



North Bedfordshire Circuit

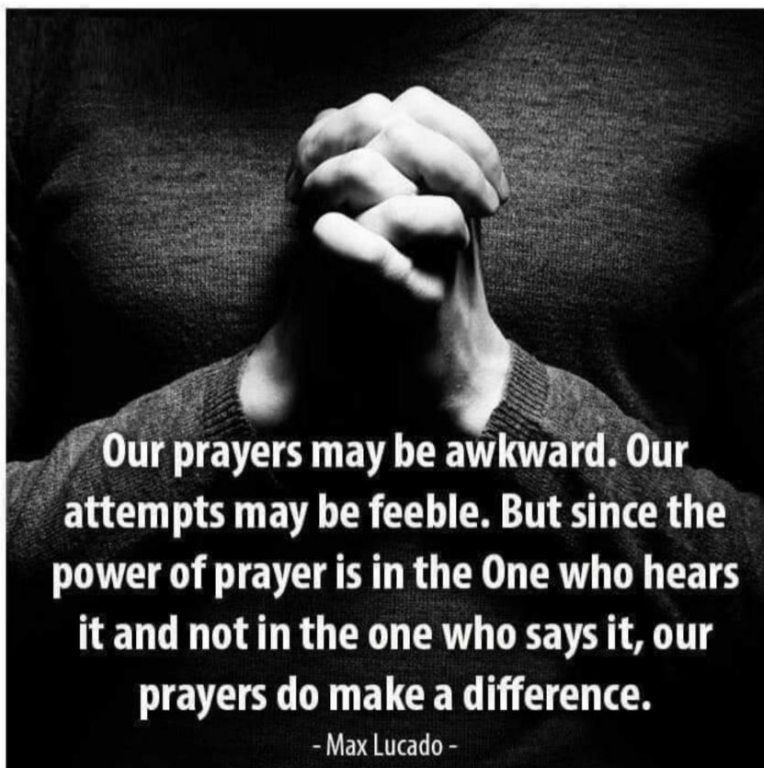
The **Methodist** Church 

34/1

Magazine

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Harvest - Easter 2025 / 26



Chair of the District

Rev Dr David M Chapman *david.chapman@behddistrict.org.uk*
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Circuit Ministers

Superintendent

Rev Silas Wood *silas.wood@methodist.org.uk* 01525 571392

Primary Pastoral Responsibilities: Greensand Community Methodist Church
(Rest day – Friday) (comprising Ampthill, Clophill, Flitwick),
Lidlington LEP and Stewartby LEP

Deputy Superintendent

Rev Leslie Jane Noon *leslienorthbedsmethodist@gmail.com* 01767 304635

Primary Pastoral Responsibilities: Beeston, Henlow, Langford, Sandy, Shefford,
(Rest day – Saturday) Trinity (Biggleswade) and Upper Caldecote

Rev Chris Sandy *christopher.sandy@methodist.org.uk* 01234 860484

Primary Pastoral Responsibilities: London Road (Bedford), Park Road (Bedford),
(Rest day – Friday) Priory (Bedford) and Putnoe Heights (Bedford)

Rev Sydney Sichilima *ssichilima@yahoo.co.uk* 01234 930882

Primary Pastoral Responsibilities: Haynes, Kempston East,
(Rest day – Saturday) Kempston West and Wootton

Rev Paulette Tedd *paulette.tedd@methodist.org.uk* 07591 139940

Primary Pastoral Responsibilities: Cardington LEP, Clapham, Oakley LEP,
(Probationer Study day – Wednesday Sharnbrook and Willington
Rest day – Saturday)

Circuit Stewards

Co-ordinating Circuit Steward

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A Pastoral Letter

by Rev Silas Wood

Hello

First of all, can I say what a privilege it is to be the Superintendent Minister of our Circuit. I am looking forward to my time in the role with a mix of excitement and trepidation! But I can only take on this position because I am blessed to be part of a great team - my fellow Circuit Ministers, admin team, Circuit Stewards and, most importantly, God. And I want to welcome Rev Sydney to the team - I know we will all benefit from his experience.

As I take on this role there will be some changes. You may have realised by now that the Circuit Office has moved. After many happy years at Willington, we are now based at Putnoe Heights. You will find me in the office most Monday mornings so if you want a chat, pop in and say hello. And if you're south of the river you can find me most Thursday mornings at the Community Café at GCMC Ampthill, so you can always come along for a chat then too. I want you to know that, as your Superintendent, I'm here for you and will always find time to listen to you.

