



# North Bedfordshire Circuit

The **Methodist** Church 

34/1

# Magazine

Issue No.54

Winter 2024-25

God counts the stars by number,  
giving each one a name.

God's knowledge can't be grasped!

*Psalm 147:4, 5b CEB*

Circuit information...see inside for further details.

Sunday 1st December

Circuit Advent Service  
3.00pm at GCMC Ampthill

For diary dates, see page 38

## **Chair of the District**

**Rev Dr David M Chapman**    *david.chapman@behdistrict.org.uk*    Office 01279 657195  
[District Office email    *beh34office@gmail.com*]

## **Circuit Ministers**

Superintendent

**Rev Michael Giles**    *michaelgiles2017@gmail.com*    01234 930882  
Primary Pastoral Responsibilities:    Kempston East, Kempston West,  
(Rest day – Saturday)    Stewartby LEP and Wootton

Deputy Superintendent

**Rev Silas Wood**    *swood11@me.com*    01525 571392  
Primary Pastoral Responsibilities:    Greensand Community Methodist Church  
(Rest day – Friday)    (comprising Amphill, Clophill, Flitwick),  
Haynes and Lidlington LEP

**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 Paulette Tedd**    *paulette.tedd@outlook.com*    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

**Jane McVey**    *janecmcvey@aol.com*    07866 802179  
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# ***A Pastoral Letter***

by Rev Chris Sandy



From the Manse...

Grace and Peace to you from  
God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friends, the weather is gradually changing with a drop in temperature which tells us that winter will soon be on our doorstep; and it has also been a time when some of our communities, churches and homes have experienced flooding in some parts of Bedfordshire. We have ploughed the fields and harvested that which was planted... some of the harvests are good and some not so good, but in all of this we have been able to give thanks to our God for His providence and grace through our Harvest Services.

## **Who is the stranger among you?**

The Dalai Lama once said, 'Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you cannot help them, at least don't hurt them'. The beauty of life does not depend on how happy you are, but on how happy others can be because of you. Who is the stranger amongst you? Do you feel distaste when you hear the English language spoken with an accent? Kosuke Koyama [\*] in his lecture *Extend Hospitality to Strangers* said, "*Theology to be authentic must be constantly challenged, disturbed and stirred up by the presence of strangers. ... The quality of religion is ... determined by its attitude towards strangers*". Remember, extending hospitality to the stranger is like extending it to Christ (Matthew 25:35). Extending hospitality to strangers can be a

dangerous act. Christ was crucified because He offered hospitality to strangers so completely. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King Jr, Steve Biko amongst others suffered martyrdom following the way of Christ, extending hospitality to strangers. The question is: How do we as a Circuit and churches reconcile the biblical mandate to extend hospitality to strangers in a broken, politically correct nation and a world full of violence, war, insecurity and discontinuities? Part of the answer lies in the heart of the Gospel (Luke 10:30-37; John 13:34); part of it also lies in our civic societal duties to one another, and the rest is for you as a church or individual to reflect upon.

If we put our faith to work for the good of humanity, what a beautiful and peaceful world it would be.

My vision and hope for this Connexional year is for us as a Circuit and churches to re-evaluate our mission focus and to recognise the stranger amongst us. Let us remember the Commandment of Christ, in which He enjoined upon us to *“Love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength...and to love our neighbour as ourselves”* [Mark 12:30-31]. Friends, it is part of our covenant with God in Christ, because we no longer belong to ourselves but to God. His will and not ours, and may it be so forever. May our walk of discipleship be guided by the Holy Spirit as we minister to others in this broken world of ours.

Every blessing  
Rev Chris Sandy

“EXTEND HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS” – A MISSIOLOGY OF THEOLOGIA CRUCIS

\* KOSUKE KOYAMA was professor of Ecumenics and World Christianity at the Union Theological Seminary in New York.

This article was delivered as the 1992 Mission Lectureship at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and subsequently was published in the school's theological journal, *Currents in Theology and Mission*, in June 1993.

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



## Circuit Mission Statement

We will follow the  
Holy Spirit who is  
calling us to LOVE

- God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
- one another, as Jesus loved His followers
- all others, even enemies, as God does

and be  
DISCIPLES OF JESUS

- becoming like Christ
- behaving like Christ
- bringing others to meet and follow Christ

working for  
GOD'S KINGDOM

- that God's will be done
- in the Church, and on Earth
- for all, as it is in Heaven...



