so please have a look and buy something delicious if you can!

Judith Gerrard



To Ellen Trout who will be 11 on 1st February, Olive Nicolle who will be 90 on 20th February and Isabel and Kristian who will be 17 on 24th February. We wish you all a very happy day.

Congratulations to Margaret and Dave Stephens on becoming proud grandparents to their fourth baby grandson.

Church Forum

This will be held on Tuesday 6th March at 8.00pm at the Church. Agenda and Reports will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Pam Scott

United Services

These monthly evening services starting at 6.00pm are held either in our Church, the Baptist Church or St. Mary's Church. We are grateful to the ministers for leading these services.

The next service will be held on Sunday 11th February at Princes Risborough Baptist Church.

Christian Aid

The regular monthly luncheon will be held on Thursday 1st February from 12noon till 1.15pm in the Baptist Church Upper Hall. It was lovely to see some fellow Methodists at the October lunch.

Margaret Stevens

SALT

The SALT Group will meet on Thursday 8th February at 7.30pm, when we commence a series of Bible studies on 'Prayers from the Old Testament'. When the venue for this meeting is known, it will be confirmed through the weekly notice sheets nearer to the date.

For further information, please contact Victoria Haydon (01844 274996), Joe Needham (01844 343246) or Maureen Judd (01844 344935).

Joe Needham.

Our two days of collecting outside Tesco before Christmas resulted in a total of £1,331 once gift aid is claimed and we thank all the volunteers who stood out in the cold holding the buckets, and all the generous shoppers who kindly stopped and put some money in them.

If you wish to contribute financially to our continuing refurbishment needs, you can donate on line by visiting www.princescentre.org.uk, and by clicking on the 'My Donate' button. If you would like to book a hall or offer support in any way please ring Kim, our manager, on 01844 345105.

Maggie Wooster Keyte

Three short prayers for the Lenten period

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**



Silent Prayers

There will be no Silent Prayers in February. The next meeting will be at St. Dunstan's Church Hall, on Monday 12th March at 8pm.

We need silence to help us to get a proper perspective on our lives; to hear the still, small voice of God, and to refresh our inner being. All are welcome to these meetings of any faith or none. Each meeting lasts about 45 minutes to an hour. The meeting starts with some simple relaxation exercises, a short passage from the Bible to reflect upon in the half hour of silence, followed by a time of sharing of our experiences, if people wish.

The Revd James Tomkins (01844) 275944 or jamestomkins@btinternet.com.

Princes Centre Update - January 2018

Charity Number 1151083



THE PRINCES CENTRE
AWARD WINNING DAYCARE
Charity Number 1151083

We wish all our clients, volunteers and supporters a very Happy New Year and look forward to another successful year.

We ended 2017 on a high note with the news that we had won the National Not for Profit Business of the Year at the SME National Business Awards held at Wembley Stadium. We had already won the Regional Award earlier in the year and were thrilled this time to beat strong opposition from all over England. Below is a photo of some of the trustees and staff receiving the award.



We are really grateful for all the massive support we have received from the community which has enabled us to achieve 5 years of providing a much-needed service with such success.

The centre was able to support Risborough community's older people's Christmas lunch this year. It was an extremely successful event with the local community providing Christmas dinner for older people living alone in Risborough, and was provided free of charge to the participants. It was well supported by the town's mayor, councillors and Reverend David Williams and members of our local Rotary Club and their wives, who arranged the transport for the people attending. A great day was had by all.

Tuesday Fellowship

Our meeting in December was led by Rev. Keith Edwards when he told us about the origins of the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. He found it in a book where it said that it was a way for Roman Catholics to learn and remember their catechism in Henry the eighth's time, when it was illegal for them to have any printed religious material. Keith set us the task of trying to work out what each day represented. I thanked Keith for giving us such an interesting insight to these familiar words. We ended the afternoon with Christmas party nibbles.

Our January meeting was on 16th January when we all met at Sheila Hunnisett's home for a social time together.

Our next meeting will be on 20th February, meeting at the Church at 2.00pm, when we shall be joined by Jeanne Stephens with her Guide Dog 'Breck'.

New members are always welcome to join us.
Pam Scott

Retiring Collection

This month, for the first time in several months, we do not have an envelope appeal, so there will be a retiring collection after the Sunday service on 4th February, which will be for the charity we currently support, "One Can Trust".

