

VALE OF AYLESBURY

METHODIST CIRCUIT

MAGAZINE



Thame Christchurch Church — see page 8 for cover story

July August

September

2019

PASTORAL LETTER



Rev Helen Kirk

Dear Friends,

This is the last time I will write in the circuit magazine as the Superintendent Minister of the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit and I am suddenly unsure of what to write.

Through the 'Mission plans' that each church produced I am aware of all the wonderful work that goes on across all of our churches – of weekly worship and daily witness; of community building and care giving; of hospitality offered and generosity shared. Such service to God and community might be obvious and noticeable but so much of what takes place in the name of the church is performed behind the scenes and with minimal fuss, but through it worship is enabled, hope is offered, community created and God's presence realised. So, one thing I do want to say before I leave is 'thank you'. Thank you for your commitment, dedication and care. You are amazing.

I would also like to offer a personal note of thanks for the kindness you have shown me & my family over the last five years as well as the grace you have afforded me and your patience when I have not lived up to your expectations. I would urge you to continue to minister to those who minister in the church, both lay & ordained. We are all only human and sometimes taking a lead in the life of the church can feel like a very lonely place to be. So, in the words of the one we follow 'love one another'; build each other up, encourage and enable because whoever we are, we all need such support.

Finally, I would ask for your prayers. As Andrew & I move up to Crewe we are not quite sure what is in store: I am being asked to do a job I have never done before; Andrew will be looking for new work and we leave our children in the south as young men making their own way in the world. We would value your prayers and we in turn will remember you in ours as you start a new journey with Rev Richard Atkinson.

And remember – if you are ever up in Cheshire do call in for a cuppa!

Every Blessing

Helen

Prayer from the Celtic Book of Morning Prayer:

Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.

An Introduction to Rev Richard Atkinson and Family



When the list of available appointments was published it provides a geography test as you try to work out where various places are. Aylesbury, I confess required a map to discover its precise location. We have spent the last twenty-one years on familiar ground living in places of which we had knowledge and experience beforehand,

moving to somewhere new is a bit like our first appointment which was very much a venture into the unknown. However, as Methodists, one is always aware of our Connexional nature which usually manifests itself with people with whom there is a link. We have already “discovered” three people who know friends of ours and there will be doubtless be more connections once we arrive. This is one of the things I love about our Church, these connections that hopefully make new surroundings feel less intimidating, that remind us we are one family.

So time to write the ‘here we come’ letter and give you a little insight into what you might expect.

I suppose I am becoming a veteran, as the Vale of Aylesbury will be my fifth appointment as a Methodist minister having previously served in Nottingham, Clitheroe, Bradford (as a school chaplain) and latterly in Skipton where we have been for the last 10 years. Prior to candidating I spent four years teaching history in Tunbridge Wells. I am a proud Lancastrian having been born in North Manchester and then moved around the north of England with my Dad’s job. Aylesbury will be home number 17, so moving is nothing new and offers an opportunity to have a clear out!!

My wife Louise and I will celebrate our 28th wedding anniversary the day after we move into the Manse. She is a teacher of History, vice principal in her current school. She has always been involved in church life pursuing her cherished ambition of one day being a “proper minister’s wife!!”

We have two; Ben will be 25 soon after we arrive. He has a Masters in Music then spent eighteen months living and working in France and Germany before returning home to work as a teaching assistant. This resulted in him being offered a maternity cover teaching music. He has so enjoyed the experience that he will be starting a PGCE in September to become a qualified teacher. Our daughter Fran will be 22 and about to enter the final year of a Social Care degree in Cheltenham after a change of course. She is very involved in church life and will be spending some of the summer volunteering at various Christian camps sharing something of faith with the youngsters who attend. She has a keen sense of humour, writes for and performs with the university Drama Society.

I am the family cook, something I find really relaxing. And love trying out new recipes and cuisines. I am a huge music fan spending my last sabbatical looking at the way music influences our spirituality. I am an advocate of how instrumental music is more able to enhance our spirituality because it demands an imaginative response. Words often drive a reaction unless of course they are in a language we do not understand when it feels more like an instrumental piece. Listening to music is a means of encountering God, it is one of his greatest gifts to us. In addition we are both history graduates so this influences how we like to spend our free time. Then there are the quirks; the folk in Skipton will talk of tea which is insipid without milk while the children will tell of family holidays abroad and Dad declining menus in English and risking ordering things he has no idea about what they are.

