

VALE OF AYLESBURY

METHODIST CIRCUIT

MAGAZINE

Aylesbury
Methodist



Youth Choir

An exciting new venture at AMCC (see page 7)

**July,
August, September
2016**

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Rev. Helen Kirk (Superintendent) Tel:01296 488963

Email: revhelenkirk@sky.com

With Pastoral Care of the Aylesbury Methodist Church and Community Centre

Rev. Irena Byron Tel:01525 240105

Email: irena.byron@methodist.org.uk

With pastoral care of: Cheddington, North Marston (LEP), Stewkley, Stoke Hammond, Swanbourne and Waddesdon

Rev. Keith Edwards 01296 423363

Email: ulysee798@gmail.com

With pastoral care of: Princes Risborough, Stoke Mandeville, Stone, Weedon (LEP), Whitchurch and Wingrave

Rev Anthony Howells, (Authorised minister),

Tel: 01296 424980

Email: ah@hobbit.ndo.co.uk

With pastoral care of the Ecumenical Church at Fairford Leys

Rev Dr. Romilly Micklem . Tel 01844 215 823

minister@rwm32.plus.com With Pastoral care of Thame (Christchurch) Chinnor, Cuddington and Haddenham

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



LETTER TO THE CIRCUIT

Rev Helen Kirk

I am an enthusiastic but very amateur gardener. In the centre of my front garden there is a bush – I cannot tell you what it is called. For most of the year it is a fairly ordinary shrub; often it looks like it is on its last legs and we have at times contemplated digging it up but then come the spring, buds of new life appear on its spindly twigs and by May it a mass of colour and its beautiful and spectacular flowers transform the whole garden. Sometimes the things that look like they have little life are just waiting for the right season to bloom.

During April, May & June I have been trying to visit each church in the circuit to hear of the 'good news'; the seeds of growth that are taking place in each congregation & community as well as to listen to the issues that each church faces.

As the superintendent minister it has been a real privilege to hear that so many good things are happening: work with children & young people, ecumenical relationships, engagement with communities and our buildings in use 7 days a week. There is much to be hopeful about across our circuit.

However every church I have visited has raised the same issue: our Sunday congregations are getting older; there are fewer people to take on the 'jobs' and there are many expressing fears for the future. What can we do in the face of a society for whom the majority of people no longer profess any faith? Is the church on its last legs? To be honest I do not have an answer.

Today, as I write, is 24th May, Wesley day; the anniversary of the moment when a struggling Anglican priest and failed missionary called John Wesley had his 'heart strangely warmed' by God such that he went on to transform our nation.

John Wesley had spent his life striving to do the right things but it was only when he was touched by God's grace and renewed by God's Spirit that he was enabled to form and lead a movement that called people afresh to a relationship with Christ; crossed barriers of class and gender and challenged the injustices of society. It was called Methodism.

This is our history and it reminds us that it is God's initiative, God's purpose, God's creative action that ultimately transforms our human endeavour into something that grows and flourishes and changes its environment.

I think God still has a purpose for his church and I think he still has a plan for the people called Methodist. As I have visited the churches in the circuit I have been deeply impressed by so many faithful and committed people and the buds of new life that are appearing. So let us together continue to seek God's purpose that his church may once again blossom.

*O breath of life, come sweeping through us,
Revive Thy church with life and power;
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit Thy church to meet this hour.*

*O wind of God, come bend us, break us,
Till humbly we confess our need;
Then in Thy tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore, for this we plead.*

*O breath of love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive Thy church in every part.*

(Bessie Porter Head)

A notice to all Regular Preachers and Church Stewards.

Can You Please assist in the preparation of the next Preaching Plan by completing your 'Availability Form' or 'Plan Notes' for your church by 12th. August

The Guidance Notes for making your entries can be found in the list of Publications on the Circuit Website which all preachers and stewards have access to. If you can't find them Email Roy!