This is a very effective way of supporting the provision of emergency food parcels to people in crisis in our local area.

Judith Gerrard

WOW

The 'WOW' in WOW Group stands for 'Ways of Worship', and was thought to be a 'catchy' name when the group first formed, with the intention of emulating the long-standing "Aylesbury Creativity Group", in providing an alternative format in leading church services, and it also helps to fill vacant slots on this Circuit's quarterly preaching plan. The Group typically leads one service a quarter, either at our church, or elsewhere in the Circuit, and we will be at Whitchurch Methodist Church on 25th February.

We would like to welcome any church member, who may have an interest in providing this type of facility, to become part of the group. If you are interested, or would like to know more about what the group does, please have a word with me.

Maureen Judd

Transport to Church

If you require transport to or from any of the Sunday services or other events please speak to a Steward.

The Ash Tree.

The church's large ash tree in the far corner of the church garden was a distinctive feature, but its height and the possible damage it might cause if it fell over in a strong wind, was giving the Property committee some concern. Another cause for concern was that another nearby ash tree was diseased with ash dieback, which could spread to our tree. One option was to reduce its height, as we have done in the past, but this continuing cost is getting more and more expensive, so the decision was made to spend a little more money and remove the tree completely, a job that was carried out on 16th January.

The accompanying photos show how the tree was looking and how it now looks.



The logs you see in the photo and the chippings are available for anyone to take away for a donation, just speak to Mike Pullen or Barry Palmer.

Les Rixon

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mr Les Rixon, who died on Thursday, 18th January, having only celebrated his 90th birthday on 7th January. Les had been a regular worshipper at Lacey Green Methodist Church until it closed in 2000 when he then joined us at Princes Risborough.

Fundraising

Easyfundraising



Easy Fundraising does exactly what it says – it raises funds for a good cause (e.g. Princes Risborough Methodist Church) with minimal extra effort required on your part.

If you (or other family members if you do not do internet shopping)

would like to join the eight of us currently registered, then go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and register – selecting Princes Risborough Methodist Church as the cause you support. Then all you need to remember is that when you want to do online shopping you first of all log on to the easyfundraising website, and then find the retailer you want.

Try it! It's easy and worthwhile!

Princes Risborough Music Society

Princes Risborough Music Society is a friendly Society of about 60 members. Rehearsals are at Princes Risborough Secondary School on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome. Please contact the Membership Secretary on 01844 344083.

On 18th March we will be performing Faure's Requiem and supporting programme at the St Lawrence Church West Wycombe at 3pm. This will be an afternoon tea Concert. Tickets price £12.00 will be available from The Risborough Cook Shop, Art and Office, Library or choir members and on line at www.princesrisboroughmusicsociety.org/contact-us

Brenda Chubb

"Going to Church in a Mini-Bus"

We nearly made it on 7th January, and if we had done so, this might have been the hymn we could have sung!

Going to church in our useful mini-bus
it's a strange experience for some of us
as if it were insufficiently pious.

We might be off to Yarmouth or Cromer
for a day's excursion in high summer
armed with sandwiches and in good humour.

There's some unease; is everyone here?
the disposition to greet with a cheer
late-comers when they deign to appear.

the same fuss about who shall sit where,
the grumbles and pleasantries, and an air
of being stranded neither here nor there.

Of course, we are all suitably attired,
all striving to feel suitably inspired,
not all adjusted to the mood required.

Perhaps they were this in Chaucer's time,
on pilgrimage to some exotic shrine,
mixing the incongruous with the sublime.

By Fred Pratt Green.

Submitted by Maureen Judd.

Reverse Advent Calendar.

In the last Messenger, Neville Trout introduced us again to the idea of a "Reverse Advent Calendar", where instead of opening little doors on a calendar each day; we would buy something useful for either Whitechapel Mission on One Can Trust. These were set aside, with a prayer, to be brought in to Church. Neville indicated what the 'useful' things could be since there is a need not just for food but for toiletries and clothing, especially during the winter. Like Christmas a year ago, it caught the imagination of many church members and the pile of provisions quickly filled the container in the church porch.