In ministry my primary hope is to enable conversations about faith within and beyond the walls of the church. Too often folk are held back because they think all around them have a stronger more confident faith, we all need the courage to display our vulnerability and dare to talk, in the hope this will aid faith development. We are all on a journey remembering key points from the past and hoping for significance looking into the future. I think this a model which enables a cherishing of what has been, alongside an enthusiasm for what will be.

Please bear with us as we try to learn names, work out relationships and how things are “normally” done. May our communal journey be one in which we all find blessing.

Richard

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Rev. Helen Kirk (Superintendent until August)

Tel:01296 488963 Email: revhelenkirk@sky.com

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

Rev Richard Atkinson (Superintendent from 1st September)

Email: revrja@outlook.com (Pastoral care as above)

Rev Donna-Marie Broadbent-Kelly (Presbyter)

Tel:01525 240589

Email: rev.donnabk@gmail.com

With pastoral care of: Cheddington, Stewkley,
Swanbourne and Wingrave

Rev Keith Edwards 01296 423363

Email: ulysee798@gmail.com

With pastoral care of: Haddenham, 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, and Cuddington

Rev Olufemi R W Cole-Njie (Temporary stationing by Conference)

kenfem.njie@gmail.com

Rev Dr Hayford Ofori-Attah (Supernumerary)

Phone: 01296 749172

Email: hoforiattah@btinternet.com

Ministers' Rest Days:

Rev Richard AtkinsonSaturday
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 the Quarter:

Saturday 13th July 2019 2-30pm at Princes Risborough Methodist Church- A Summer Concert with Afternoon Tea
Sunday 14th July 2019 6.00 pm at Aylesbury Methodist Church - Circuit Service of Farewell to Helen and Family. Followed by refreshments.

Saturday 17th/ Sunday 18th August at Cuddington Methodist -125th Anniversary—*see advert on page 16*

Saturday 24th August 4.00 pm at Aylesbury Methodist Church - A Welcome Service for Rev Richard Atkinson our incoming Superintendent Minister –followed by refreshments

COVER STORY

As a result of our Away Day Consultation we have started having a Cafe Church regularly. We bought circular tables to encourage friendship and discussion. As you can see from the photo we had a



full Church with visitors from South Africa, Ghana and Princes Risborough. As it was Christian Aid week we talked and prayed about the situation in Sierra Leone. The money collected this year goes towards helping mothers there have a safe delivery of their babies.

The rooms in Christchurch are used every week by a variety of people -August being a quiet month as it is the holiday season. We have Bands, Choirs, Youth clubs, Mothers and Babies, Patchwork, and a Bridge club making use of the rooms. Plus we have a Bible Study Group, and a monthly Women's group which includes members of other Churches and non Church goers. The coffee mornings on Tuesday and on Friday are well attended.

The six Churches in Thame which includes Christchurch hold a monthly Ecumenical Prayer Meeting, called Thame in Prayer. Each month it is on a different day and at a different Church allowing more people to attend. A Women's Conference is being planned , also organised by all six Churches.

As we are an ageing Congregation we often accommodate various types of walking aids and wheel chairs. This year we have many members with a special Birthday ending in an "0". A happy, family congregation attends each week averaging about 50 people.

LIVE-STREAMING OF SERVICES

Background

As one of the marks of a healthy church is to have an outward-looking focus, we now live-stream our 10.30am Sunday services with a static video camera. Anyone with an internet connection will be able to see and hear them via www.thesundayservice.org.uk and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/). We are one of eight churches nationally, of various denominations taking part in this free trial. It is organised by The Sunday Service, a Christian charity funded by The Joseph Rank Foundation. Their prime aim is to reach people unable to attend church through sickness, being house-bound or in residential care. Other groups, such as our own members who are temporarily indisposed and people moving into the area might also benefit.

Our Policies

- 1.** To safeguard children and vulnerable adults, the only camera shots used, apart from the choir, will be on the sanctuary side, rather than the congregational side of the communion rail. This creates a 'virtual safety curtain'.
- 2.** All children and young people asked to take part in a service by, for instance, reading a lesson, lighting an advent calendar, singing in the Youth Choir, or taking part in a Youth Service, will each need to have written parental permission to do so.
- 3.** 'Known participants' in a service who will be in camera shot in the sanctuary area, such as preachers, worship leaders, readers, sketch participants, baptismal parties and others, will be informed of our live-streaming policies beforehand. Their participation signals their permission to be filmed.

/over

LIVE-STREAMING OF SERVICES (Cont.)

