

VALE OF AYLESBURY

METHODIST CIRCUIT

MAGAZINE



Princes Risborough's Tuesday Fellowship—see page 7 for cover story.

January February March

2018

PASTORIAL LETTER



Rev Helen Kirk

If you go into any Methodist church in the country during October you will see someone counting. They are not counting sheep in order to get to sleep (one of my sermons is usually enough!) but the number of people in attendance during the month of October. These figures are then fed into a Connexional database and a statistical report is produced for Methodist Conference in June to discuss the state of the Methodist Church.....(I can feel you nodding off already!)

However, year on year it does not make good reading as the figures show a steady decline in the numbers attending the Methodist church. This year, instead of just reporting it, the conference has decided to do something about it and so requires every Methodist church in the country to produce a plan for the future. This plan may be about how the church aims to grow; how we measure our fruitfulness or effectiveness in the community; it may be about the need to let go and allow some things to 'die' so that resurrection may be possible.

However it must be a plan. It cannot just be a wish list of all the things we want our churches to be nor a fatalistic 'what's the point?' The process expects every church to be realistic about its future; to have a vision for their existence and to devise strategies and take risks to enable this to come about. The plan doesn't have to be huge but it does need to be thought through.

To aid the process the circuit leadership team is aiming to provide resources in the New Year to enable us all to comply with Methodist policy.

However I would like to add a note of hope: at a recent meeting of the District Superintendents we were invited to spend time examining the statistics and we noticed an anomaly. Amidst all the years of decline there was a spike of growth; one year which bucked

all the trends, not just in one place but across the whole country. What could have happened in that year that made people come to church? We searched through archives of news looking for an answer and then someone spotted a connection – the one year the church grew coincided with the year of prayer that the Methodist Youth conference initiated in 2005. Coincidence? Maybe.....but maybe a reminder that God still has a plan for us. As the president of Conference Lorraine Mellor said: 'I know I am part at present of a declining Church, but I am not part of a declining gospel. The gospel of Jesus Christ is here to stay, but has the time not come for us to be radical to take some risks in order that we can grow? Because you see, perhaps in my naivety I don't believe that God is done with us just yet'

Perhaps in 2018 the challenge is to prayerfully seek God's vision for our communities; to realise that he is at work in many different places both within and beyond the church, and to be willing to trust him with the future even if that involves a risk to that we have valued in the past.

Helen

'Called by Christ to be disciples

Every day in every place,

We are not to hide as hermits

But to spread the way of grace;

Citizens of heaven's kingdom,

Though this world is where we live,

As we serve a faithful Master,

Faithful service may we give.'

Martin Leckebusch Singing the Faith 660

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Rev. Helen Kirk (Superintendent) Tel:01296 488963

Email: revhelenkirk@sky.com

With Pastoral Care of the Aylesbury Methodist Church and
Community Centre and Wingrave

Rev. Donna-Marie Broadbent-Kelly (Probationer Presbyter)

Tel:01525 240589

Email: rev.donnabk@gmail.com

With pastoral care of: Cheddington, Stewkley,
Stoke Hammond, and Swanbourne

Rev. Keith Edwards 01296 423363

Email: ulysee798@gmail.com

With pastoral care of: North Marston (LEP),
Princes Risborough, Stoke Mandeville, Stone, Weedon (LEP),
Waddesdon, Whitchurch.

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 , (Authorised minister),

Tel 01844 202425 minister@rwm32.plus.com With Pastoral
care of Thame (Christchurch) Chinnor, Cuddington and
Haddenham

Ministers' Rest Days:

Rev Helen Kirk Friday
Rev Donna-Marie Broadbent-Kelly Friday
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.

Dates For this Quarter:

**Saturday 27th January, Fairford Leys Community Centre
at 7.00pm—Karibuni Children's Quiz Night**

**Friday 2nd March at various venues (see Circuit Website)
Women's' World day of Prayer**

**Thursday 8th March - Haddenham
at 7.45 pm Circuit Meeting**

**Sunday 18th March, Aylesbury Methodist Church at
6.00pm —"Procession of Palms and The Morning of the Day
of Days"**

**Sunday 25th March, Tring Sts Peter and Paul Church at
6.30pm— "Procession of Palms and The Morning of the Day
of Days"**

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 STORY

The photo shows some of Princes Risborough's Tuesday Fellowship having afternoon tea in a member's garden in the summer.