Not only have we been able to share some of what we have with those in need, but the collection has been a witness to others outside the Church looking through the windows or indeed on the One Can Trust website, where PRMC is the first faith group listed as a donor! Our thanks to Mike and Barry for dropping off the first wave of donations to the One Can Trust - apparently the Trust have received over 300 reverse calendars to date.

People unable to provide goods were encouraged to make a monetary donation. Additionally the loose cash in the Christmas Day collection went to Whitechapel Mission to help with their tireless work with homeless people. So along with a few donations from the Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal we have been able to send over £100.00 along with the goods most suitable for Whitechapel's work.

A big "thank you" to everyone, but don't forget that you can continue to collect and donate for either of the organisations throughout the year not just at Advent.

Judith Gerrard

Youth Matters



The Later Group for 11 to 17 year olds
Meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month at Princes
Risborough Methodist Church from 6.00pm till 8.00pm.
The next meeting is **18th February**.

For more information please contact our Minister, Rev. Keith Edwards
ulysee798@gmail.com; Revd. James Tomkins jamestomkins@btinternet.com
or Fran McMullan chris-fran@live.com

Fran McMullan



Informal Bible Study for school years 10-13
Meets on 2nd Sunday of the month at St Mary's Chapter
House from 6-8pm.



Deeper Worship Evening for anyone
Meets on 4th Sunday of the month at St Mary's Church
from 6.30-8pm.



Breakout We meet Fridays from 5 - 6.15pm at Elim
Church, during term time, and have games, craft,
lego, puzzles as well as watching an episode of an
exciting DVD called Friends & Heroes, where we
watch the adventures of a group of friends who also tell a Bible Story which is
part of the theme for that particular week. We meet on **9th and 23rd February**

Doline Gadd
dolinegadd@googlemail.com



**St. Mary's Ski Slopes
Holiday at Home
February 15th and 16th
10am - 4pm**



Do you fancy a winter break, in the snow but where it is warm and dry? Yes? Then why not give us a try? Come and join us at St Mary's where we will endeavour to have a great time with a "Holiday at Home" We could be skiing (courtesy of a play-station programme), and there is golf and snooker (yes, in the church!!)

You can do as much or as little as you want. Start with some coffee and biscuits. Put your hand to painting a masterpiece, try some different crafts like decoupage or paper flowers and decorate some chocolate to take home (or eat while you are there), play cards and board games or even beat our Rector, David, at finishing a jigsaw. If you don't fancy any of those, then put your feet up and read one of our newspapers or just have a chat to someone.

Then the really good bit Enjoy a delicious hot 2 course lunch!

In the afternoon there will be varied entertainment. End your day at St. Mary's with a cup of tea/cake/scone and a packed tea to take home.

There is no charge for the days but, if you are able, donations on the day would be gratefully accepted.

You don't have to come for the full two days. Come for as long as you want to on either day, but try us – you may be surprised how much you will enjoy it! However, we do need you to book if you would like to come, so we know how many to cater for. We can arrange transport if required.

Please fill in the form at the bottom of this page and return to St Mary's Church office or book by phone with Gill Wilkinson (tel: 01844 346145) or (email: gill.sunfold@googlemail.com).
Please book as soon as possible (so that we know the numbers) but at least by February 10th.

Name:

Address:

Tel no.

email address (if you have one)

Emergency contact name and telephone number (just in case!):.....

Special requests

I would like to come to Holiday at Home at St Mary's Church Princes Risborough on:

Thursday 15th February

Friday 16th February

I require transport please provide address.

Any personal information supplied will be used only for this event and not stored for further use.



Following a successful visit to Thursford in 2016, I am planning another trip this year on **Thursday 22nd November**.

As before it would be 2 days; travelling to the hotel (possibly the Golf Club as previously) then the evening performance. The next morning would be travelling back to Princes Risborough, with a stop in Norwich.

Bring your friends and family (the theatre does not recommend it for children under 8). Cost this year is £189pp which includes DBB and the theatre tickets Single Occupancy + £18

As this is a very popular event early booking is essential so if interested please let me know ASAP, a deposit of £50pp is required at time of booking, balance 6 weeks prior to travel.