4. 'Unknown participants' in a service, such as volunteers from J Team invited to help a preacher in the sanctuary area will not be filmed. This is because it is neither possible nor desirable for the camera operator or youth leaders to ensure only those with parental permission forms can respond. A 'safe' shot will be used instead, such as the choir or the central banner.

5. Whilst we will make every effort to ensure a safe environment for all, given the widespread use of mobile phones as cameras, the church and most other public places are not 'camera-free zones.' Nor can we always avoid the potential for some toddlers and/or a retrieving parent to creep into camera shot.

6. Based on advice from Boys' Brigade HQ, we will use the same permission form on church letter-heading for all our youth organisations.

7. A succinct message about our live-streaming will be included in the Welcome slides shown before the start of the service and in the weekly notices.

8. A leaflet will be made available explaining our live-streaming and safeguarding policies and the Church Stewards will be responsible for ensuring that preachers and all service participants are made aware of them.



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
North Marston - Wesley Centre	Friday 10am-12pm 2nd Wednesday in month 12pm-2pm.	Coffee mornings Monthly Lunches
Stewkley	3rd Saturday of each month - 12 noon - 1.30 pm	Treat yourself to a 2 course lunch with tea or coffee for £7.50.
Stoke Hammond at the Sports Club	Wednesday 10.30 - 11.45 am	Coffee Morning
Stoke Mandeville	Monthly:: First Fridays 12.00 - 2.00 pm Last Fridays 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Light lunches £3.50 A chance to meet and chat with your friends 'POP-IN' for a cup of tea/ coffee and a chat.
Thame Christchurch	Tuesdays & Fridays 10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee Mornings

Waddesdon	Alternate Tuesdays. 11.00 am - 2.00 pm	Light lunches
Wingrave	Alternate Tuesdays	Nup End Cafe Lunches

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 7.30pm	Daisy Club for children from birth to school age— term time only. Mutual Fellowship will start again on Fri- day 11th Oct Various speakers. Con- tact John Jones 01525 217795
Swanbourne 	Fridays 10-30am in the Chapel: stories, songs, prayers, nibbles, ba- bies, toddlers, mums & carers all very welcome	Pram Service will con- tinue—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: Ms Coral Soulsby 01296 707298,

Ms Angela Smith 01296 483696

Boys Brigade Tuesdays 6.00 - 9.00 pm

Contact: Mr Steve Kemp 01296 399315

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)

Tots and Toast—Parent and Toddler group (under 5's)

Wednesdays 9 – 11.30am - term time only

Fortnightly:

Friday 7.00 - 9.00 pm (fortnightly) Friday Night Club
(all ages)

Table Tennis, Scrabble, Pizza etc.

Wednesday Afternoon Hopusegroup—2.30pm-4.00pm
(as announced)

Bible study—Sunday 7.30—9.00am

Monthly:

4th Sunday 12pm –Sharing Lunch (not August) All welcome

Ecumenical Groups/ Activities:

Eco Church - Chinnor Churches Go Wild - Christians Caring for God's Earth. Environmental surveys and sharing experience on maintaining grounds.

Christians Together in Chinnor—Sharing faith in working together.

Taking the Church into the community and to local events

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

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.

Contact Barbara Warne 01296 651417.

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.

Ghanaian Night – a success!!!!



The function proceeded under the auspices of Solo Awadzi and Harry Darku, who were the masters of ceremony for the occasion.

The church was decorated with rich and colourful Kente cloth and there was a display of artefacts and saleable items in the welcome area, which were transferred to the Hall at meal time. All the Ghanaians were in their colourful traditional attire. - *We could have done a fashion show with the cat walk.*

Welcome prayer was said by Rev. Helen Kirk. This was followed by emergency action announcement.

As the function was to support two charities i.e. Karibuni Trust based in Kenya and Alfani Foundation in Ghana, representatives of the charities - Joy Murphy and Alfons Hanson were invited to enlighten the audience about their work with charities.

The first performance was opened by Ghanaian drumming by Alfons Hanson's family which included short tune to a tribal dance demonstrated by Edith Awadzi to the delight of the audience



The Anuket Belly dancers performed their body movements to melodious music.

A duet by Shirley Francis on saxophone and Julie Maquire on piano delighted the audience with a Morecombe and Wise sketch of *"playing all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order"* followed by two classic sing-along tunes – Moon River and Edelwiess (*from the sound of music*)



The Belly dancers returned to the stage and performed with another display of vibrant and exotic movements to excite the audience.