Over the coming months we will be encouraging every church in the Circuit to get involved with 'Growth Planning.' Oh no, you cry - not another initiative, not more work! And I hear you. I know that many of you already work really hard to ensure that your church is compliant with all the paperwork that is required. But this isn't onerous and could even be exciting and fun!

Growth plans are a great way of looking at how we grow - in our personal, spiritual life; in our mission and outreach; and then

maybe even numerically. But our focus to begin with is personal growth - what we do as disciples to grow in our faith. Every church will receive a copy of 'Our Church's Future Story' which is a great resource to help you think about growth. You should also be aware of, and hopefully already using, the Methodist Way of Life, which is another resource to help you think about what we do to grow in faith.

In November we will have a Circuit 'Growth Planning' morning led by the District Discipleship Enabler, Angela Turner. This will be an opportunity for at least two people from every church to come along, share ideas, look at resources and hopefully go away with a draft of their growth plan - which should be no more than a single side of A4.

Tying in with growth, I want us to focus as individuals, churches and a Circuit on the question, 'Where have we seen God at work?' This will be on the agendas of all Circuit Meetings and I'd love to see it on Church Council agendas too, where it isn't already. It should also be the focus of any item you read in this magazine.

And if we struggle to answer this, if we aren't seeing God at work in what we are doing, we need to ask, 'Why not?' and reflect on what that means.

So, things to focus on moving forward - growth, and seeing God at work.

I look forward to hearing from you all about both!

God bless
Silas

PROFILE OF A VISITING PREACHER *by Rev Barbara Ebeling*

I am very pleased to be able to help out the Circuit from time, thanks to my husband's friend Glynne Rowlands who put my name forward.

A few credentials:

I was brought up in the Baptist church but found a niche in the Church of England. I was baptized and confirmed at Waltham Abbey back in 1967.

Many years later, after marrying, bringing up two sons and working as a Social Worker and a Social Studies teacher, I trained on the St Albans Diocese Ministerial Training Scheme.

I worked as a Lay Chaplain in Shenley Mental Hospital and was one of the second group of women to be ordained Deacon and then Priest in 1994.

I was lucky to serve my curacy in a Methodist/Anglican ecumenical partnership at St Hugh and St John's Church in Chells, Stevenage.

There was no Methodist Minister in post at the time, so I was "Recognised and Regarded" and enjoyed being part of the Methodist ministry there and around the Stevenage Circuit.

My curacy at Chells was in a wonderful ecumenical partnership which had been set up by Kathleen Richardson,* whom some of you will remember, and with the Vicar they set up a community that accepted each other first and foremost as Christians. I missed it when I had to go back to being just Anglican!!

As one of the first female Vicars, in 1999 I was appointed to the parishes of Great Barford, Blunham, Roxton and Tempsford and spent nine happy years there.

After retirement from there in 2008, I did another four years half-time in Thundridge and High Cross near Ware.

We moved to Biggleswade in 2021 to be near to one of our sons and his family. Our other son and his family live in Japan.

Thank you for inviting me, and I look forward to getting to know you all soon.

Barbara Ebeling

* *Rev Kathleen Richardson (now Baroness Richardson)
was the first female President of Conference.*

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LONDON ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, BEDFORD

“Is there anywhere I can play table tennis?”

The above question, asked by a gentleman new to the neighbourhood, planted an idea in the mind of one of the Stewards at London Road. A “Community Club” was the outcome. On the last Friday evening of each month we now have a time of pure recreation, enjoying such activities as table tennis, pool, table football and dominoes, from 7 to 9 o’clock. There is also plenty of opportunity to have a good old natter over tea and coffee. We have ample facilities and room for anyone who would like to come along, even if only for a short time.

Since the previous update on life at London Road in the summer 2022 issue there have been other changes. We have moved! We are now in the Bedford Methodists Mission Group with Park Road, Priory and Putnoe Heights. All the four churches are represented on a working group which is actively considering how we can work more effectively together. One of several suggestions is to form a team, sporting a logo proclaiming that we are Bedford Methodists, to compete in pub quizzes or games. This has been widened to include voluntary community work such as litter picking. We are still very much in the planning stage.

Our premises continue to be used on Thursday afternoons by Bedford Foodbank as a very busy collection centre, and Citizens Advice Bureau have a presence there. As I write at the end of August

we are receiving further enquiries for use of the hall from community groups.

