

# ***VALE OF AYLESBURY***

## **METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **MAGAZINE**



Fairford Leys Church Christmas Lunch—see page 7 for story.

# **April, May, June**

# **2017**



## LETTER TO THE CIRCUIT

### Rev Helen Kirk

Having just returned from Kenya I realise I am probably in danger of talking about my experiences too much. For those who don't know I went as part of the Karibuni Children work party and experienced firsthand the fabulous work the charity does.



Whilst there we visited many schools and feeding programs; we went into classrooms and listened to children talk of their hopes for the future and met dedicated teachers and social workers who do such a fabulous job with limited resources. One morning we were invited to visit the homes of some of the children who Karibuni supports.

The word 'home' probably conjures many images for us: a place of comfort, security; a place to be fed in body, mind and spirit; a safe space that has all the basic necessities of life – food, water, plumbing as well as space to be. The homes we visited were a long way from this. They were usually one room shacks made of sheets of corrugated metal, wood or cardboard; they had no facilities and most of the room was taken up with a bed on which all the whole family slept – sometimes 6/7 people. These homes were situated on what could easily be described as a rubbish tip which doubled as the children's playground.

It is heart breaking to see families struggling amidst such poverty and the natural impulse is to want to do something; to make a difference....but when there are thousands of people living in this way, what can we do? You are left with a sense of hopelessness for the need of change is enormous.

Later that same day we had a very different experience. We met a group of young people in their late teens and twenties: Sarah was a doctor; Doreen a trainee teacher; Humphry an economics student and so we heard the stories of nearly 20 young people who had grown up in the same slums we visited that morning but who, through Karibuni, had received a life changing education.

It was an astonishing lesson in transformation. In the Christian church we often talk about the transforming power of God and especially at this time of year as we approach Easter and retell the story of the cross and resurrection. We talk of new life coming in spiritual terms; of grace and forgiveness, and it is easy to do so when we are so materially well blessed. Yet many in our world & society long for a more tangible transformation: if you are hungry transformation comes in food; if you are homeless it is shelter; thirsty it is clean water to drink; rejected somewhere to belong; if by an accident of birth you are given no future then education can offer a transformative path.

As we celebrate again the joys of Easter; as we perhaps place spring flowers on a cross and revel in new life that comes from God I wonder how as 'His Body' we can enable others to know that transformation, in real terms, is possible. This Easter may we not just raise our voices in a heartfelt 'Alleluia!' but offer our giving, our caring, our time & talents to seek to transform our communities & world, even in some small way, that others may know new life.

*Easter with us, bountiful God,  
Save your people from the consequences of their sin.  
Where there is division, create unity.  
Strike the shackles of oppression from the empty hands of the poor.  
Mend the tapestry of community torn by our neglect  
Rise within our concrete jungles and isolated communities  
that we may blossom into life  
Sense hope where this has become a long forgotten dream  
And live to proclaim your victory in the power of the Holy Spirit  
(Kate McIlhagga)*

## **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 202425

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.**

# **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 1st May at the latest.**

**Because of the likely shortage of preachers next quarter this plan will be particularly difficult to compile. Please complete your part as soon as possible, ideas from churches can be noted in the 'Plan Notes' at any time,**

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

# Cover Story

In 2017 we commemorate 500 years since the initial actions of Martin Luther which led to what we know as the Reformation. This term is shorthand for events, discussions and upheavals over many years, spanning many countries and branches of the church, both Protestant and Roman Catholic. The legacy of the Reformation is not simply the changes it brought then, but the understanding which goes by the catchy Latin title of *Ecclesia semper reformanda est*. "The church is always reforming" (or perhaps being reformed).



That could be the watch-word of **Fairford Leys**, where we are constantly examining our services and activities and asking if they need amending.

Our world is not only changing fast, but accelerating towards a totally new kind of society. The Church has the enormously difficult role of being both a fixed point of orthodox belief and a flexible means of interpreting those beliefs to an emerging culture. Over recent years we have seen changes to our service styles at Fairford Leys which have engaged younger families through creative activities, and provided for others who find strength in quiet and contemplative worship. We are about to introduce a further strand of open and unstructured meetings that will allow us to explore music, worship and the influence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

The opening up of the physical space inside the church has brought light and life into the church in a way that no architect's plan could foresee, but which the Holy Spirit is showing us quite clearly. New expressions of our work have been able to develop, such as the midweek lunch-club (whose Christmas lunch is featured on the cover) and a better setting for fellowship activities.

