

## 2012 NEWS ARCHIVE – Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

Please note that these archives were taken from our old website, so links to additional material no longer work.



**Bethan Crawshaw's baptism** took place with a live link via Skype to New Zealand. Church members Brad and Jane Crawshaw asked Alison, from New Zealand, to be one of the godparents to Bethan. As Alison now lives in New Zealand, her being present at the baptism was a problem. Jane has known Alison since they were children and felt that she was the right person to be a godparent to her daughter and so came up with the idea ([...more](#))



**Sue and Jim Houghton**, former members of this church who moved to Leicestershire have won the Unsung Heroes Award on the BBC Sports Personality of the Year show. They have transformed a derelict Leicestershire sports ground into a thriving, widely used leisure facility. **Well done Sue and Jim!** ([...more](#))



**Christmas services** open to all:

Sunday 9th December, 10.30am **Toy Service**

*Bring a gift for distribution to disadvantaged children*

Sunday 23rd December 5pm: **Candlelit Carol Service**

*Mince pies in the hall after the service*

Christmas Eve 4pm: **Christingle Service**

*Popular with families and children*

Christmas Eve 11.30pm: **Midnight Communion**

*With holy communion open to all*

Christmas Day 10am: **Christmas Day Service**

*A short service for all the family*



**Jane Crawshaw** has opened **Sunbeams**, a group for **mums, carers, babies and toddlers**.

They meet on **Mondays from 10.30am to 11.30am** in rooms 4 and 5 in the community centre attached to the church.

Everyone is welcome to come along, bringing their prams and pushchairs upstairs in the lift. There will be refreshments and toys to occupy the little ones.

For more information contact Jane ([email](#))



**The Girls' Brigade** raised a few strange looks recently as all members, including the leaders wore their pajamas to their evening on Monday November 19th. It was all to raise money for Children in Need. £75 was raised and sent to the Blue Peter Appeal who were running the pyjama event. It was great fun and Pudsey Bear was reputed to be very pleased.



**The Rev. Bill Murphy**, the much loved former Chairman of the Karibuni Trust for 14 years, lost his fight with cancer on Tuesday 13th November. Joy, their four children and some grandchildren were all with him in his last few days. After an active Methodist ministry, Bill gave his great energy to building up daughter Corinne's Karibuni Trust. 1,200 former street children in 14 projects have had their lives transformed as a result.

The funeral will be in a woodland site on **Friday 23rd November** at 10.30am followed by a **service of celebration and thanksgiving for Bill's life of service to others at Aylesbury Methodist Church at 2pm**. The family ask that people **wear bright colours** and that there are family flowers only. ([See Joy's letter](#)).



**Epilepsy Action** were the beneficiaries of £139 raised in our coffee bar as part of a National Tea Break event. Organiser Brenda Horne was very happy with the result which was an increase on last year. In May this year, along with husband Allan, Brenda had been a guest at 10 Downing Street for her fund-raising work for Epilepsy Research UK. As the names imply, that charity is for research on epilepsy whereas Epilepsy Action helps people who have the condition.



**The Harvest Festival** offerings this year were once again donated to the work of the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless in London ([www.whitechapel.org.uk](http://www.whitechapel.org.uk)). Ruth Watkins had reported that in the present economic climate, this Methodist run charity was in their words 'desperate for' a list of items from pot noodles to plum tomatoes. Peter Watkins will, as ever, do the delivery run. After the Harvest service, an enjoyable Ploughman's Lunch and sale of perishable produce raised funds for Methodist Missions.



**The White Ribbon Campaign** is an international movement of men working to end men's violence against women and girls. **Restored** is an international Christian alliance working to transform relationships and end violence against women. Both campaigns are encouraging all Christian churches to adopt the theme of domestic violence, or more general violence against women and girls, for their sermon on 25 November, or sometime around that date. ([Click for more details](#)).



**Local MP David Lidington**, took up a long standing invitation to talk to the 1<sup>st</sup> Aylesbury Boys' Brigade company section. He fielded a wide variety of questions. Their discussion included topics such as his career in politics, his current role in government as Minister for Europe, the differences between political parties, activities in his typical day and the importance of young people using their vote. ([...more](#))



**£155 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support** at our coffee bars part of the annual 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' for the charity. Almost 50 people popped in during the morning for coffee and cakes including Cllr Freda Roberts and the mayor, Cllr Ranjula Takodra. Carol Rogers who organised the event with Jean Hamlin and Edna Ludgate said, "It was really nice of the mayor to stay and chat with everyone", whilst the church's minister Rev. Keith Edwards felt that it had been a wonderful result and a very successful morning.