We are extremely grateful for the financial generosity of both our Circuit and the District that enabled us in 2024 to instal solar panels and replace 14 windows. We have also installed broadband and have recently started to share our services online. We have recently made the outside areas more secure and safer to use.

Since our previous report, some of our very dedicated members have passed away, but they remain with us in the form of a small memorial garden. As dear friends leave us, we continue to welcome new worshippers, and it is wonderful to see them growing in the faith. In August, an adult friend was baptised and we received a new member. We presented them with cards and books which we feel sure will help them in their walk with the Lord.

Not to be forgotten is Messy Church! We usually hold this once a quarter, three times each year on a Saturday with the fourth session being a Messy Nativity Sunday service. It is always popular and attracts families including those who are not regular worshippers with us. Two of our members attended the Messy Church Conference in June which they found very encouraging and worthwhile, and they will be putting the new ideas and material into action!

In November we will have a special service with our Anglican friends at St Michael and All Angels, just a few hundred yards down the road from us. At this service we will re-affirm the Declaration of Intent between the two churches as we continue to tell of our Saviour's love.

John Caves
Steward

God sent gifts, privileges and opportunities

When I finally became an accredited Local Preacher in August 2011, I thought the studying was done, and I could just lead worship, led by God, and that would help the Circuit which, at that time, was struggling to fill the Plan.

BUT, God had other plans, because over the last 14 years, God has developed my ministry in far much more than I, and perhaps others, expected, way back in 2011.

Thankfully, my style of preaching God's Word seems to be very acceptable as I humbly accept invitations to lead worship on special Sundays, often in other Circuits and denominations, and also with uniformed organisations, around campfires etc. Leading school assemblies is also wonderful. God has also led me to serve him at Anjulita Court MHA Care Home since 2012, leading worship and Songs of Praise and making pastoral visits - it's so enriching and a real privilege.

God has truly used the gifts He has bestowed on me to a great degree.

With the formation of the Eastern Section of the Circuit, God has used my gifts and graces to help Rev Leslie Noon in her seven churches, both in the Preaching Plan and in pastoral work. It's so rewarding - God at work yet again.

In the past few months, I have taken a couple of funerals, and I'm thankful to Leslie for her blessing and her guidance as I liaise with bereaved and grieving families. Again, I feel really privileged to be given these opportunities to show God's love and compassion to folk who are really hurting inside.

Joyfully, I also assisted Leslie in a baptism in early August, another first for me, and it was a wonderful occasion.

Most unexpectedly in June 2023, I was asked if I would consider being authorised by Connexion to preside over Holy Communion, as our Leadership Team thought I had the gifts and graces, plus I gave lots of availability dates, both valid reasons for asking. Well, it took

me about three seconds to say yes, as I felt this was God's way of using my gifts again.

It has certainly helped in the making of the Circuit Plan as, up to now, I've led 50 services which included Holy Communion. I count it a real privilege to serve in this way.

Presiding over Holy Communion has led to me being able to visit those folk who aren't able to get to church any more and I'm able to have a cuppa and catch up with them and have a prayerful time concluding with Holy Communion. I can't put in words how it feels to just be there. I usually come away feeling ten feet tall.

I am so thankful for the training I received from Rev Lorna Valentine, and the continuing love, guidance and support from Rev Leslie Noon, and last, but not least, my dear wife Jan, who keeps my feet on the ground when my over-enthusiasm takes over, but she does it in an attitude of love and grace.

Way back in 2011, I couldn't have foreseen just what God intended for me. There's a lesson there, in that sometimes we should just wait, just listen, and let God work through us. I'm so grateful I listened. May I encourage you, my reader, to do the same.

As the years roll on, I pray that God will continue to use me as he sees fit, and to shower me, and those who listen to me, with many blessings.

May God bless you.

Paul Cooper



**Circuit Welcome Service for Rev Sydney Sichilima
at Kempston East Methodist Church on Sunday October 5th
at 3.00pm, led by Rev Dr David Chapman.**

**During the service, Rev Silas Wood will also be welcomed as our
Circuit Superintendent Minister.**

(Tea and coffee will be served after the service)

*Sadly, at the time of writing this there is no further news about the date
of arrival of Sydney's family in the UK*

Circuit Matters

by Phil Timms

Co-ordinating Circuit Steward

Dear Friends

We are delighted to welcome Rev Sydney Sichilima, and by the time you read this we may have held Sydney's Welcome Service on the 5th October. Sydney joins us from Zambia, but as I write Sydney's wife and children are yet to join him. Sydney will have primary pastoral responsibility for Haynes, Kempston East, Kempston West and Wootton.