The Tuesday Fellowship began in 1977 and meet once a month. The meetings are mostly held in the church with an occasional trip out or visit to someone's home. The meetings are varied: sometimes a speaker is invited to give a talk, on other occasions one of the members will lead the meeting in a discussion, a quiz or a devotional. Tea and biscuits are always in plentiful supply.

The Fellowship also raises money for various causes. In 2017 money was given to the DEC East African Crisis Appeal, Dementia UK, Water Aid and church

THE CIRCUIT CHORAL SERVICE

This year the Circuit Choir will present a short and lively work reflecting on Christ's last few days, from Palm Sunday to Easter and will include hymns for congregation singing. It is in two parts, 'Procession of Palms' and 'The Morning of the Day of Days'.

This service led by Rev Helen Kirk is at Aylesbury Methodist Church on 18th March at 6.00 pm.

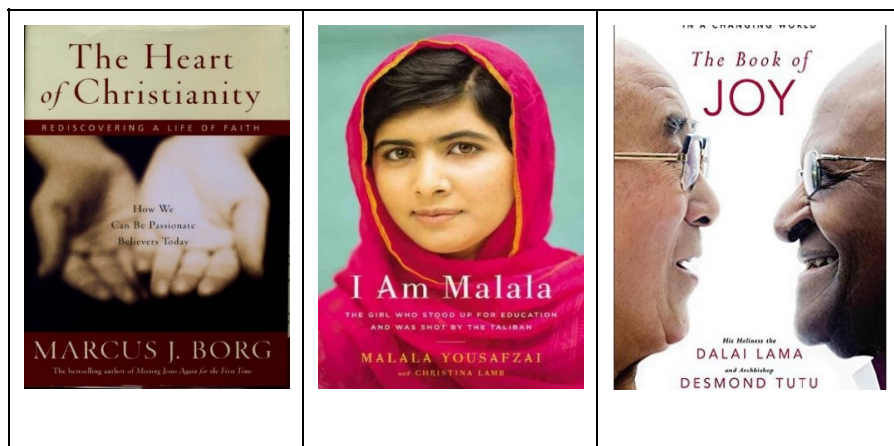
It is repeated at Tring Parish church on the following Sunday 25th March at 6.30 pm.

Additional singers for the Circuit Choir will be warmly welcomed. For further information, please contact Brenda Horne on 01296 428580 or brendaj.horne@gmail.com

The Good Faith Book Club

Formed in 2012, we currently have 15 members from across the circuit. The aim is to provide a forum for people to explore and discuss matters of faith and what they believe through the discussion of a book in a relaxed, convivial, non-threatening atmosphere. We certainly have a lot of fun!

Everyone is welcome to come along and express their views or just listen over a cup of tea or coffee. The group decides which book to read next. Various members who are happy to do so, volunteer to write brief summaries of our discussions. You can read all 35, that we have read so far, on the AMC website. For virtually all of us, this means 35 books about insights and aspects of faith that we wouldn't otherwise have read.



A sample of our book choices

We now meet on the fourth Saturday in alternate months from 2pm to 4pm in the church coffee bar, or Room 2, if that is booked. Our meeting months are January, March, May, July, September and November.

For more information, contact Peter Green the Club Secretary on 01296 424653 or Email: peterb.green@ntlworld.com. You can also visit the AMC website:

<http://www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk/activities/good-faith-book-club.html>.