Church members have organized a number of cultural and social evenings that have helped build our relationships with one another, and given us greater contact with the community beyond our walls. Ideas are in hand for games evenings, an open-air costumed nativity, and further development of our services which involve all ages worshipping together. All of this needs to be effectively communicated, so we have redesigned our website to match the way we present information within the church premises. The emphasis is on making the content available in multiple formats, but expecting people to take responsibility for accessing this information and keeping themselves informed about events and activities. Much of this can be easily automated, such as the delivery of the weekly service sheet via email, and providing opportunities to volunteer and participate via Facebook message groups. What we will be in the future is unknown.

All we can say is that it will not be as we are now.

# FAIRTRADE

## **2016 proved to be year of significant changes.**

Locally, in Chinnor the building works at the Church limited opportunities to maintain the more regular sales opportunities. That said sales over the year allowed near £800 to be donated to Christian Aid, with some additional sums also being given to other charitable causes over the year.

Internationally, the impact of political decisions has yet to be realised in terms of how trade will be conducted. What impact there might be for Fairtrade at a time when trade arrangements are under restructure is likely to become more clear over the coming months.

Circuit wise over the year there were opportunities to provide Fairtrade goods including at The Karibuni Trust Fund Raising Fayre

## **So what of 2017?**

Hopefully you will have been able to use FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT (ending 12th March) as a basis for promoting use of Fairtrade items in your churches, community, social and friendship groups. It is never too late to adopt the theme of 'Put Fairtrade into your break'. Why not share some Fairtrade snacks and drinks with colleagues and visitors or do so when visiting National Trust properties?

## **EASTER 2017**

If you are buying Chocolate eggs, whatever the size, go for 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

## **CATALOGUES**

Copies of the Traidcraft Spring/ Summer catalogues are available from Rod or you can view the full range on the website.

If your church or community is holding an event where you would like to have Fairtrade goods please contact Rod Thorpe for info. Items can be made available on a Sale or Return basis.

## **DOING YOUR WEEKLY SHOPPING:**

Look out for a Fairtrade symbol, visit Fairtrade websites (eg Traidcraft , Ethicalsuperstore etc) or contact Rod Thorpe (Fairtrade contact).

Do remember to check the Circuit Website for news and info.

Do share you positive experiences of Fairtrade goods with others and let me know if you have any feedback.

*Rod Thorpe* (Fairtrade contact)



## **Blessed again**

As many of you are aware Stationing appeared on the agenda again last May as Irena began to think about her journey as a Minister here in the Vale of Aylesbury and onwards. Opting to take her Ministerial journey onwards she has been blessed with an early match with a Circuit in Sussex, an exciting match with all sorts of opportunities to use and develop her gifts. We all wish her well.

Meanwhile we considered the options for Stationing and decided to take the “seeking a probationer minister” route. In January our prayers were answered and we have been blessed with a probationer minister appointment with pastoral oversight for Cheddington, Stewkley, Stoke Hammond and Swanbourne.

Donna Broadbent-Kelly and her husband, David, spent a busy day one Saturday in January meeting Stewards and others in this sector.

Currently they live in South Derbyshire with their three children Joseph, Hannah and William who will be joining local schools in and around Stewkley. An exciting move and still close enough for grandparents to visit easily.

Donna will complete her studies (undergraduate Diploma in Theology Mission and Ministry) this summer. An agricultural Chaplaincy placement during training has encouraged Donna in seeking a semi-rural Circuit.

Brought up as an Anglican with Catholic roots worshipping in an Anglican/Methodist LEP ecumenical links are an important focus as are links with the community.

Donna enjoys working with families and young people and alongside her studies Donna works part time as a Lay worker in Pastoral care.

We are all really looking forward to welcoming Donna and her family later this summer.

Meanwhile, we continue walking alongside Irena with love and prayers, sharing her ministry here through spring and summer.