We also welcome Rev Silas Wood to his new position as Circuit Superintendent and Rev Leslie Noon as our Deputy Superintendent.

It has been a busy summer period with the forming of three separate Circuit invitation committees:

Silas offered a 12-month extension to his current period. The first Circuit invitation committee has completed a consultation period with Silas' churches; a reasoned statement was then shared at the Circuit Meeting, and I am pleased to confirm that Silas will be staying with us until July 2027, spending the next two years as our Superintendent.

For the Bedford churches, Rev Chris Sandy will move on to a new station from September 2026, and we continue to pray for Chris as he goes through that process. The second Circuit invitation committee has been considering the appointment of a Deacon rather than a conventional Presbyterian. We know that the Methodist Church has a shortage of Presbyters, so we hope that following the Deacon route is most likely to fill the role. The main difference between a Deacon and a Presbyterian in the Methodist Church is that a Deacon is primarily a servant leader focussed on service and community outreach. We feel that our Bedford churches together offer an exciting opportunity for a Deacon, as jointly we reach out into the wider Bedford community growing our Methodist presence. We are in the final stages of submitting the profile and we should know more in January.

For the Eastern Section, Rev Leslie Noon will be sitting down (retiring) from July 2026, and we continue to pray for Leslie as she works towards that next life stage. The third invitation committee have been working on creating the profile for that Section; the profile has now been submitted, and we will know in February if we have been matched to a Presbyterian, so please continue to pray for that.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the three Circuit invitation committees, our ministerial team who have had to chair each other's committees, the church representatives who have attended and the Circuit

Stewards. It has been a lot of work co-ordinating the three groups and meeting the various timescales required for the process.

Whilst I am saying thank you, I would also like to say a huge thank you to Stephanie (our Circuit Manager and Safeguarding Lead) for all of her work sorting out the Wootton Manse with furniture, crockery and other furnishings ahead of the arrival of Sydney, and also for all of her other work sorting various life arrangements from schooling to access to doctors etc. We know that this has taken a lot of work in addition to her normal day job and everyone in the Circuit is very thankful, not least of course Sydney, who now has a lovely family home in Wootton. Thank you also to the many people who supported with donations for this.

As you may be aware, Jane McVey is stepping back from her role as Co-ordinating Circuit Steward, but I am delighted to say that she has agreed to stay on as part of the Circuit stewarding team. Jane has worked incredibly hard over a number of years on the Circuit Leadership Team, providing great knowledge, leadership and wisdom as we have approached a variety of challenges. On a personal note, I will always be thankful for the support that Jane provided to me when I became a Circuit Steward. Thank you, Jane, for all of your work leading us, and thank you for offering to continue as part of the team.

“Our Church’s Future Story” On Saturday 8th November there will be a meeting at Kempston East Methodist Church from 10.00am – 12.30pm led by Rev Silas Wood and Angela Turner, our District Discipleship Enabler. We are asking each church to send a minimum of two people. We will be focussing on the “Our Church’s Future Story” resources provided by the Methodist Church so we can look at growth plans. This will include personal spiritual growth, missional growth and numerical growth. Each church will form a Growth Plan and Circuit funds will be made available for resources to implement the plan. I pray that this will be a well-attended event, and that over the coming years with Silas at the helm, as a team in North Bedfordshire, not only will we grow our personal faith, but that we will become stronger and grow together, and ultimately, we will see more people experiencing the love of Christ.

May God bless you in this new Methodist year.