Contact Barry Palmer Tel: 07857271513

Email: barry@palmerhouse.co.uk

Tribute for Will Richmond

Will has been a member of our church over many years, but through failing health, he has been unable to worship with us for more than a year. Last year his aim was to be present for the church anniversary but sadly it was not to be. However throughout his illness he never lost his sense of humour, often reminding me that he was a Yorkshire man!

For many years Will was our senior steward, taking care of tasks that the rest of us were unaware of. Even when life was becoming more challenging for him he still insisted on carrying out his duties. He said it was his way of giving back the help and support that he had received from PRMC when his wife died more than 20 years ago.

Whenever the F1 Grand Prix was on we were bound to secrecy and not allowed to disclose the winner because Will recorded the race and would watch it after church on a Sunday morning! And as some of you will know he was a member of the MG owners club, being the proud owner of no less than 3 classic sports cars, all lovingly maintained by him and covered to keep out the elements. His love of West Highland Terriers was another hobby as was evident from his beloved pet 'westies'. It was with great sadness that he had to make the decision to sell his beloved Dolly, as he could no longer care for her. However she went to a good home back with her breeder who sent photographs showing that Dolly was happy and settled which put Will's mind at rest.

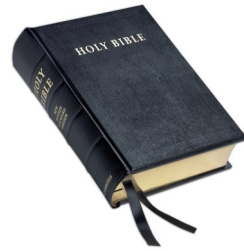
The last thing that Will asked me to do was to pass on his good wishes to everyone at church for Christmas.....

Rest in Peace Will, Good and Faithful Servant.

Christine Palmer

Lectionary Readings.

Lectionary readings for each Sunday can be found on the printed quarterly Circuit plan, where copies are available in the church porch, or they are readily available on the Circuit website.



However, since Maureen Judd took over producing the weekly notice sheets from Will Richmond, she has included these readings in them. This is very useful to those who would like to read them in preparation for coming to the Sunday service. Those of you who receive the notices by mail have more time to do that over those who pick up a printed notice sheet upon arriving at church.

There are some church members who do not see the notices at all, who may still like to know what the Lectionary readings are, and for them, they are listed below for this month.

4 th Feb:	Isaiah 40: 21-31	1 Corinthians 9: 16-23	Mark 1: 29-39
11 th Feb:	2 Kings 2: 1-12	2 Corinthians 4: 3-6	Mark 9: 2-9
18 th Feb:	Geneses 9: 8-17	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 9-15
25 th Feb:	Geneses 17: 1-7 & 15-16	Romans 4: 13-25	Mark 8: 9-15

It must be noted that preachers do not always use all three readings in their service, and they are at liberty to choose completely different readings if they so wish. Sometimes a psalm is used in place of a set reading.

Hopefully those members who are unable to attend our services and are without email will find this useful. (Comments to the editor, please).

Peter Willett

Circuit Holiday

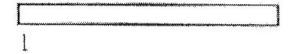
You are invited to join Helen Kirk from **7th – 11th May** at Suncliff Hotel in Bournemouth. The cost is £355 per person. There are no single rooms left, but one older lady would be willing to share. Included in the cost are trips each day to local places of interest.

If you want further details please contact Pete & Jane Honeyball on 01844 351096 or Ken & Sylvia Austin 01844 213285.

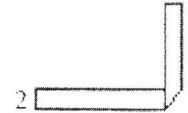
How to Make a Lenten Cross

A palm frond approx. ¼" wide by 13" long will make an average size cross.

1. Hold the frond horizontally



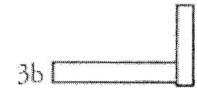
2. Bend the right bend straight up from the centre to form a right angle



3. Fold the same top strip, from the centre:
a. Back and down

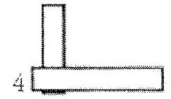


b. Up and over again to form a square at the back.

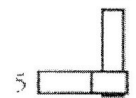


It will still be a Right angle at this point

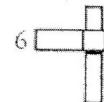
4. Bring the left strip forward and fold over the centre towards the right



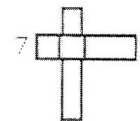
5. Fold away from you and pull through the square at the back, all the way.



6. Bend the top strip forward and put the end through the centre square to make a shaft of desired length.



7. Fold left hand strip backwards and put through the back square. This makes the left crossbar and should be in proportion to the shaft.



8. Fold the right strip back, put through the back square and fasten.