Reminders will be posted on the Circuit Website and/or sent through the Website Email.

Ministers' Rest Days:

Rev Helen Kirk - Friday
Rev Irena Byron - Monday
Rev Keith Edwards - Wednesday
Rev Anthony Howells - Friday
Rev Romilly Micklem - Monday

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

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

COVER PICTURE STORY

Choirs are in.

Whether it's Gareth Malone enabling an unsuspecting public to make music; The Military Wives topping the charts, or the latest act on Britain's Got Talent - choirs have never been more popular.



So when a group of young people asked if they could take part in worship, the obvious thing was a new choir. Last December the AMC Youth Choir performed as part of our Christmas celebrations and were a sensation.

The AMC Youth Choir singing during the Easter Offering Dedication Service.

Photo: Steve Kemp

There are about 15 - 20 young people aged from 8 to 20 years who meet each week to learn new songs to sing in worship. It's hard work but great fun. You don't need to have any sort of musical pedigree, it's just about having a go and making a good sound together.

There's a webpage with more information at:

www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk/youth/youth-choir.html

Stone Methodist Church

Our **FIRST SUNDAY CAFE** was launched to raise funds towards the installation of much needed disabled toilet facilities, and has been very successful – more than £1,000 having been raised since we opened.

We now have sufficient money in hand to engage the builder and press on with the work.

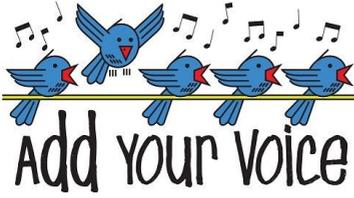
However, there has been another, unlooked for, result as well:-

The monthly lunch has become a happy meeting place for friends from the Anglican church, the village and from other Circuit churches. All join in friendly chat and seem loathe to leave until we put the shutters up at 2.00 pm!

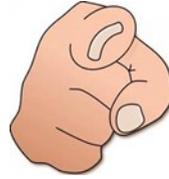
Our small congregation have been blessed with very practical support and help from Arthur and Chris Sara who have been there to lend a helping hand practically every month, for which we are extremely grateful.

We've not quite decided whether to continue with the lunches in 2017 now the original financial target has been met, but for the rest of this year it's 'business as usual' so if there are some in the Circuit who haven't discovered **Stone's First Sunday Cafe** – now's your chance: **July 3rd, August 7th and September 4th** will see us open for business from **12.30 till 2.00 pm**.

(This has been a fine example of a small church initiative and Circuit co - operation, Please let Sue Spinks know if you have valued it and would like it to continue; Editor)



The Circuit Choir needs you!



If you can sing why not help to augment the choir for the **Circuit Songs of Praise Service** on the 17th July (see back cover) . There will be one big rehearsal on Friday 15th. July at 7.45pm. But you will be welcome at the AMC Choir rehearsal on July 1st. if you can be there by 8.00 pm.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH and COMMUNITY CENTRE
Do you need a venue for your Child's Party?

We offer a significant discount to members for the hire of the halls for these and other Social Events.

For all bookings please contact Carla Barnes or one of the volunteers in the Church Office for more details at:

**Buckingham Street
Aylesbury HP20 2NQ**

Tel: 01296 426526

Email: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

The office hours are 9:30 to 13:30 during weekdays.

Room bookings can be made through the office (Email or phone)

Princes Risborough - Later Group



The 'Later Group' is a club for Young People that meets once a month at

**Princes Risborough
Methodist Church.**

It is held on the **third Sunday** of the month from 6.00 - 8.00 pm and

offers a relaxed, fun atmosphere for 11 - 17 year olds (from church and non - church families) where they can play games, chat, eat food and enjoy a craft/activity of some sort.

It has been created by 'Churches Together in Risborough (CTR)' and has been running in its current format for seven months



with an average attendance of 15 young people each session.