Every blessing

Phil Timms

Co-ordinating Circuit Steward

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE CIRCUIT – OUR CHURCHES

Circuit ----- Circuit Office, Putnoe Heights, opposite Arrow Leys, Bedford **MK41 8EB**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/northbedfordshiremethodistcircuit>
Website ----- <https://www.northbedsmethodist.org.uk>

GCMC Ampthill ----- Dunstable Street, corner Chandos Road, Ampthill **MK45 2JS**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/greensandmethodist>
Website ----- <https://www.greensandcommunitymethodistchurch.com>

Anjulita Court ----- Bramley Way, Bedford (access from Tyne Crescent) **MK41 7GD**

Beeston ----- The Baulk, Beeston, Sandy **SG19 1NR**

Cardington ----- Cople Road, Cardington **MK44 3SH**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/howardchurchcardington>
Website ----- <https://howardmemorialchurch.co.uk>

Clapham ----- 27 High Street, Clapham, Bedford **MK41 6EQ**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/ClaphamMethodistChurchBedford>

GCMC Clophill ----- High Street, opposite The Causeway, Clophill, Bedford **MK45 4BE**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/greensandmethodist>
Website ----- <https://www.greensandcommunitymethodistchurch.com>

GCMC Flitwick ----- Chapel Road, Flitwick **MK45 1EA**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/greensandmethodist>
Website ----- <https://www.greensandcommunitymethodistchurch.com>

Haynes ----- Silver End Road, Haynes **MK45 3PS**

Henlow ----- High Street, Henlow **SG16 6BS**

Kempston East ----- Bedford Road, Kempston **MK42 8DA**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/KempstonEastMethodist>
Website ----- <https://www.kempstoneastmethodist.org>

Kempston West ----- High Street, Kempston **MK42 7AL**
Website ----- <https://www.kempstonwest.org.uk>

Langford ----- High Street, Langford **SG18 9RU**

Lidlington ----- Church Street, Lidlington **MK43 0RJ**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/LidChurch>
Website ----- <https://lidlingtonchurch.org.uk>

London Road, Bedford --- London Road, corner Barford Avenue, Bedford **MK42 0NT**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/LondonRoadMethodistChurch>

Oakley ----- High Street, corner Chapel Pound, Oakley **MK43 7RQ**

Park Road, Bedford -Park Road West, corner Beaconsfield Street, Bedford **MK41 7SB**

Priory, Bedford ----- Newnham Avenue, Bedford **MK41 9QJ**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/PrioryMethodistChurch>
Website ----- <https://www.priorychurch.org.uk>

Putnoe Heights, Bedford --Putnoe Heights, opposite Arrow Leys, Bedford **MK41 8EB**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/PutnoeChurch>
Website ----- <https://www.putnoechurch.org.uk>

Sandy ----- St Neots Road, opposite Engayne Avenue, Sandy **SG19 1BP**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2780781105645143>

Sharnbrook ----- Park Lane, Sharnbrook **MK44 1LS**

Shefford ----- Amphill Road, Shefford **SG17 5BD**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/536635809845907>
Website ----- <https://sheffordmethodist.net/shefford-methodist-church>

Stewartby ----- Park Crescent, Stewartby **MK43 9NL**
Website ----- <https://www.stewartbychurch.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Trinity, Biggleswade -- Shortmead Street (near Trinity Close), Biggleswade **SG18 0AP**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/302683700306>

Upper Caldecote Biggleswade Road, corner Ashby Drive, Upper Caldecote **SG18 9BL**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/spreadgodsword>

Willington ----- Station Road, corner Chapel Lane, Willington **MK44 3QH**

Wootton ----- Cause End Road, Wootton **MK43 9DE**
Facebook ----- <https://www.facebook.com/woottonnewlife>
Website ----- <https://www.woottonnewlife.com/home>

The silence and the between

by Rev Paulette Tedd

Christmas Day is the pinnacle of expectation and waiting at this time of year, whether or not you follow the Christian faith. Most of us absorb the sense of waiting and anticipation; the spectacle of emerging Christmas trees adorned with lights illuminating our homes and village greens. Festive shopping or window shopping for many as we order online are part of the gathering rhythm. Carol singing, maybe going to church, definitely going if you are a believer in Christ.

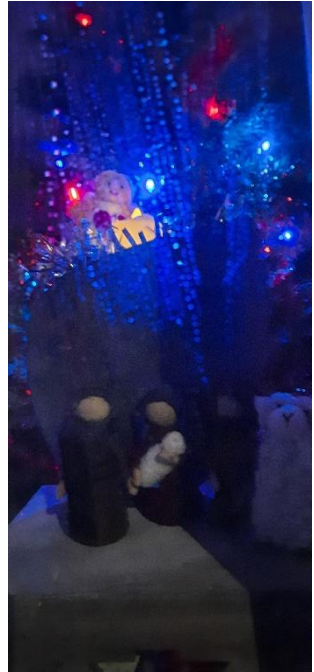


I suspect a lot of us value the human contact as part of the shopping experience, rather than sitting at home on our laptops, ordering absolutely everything, or is that just me? Having entered into ministry last year was the least interaction I had had with Christmas shoppers. If you live on your own, it can be one of the ways to interact with other human beings. Shopping online or not, our minds are filled with the busyness of it all, until the day of feasting. When Christmas Day arrives and if we are gifted with the love of family or people who care enough to provide and share a meal, we sit and consume edible Christmas delights, with all the trimmings.