*Anne Marie Lord* (on behalf of the Circuit Invitations Committee)

## HOLY WEEK AROUND THE CIRCUIT



CHURCH	MaundyThursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunday For main service see the Plan
Aylesbury	7.30pm— Communion	Service at 10.00am	8.30am Early Communion 9.00am Easter Breakfast (pre- book)
Chinnor	Liturgy of Maundy Thursday 7pm St Andrew's Parish church (bring and share meal, washing of feet)	Village Cross Walk 9.00am from car park at top of High Street to top of Chinnor Hill for 10.00am service then refreshments at Community Church hall.	
Princes Risborough	Communion 8.00 pm	10.00 am at Baptist Church; Walk of Witness 11.00 am Service	Sunrise Service at 6.00 am at Whiteleaf
Stewkley		Meditation. - Mutual Fellowship – 7.30pm Rev Byron	

CHURCH	MaundyThursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunday
Stoke Mandeville		11.50am. Walk of Witness from SMMC to St. Mary's - service at 12.00 noon.	
Thame Christchurch		Service at 10.30am Rev Micklem	Communion Rev Micklem
Wingrave		2.00pm Joint Open Air Service with Parish Church	

## Dates For this Quarter:

**Sunday 2nd April at 6.00 pm: Circuit Service—**

Olivet to Calvary at Aylesbury Methodist Church.

**Sunday 9th. April at 6.30 pm:** repeat performance of Olivet to Calvary at **Sts.Peter & Paul, Tring**

**Sunday 30th April at 3.00pm** Rededication of the Chinnor Chapel after refurbishment

**Tuesday 13th June at 7.45pm** Circuit Consultation at the Wesley Centre N. Marston.

## Advanced Notices:

**Sunday 16th July at 6.00pm** Circuit Songs of Praise Service at Aylesbury.

**Tuesday 29th August at Stewkley;** Welcome Meeting for Donna Broadbent-Kelly and Family.

**Thursday 21st September at 7.45pm**  
Circuit Meeting at Waddesdon



**Aylesbury Methodist  
Church & Centre  
Buckingham Street, Aylesbury**

**32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL ORGAN CONCERT**

*Presenting Concert Organist*

**Piers Maxim**

**Director of Music  
Malvern Priory and President of Aylesbury  
Festival  
Choir**

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017 @ 7.30 pm**

**(Doors open at 7.00 pm)**

**Entrance: £12.00**

**Or £10.00 if booked in advance.**

**(Students entrance free)**

**Tickets available from the Church Office  
on weekday mornings or direct from  
Derrick Matthews (01296 488076)**



# IT'S BACK

KARIBUNI CHILDREN'S

# FAMILY FUNDAY

SAVE THE DATE  
**17TH JUNE 2017**

FAIRFORD LEYS COMMUNITY CENTRE  
11AM-4PM

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STALLS, GAMES, BBQ,  
MUSIC AND MORE

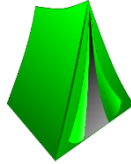


Helping children from the  
streets and slums in Kenya

Registered UK Charity Number 1044072

# The Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit

**CAMPING  
AGAIN!**



After the success of last year we are planning another adventure

**WHEN? –** 7-9<sup>th</sup> July  
(can be extended if you wish)

**WHERE?** Anita's Touring Park  
Just north of Banbury

**COST?** £22 per unit per night for 2  
People including electricity £2  
extra for any additional people  
or dogs.

We have been allocated a field with just 12 hook-ups and space for tents not needing electricity. We need to pay a £20 deposit per unit by the end of March so please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to join us. All are welcome.

To book or for further information  
Contact Chris Sara **01296 484310**  
Email [chrisara096@gmail.com](mailto:chrisara096@gmail.com).

# The Wesley Centre

As you will know by now the North Marston Wesleyan Church has had a make over and has become



“The Wesley Centre” an exciting new era for this one hundred and fifty year old building which has experienced many small alterations down the years but none so radical as those over the past few months.

The floor has been raised to facilitate easy access and to make it more user friendly, a new kitchen has been installed and wheelchair users can be assured of

a warm welcome.

We are thrilled and excited about this opportunity that the Church now has to expand it’s mission and gratified to see how the village community has welcomed this project so enthusiastically.



There are already a number of groups keen to use the building, not least the History Club who have helped to provide



chairs ,tables and other equipment bringing the building right up to date.

We hope that “The Wesley Centre” will, in a short time be able to support itself and recover the cost of the project.

We hope too, that you will find time to visit and catch a little of our optimism.





## 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, bring and buy items usually on sale. Choirs use church Sun and Wed evenings. Pilates classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays  WEA day school in Oct, Nov, Mar and Apr. plus U3A meetings
Stewkley	3rd Saturday each month 12 noon - 1.30 pm	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £7.50
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	Alternate Tuesdays. 11.00 am - 2.00 pm	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  Friday 7.30 pm - on 7th and 14th April	Daisy Club for children from birth to school age— term time only.  Mutual Fellowship Various Speakers Contact John Jones 01525 217795
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.	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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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. 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## **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.