Northampton Methodist District presents



acts 29: WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE

worship / music / food / fun / friendship

saturday 24th february 2018

2:30pm - 8:30pm £5 per person

(arrivals start from 2pm)

(pay on the day but bookings
must be made in advance)

**park avenue methodist church,
park avenue north, northampton, NN3 2HT**

for 8 - 23 year olds

for further information and booking
contact Margaret on 01509 828020
or visit the District website at:

**BOOKING
ESSENTIAL!**

www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/mission/acts-29-2988.php

See; <http://www.aylesburyvale.org.uk/news/we-are-gods-people.html>
on Circuit Website

A Moving Preacher



It is with sadness we have to say 'Goodbye' to a well loved and respected, long standing local preacher in our Circuit. **Terry Stewart** came to the circuit from Northampton in 1972, where he was born and grew up. Since then he has been a loyal and regular preacher in all our churches – except since his retirement we have had to allow him to visit his apartment in Tenerife for the winter months!

When I talked to Terry he was insistent on two things, namely, what a privilege it is to be a preacher and take the gospel to different churches no matter whether the congregation is large or small, and secondly how generous he has found all the congregations to be, giving him a warm welcome and lots of encouragement for himself and his message.

Initially Terry worked as personnel and training officer at Hazel Watson & Viney, but before long was transferred to the HR department in their London headquarters. Subsequently he was promoted to the main board of the company as personnel director and worked closely with Robert Maxwell. During this time he was talking to the unions when there was a huge reorganisation and many

redundancies. This work was very long and stressful and Terry had a heart attack about 1984. One of the difficulties during this period was finding preparation time for services. He says of working for Maxwell that he was a hard task master expecting long hours, but that he was a faithful Jew and knowing Terry was a local preacher always allowed him to put his preaching first on a Sunday, even if all other staff had to be in the office.

Terry and his wife Mary have moved to Sleaford in Lincolnshire to be near their daughter. They know they are going to be warmly welcomed in the area and Terry will continue his preaching as before.

We remember Terry for his very faithful and traditional preaching of the Gospel to the people called Methodists – as he puts it. We wish them God's Blessing as they settle in to a new community and pray they will be blessed and will give a blessing by their service also.

David Neville



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	Maisie's Coffee Morning Fairtrade goods, bring and buy items usually on sale
Stewkley	3rd Saturday each month 12 noon - 1.30 pm December Lunch Saturday 9th	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £7.50 By Ticket only
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 - 2.00 pm	Coffee Morning Light lunches

Wingrave	Tuesdays 12 noon - 1.30 pm	Nup End Cafe Lunches
Wesley Centre North Marston	Friday 10.00am to 1200 noon	Coffee Mornings - Come and help establish a meeting point for coffee and a chat with friends

Other Special Gatherings

Cheddington	Mondays 9.30 -11.00 am (except holidays)	The Toast Baby & Toddler Group
Stewkley	Wednesday 10.30 – 11.30 am Friday 7.30 pm - on 13th & 27th Oct 10th & 24th Nov 1st & 15th Dec	Daisy Club for children from birth to school age— term time only. Mutual Fellowship Various Speakers For further information Contact : John Jones 01525 217795
Swanbourne 	Fridays 10-30am in the Chapel: stories, songs, prayers, nibbles, babies, toddlers, mums & carers all very welcome	Pram Service will continue—for next Services Contact : Frankie Fisher on 720454
Whitchurch	Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon 'Little Steps' fun for babies, toddlers and parents.	A mums & toddler group meeting. With toys, crafts music and snacks. Everyone is welcome.

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:

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 at the Church 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. Contact Pam Scott 01844 346857

.—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

Waddesdon

Monthly:

1st. Monday Friendship Club especially for the Over 50s meeting at 2.30 - 4.30 pm. This is very much a social get together and anyone is welcome.

/Over

LEARNING AND GROWING

Waddesdon (cont.)

Fortnightly

The Women's Hour meets on Wednesdays in the School Room at 2.30pm. It's an opportunity to meet friends and catch up on their recent activities while enjoying an informal afternoon of favourite poems, readings, and hymns. Newcomers are most welcome.

Weekly

Wednesdays in Term Time - a Children's Club for 6 - 8 year olds meeting at 6.30 - 8.30pm

[Waddesdon Shell Group] Wednesday Evenings

Contact Barbara Warne 01296 651417.

Weedon

Monthly: Monday Bible Study Group

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.

Karibuni Children's Quiz Night



Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

Karibuni Children will be holding our annual Quiz Night on January 27th 2018 at 7pm at Fairford Leys Community Centre, HP19 7HT.