And then the silence. You might sit and hear the deafening silence and wonder what it was all for? I have found I can sit and be silent and enjoy the peace. It's a place where a maelstrom of thoughts and feelings can

be heard and felt and possibly resolved. You can allow your heart and mind to settle and think about so many things. How has the last month or year gone? How has my Christmas card list expanded or decreased compared to last year? Have I lost or made new friends? Who is missing at this time?

Mary and Joseph have had the baby Jesus, and the shepherds have had the most mind-blowing experience. They have been visited by an angel followed by a whole host of angels, singing at the top of their voices, telling them this child is very significant. And then the silence as the angels disappear. In that space after the heavenly singing, they had an opportunity to consider their next step. Should they carry on with the job of shepherding the sheep and say, “Well that was unexpected.” Or step out into the adventure of discovering this new significant baby. Together they would have tried to evaluate what they had experienced and then decide what to do next.



At this time, we know another year is coming and so we enter into another time of expectation for the year to come. In the silence some of us may hope for a job or more money and what that can give us. We no doubt want a better year if circumstances have not been good for us. Maybe like the shepherds, we can step into a new and exciting adventure of love and peace, speaking of hope because of a new relationship of light and goodness and peace for the world.

This is what it was all for.



Kempston East Wesley Guild



100 and still going

Kempston East's Wesley Guild will be 100 years old this year. The Wesley Guild in Kempston was formed on 17th September 1925 when it was combined with the well-established meeting, the 'League of Fellowship'. The joint meeting then became known as the 'League of Fellowship and Wesley Guild' which met between September and May, just as we do today. At some time the 'League of Fellowship' part of the name was dropped.

The origin of the Guild motto, 'One Heart, One Way' goes back to the Guild's Founder's Manual, written by the Reverend W. B. Fitzgerald in 1903, where he writes that our motto is a translation of that used by the Earl of Exeter, 'Cor Unum Via Una, and after the motto had been adopted he brought attention to the fact that that these words occur in Jeremiah chapter 32 (King James translation) - *They shall be my people and I will be their God and I will give them **one heart and one way** that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them and of their children after them. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good but I will put my fear in their hearts that they shall not depart from me.'*

The Wesley Guild was set up with four elements - **Devotional, Christian Service, Literary and Cultural** and **Social and Musical**. Being a midweek meeting and with churches being able to provide a meeting place, Guilds attracted many young people

and this continued for many years. Unfortunately, this is not the situation now: younger people have found many other ways to spend their leisure time, so much so that very few Guild meetings now exist and those that do are supported by mainly elderly people.

Our Guild at Kempston East held regular weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings between September and May, but following the disruption of COVID, once we were able to meet again it was decided to move to Wednesday afternoons. We still prepare our programme around the four aims and invite a varied selection of speakers, presenters and entertainers to our meetings.

Although the Guild was formed in September 1925, we have always held our Anniversary Services in October, presumably to avoid the start of the Methodist year and Harvest festivities. This year is special for us, and we shall be holding our 100th Anniversary Service on Sunday 12th October at 10.30am when a former President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev Dr Mark Wakelin will be the preacher. Many of our friends from the Circuit churches have joined with us for our meetings over the years, and anyone who is able to come to this special service will be most welcome.

We also extend a welcome to anyone who would like to join with us at our twice-monthly Wednesday afternoon meetings. If you would like a copy of our programme or any further information please contact our Secretary, Roger Skipper, on 01234 768640 or email rogerskipper@outlook.com

Kempston East Wesley Guild sends its best wishes to you all.

Michael Stevenson Vice-President

North Beds Methodist Circuit Library

by Jenny Endersby

The Circuit Library now has over 1000 books. The majority of these are listed in the profile under **Goodreads.com** and range from contemporary authors like Pete Greig to classics like Strong's *Systematic Theology*.