Every month a different clergy representative, from one of the churches in Princes Risborough and its surrounding villages, comes to lead a 10 - minute 'God slot'. As most of the local churches have just a few teenagers each, this club enables them to meet as part of a much larger group, and new friendships have formed.

Fran McMullan chris-fran@live.com

NEWS FROM STONE

OPEN THE BOOK TEAM.

This ecumenical team, including Chapel member Sue Spinks, [Minister Keith Edwards is a standby member] takes regular Assemblies in three local Schools.

The aim is to bring Bible stories and truths to the young people - to literally **open the Book** for them – using dramatic story - telling. Each Session consists of an introduction, a short drama [and yes, we dress up appropriately!] in which children are invited to take part, a sentence or two on how the story resonates in today's world, a word of prayer and a song to finish.

Head teachers and teachers are helpful and children are very receptive.

This is a really worthwhile activity – is **your** church involved?
Details from Bible Society, who sponsor the initiative.



He had no idea
how exciting the
Bible was
... until someone
like you told him

Sharing Bible stories with primary school children

Did you know that three in five children don't know that David and Goliath is a Bible story? Or that not one child in a school of over 400 pupils could tell their head teacher the story of Easter?

We need Christians and Churches ready to partner with their local school and help bring the stories to life for the children there.

Meet _____ from **Open the Book** and find out just how easy it is to make a difference.



Venue:

Date and Time:

To reserve your place please contact:

Email:

Telephone:

Bible Society: T: 01793 418222 E: enquiries@openthebook.net openthebook.net Charity Reg. No 232759

Circuit Holiday to Babbacombe

6th to 10th May 2016

What a happy experience of new places, new friends, fun and fellowship this was. A very big thank you to Jane and Pete Honeyball for organising this efficiently and with good humour – we never knew whether Pete was being serious or not! Thank you also to Gordon our coach driver for getting us around safely and being accommodating to our changing wishes. We must also give a big thank you to Helen who led us so inspirationally in our morning devotional time. The Hotel de la Mer was very comfortable and the great food was coming out of our ears – some were able to refrain from constant seconds others were not! The sea front at Babbacombe, where many walked before breakfast, was delightful although on top of a high cliff.

Our outing on Saturday was first to the House of Marbles, which had



previously been a pottery, where we were amazed at the range of marbles there and the fascination of watching a huge Marble Run on a wall over the staircase. It had a very busy glass studio and watching them making beautiful glass ornaments was inspirational. Afterwards we drove onto Dartmoor stopping briefly at a very old

Clapper Bridge where all wanted a photo! Lunch break was at Princetown,

not in the prison but in sight of it! It was a lovely warm sunny day and driving over the moor and seeing the ponies and the awesome landscape was delightful. We ended the day at Buckfast Abbey which has been fully cleaned and looked marvellous in the sun. Inside was also beautiful and a stained glass window in the Parish Chapel, behind the high altar was spell-binding. In the Cathedral grounds was a tiny Methodist Chapel also beautifully kept and still holding



regular worship services – a bit like David & Goliath, except there was no threat from this particular Goliath.

On Sunday we had been invited to the Methodist Church in Newton Abbot where we were very warmly welcomed and took our part in the service by singing a round song, and Helen told them something of our Circuit. Afterwards they provided all with a wonderful buffet lunch which all tucked into with gusto. (Never mind the large dinner awaiting us in the evening!) Afterwards we had free time either in Torquay or Babbacombe. I took myself to the famous Babbacombe Model Village which was thoroughly enjoyable – I was last there when my children were little around 1970!

On Monday the weather wasn't so good and the planned outing was to The Donkey Sanctuary and Sidmouth. I ducked out of this and with Paul Ingram visited Brixham. We hoped to go by boat ferry from Torquay but they were not running due to high seas, so we used our bus passes instead! Brixham is still the largest trawl fishing port in the UK and they



claim all other trawl ports around the country emanated from them during the last two hundred years!!