**Rev. Keith Edwards** said, "It has been my privilege over the past few weeks to get to know several people who have made a commitment to our church by becoming members. Some are new to membership, including four from the J Team and others are transferring from other denominations." They were welcomed into membership at a special communion service on 23rd September. and Keith asked for prayers to support them as they seek to follow God's purposes for them.



**Sees The Day**, a new service for adults with mild to moderate learning difficulties was launched by Operations Director Jill Johnson (left) and Managing Director Julie Maguire (right) in the community centre on September 20th. It helps to build confidence, provide support and increase clients' independence. ([...more](#))



**A Multi-Sensory Zone** was the Methodist contribution to A Paralympic Opening Night Festival held on the sports arena of the home of the paralympics next to Stoke Mandeville Hospital. It was part of the UK's ecumenical **More than Gold** campaign which sees Christians from all over the UK serving their community. Lots of our church volunteers set up sections relating to all five senses and was very well attended by the public and Connexional representatives. ([...more](#)).



**The annual Cream Tea Afternoon** was held once more at the Farmers house in Wendover. As well as the famous cream teas there were games, tombola and a bring and buy stall all aimed at raising funds for the Haematology and Cancer Care Unit at Stoke Mandeville hospital and the Karibuni Trust. The weather was kind, and the smiles said it was another successful event.



**The Youth Orchestra** provided the entertainment for the fifth but possibly last year as two of their number, namely Claire and Callum were off to university. Under Pat Starr's baton the group performed a delightful programme including an Abba melody and Chariots of Fire, which tied in well with the Olympics. The sextet presented Pat with flowers and Peter Farmer expressed everyone's thanks and good wishes to all the musicians.



**Sporting Doris Burdett** missed out on last year's fund-raising ride in Geoff Nicholson's replica of a Janguar XK120 which he had built from a kit. So to Doris's surprise and delight Geoff took her out for a spin in his gleaming machine. "Ooh, it's lovely and ever so comfortable. Much more comfortable than I expected it to be" said an appreciative Doris on her safe return.



**Rev. Irena Byron** is now ensconced in the manse at Stewkley, taking over from Rev. Jim Gorrige. Previously in the Boston Circuit in Lincolnshire, Irena is returning nearer home, being originally from Banbury. The Circuit service of welcome will be at the Stewkley Church on **Saturday, 1st September at 6pm.**

Irena has been a policewoman, housewife, teacher, secretary/PA and community worker as well as a Methodist Minister and comments that she brings, "a good deal of life experience into my role as Minister and enjoy every opportunity to use that experience in the communities to which I believe the Lord has called me."

As well as three grown sons and two grand children Irena has a Springer/Terrier puppy called Bonnie.



**Claire Starr** and **Callum Kemp** were awarded their Queen's Award and Queen's Badge respectively by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher Bt JP, at morning service on Sunday 8th July.

Sir Henry said that the Queen, who he represents in the county, was particularly keen on awards for young people. They showed that the recipients were team players, willing to go the extra mile. (...more)



**Corinne Murphy**, AMC member and founder of the Karibuni Trust, has been awarded the newly reinstalled British Empire Medal (BEM) for her services to charity through the Karibuni Trust.

In the July-August Link magazine and on the Karibuni website ([www.karibuni.org.uk](http://www.karibuni.org.uk)) her parents Rev. Bill and Joy Murphy recount the story of Corinne's vision of being called to help African street children after a car crash in which she received severe head injuries and was in a coma for a month. From opening a bank account in 1995 with her total savings of £2.56, the charity has grown and developed to its present size. It has raised over £1.5 million pounds and transformed the lives of 1,200 children who have been fed, educated, clothed, had health care and been loved. We share with Bill and Joy the delight that Corinne's courage and determination have been rewarded with this award.