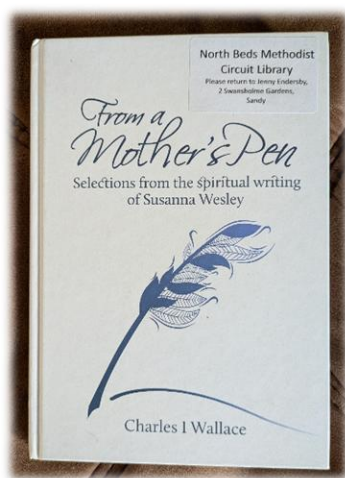
The books are tagged into genres such as biographical (my favourite); daily readings; meditations; study guides; theological (more in-depth contributions) and various other categories, the largest of which is Christian living - the default when the book didn't fit under anything else!

However, there are 70 that are ex-directory as it were, because they are not listed in Goodreads.com, including a few titles from well-known names like C H Spurgeon and Stuart Briscoe but mostly obscurer authors like Jean Nilsen and Ron Dale, that were friends of the donors.

One that caught my attention was "*From a Mother's Pen - selections from the spiritual writings of Susanna Wesley*" by Charles I Wallace. There are extracts from her journals and letters covering advice to her children, interest in theological thinkers of the time as well

her own spiritual reflections and the account of the rectory fire when her son John Wesley nearly died.

For more information, please contact [**jennyendersby2@gmail.com**](mailto:jennyendersby2@gmail.com)



FROM THE EDITOR ...

This is the first of the fully 'new look' Circuit Magazines, and you will see that the lists of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders have been omitted, as flagged up previously. There will be only three issues this Connexional year, each to be published following a Circuit Meeting. This means that you will find in these pages a full report of matters discussed at the recent September Circuit Meeting, under the usual title: Circuit Matters, on pages 10 & 11. It also means that, since the next Circuit Meeting is some months away, this issue covers the period October – March (i.e. six months). We are not including details of Christmas events / services, nor of Lent, Holy Week and Easter events. These were not felt to be necessary, and in any case, it is rather early to ask about them!

We would really like to know your views on the new arrangements and omissions. Contact details for the Editorial Team are on the inside back cover, and for Ministers and Circuit Stewards on the inside front cover, so do give us a call or drop us an email, or feel free to chat to us in person at church. The new system is being trialled this year, and will be reviewed in due course, so feedback is extremely important, and always welcome.

Cheryl Benfield



If you have ever wanted to learn to play the organ in your church, you now have an opportunity to have some free tuition via our bursary scheme.

If you live in BEDFORDSHIRE OR HERTFORDSHIRE and are aged between 10 and 25 years old, then please visit our website...



bedsandhertsorganists.org where you will see all the relevant detail.

Visit our young organists page on this site and apply or indicate your interest using the online form.

Stephen McDonald

Bursary Co-ordinator

Deputy Director of Music Elstow Abbey



**Methodist Women
in Britain**

For women, for justice, for Christ

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)

~ Circuit News ~

During 2025 our Circuit is playing host to two MWiB District Days, when women from around the District meet together for fellowship, worship and usually a speaker on a specific subject. On 7th June we met at Trinity in Biggleswade and were privileged to have Rev Leonora Wassell, Co-Chair of the National MWiB Committee speaking about her visit to the United Nations Women's Gathering in New York, as well as introducing us to The Butterfly Movement which seeks to highlight the continuing global issue of violence against women.

The second District Day we are hosting will be on Saturday 25th October at Putnoe Heights Church. In the morning we shall be launching our new District Charity, CHUMS, which began nearly 30 years ago at Keech Hospice, to support children after bereavement. It eventually moved to Wrest Park and now has a wider role, covering young people's mental health and wellbeing, baby loss and suicide bereavement.

Our speaker will be Richard Luscombe, who is a member of GCMC (Flitwick) and has a personal interest in the work done. He has been involved with CHUMS since 2014. In the afternoon MWiB retiring Co-Chair, Maggie Woods, will give us an insight into her recent visit to Rwanda. Thank you to Putnoe for offering to host this day. It should be very interesting and we hope for a good attendance.

With regard to The Butterfly Movement there will be a Service of Thanksgiving and Affirmation on Tuesday 25th November from 10.30am-12.30pm at Wesley's Chapel in London. The speaker will be the President of Conference, Rev Richard Andrew. It will include survivor stories, presentations from charities and material from young people within the Methodist Church. I hope to go myself and encourage others to join me.