On Tuesday we said farewell to Babbacombe and had a long wet journey home. We stopped for lunch at the Rail Centre in Swindon where there is a large shopping outlet, cafes and a GWR rail museum – I thoroughly enjoyed the latter!

Angela Smith has some very inspiring thoughts linking Helen's devotions to things happening in the holiday which follows this report. A very enjoyable break and I am now looking forward to seeing what is proposed for next year's holiday.

David Neville

HOLY DAYS IN DEVONSHIRE

For me, at least, the Circuit Holiday in Torbay was truly a collection of holy days. Each morning, we were blessed with a reflection from the psalms. On the Saturday morning, we heard from Psalm 46 that we would “not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and the mountains fell into the ocean depths.” Was it just a coincidence that I went straight out walking on the cliff top to actually see where 4 years ago the cliff had actually fallen into the sea?

Next morning, we thought of the greatness of the Lord, as seen in All the World, as expressed in Psalm 8. We considered the power of the sea and the awe invoked by the wilderness of Dartmoor but at the same time remembered that the mighty God is also mindful of us mortals and cares for us even when locked away in places like the forbidding Dartmoor prison.



Sunday gave us the chance to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord,” as we took part in the morning service, in the Methodist Church in Newton Abbot. It was fitting that we had turned to the 100th Psalm that day. My knowledge of geography was increased as I heard tales from America, the Gold Coast (now Ghana) and Hungary and heard accounts of what Liverpool was like in the War. Yes, it reminded me that people from All the World were joining in that singing.

Later, during our stay, the rain came down and fog descended, but even though we could not see the sea as we departed from the hotel, on the Tuesday, we knew it was still there, just as God has promised to be with us always. We finally joined in responsively with Psalm 136, giving thanks to God by affirming that “His love is eternal!”

Angela M. Smith

Mission Shaped Intro Course

New world, new church? Our world and lives change at an ever faster pace, but how does the church respond to this change?

MSI is a 6 session course that uses creative activities, film clips, presentations and discussions to help us rediscover our mission and re-imagine our churches.

**The course has ben taking place at
Christchurch Thame.
The last session in the series will be at
7.30 - 9.30 pm.
on
Monday 18th July
Theme – Where do we go from here?**

All are welcome.

**Please contact Rev Helen Kirk for more details
revhelenkirk@sky.com or 01296 488963**

Youth & Family Outreach at Whitchurch

At Whitchurch, we are very much trying to look forward, to the future of our chapel, and its outreach partnership within our community.

We have long enjoyed a wonderful familial fellowship, which we truly want to continue to share with others.

With this in mind, the Rev Anne Varker founded Stepping Stones, a family worship that endeavours to meet once a month, and is now continuing into its tenth year. Bible Stories, craft and song are shared, followed by a fabulous High Tea.

The group went from strength to strength, but unfortunately, due to inevitable changes in family life, numbers began to dwindle, and it became clear, that as a chapel, we needed to offer something else to actively encourage engagement within the community.

The Rev David Jenkins, Louise Watson and I, joined later by the Rev Keith Edwards, started by 'entertaining and engaging' the children at the local school, with an almost monthly assembly. These are, more often than not, somewhat rather raucous, but share with the children that to be a Christian can be many things, but most certainly not dull!



A traditional family service was then reintroduced once a month within Sunday morning worship.

I then expanded the idea of Stepping Stones and in doing so realised an opportunity, for which I was wholeheartedly encouraged by the chapel, to provide a Little Steps baby and toddler group.

The first week, we welcomed five families through our doors, and every week from then a steady flow of new families, and now, a year after its conception, we are pleased and rather overwhelmed, to have a roll call of thirty-six families, amounting to over fifty children (with siblings joining us in the holidays) and have welcomed three babies into our fellowship with another on its way!