The **Action for Children Sunday** on 8th July was marked by a brief presentation during morning worship by guest speaker **Marie Johnson**. This was about the work of her unit in Aylesbury that gives respite care for parents of people with learning difficulties. Marie expressed her appreciation of our church members' efforts to support the charity. This included the Action for Children stall on Aylesbury market the following Saturday.

The weekly notices included a bookmark of the charities vision and values and a prayer which included mention of the centenary of the death of the founder Revd Dr Thomas Bowman Stephenson. It recalled the practical nature of Dr Stephenson's love and care and the forthrightness of his denunciation of social injustice, all undergirded by 'the exuberance of his spiritual energy.' For more information see [www.actionforchildren.org.uk](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk) .



**The Olympic Torch** passed the front of the church on Monday July 9th. The church offered free tea, coffee, squash and toilets for the crowds who lined Buckingham Street, as well as some chairs which were much appreciated.

A team of volunteers had bedecked the church with Olympic bunting, served the drinks and did the stewarding. They were also able to capture the once-in-a-lifetime-event with photographs that can be seen by [clicking here](#).

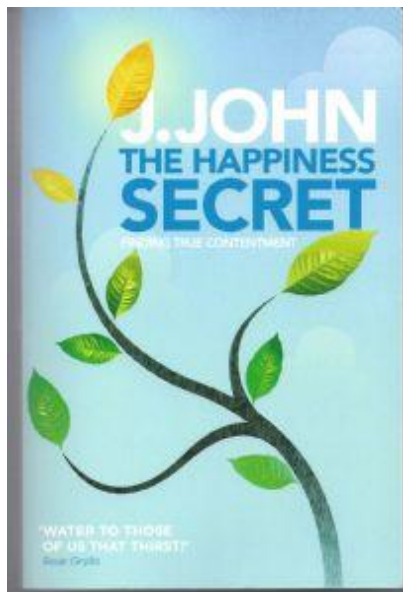


**Claire Starr** was on duty at the Queen's Jubilee River Pageant on Sunday 3rd June. Nominated by Girl Brigades' Captain Linda Gill, Claire was one of only four national representatives of the Girls' Brigade allocated to the VIP Embarkation Team.

She greeted many of the the great and the good and the royals though not, alas, Prince William, Kate or Prince Harry! When everyone had boarded their boats, Claire finally got to see the pageant. "We stood at the water's edge and even had conversations with the people in their boats as they passed." said Claire. Read her article '**Rain, Riverboats and Royalty** ([click](#))



**Songs of Praise 2012** on **22 July at 6pm** will feature **Great Irish Hymns**, (Sing to the Lord a joyful song, The head that once was crowned with thorns, I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship, any many others). As usual, congregational singing will be led by the Circuit Choir together with friends from other local choirs.



**The Good Faith Book Club's** third choice of book is *The Secret Happiness: Finding true contentment* by the international speaker and writer J. John. Published by Hodder it is available from good booksellers for £8.99. Based on the Beattitudes, the writer seeks to unpack each of Jesus' great sayings. Giving them their first century context, he also seeks to show how they are applicable today. The book is described as accessible and down-to-earth, a practical guide to seeking a life of fulfilment and an inspirational read.

The book will be discussed at our next meeting on **Saturday, July 24th**. This time it will be in the church hall as there is a wedding that will be using our usual coffee bar meeting venue. Meetings start at **2pm** over a cuppa and always finish by 4pm. Everyone is welcome.



**Rev. Jim Gorringer's** ministry in the Methodist Church will be celebrated in a Circuit service at Stewkley Methodist Church on Sunday 15th July at 6pm. The service will be preceded by a tea at 4pm.

Superintendent Minister Rev. David Jenkins commented that some people significantly enhance our experience of life and that Jim was one of them. He added, "I have known Jim Gorringer for nearly all my ministry, and I was delighted when I knew that he was becoming one of my colleagues in this Circuit. Jim has brought depths of wisdom, experience, pastoral compassion and challenge into the Circuit's life for which we will be grateful. It is particularly good that he will be continuing to live and serve among us in the House for Duty post at North Marston."



**The Salisbury Suite**, evocative musical pictures tracing a journey from Harnham to the cathedral is composed and played on the piano by David Jenkins and will be introduced by Paula Jenkins with appropriate poetry and readings and powerpoint photos. The programme also includes poetry set to well known classics by David and sung by him. **Tickets £7 (£4 concessions)** on the door or via 01296 484940.