We did not have a Circuit Easter Offering Service this year, but tried to encourage individual churches to hold their own service using the material provided by MWiB. I know that several churches did, and Rev Leslie Noon adapted it beautifully and used it as our Mission Group service in June. The amount raised in the Circuit for the World Church this year amounted to £1,778.90, and the appeal was supported by most of our Circuit churches. Thank you to all those who contributed, and a big thank you to Linda Pitts who is our Easter Offering Treasurer. Hers is not always an easy task, and she does it with patience and efficiency!

Jenny Broadbridge

Circuit MWiB President

MWiB is a Registered Charity No: 1156626



Beds, Essex and Herts District
Methodist Women in Britain

DISTRICT DAY

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER

at PUTNOE HEIGHTS CHURCH

PUTNOE HEIGHTS

Opposite ARROW LEYS

BEDFORD MK41 8EB

11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Coffee served from 10.30 am

Morning Speaker:

Richard Luscombe

on behalf of CHUMS, our new Partnership project,
which is a Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service
supporting Children, Young People and their families.

It includes baby loss and loss through suicide.

Afternoon Speaker:

Maggie Woods the former Co-Chair of MWiB

An Illustrated Talk on her recent visit to Rwanda
on behalf of Methodist Women in Britain

Bring your own Lunch

Drinks Provided

Renewing, sustaining and growing the ministry of
the **North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit**

OUR CIRCUIT BIBLE VERSE

*The **Lord** has told you what is good, and this is what **He** requires of you: to do what is **right**, to **love mercy**, and to **walk humbly with your God**. Micah 6:8 (NLT)*

Circuit Mission Statement

- We will follow the

Holy Spirit who is
calling us to **LOVE**

and be

DISCIPLES
OF JESUS

working for

GOD'S KINGDOM
- **God** with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
 - one another, as **Jesus** loved His **followers**
 - all others, even enemies, as **God** does
 - becoming like **Christ**
 - behaving like **Christ**
 - bringing others to meet and follow **Christ**
 - that **God's will** be done
 - in the **Church**, and on **Earth**
 - for all, as it is in **Heaven...**

OUR CIRCUIT PRAYER

As your church in this place,
help us to do justice,
love mercy
and walk humbly with you,
O God.
Amen.

Ministers in other appointments

Rev Chrissie Howe		c/o District Office
Rev Terry Wright	<i>terry.wright144@mod.gov.uk</i>	07581 009784
(Forces Chaplain at Chicksands)		

Ecumenical, Authorised & Associate Ministers

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URC (Minister - Cardington)		
Rev Catherine Wilson	<i>vicar@bromhambenefice.org</i>	01234 825665
Anglican (Vicar at St Mary's Church, Oakley)		
Rev Petra Yates	<i>curate@bromhambenefice.org</i>	07504 118405
Anglican (Curate at St Mary's Church, Oakley)		

Supernumerary Ministers

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Rev Julie Bradshaw	<i>julieiw2@gmail.com</i>	01234 405530
Rev Douglas Ford		
Rev Jim Gorringe	<i>jimgorringe@icloud.com</i>	01234 216352
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Rev Alan Kirk	<i>alankirk58@hotmail.com</i>	01234 317699
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Circuit Portable Appliance Tester

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Circuit Meeting Minute Taker

Anne Cooper

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The Circuit Manager (Stephanie Field) is mostly home based, and can be contacted either by email northbedscircuitoffice@gmail.com or mobile 07522 928936. She does not work on Fridays.

The Circuit Finance Officer (Damilola Obajemu) : Fixed working hours are now Fridays 8.00am – 4.00pm, and she can be contacted either by email northbedsfinance@gmail.com or mobile 07798 808988.

Both are happy to meet people at the Circuit Office if required.

Circuit Office c/o Putnoe Heights Church,
Putnoe Heights, Bedford MK41 8EB

Magazine editorial information

A meeting to discuss the content of the next issue will be held
using Zoom on **Friday 16th January** at 7.30pm
EVERYONE WELCOME

For Zoom details, contact an editorial team member (see page 23)

All **Articles** for the next edition of the Circuit Magazine to a
member of the editorial team
no later than **Sunday 22nd February** please

Communication: We are trying to communicate the Circuit News by the most effective methods we have available, which include email, Circuit and church websites and a limited number of printed copies.

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Contact details can be found via the Circuit Directory
or via the Circuit Office on 07522 928936