There is always a bustle, we have a bright and cheerful playroom full of age appropriate toys, play equipment, games, puzzles and a weekly craft. We also join together for singing and happy 'noise' making, and the children share elevenses, whilst parents, grandparents and carers, sit and enjoy each other's company with fresh coffee, tea and a slice or two of homemade cake.



We've celebrated Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Easter, the Queen's Birthday, many adults' and children's birthdays, births and most recently, Little Steps own First Birthday, and look forward to many other festivities to come.

We are providing a haven of fellowship within our community and for some this has become a vital part of their family's lives.

We have seen numbers rise too, in both our Stepping Stones and Family Services.

Although, there is always more to be done, I feel that we can do this with a rather merry hop, skip and jump.....along with a good old leap of faith.

Emma Foulger-Clarke



Helping children from the
streets and slums in Kenya

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Saturday 23 July 2016

11am - 4pm

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Helping children from the
streets and slums in Kenya

If you would like to join our band of helpers on the day or are interested in running a stall, then please contact us by email at: admin@karibuni.org.uk or by phone on 01296 428319.

We shall look forward to seeing friends from across the Circuit on the day.

The Religious face of the Nation: FOOD for thought?

In a recent article in The Times the following points were made about religious changes in the last 6 years. (2010 compared with 2016)

- ▶ For every closure of a C of E church more than 3 Pentecostal churches and almost two mosques have opened. (some 600 Pentecostal and 260+ Mosques opened)
- ▶ more 'conservative denominations and faiths imported from abroad' grew, as historically dominant institutions (such as C of E and Methodism) declined.
- ▶ 7,267 buildings remain registered for Methodist worship; (some 6.3% down from 2010; representing 491 closures)
- ▶ URC buildings registered for worship dropped 8.4%. (ie 141 closures)
- ▶ young worshippers are more attracted to non Christian and migrant led churches.
- ▶ growth in worshippers is mainly a result of those migrating into the UK.
- ▶ the Church of England has some 15,700 registered places of worship and is closing some 28 properties a year.
- ▶ Britain is seen as more ethnically diverse with many coming to Britain from countries where there are strong traditions of Christian worship.
- ▶ Pentecostal churches have made worship a spectacle and a performance, using high tech audio visual presentation with more music and big screens and practical, simple preaching.
- ▶ more people now identify with no religion.

Does this provide a basis for thought? What might it mean for us? For those attending the series of meetings and conversations at Thame about the Church and Worship, might this research and number crunching offer a discussion point? Even for those not attending the sessions the information provides a setting for understanding where we are and what is happening in the UK.

Contributed by Rod Thorpe.

LEARNING AND GROWING

Aylesbury

J Team (Sunday School) Sundays 10.30 am.

Contact: Mrs. Vivienne Kemp 01296 399315

Girls Brigade Mondays 6.15 - 7.30 pm.

Contact: Sarah Davidge 01296 437852

Banner Group Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00 pm.

Contact: Mrs. Brenda Horne 01296 428580

Tuesday Fellowship 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2.30 - 3.45 pm.

Contact: Mrs. Pearl Riley 01296 483547

Boys Brigade Tuesdays 6.00 - 9.00 pm.

Contact: Mrs. Margaret Miskin 01296 422919

Monthly Bible Study:

Dates to be advised on website

Chinnor: Regular Activities

Weekly:

Activity Club (Youth club for 7-11yr olds)

Thurs 6.30 - 8.00 pm. (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 7.00 - 9.00 pm. (fortnightly) Friday Night Club (all ages)

Table Tennis, Scrabble, Pizza etc.

Monthly:

Exploring Faith. Monday 8.00 - 9.30 pm.