[\(..more\)](#)



**Rev. Peter Mortlock**, a former staff member of the old Aylesbury Circuit, will lead a **Circuit consultation** on **Tuesday 26th June from 7.45pm at Stewkley Methodists**. The topic is the **Methodist Homes 'Live at home scheme'** and will look at how we might be involved. **Live at Home schemes** deliver a wide variety of services and activities, both in members' own homes and in a range of venues. They were started in 1989 to improve the quality of life of isolated older people by "creating local schemes which would provide social contact and support, enabling those older people to live a more fulfilled life and to maintain independence". There are currently 52 local schemes across the country with over 8,000 members, 2020 volunteers, 147 staff members, mostly part time managers.



**One Sound** is the new name for the MAYC Orchestra and Singers. They are the UK's leading Christian Youth Ensemble and will be giving a concert at our church on Saturday June 9th. Their music comes from a variety of genres - from gless and pop medleys to new twists on old hymns and show music with some outstanding solo performances. Church Steward and OneSound's former drummer Robin Barrett commented, "It has been an absolute privilege to be part of such a fantastic group of people for so long." **Tickets for the concert** are £12 (£10 for students and concessions such as pensioners). There is an early booking on all tickets of £10 each or Family ticket of £30 if ordered by the end of April. Tickets are available each weekday morning from the church office (01296 395020) or from Pauline Noble (01296 484940). For more information visit [www.onesound.org.uk](http://www.onesound.org.uk).



**One Sound** will lead morning worship at Buckingham street on Sunday 10th June at 10.30am. This will be a Circuit service with all the other Circuit churches closing that morning apart from two of our ecumenical churches at Fairford Leys and North Marston. Based on their past visit, this is an occasion not to be missed. Visitors are asked to be aware of new Sunday parking charges of £1 that is required in nearby car parks.



**Methodist Homes (MHA)** have recently acquired Hillside Nursing Home at the top of Bicester Road in Aylesbury. Being aware of how much support MHA receives from Methodist Churches, they would like to offer the opportunity to visit this MHA Home to meet some of the residents and staff at an open day on Sunday June 10th from 2-4pm. If you would like to attend please let them know via email: [Home.HILChaplain@mha.org.uk](mailto:Home.HILChaplain@mha.org.uk) or by telephone: 07717 377516 or 01296 710011 so that they have an idea of numbers to expect.



**Faithweavers** now has a link to this website. Superintendent Minister Rev. David Jenkins commented that "Establishing friendship and understanding of the deep convictions which sustain our lives is an essential aspect of inter faith relationships. ([more...](#))



**Philip Davey**, the eminent organist of Truro Methodist Church will give the 27th annual organ concert on **Wednesday 9th May**, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets can be bought in advance for £10 (£5 students) from the Matthews (01296 488076) or Nobles (01296 484940) or bought on the night for £12 (£6 students). [More...](#)





**13-19th May** are the dates of this year's Christian Aid week. Some collectors from the church will be doing their usual door-to-door street collections. The first £5 million collected nationwide will be **match funded** by the Department For International Development (DFID).



**Where On Earth?** is a musical entertainment with a geographical theme featuring the Wingrave Monday Choir, our Superintendent Minister Revd. David Jenkins and the Ed Paine Brass Ensemble. It will take place at our church on **Saturday 26th May** starting at 7.30pm.

The proceeds will support Wingrave Methodist Church's refurbishment project. **Tickets can be bought at the door or in advance** from Sheila Cotton 01296 681226.



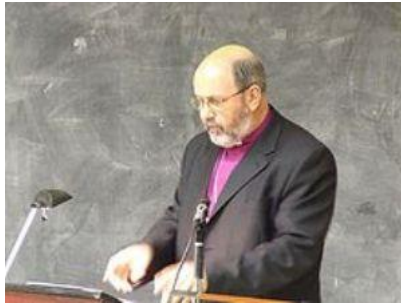
**Carol Rogers** on the right has handed over the leadership of the Wednesday Outreach Day Centre to **Linda Hartnell**. "After 17 and a half years that I've enjoyed, it's time to go" said Carol after a special buffet lunch with her regular clients who have early signs of dementia and some of her drivers. Earlier, Rev. David Jenkins and Arthur Sara conducted an Easter service and David thanked Carol for all her outstanding work and commitment. Zimbabwean Linda brings 20 years experience in St John Ambulance and a big smile ([more](#))