The final performance was the Ghanaian highlife music and dancing. This was the highlight of the evening performance. The first two highlife tunes were intended for all Ghanaians to dance, to be followed by an invitation to the audience to join in, but the melodic and rhythmic appeal of the music was so irresistible that the audience could not wait sitting and tapping their feet so they quickly joined the dancing and waving of white handkerchiefs (*that is Ghanaian highlife music for you!!*) The music went on until food was ready to be served.

/over

The entertainment was rounded up with Alfons Hanson thanking all those who played a part in getting the event off the ground, especially the “unsung” hero Jennie Torpey, who was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Albert Odro.

In the hall, there was a display of delicious Ghanaian dishes including jollof rice, waakye plus fried plantain. There were also side dishes of salad and vegetables, in addition were fruit platter and variety of cakes as dessert. Edith Awadzi and Ruby Darku organised and co-ordinated the preparation of the food.



The blessing was said by Rev. Hayford Ofori-Attah before food was served.

The dining tables were draped in white with decorative flowers and balloons in Ghanaian national flag colours – red, yellow and green, Full size Ghana flags were also displayed on the walls. Ghanaian highlife tunes were played as background music during the meal. After the main course, the raffle was drawn with loads of prizes.

This event was the “talk of the Church”. Lots of comments and compliments as to how people enjoyed themselves and how great the evening was, were echoed.

The good news is, money raised was £1011.70p (net) for the two charities.

Solo Awadzi

CUDDINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

125th ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATIONS

17th / 18th AUGUST 2019

Come along and help us celebrate.

Craft Day :- Saturday 17th August 11.am - 4.00 pm

Demonstration of Crafts and opportunities to have a go!!

Pillow lace, Quilting, Machine embroidery, Flower arranging, Artistic Bible journaling & other activities to be arranged.

Refreshments will be available all day!!

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION Sunday 18th August @ 3.00pm

Updated interviews with people who live or have lived in Cuddington and attended the Sunday school and are part of our history. Others will share their memories and stories unique to them.

Photographs and items of interest.



Please join us and help us celebrate this milestone.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!!

Saturday 12th October 2019, 7.00pm
in aid of **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

Tickets: £8 each, available from
Pauline Noble 01296 484940 nearer the time.

INCLUDING PLOUGHMAN'S & SOFT DRINKS
IN THE INTERVAL

[Bring your own nibbles and soft drinks to have at your table]

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!!!

TABLES OF 6 (max 8)

Make up a table, or just buy a ticket

Evening includes a Raffle

and we'll make sure you're
on a table with others.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Come and help us support

ACTION FOR CHILDREN



Aylesbury Methodist Church, Buckingham Street,
Aylesbury, HP20 2NQ



**For Tickets &
Information call
07894 159544**



**Tickets to include
Concert & Afternoon
Tea £10.00 pp**



**A Summer Concert with
Afternoon Tea**

At

Princes Risborough Methodist Church

On

Saturday 13th July 2019 at 2-30pm

Guest Choir



“Voices In Accord”

“Voices in Accord” is a group of 18 people who sing mixed harmony pieces, including songs from the shows and music ranging through from the 1920s to 1980s. The group was originally named “The Miscellany Singers” under the direction of their then-conductor, Gwynne Evans, who arranged most of the music which the group sang. Upon Gwynne’s retirement in 1995 the group renamed itself “Voices in Accord” under the leadership of Carol Williams, and the baton of Sue Forrest. In the past the Group, as both “Miscellany Singers” and “Voices in Accord” has represented the Borough at various Town Twinning events, both in Emden and Schleswig. After rehearsing for many years at St John’s Church Hillingdon, with which it has close ties, the group now rehearse at North Hillingdon Methodist Church. Fund raising has included several thousand pounds for “Save the Children”, and various smaller amounts for other national charities.

Fairtrade Matters



Would you like a cuppa? How many times have you heard or said this common phrase?

Britain is known as a tea drinking nation but how familiar are tea drinkers with where the tea comes from and how it is grown? Who picks your tea and in what conditions? If any of you saw the recent Greg Wallace programme on tea, you may be better informed and aware tea is usually a blend of tea from many estates and possibly countries.

Over the past year Traidcraft Exchange has been asking the big tea companies to declare where they get their from. While initially reluctant to provide this detail, the outcome is that you can now visit the websites of companies such as PG Tips,



Tetley, Clipper or Typhoo and read about their tea suppliers and the Estates they buy from. In all, as a result of the ' commitment, it will now be possible to know where nearly 70% of Britain's tea supply comes from.