Ecumenical Groups/ Activities:

Fortnightly:

Mothers Bible Study 10.00 am. -12.00 noon

on Tues. or Weds. morning for mums

Mums prayer group: Friday 9 - 9.30 am - for those attending

St Andrew's School

Ignite - Sunday 7.30 - 9.00 pm. for 14yr olds to explore faith and life issues

Haddenham

Monthly:

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

Princes Risborough

Fortnightly:

SALT (Sharing And Learning Together) Meets in homes on Thursdays

Monthly:

"TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP - We meet in homes on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Church at 2.00 pm. 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."

.—see the **Circuit Website** for details of these meetings

Stoke Mandeville

Fortnightly:

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

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

Table-tennis may normally be played from 7.00 to 9.00 pm. in the main hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in most months.

Stone

Monthly:

The Fourth Tuesday Fellowship meets at 2.30 pm.
Contact Mrs. Sue Spinks 01296 748369

Weedon

Monthly: Monday Bible Study Group

/over

LEARNING AND GROWING

Thame Christchurch.

Weekly.

Bible Study on Thursday at 7.30 pm.

Fortnightly.

Church Singers on 2nd and 4th Monday at 7.45 pm.

Monthly.

WIT (Women in Thame) on Monday at 7.30 pm. Varied programme of talks, activities, and a visit to the theatre.

Are YOU our New Circuit Meeting Secretary?



Peter Honeyball will have completed 6 years service as Circuit Secretary in 2016 and will be retiring from that office.

A new Secretary will be required.

If you are interested please contact Rev Helen Kirk on 01296 488963

or revhelenkirk@sky.com

FAIRTRADE MATTERS

While many of the Circuit's churches will not have the physical presence of the range of Traidcraft items now available, hopefully this does not mean it is a case of OUT OF SIGHT out of mind! Indeed, I know that is not so given the calls and e mails I receive asking for goods. That said I'm always happy to receive more and look to get items to you within 7-14days, possibly sooner if I have them in stock.

Remember when you buy a Traidcraft product it helps go towards their mission to fight poverty through trade, practising and promoting approaches to trade that help poor people in developing countries transform their lives'.

In terms of numbers, in 2015 Traidcraft helped 678,000 farmers and artisans and worked on 37 projects in 22 countries.

However Fair trade is not just an issue for developing countries. With the drive to reduce prices to consumers, there are increasing numbers of cases in the U.K. where production is unsustainable or not cost effective even after efficiencies have been employed.

As you will be aware the range of products is ever growing and last year Fairtrade sales totalled £1.67billion.

In addition to the more widely known about food items you can now buy fairly traded furniture (www.myakka.co.uk), beauty products (e.g Square Deal), flowers (Co-op and elsewhere), clothing (e.g. People Tree) and fashion items as well as recycled glass products. Given the time of year please look out for the fairly traded gardening items. These include pots from recycled tyres, gloves and compost as well as garden decorations and furniture.

If you want to know more about Fairtrade matters please visit;

www.fairtrade.org.uk or involve yourself in tweets on twitter '@fairtrade# FTCHATS or

contact me Rod Thorpe 01844 351565



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. - 12 noon	Tea and Coffee
Cheddington	Open Doors— Fridays 10.00 am.	Tea, Coffee , Light Refreshments & Fellowship
Fairford Leys	Saturdays 10.30 am. - 12.00 noon	Coffee Morning coffee/tea and biscuits
Haddenham	Tuesdays 10.00 am. - 12.00 noon 10.00 am. - 12.00 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 - 1.30 pm.	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £7
Stoke Hammond	Wednesday 10.30 - 11.45 am	Coffee Morning
Stoke Mandeville	Most Fridays 2.00 - 4.00 pm. Monthly: First Fridays 12.00 - 2.00 pm.	'POP-IN' for a cup of tea/ coffee and a chat. Light lunches £3.00
Thame Christchurch	Tuesdays & Fridays 10.00 am. - 12 noon	Coffee Mornings
Waddesdon	Thursdays 10.00 am. - 11.30 am Alternate Tuesdays. 11.00 am. - 2.00pm.	Coffee Morning Light lunches