It's a fun and popular evening, ably led by quiz masters Steve and Viv Kemp.

Tickets are £12 and include a Fish and Chip supper. There will also be a raffle on the night with special hampers up for grabs.

Tickets are available from Roger and June Watson on 01296 541261 or docwat66@gmail.com.

Please bring your own drinks but teas and coffees will be available.

A Surprise Journey to Kenya

In January I sat in my hospital bed not sure I'd ever make it to Kenya again. I'd made all the arrangements for a Karibuni Work Party to visit the projects in February, and I was unable to go! When the plane took off in February, with eleven instead of twelve people, I actually sat in the hospital bed and cried!

The doctors said I must set some aims to aid my recovery – get me walking and swallowing again. I didn't need to think long – my short term aim was to have a cup of tea, (I longed to be able to join the other patients with a 'cuppa') and my long term aim was to visit Kenya this year!

So started the work toward achieving these aims which culminated in me going to Kenya in September for a month, and visiting all the projects Karibuni supports. My aim here was threefold – to see my many friends in Kenya; to thank the numerous Kenyans who had been praying for my recovery and to thank them for all their love and thoughts; and to demonstrate that I was better.

The visit didn't start too well! My hostess for the first week had suddenly gone abroad for surgery and forgotten to ask her daughter to meet me at the airport, as had been arranged! So there I was sitting all alone on a broken bench outside the airport with three very heavy suitcases in the pitch dark! However, Joshua Katungu was my knight in shining taxi, and he took me to my host's home, where they had hurriedly got my room ready!

During that week I visited the Conference Office where I gained my new name of 'walking miracle' – very hard to live up to – and then Kibra, Kawangware, Embakasi (where I admired the handiwork of the work party) and Limuru. I was thoroughly spoiled and was driven and accompanied by the Conference Internal Auditor, Timothy Mithieu.



Kawangara class 1

He was amazing - really kind and great company. He took good care of me, especially as I was mobbed on several occasions by enthusiastic children all wanting to hold my hands at one time.

From Limuru I was taken to Nakuru to stay with my friend, Meg, and her family.

Sunday was my first 4 hour-plus service this year – a Circuit Service with presentations from each church and their junior churches – 20 choirs in all! The service culminated in a harambee (fundraiser) to raise money to build a primary school at Wesley Empowerment Centre, Njoro – a big surprise to me, especially as I had to get up and speak to the congregation twice! They raised over Kes 300,000 – enough to build class 1 by January 2018. The aim is to build a classroom each year until it's a complete school of 8 classrooms.

The following day I visited Wesley Empowerment Centre and saw the staff and children (and admired the handiwork of the other half of the work party). This day I was accompanied by the superintendent minister of the circuit and the chair of the project Board, so was very honoured!



Kawangara class 2

Then on to Kaaga in Meru where I stayed for 9 days with my very dear friend, Eunice and her family. Sadly Eunice's and Justus's second son had died just 6 weeks before I arrived from cerebral malaria, leaving his wife and two small sons, and we spent a lot of time sharing together. This was doubly tragic as their eldest son had died 6 years ago from viral pneumonia leaving his wife and a small daughter. Their remaining son is a great comfort to them all.

While here I visited the Township Programme, meeting Mercy, the social worker, for the first time and quickly learning how very good she is. Later I was given gifts by parents of the children we support – a hat (with JOY in large Kenya flag coloured letters embroidered across the front) and a beaded bag made by one of the mothers, both of which I had to model! Having met the children at the feeding programme – including Grace and Glory, twins who met the work party in February – I went with Mercy on a matatu to visit Maureen Nkatha in a church sponsored hospital in Nkubu, as all the government hospitals are closed due to the nurses being on strike for the last 5 months.

/over

Maureen was in the last stages of AIDS and being terribly neglected – the hospital had discharged her as they could do no more for her, but she had to remain in the hospital until her fees were paid. Her grandparents, frail and old themselves, wouldn't have her back again – and even wished she would die, so she was just left untreated in bed. Her food for several days was left in bowls on and near her bed as she was too weak to feed herself, she was incontinent and left as she was. We did manage to speak to a doctor who told us that needing expert nursing care, including feeding and changing, was not a reason for being in hospital. At least, following our visit, they restarted the ARV drugs and re-admitted her! Mercy planned to take her home, rent a bigger house and care for her with some help. I strongly advised her not to as she didn't realise the implications and commitment involved.