Having said it was not possible to publish the estates they buy from, tea companies have moved from a default of secrecy to a default of openness about where they source their tea from. You can also find the info about suppliers from Traidcraft Exchange's own website.

Why does this matter?

Knowing which estates are providing the tea, enables discussions to start between tea workers and estate managers about working conditions. The results will not be immediate but it establishes a chain of supply. In addition to workers being able to raise concerns, tea drinkers can make their concerns known in anticipation that tea companies will want to display care for all involved in the making of a cuppa.

So what are you being asked to do?

-express any concerns you have about tea pickers and their working conditions to companies

-make sure that companies maintain their commitment

-keep buying tea, particularly tea grown in Assam.

-remember that behind every cuppa there is an industry that provides livelihoods for over a million people.

-encourage companies to apply conditions that would permit the product passing the provisions to be considered Fairtrade.

The idea is that while you enjoy your cuppa you can be assured that those involved in providing it are also able to enjoy their role and receive an appropriate income.

About FAIRTRADE

· 'Fair trade' as a term means 'moving towards fairer trading conditions',

· 'Fairtrade' is the label used to identify products with the Fairtrade Mark. Fairtrade is a registered trademark.



· The Fairtrade Mark symbol is made up of a blue sky that symbolises optimism, and an arm, raised in the air – this symbolises empowerment. The Fairtrade Mark also incorporates the colour green to symbolise growth.

· Fairtrade products come from over 70 different countries from around the world.

The people who produce these items receive a minimum price and premium for their products.

· Fairtrade has encouraged many farmers to farm in a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly way, using fewer chemicals and effective irrigation. Exchange, Charity No. 1048752

About TRAIDCRAFT

TRAIDCRAFT continues to trade and recently produced its Spring and Summer catalogue showing the range of foods, gifts, cards and chocolate as well as household goods.

If you would like to add to the churches already offering a Fairtrade sales table or have items for a summer event, please get in touch with Rod Thorpe. Items can be made available on a Sale or Return basis if required.

About being a Fairtrade Church

Please remember that at least 50% of Circuit Churches need to be attaining the set conditions to be a Fairtrade Circuit. To be a Fairtrade Church, there are three goals:

- Serve Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings and events (for which you have responsibility)
- Move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit
- Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.



Eco Church

ECO CHURCH
www.ecochurch.org.uk

How to Look After Your Church
Land in Wildlife-Friendly Ways
www.ecochurch.org.uk

How Green / Eco Friendly is your community? With the recent media headlines about the crisis the world is facing, and the Christian call to be good stewards, many might say there is a responsibility on Churches to do their bit.

But what does doing their bit involve?

The Eco church survey provides a guide on what churches are called on to consider and do. It can be about having discussions about what waste a church creates through its choice of cups, plates and purchases. It can also involve holding services that draw attention to Christians' responsibility to the natural world, how to make a building more energy efficient or how to make the grounds more beneficial to nature by what is grown or how it is maintained.

Have you checked out whether other churches in your area have signed up for Eco Church? Aylesbury and Haddenham already have Eco churches that should be able to show what is involved.

There are also some Eco Churches in Luton and Milton Keynes which might be more local for some Circuit Churches. At present North Bucks appears to have no Eco Churches. Now is that not an opportunity?



Transforming Young Kenyan Lives

www.karibuni.org.uk

Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

Karibuni Children Sponsorship Scheme

Karibuni Children helps the poorest of the poor children in Kenya to access an education, from age 3 onwards.

Many of them overcome extreme difficulties and gain a place at college or university. We are looking for people to sponsor some of these students on their courses, either partly or wholly – any contribution is welcome!

For example, there is Deborah, doing a diploma in Agriculture, with no obvious means of support other than through Karibuni. Or Allbright, who is studying for a diploma in Health Records and Information Technology. Imagine the contribution to their society these students will make when they have qualified!

Can you help?

Please contact Kate Winterbottom at sponsorship@karibuni.org.uk, or phone 01296 614887

Parentalk

THE PRIMARY YEARS

Might you, or someone you know, be interested in attending **Parentalk?**

Parentalk gives parents the opportunity to share experiences, explore parenting principles, watch real life stories and animations, befriend other parents and more.



Mel Brown our Family Worker

The sessions are for an hour and a half and the course is run over 6 weeks. Children are welcome and will be catered for. As to what we would do, we will watch DVD clips, discuss different topics, share experiences, drink tea and coffee and eat biscuits and cake!