### **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](mailto:office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk)**

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

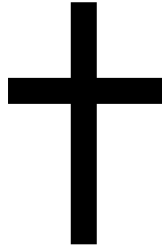


*Vale of Aylesbury  
Methodist Circuit*

# **OLIVET TO CALVARY**

**by**

**J H MAUNDER**



**An act of worship for Congregation and Choir recalling some of the incidents in the last days of the Saviour's life on earth.**

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017@ 6.00 pm](#)**

**Repeated at Sts. Peter & Paul, Tring on**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April @ 6.30 pm)**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Refreshments will be served in the Hall after the service.**

# Whitechapel Mission



The Mission is in the east end of London in once notorious slum areas, off Whitechapel Rd, the A11. Opposite is the infamous 'The Blind Beggar' pub, which was the hangout of the notorious Kray twins. Here Ronnie shot & killed George Cornwell for insulting him!

**History:** At a public meeting in the Mansion House, presided over by the Lord Mayor, in 1876 they inaugurated 'The Working Lads' Institute' and this was overseen by a Mr Henry Hill (not much known about him). In 1895 they moved into a new building at 285 Whitechapel Rd. which was opened by princess Alexandra and in 1896 it became the Primitive Methodist Whitechapel Mission presided over by Revd. Thomas Jackson. *(right)* (This building was used for the Jack the Ripper enquiry!) The Lord Mayor and the London burghers were very supportive as they are to this day.



**Today:** The original purpose of the Mission carries on today, but in a manner suitable for today's requirements. It has always had a Minister – the Revd Jackson continued until 1952 (56 yrs!). It is now cared for by the Circuit Superintendent Minister.

Tony Miller, *(below)* who many of us know, started at the Mission in 1981 and took full control in 1991. There are now only 4 formal services a year in the chapel, but Tony tries to hold a short service every week. Several years ago Tony had a real scare when he contracted TB by being in close contact with a sufferer over eight hours. Luckily he is completely cured.



**Facilities:** They used to have overnight accommodation at the Mission but this was stopped in 2000 as they experienced too much smoking and drinking. In 2010 these rooms were refurbished and are now rented by single men who work in the area – many in the City, and this brings in a very healthy annual income.

The kitchen is open every day of the year and serves an average of 300 meals a day. There is great need for kitchen refurbishment and funds are being sought to achieve this.

The showers and boiler system have been recently refurbished after 20



years and where previously the system could only cope with 75 people, it can now accommodate 150 a day. Much of the money has come from city supporters, who are continuing to be invaluable to the work of the Mission. After showering the men can get clean clothing from the clothes store. This large basement area is a wonder to

behold with clothes neatly sorted and hung or shelved by size and colour.

**Volunteers:** Although there is permanent paid staff, the Mission relies heavily on volunteers. There are two significant volunteer opportunities in which groups can get involved. **The Breakfast Challenge** requires a team of about 7 folk to arrive at 5.45 am to serve breakfast from 6.00 am until 11.0 am!. The other is the **Clothing Challenge** for about 10 people who are in two teams, one to open bags of donated clothes and sort them, the other to size and tag the sorted clothes and put them in the appropriate place in the clothing store. If your church would like to make up a group for either of these challenges then go onto the Whitechapel Mission website to sign up. Luckily people are volunteering all the time and one of the most popular days, with a significant waiting list, is Christmas Day!!



**Some Yearly Statistics:** 6,941 different people used the Mission; 113,536 breakfasts served; 3,332 volunteers worked 15,700 hours; 24,440 showers taken! Some who take breakfast are well dressed business men who live in single rooms in the area, but have no cooking facilities. The Mission also runs an Advice Centre for men and women where many can receive all kinds of help.

What a very worthwhile charity this is and well worth our continuing support.

*Peter Watkins.*

# CHINNOR METHODIST CHURCH REFURBISHMENT

We are delighted that the refurbishment of the chapel is complete.



The last item to be completed was the handrail for the new disabled access ramp. We now have level parking in front of the building, with a choice either of steps or a gradual ramp to the new automatic doors. Inside, we now have dedicated oak cupboards where the Fair Trade goods can be displayed to advantage and kept securely when necessary. There is a new toilet near the front door and double glass oak doors into the worship space.