While at Kaaga I also visited Mwithumwiru School, met the wonderful cook who provides the lunches we help to support, the special needs class – and had another gift – a half-size bath mat they had made.

Then a visit to Maua Hospital where I visited three schools for special needs children – heart breaking – we must make sure they are given a bigger share of the gifts we take out, their situations are pathetic.

Ruth, my daughter-in-law, joined me at Kaaga with George from Lindbergs, and we went straight to Marimanti and the Baobab Hotel. The next morning we were joined by George Mwabu, the Director of the project there. Here we were given a tour of the project model farm, where carers of the children have practical training in farming and growing suitable crops in that very hot, arid climate. Ruth, a horticulturalist, was in her element, although she will be growing very few of the crops they produce – sugar cane, white maize, cassava, etc.

We visited the special needs class, leaving gifts for them, and then the School for the Deaf where we were very warmly welcomed. By special request I had to sing again the chorus John and I had shared with them last year – 'The Foolish Man built his house upon the Sand' - which they joined in with sign language. What a privilege!

Then back to Nairobi for a night before we caught (just) the new SGR train to Mombasa! How we caught the train I don't know – I was pushed into carriage 6 and unbeknown to me, Ruth and all the luggage, including the case for the projects, was pushed into carriage 4. We finally met up again

in carriage 2 where we had to negotiate sitting together with a couple of Kenyans. The journey took 4½ hours in daylight, instead of the 12 hour overnight journey, and as we went through the Nairobi National Park and Tsavo East and West Safari parks, we saw giraffes, elephants, Thompson's gazelles and camels – brilliant!

We had a night in a hotel before visiting Hunajeza for a few hours, leaving half the lovely dresses, skirts and shorts made by the 'Sewing Box' sewing group in Princes Risborough. This project is struggling as the carers and women's group members who used to volunteer at the programme, are becoming very elderly and frail. They now have to pay the cook to feed the children, and the two teachers at the nursery they have started.

From there we went to Kilifi and visited Upendo where the school and care given continue to be excellent under the new management. The other half of the dresses, skirts and shorts from Princes Risborough were distributed. We visited some families and after lunch left for our short holiday – two nights by the beach at Jumua, a Kenyan churches conference and holiday centre.



Upendo new socks!

The loving and enthusiastic welcome I received everywhere was incredible and very humbling. No wonder I love going to Kenya.

Note: Since returning home and writing this we have heard that dear Maureen has died from meningitis, another opportunistic infection she caught due to her very low immunity caused by Aids.

Also since returning, the second Presidential election has taken place amid tension, rioting and bloodshed, especially in Kawangware and Kibra where we support two very active projects. Please pray for the people of Kenya and especially the staff, children and their carers.

Joy Murphy

FAIRTRADE

Not everyone will buy into an idea or philosophy all the time and as individuals we may have questions about the point of certain practices.

Fairtrade is no different. There have been many commentaries and papers on strengths and weaknesses of the philosophy in practice. That said it does change lives.

What is clearer however are the principles on which Fairtrade is based. (See below)

If you share some or all of these, please consider what you might wish to do in 2018 to further the growth of Fairtrade business and practices to aid workers becoming entrepreneurs.

THE 10 PRINCIPLES of FAIRTRADE are

1. Create Opportunities for Economically Disadvantaged Producers
2. Transparency and Accountability
3. Fair Trading Practices
4. Payment of a Fair Price
5. Ensuring no Child Labour and Forced Labour
6. Commitment to Non-Discrimination, Gender Equality, Freedom of Association
7. Ensuring Good Working Conditions
8. Providing Capacity Building (developing practical, management and business skills)
9. Promoting Fair Trade
10. Respect for the Environment

So what could you do in 2018?