If you are interested, text or speak to Mel on 07717121887 or Email: familyworker.amc@gmail.com



Prayer Group at the Grange School

From the start of the school year in October, I have met weekly with a group of students on a Wednesday afternoon at the Grange School. In our very first meeting the students who were mostly Christians, were asked what they wanted to happen in the sessions; they responded by saying that they wanted to take part in discussions and individual prayer. Throughout the year the sessions took on this format, starting with the introduction of a topic often with the use of a video clip, followed by a discussion and ending with prayer.

The group started with 4 students and soon grew to a healthy number of 15 each week. On more than one occasion we have had 20 – 25 students attend the sessions! The discussions are lively, challenging and often animated as the students have different views about faith and their belief in God. We have discussed the purpose of life; the various ways God speaks to us; shared personal testimonies and spoken frequently about faith in God and how faith has affected our lives. These discussions have provided an opportunity to encourage non-believing students to think about God, and they have challenged Christians to speak about their faith. Over the months, seeds have been sown, faith has been challenged and God has evidently worked on the minds and hearts of those involved.

One incident has left a lasting impression on me.

In one of our sessions a student asked how he could gain the faith that we have, or how we could prove that God exists. I replied that we wouldn't be able to prove God's existence but if he was willing to open His heart, he could ask God to make Himself known to him. At the end of the session he asked if he could pray and he then went on to pray a heartfelt prayer, asking God to touch his heart and show him that He is real. This was the most touching moment of the entire year for me, as this non-believing student was praying for the faith to believe in God. This was not the only time he prayed in the year.

Three of the Christian students took over the planning and facilitating of the session, whilst I played the role of mentor and support. Throughout the year they grew in confidence, becoming bolder in sharing faith and overcoming the fear of praying in a group. Being a part of their growth has been a privilege and an experience I hope to repeat time and time again.

As exams are approaching many of the students have now left for study leave. The seeds have been sown and now their growth is in the hands of the Holy Spirit. I will continue to pray that their hearts will be open to God, and that the students who were questioning faith will one day experience God's love and grace in a personal way.

Please pray for the Grange School as God is clearly at work there. My prayer is that a Christian presence will be in the school for years to come, and that many young people will be encouraged to think about God and come to faith.

Mel Brown - Family and Youth Worker

YOUR CIRCUIT WEBSITE

www.aylesburyvale.org.uk

The Circuit Website, can be accessed on most Smart Phones, Tablets, Laptops and Desk Top Computers so most folk will have the ability to see what is going on round the Circuit.

For most of the information that you need there is no need to log into the cloud. The preaching plan, public documents, the calendar and many articles, even pictures can be seen simply by using the Website as you would any other site.

Information about individual churches and their activities can also be found although some is quite basic. The amount of information about churches depends upon the members there, every church has a Website contact but in fact any member is welcome to send news about events, either past or planned, pictures are also welcome.

There has been a great amount of discussion around the Circuit about **CHURCH GROWTH** and how we can serve and attract those living in the community around us and those likely to join those communities, as the hundreds of new houses being built become occupied.

During these discussions the subject of **IMAGE** has come up in several ways. It is important that our premises look well cared for, and much has been done around the Circuit to see that is so, but more important is **the image we project**.

What would a casual reader of the Website think of your church from what they can see about you on the Website?

Just what they will see is, of course, dependent upon what is posted there; have **you** ever considered writing an article or even suggesting a topic for inclusion? Do you have a particularly successful activity which you can write about—it may attract folk to come and find out or inspire other churches to do something similar or even better.

It is impossible for one editor to know everything that is happening in the churches, some churches have **volunteers who act as sub-editors** who have permission to make the changes to church and some Circuit pages, in the same way as the overall Website managers.

The ideal situation would be for each church to have a member or a group, that is responsible for the information posted about their local church

Could that be you?

Sub-editors have permission to:

- Edit Pages.
- Create/ edit articles.
- Add files to the document library.
- Add images to the picture galleries.
- Add dates to the circuit calendar.

If you are willing and able to serve your church in this way please email r.collis245@btinternet.com for further details.

I am encouraged to see the increasing number of members who are logging into the cloud but I sometimes wonder just what they are looking for, that they cannot find on the open Website.

If you are not finding the all information you want, please let me know.

The details for contacting the Editors of the Websites and the Magazine are shown overleaf.

Roy

ITEMS FOR THE MAGAZINE:

Items for the Oct—Dec 2019 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 August 2019

AMENDMENTS to CIRCUIT Database:

Details of changes to existing information in the **Circuit Database** 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**