The intention of the architects was to make an area that looked renewed and bright but kept the essentials of the historical building. This has been achieved with the transfer of the Victorian foundation stones to the north wall in the worship space, and gentle white paint on walls and ceiling and versatile lighting so the mood can be changed as required. When the



old carpet tiles were lifted, many members of the church remarked on the charm of the original floorboards beneath, and so the architects were asked to incorporate this idea. Whilst the original boards were not everywhere in good enough condition to reuse, Tom Chamlet, the builder sourced boards from a hospital outside Oldham for the floor. However, some of our original boards are in use as backing for the



coat hooks. The seating, with bright colours and flexible layout, is intended to make the worship space versatile and available for a variety of occasions into the future. There is now an AV screen and internet connection so we are ready for hiring by users who utilise modern technology.







The rooms at the back of the church have new floorboard-look Karndean flooring and the kitchen is entirely refitted. New wiring and heating combines with greatly improved insulation to make this a warmer and more efficient space to use.

We have managed to stretch the budget far enough to replace the windows in the main worship space and that work will be carried out shortly. Following on from this we will be installing blinds over the south wall windows to shield the congregation from direct sunlight, particularly low winter sun. The few other remaining bits of fitting out are all in hand.

The proposed gateway has been temporarily delayed pending revised planning permission as we are now looking towards a lighter design in an older style – but it will happen!

Our first service was held on Sunday 15 January and there was general approval of the new look. We would like to express our thanks to Tom Chamlet and his building team who have completed the job ahead of schedule and with unflappable good humour. It is a crowning touch that, having six foundation stones with the Croxford name, the latest generation of the family laid the screed in the porch.

*Cathy & Jeff Whiteway*



Can you remember what it looked like just six months back?



*Library Photos.*

*Cathy Whiteway*

# THE CIRCUIT WEBSITE

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

## AN APOLOGY:

**Do you sometimes discover that Circuit Events have taken place before you have even heard of them or that you learn about them when it is too late? If so, I apologise to you because the Website will not have done its job properly!**

The Website is a valuable source of information enabling an exchange of information between the churches and between churches and those who are responsible for administration of the Circuit.

Many 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 allows 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.

Those who have no internet access can benefit if their colleagues look at the Website regularly and pass on information. It does not take much time particularly when you get familiar with the site.

**PLEASE READ, USE, SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEW WEBSITE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.**

**If your church members are not getting important information, it may be that the APOLOGY should come from YOU!**

*Roy Collis—Website Editor*



## Food Safety in Catering

*CIEH (Chartered Institute of Environmental Health) Food Safety in Catering, Level 2 Award*

*Delivered by the Soapbox Communications Trust Training Centre*

*Trainer: Mrs K C Macpherson*

Many churches (and other organisations) within the Aylesbury Vale area have taken advantage of the Food Safety Courses held at Southcourt Baptist Church, Penn Road, Aylesbury, HP21 8HW. This course provides key information that will ensure people know the correct methods and principles of food handling.

### **Who needs to take this course?**

Anyone within your organisation who works with food has a special responsibility for safeguarding the health of consumers. You need to ensure that the food made and served is perfectly safe to eat. The Food Safety Certificate is necessary for those who have overall responsibility for the preparation, cooking and serving of food. This course can be taken by anyone over the age of 14.

The next course will be held on **Saturday June 24th 2017**.

Both full and refresher courses are available..

**Time:** 9.00am for registration

**Finish:** Refresher Course – 11.00am

Full Course – 3.00pm

(These are approximate times)

The course is open to all over the age of 14 years.

For more details contact Jean Howlett at the above address or Email [foodsafety@southcourt.org](mailto:foodsafety@southcourt.org)

Details and booking forms will be available on the Circuit Website

## ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE:

Items for the July—Sept 2017 issue should be forwarded to the following Email addresses:

Solomon Awadzi 01296 489384

Email: [solokawadzi@hotmail.com](mailto:solokawadzi@hotmail.com)

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

**Please submit Magazine Items by the 15th May 2017**

## 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](mailto:revhelenkirk@sky.com) and to:

[r.collis245@btinternet.com](mailto:r.collis245@btinternet.com)

## ITEMS FOR PUBLISHING ON THE WEBSITES:

### WEBSITE ADDRESSES:

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

**Aylesbury:** [www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk](http://www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk)

**Fairford Leys:** [www.fairfordleyschurch.org.uk](http://www.fairfordleyschurch.org.uk)

All enquiries or suggestions should be addressed to::

**Peter Green** for the **AMC Website** : pe-  
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**Roy Collis** for the **Circuit Website:**  
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or

**Rev. Keith Edwards** [ulysee798@gmail.com](mailto:ulysee798@gmail.com)  
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