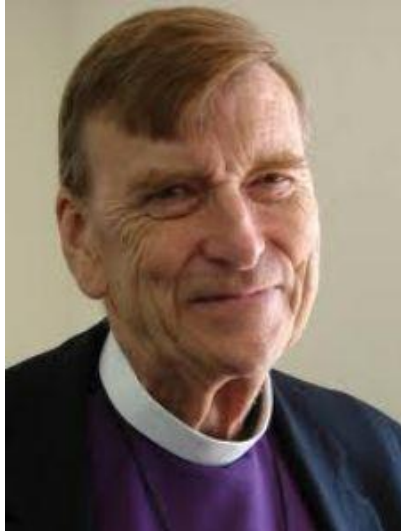
**Mothering Sunday to Easter:** Special invitations to join us at one or more of our seven Lenten and Easter services are being distributed to over 4,000 homes in the area, including new build estates at Berryfields and Buckingham Park. ([click for more details](#)). There is also an invitation to join us for the annual **Full Easter Breakfast** cooked to order by our SOS Group, with proceeds going for the Whitechapel charity for the homeless. **Places are limited** so **pre-book** [here](#).



**A Caribbean Evening** organised by Beatrice Francis and her many supporters raised £545 which, after expenses, will be donated to Stoke Mandeville Hospital Cancer care and Haematology Unit and Action for children. Guests, including our Minister Keith Edwards and Philip and Christiana Kolade (pictured left) were entertained by belly dancers, singers, saxophones and ([...more](#))



***Surprised by Hope*** by Tom Wright, the retired Bishop of Durham, was chosen by Book Club members as their next book to read. It is available from Amazon from £8.44. The Good Faith Book Club meets every other month and anyone is welcome to come along to take part or just listen over a cup of tea. The next meeting is Saturday 19th May from 2-4pm in the church coffee bar.



**The Good Faith Book Club** had its first meeting on Saturday 23rd March when nine people from across the Circuit discussed **John Spong's book, *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism***, over a cup of tea in the church coffee bar. Now retired, Bishop Spong's knowledge of and love for the Bible was clear to see. His concern is the growth of evangelical and fundamentalist Christian churches whose insistence on taking the Bible literally makes it easy for the atheists to attack the Church and causes a crisis of faith for others.

He gives countless illustrations from both Old and New Testaments of the problems with this literalist approach. For a one page review [click here](#)



**Hear Aldrin Calixte** who is working with Christian Aid partner organisation Haiti Survie to rebuild Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. The event on 20 March in our church hall includes a light supper so please phone 01865 246818 or email so they know numbers. ([...more](#))



**John Stainer's 'The Crucifixion'** will be performed as an act of worship for Congregation and Choir at our church on **Sunday 25th March at 6pm.**

It will be presented by the Circuit Choir together with friends from other local churches and choirs under the direction of Chris Beattie.

Stainer was one of the most distinguished musicians of his generation. In 1872 he was appointed organist of St Paul's cathedral, where he raised performance standards and greatly expanded the repertoire.

Stainer's aim with the Crucifixion was a modest one. It was to provide an extended Passiontide meditation which ordinary choirs could perform and to which congregations could relate. The work is scored for tenor and baritone soloists and for choir and organ. We have the opportunity to relate to it again on March 25th.

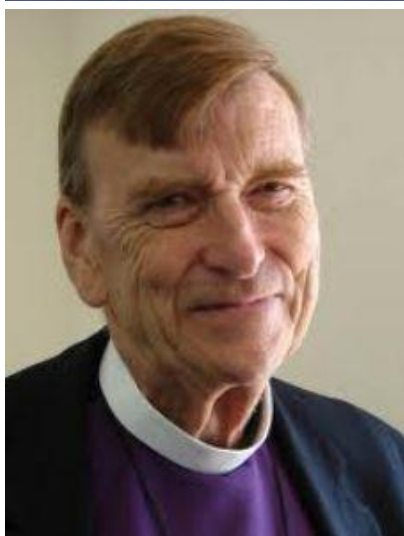


**Another Silent Film Spectacular** held in the church in February proved to be a resounding success with the audience of some 200. Two Buster Keaton classic comedies were accompanied on the organ by that virtuoso of the art and resident organist at the Odeon Leicester Square, Donald Mackenzie. A profit from the evening of £1,178 was paid to the church property fund and organiser and church Music Director Derrick Matthews thanked his many helpers on the night.