Wingrave	Tuesdays 12 noon - 1.30 pm.	Nup End Cafe Lunches
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Other Special Gatherings

Cheddington	Mondays 9.30 -11.00 am (except holidays)	The Toast Baby & Toddler Group
Stewkley	Wednesday 10.30 – 11.30 am.	Daisy Club for under 3s term time only.
Swanbourne 	Tuesdays 2.00 pm in the Chapel: stories, songs, prayers & nibbles & play	Pram Service will con- tinue—Next Services: TBA Contact : Frankie Fisher on 720454
Whitchurch	Wednesdays 10 am. - 12 noon 'Little Steps' fun for babies, toddlers and parents. 1st Sunday in the Month 4.00 pm. 'Stepping Stones' for young people	A mums & toddler group meeting. With toys, crafts music and snacks. Everyone is welcome. This offers an open invitation for worship time for <u>all</u> the family. Just turn up, you will be very welcome.

NEWS FROM STOKE MANDEVILLE

On May 22nd we celebrated our Church Anniversary when the Rev David Jenkins led our service and a good congregation gathered to meet him.



Our Anniversary always falls on what is known by some as **Aldersgate Sunday** which is the Sunday closest to Wesley Day – May 24th. This year it also coincided with **Holy Trinity Sunday**. This happy coincidence provided a great theme for an excellent Service.



David showed us three stones during his sermon. A beautiful stone from the Jurassic Coast to remind us that God created the Universe and everything in it; a second stone, from his garden that reminded us that God is still at work today through the power of the Holy Spirit. David had read John Wesley's account of his 'conversion' when that same Spirit made him feel 'his heart strangely warmed' on the evening of May 24th 1738. Even though John Wesley was an Ordained

Priest in the Anglican Church this was the turning point which led to the founding of the **Methodist Church**.

The third stone was no more than a small pebble from Iona. A place where two friends had felt very close to God and found the Holy Spirit affecting their relationship with God, their friends and how they lived their lives. They had used small stones to give to friends as a way of sharing and remembering that special time.

It is possible that many of the congregation will never look on a simple stone in quite the same way again but see there a simple reminder of God's ever present spirit.

The Service concluded with the singing of the Hymn "Praise to the Living God" (No.87 in StF)



After the Service everyone was invited to a buffet lunch, an idea that was suggested and brought to fruition by Emma Colver which allowed many to have a good chat with David and Paula.



Many thanks to Emma and her helpers for doing a splendid job.

A fuller report with more pictures will be found on the Circuit Website.

AND THERE'S MORE>>>>

ON Friday 3rd June we celebrated the 1st Anniversary of our 1st. FRIDAY LUNCHESES and took advantage of the celebrations of the **Queen's 90th Birthday** to make it a special occasion.

Our hosts Charles, Jessica and Jan excelled themselves.



The next lunch will be on July 1st, the cost will be £3.00 but still good value-

COME ALONG AND FIND OUT!

THE CIRCUIT CHOIR



The Circuit Choir combines the voices of Aylesbury Methodist Church Choir together with singers from Circuit Churches and friends from other Local Choirs. In recent years it has been joined by the Choir of Saints Peter & Paul, Tring, thus creating a body of 30-40 singers enabling the performance of worship music which may otherwise be difficult to present.

We meet together twice a year, first for an evening Circuit Service during the Passiontide/Easter period and secondly for the Annual Songs of Praise on a Sunday evening in July. Appropriate and sufficient rehearsal takes place under the excellent skilled leadership of Cliff Brown. Both events are presented as an act of worship led by Rev Helen Kirk with congregation participation in the hearty singing of fine hymns.

This year the Choir presented the well loved 'Crucifixion' by John Stainer. This depicts the events our Lord encountered from the Garden of Gethsemane to his death upon the cross. Two outstanding guest soloists, Chris Smith and Bob Davies, narrated the story, interspersed with anthems from the choir and congregational hymns. The result was a very moving and thought provoking act of worship.