GENERALLY: Try to:

-remember Fairtrade is a philosophy for trading. It is not a taste: there are multiple flavours and textures available in the various ranges of coffee and tea etc.

-use Fairtrade products at meetings in keeping with being a Fairtrade Church and Circuit Policy.

Fairtrade Church and Circuit Policy.

- let others know if you are using a Fairtrade product and note any feedback.
- visit www.thegoodshoppingguide.com to see how ethical a product or business might be.
- explore how products you use are grown and /or produced.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

is between 26th Feb and 11th March 2018 -why not make a concentrated effort to promote and try out Fairtrade products in this period.

EASTER 2018

If you are buying Chocolate eggs, whatever the size, why not consider those made of Fairtrade chocolate. Certain lines of Egg even include the Easter story to add meaning to the experience of eating Britain's favourite sweet. Sugar and Milk free options are available.

SHOPPING?

- When shopping look for items with the Fairtrade symbol.
- If using On line services consider browsing and using ethically focused stores.
- Traidcraft Catalogues are available via Rod Thorpe and at a number of Churches.
- remember you can get a wide range of Fairtrade and ethical products including flowers, gold, furniture, household products in addition to foods.

For more news and information do remember to:

check the Circuit Website, CHARITY Pages

visit www.fairtrade.org.uk

contact Rod Thorpe or Search the internet

CHINNOR JIG FEST 2017



Chinnor Methodist Church held its second Jig Fest at the end of October raising £651 towards the building refurbishments.

In case you haven't heard of Jig saw Festivals before, here is a bit of explanation.

Months in advance, puzzle enthusiasts began to make up puzzles for display which were mounted on card and shrink-wrapped or framed. These were exhibited rather like an Art Show.



Additionally, preloved and new puzzles were collected and sold as part of the festival. A number of vintage wooden puzzles from the 1950s and 60s were donated to be sold.

In one of the rooms at the church, there were tangrams to try out, large and small puzzles to work on over refreshments of tea and cakes. There was even a 3D globe to assemble.



Visitors came to view and buy puzzles from Chinnor and surrounding towns and villages.

The real enthusiasts were on the hunt for specific themes or makes of puzzles such as Wasgij's or Wentworth's.

A big thank you to all who helped in the success of this event. through visiting the Fest, making and donating puzzles and making and serving food.



Special thanks must go to Brenda and Alan Horne who made the 3D puzzles on display.

To Rod Thorpe for making display frames and shrink-wrapping puzzles.

and to Fliss Akehurst —we lost count of how many puzzles you made for us!

There will be another Jig Fest — but next time at **Aylesbury Methodist Church**. Watch out for details

Liz Thorpe



The Vale of Aylesbury Circuit Caravan and Camping Weekend 2017



Last year we went to a site near Banbury, had great weather, interesting activities and a very good time. The picture shows one of the evening meals

Would you like to join us this year at a campsite near Wallingford with good bus links, interesting local features and you can be assured of great fellowship and fun.

The dates for the trip are Friday 29th June to Sunday 1st July but there are options to extend at either end if you wish. The cost will be approximately £25 per unit per night but awnings and more than two people will increase that cost.

The river Thames is about 200m away from the site so walks and boat hire will be available. The camp website is www.bridgevill.co.uk

To book, or if you have any questions, please contact Chris Sara on 01296484310

Email chrisara096@gmail.com. A deposit will be required in January and the full cost later in the year.

ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE:

Items for the April—June 2018 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 15th February 2018

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** : pe-
terb.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*

THE PROCESSION OF PALMS
and
**THE MORNING OF THE
DAY OF DAYS**
by Malcolm Williamson



**An act of worship for Congregation and Choir
recalling some of the events during
Passiontide and Easter.**

**Presented by the Circuit Choir together with the
Choir of Tring Parish Church and friends from
other local churches and choirs under the direction
of Cliff Brown**

Led by the Rev Helen Kirk

**Aylesbury Methodist Church
Sunday 18th March 2018 @ 6.00 pm**

**(Repeated at Sts. Peter & Paul, Tring on
Sunday 25th March @ 6.30 pm)**

EVERYONE WELCOME²⁸

Refreshments will be served in the Hall after the service.