**The Women's World Day of Prayer** will hold services on 2nd March at St Mary's Church at 1.30pm and St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church at 7.30pm. Men women and children are all invited.

Started in 1887 the Women's World Day of Prayer is a chain of Christian prayer which stretches across 180 countries. The service is translated into a 1,000 languages and is prepared by a different country each year. This year the Christian Women of Malaysia have prepared the service with the theme, '**Let Justice Prevail.**'



**Bishop John Shelby Spong** is the author of the first book chosen by the newly formed **Good Faith Book Club**. The now retired American Episcopalian Bishop is a prolific writer. The particular book chosen is '*Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*'.

The author says, "I hold the Bible before my readers seeking boldly to free it from the clutches of a mindless literalism and, at the same time, presenting it as a dramatic and exciting document whose relevance for our day is both mighty and real."

The first meeting is on **Saturday 17th March from 2 - 4pm** in the church coffee bar. For more details and how to obtain the book, [click here](#).



By popular demand, Donald Mackenzie (seen left), who is organist of the Odeon Leicester square St. Mary's Church, Aylesbury will accompany another **SILENT FILM SPECTACULAR** in the church on Wednesday 15th February 2012 at 7.30pm.

The main feature film this year will be another Buster Keaton classic '*Steam Boat Bill*'. Tickets are £12 on the night or £10 if bought in advance from our Organist and Music Director Derrick Matthews (Tel. 01296 488076. Click [here](#) if you want to print off a Booking Form or click [here](#) for more information.



Speaking for **Action for Children**, Pauline Noble said, "Thank you to all who contributed to the wonderful selection of presents at our Gift Day Service in December. These were delivered to the two Family Centres in Milton Keynes who were delighted to receive them, and thank you letters can be seen on the board in the vestibule. The Manager of one explained how grateful she was as we are the only organisation who remembers them at Christmas. Thank you also to those who contributed to the collection on Christmas Day when £389.20 was given for the work of Action for Children."

The gift stall in the card shop organised by Rosemary Bucknell and her volunteers contributed a further £229 to the charity.



**The Karibuni Trust and Action for Children** equally benefitted from the £245 raised by the annual new year's walk. This year it was round the alarmingly low Marsworth Reservoirs followed by a soup and pudding lunch hosted once again at Peter and Pamela Farmers.

Karibuni helps children from the streets and slums of Kenya. Its Chairman, John Cotton, said, "As we enter the New Year it's a bit daunting to think of how much we shall need to raise to finance the project support budgets to which we have already committed. News of initiatives like this serves to reassure me that all will be well!"

For more information on Karibuni [click here](#).



**Margaret Miskin**, who took over as Christmas shoebox co-ordinator from the late Sue Ingram sent off 215 shoeboxes from this area. It helped the national total of 41,877 boxes sent from the UK to underprivileged school children and families in Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova.

To increase awareness of the programme and explain who benefits and what is needed, Margaret has offered to speak to any group interested in finding out more and showing them a short video. Margaret can be contacted via the church office of by [email](#) (just click)



**£21,200** was raised this year in the **Cards for Good Causes** charity Christmas card shop in the church. Manager Cliff Darlington thanked members of the church who joined the volunteers from the Charities to work in the shop, his team of managers without whom it would have been impossible, the Church for its support and and to all of you who made purchases in the shop.

## 2012 NEWS ARCHIVE – Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre



Superintendent Minister Rev. David Jenkins has announced that from September 2012, **Rev. Irena Byron** (shown left) will be joining the Vale of Aylesbury's Circuit Ministerial team.

Irena will live in the Stewkley manse, recently vacated by Rev. Jim Gorringer who has taken up a position in our Local Ecumenical Project at North Marston.

In response to a welcome to the Circuit, Irena replied, "Thank you for your message and the sentiment with which it comes. I too am very excited about the move to Vale of Aylesbury - God is so good and I know this is His leading. I will send something nearer the time for publication on the website as an introduction" We look forward to welcoming Irena.