For the forthcoming 'Songs of Praise 2016', the theme is Great Hymns based on the Psalms.** In researching we located over 50 from which to select. The list is currently being whittled down to at least a dozen which will all have well known tunes ideal for good congregational singing.

If you are interested in joining the Circuit Choir, you will be most welcome. Please contact Brenda Horne, (01296 428580 or brendaj.horne@gmail.com).

The Circuit Choir invite everyone to please come and contribute to future uplifting Sunday evening events which provide opportunity for circuit members and friends to meet, both within the fellowship of worship and in sharing refreshments afterwards. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Derrick Matthews

** See the poster on the back cover and updates on rehearsal dates on the Circuit Website www.aylesburyvale.org.uk



WANTED

FLOWER ARRANGERS

**To enter the “*REFLECTIONS*”
class at:**

**Chinnor’s Flower and Produce
Show to be held on:**

Monday 29th August 2016.

**This class was nominated by
Churches in Chinnor with the
agreement of the Flower
Show committee.**

**The Show Schedule, with an Entry
Form will be available nearer the
time from various locations in
Chinnor, or contact Rod Thorpe
(rodandlizthorpe@gmail.com)**

NEW CIRCUIT WEBSITE

www.aylesburyvale.org.uk

The WORLD'S WINDOW on the CIRCUIT

Whilst this describes the primary purpose of the Website, it is also (or should be), a valuable source of information for the Circuit enabling an exchange of information between the churches and between churches and those who are responsible for administration of the Circuit.

There is now a group of Sub- Editors who can update their church information but we could do with more. They are:

Cheddington: Janet Banham. Email:
j.banham@btinternet.com

Princes Risborough: Marilyn Dore. Email:
mjdore@talktalk.net

and Brenda Willet. Email: pandbw@waitrose.com

Stewkley : Lynda Hart. Email: lynda.hart@pacomms.com

Thame: Janet West. Email: janet1970w@btinternet.com

Weedon: Ralph Followell. Email:
ralph.followell@btinternet.com

For articles it is still necessary to contact the main editors listed on the facing page.

Many other members can access the cloud where all the detailed information is stored. Regular preachers and some church Officers have access to the CHRESTOS Planning tools that allow them to participate in some important aspects of the development of the Preaching Plan each quarter. Not everyone can see the Website but every church has at least one person who is able to keep their church informed.

It does not take much time particularly when you get familiar with the site.

ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE:

Items for the October to December 2016 issue should be forwarded to the following Email addresses:

Solomon Awadzi 01296 489384

Email: solokawadzi@hotmail.com

Items for the Magazine should be copied to Roy Collis see below.

Please submit Magazine Items by the 13th August 2016

AMENDMENTS to CIRCUIT DIRECTORY:

Details of changes to existing information in the **Circuit Directory** should be sent immediately they occur to: Rev Helen Kirk: revhelenkirk@sky.com and to: r.collis245@btinternet.com

ITEMS FOR PUBLISHING ON THE WEBSITES:

WEBSITE ADDRESSES:

Circuit: www.aylesburyvale.org.uk

Aylesbury: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Fairford Leys: www.fairfordleyschurch.org.uk

All enquiries or suggestions should be addressed to::

Peter Green for the **AMC Website** :

peterb.green@ntlworld.com 01296 424653

Roy Collis for the **Circuit Website:**

r.collis245@btinternet.com 01296 630989

or

Rev. Keith Edwards ulysee798@gmail.com
01296 423363



*Vale of Aylesbury
Methodist Circuit*

Songs of Praise 2016

***GREAT HYMNS BASED
ON THE PSALMS***

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

Great Hymns

With Great Tunes

Come along for a Great Sing

Led by Rev Helen Kirk

*Aylesbury Methodist Church
Sunday 17th July @ 6.00 pm*

EVERYONE WELCOME