### 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)*



### Our Circuit Prayer

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

# HOWARD MEMORIAL CHURCH, CARDINGTON

## . . . . REVISITED . . . .

*by Ray Goodship*

### **All-Age Adventure**

As many of you know, Howard Memorial Church, Cardington has had a focus on working with children and young people for many years. We have been running a summer Holiday Club every year since 1992 (including a virtual Holiday Club during COVID) and Friday Clubs have been running during term-time since 1999. These clubs are generally attended by children who do not have any other connections with the church family, therefore for them, Friday evening becomes their “Sunday Worship”. We normally include a Bible story, message and prayer as well as the normal games, craft work and tuck shop!

It is extremely encouraging to see some of the young people who came along to Holiday Club and Friday Clubs in the early days are now part of the leadership team, as they bring along their own ideas and enthusiasm into the running of the clubs. In fact three of these young leaders took the decision to become members of the church and a Membership Service was held in March 2022.

Our weekly Sunday services are truly “All-Age Worship” as we are now blessed with families with young children through to members in their nineties. This blessing however comes with its challenges, as we endeavour to create services that are both meaningful to adults whilst engaging the attention of the children. There are still too many services when the “children’s address” (if it occurs) is the only time in the service when the presence of the children is acknowledged.

However, we have had some encouraging services when all ages have been engaged with the theme of the worship with the use of visual aids, interactive Bible readings, action songs and creative prayers. I find these new expressions of worship both refreshing and memorable, as they stay with me through the following week.

During the COVID pandemic we used “Zoom” software for Sunday services, Friday Clubs, Bible studies and church meetings. We continue to use Zoom for weekly services, which means that those who are housebound or who need to be at home for other reasons can still participate in worship. In some cases, such as our monthly Local

Arrangement Sunday, some of the “remote” members of our congregation help with leading the services, thanks to the technology of Zoom and the skill of our technical operator!

Another recent initiative which has been well supported is “Pimm’s & Hymns” which we have held in the open air (in the church car park) in September for the last two years. The hymns have been selected by various members of the congregation. It has been extremely informal and relaxed with games and crafts for all ages as well as a live band for the hymns.

The church is a family – God’s family, and a family, by definition, includes members of all ages with different skills and abilities, and some who are distant relatives. It is our responsibility to actively support and encourage all members of the church family whatever their age and ability and wherever they are on their journey of faith.

*Ray Goodship*



## KEMPSTON WEST METHODIST CHURCH

• • • • REVISITED • • • •

*by Lynda Smith*

### **Kempston West - a Family Church**

Really, is it four years since we did our last outlook?

So for those who don't know, Kempston West is one of the smaller churches within the Circuit, both in membership and premises, found in the High Street in Kempston. It looks more modern than it is, seeing it was built in 1860.

You might ask how we continue to survive in this day and age especially after the dreaded COVID? Well we came through that with the expertise of Jean Prettyman who ensured the church was open as soon as possible in accordance with Government guidelines. We did learn during that period that communication was paramount, so produced news-sheets for members and encouraged the use of Zoom.

This prompted us to consider the installation of an AV system within the church, and with the amazing help of John Sackett, we were able to

install it in 2021. This comprised a large screen in the church, a smaller one in the pulpit and a large one for the Sunday Club and Girls' Brigade to use. The concern was who could operate it, but after prayer, several members came forward, and I have to say, it is well used (recently for Safeguarding training with Stephanie Field).

Other methods used to communicate with members are: a 'buddy' system to keep in touch with those unable to attend; every member receiving birthday and get-well cards (made by the church Craft Group); prayer requests circulated via email, and a monthly newsletter also sent out by email but delivered to those without electronic devices.

The young people of our family are well catered for by Suzy Connor who with helpers runs the Sunday Club with special events and Nativity plays. We all know that children can be noisy and messy, but what a joy to see them in church with their families.

We like to get together with Coffee Mornings for charities nominated by members, raising over £1,000 for charities as varied as cancer charities, RNLI, MHA, Mercy Ships etc. These are held on the second Saturday in the month - friends from other churches in the Circuit are very welcome to come.

Our wider family is the community: a daily pre-school helping 34 families, and a weekly Kempston Concert Band practice. Our Girls' Brigade company meets weekly and consists of 40 girls from 4 - 18 years of age run by young and enthusiastic officers. The church is very grateful for the time they give up to ensure the girls have a fun Christian time. The Boys' Brigade do similar and meet at Kempston East.

With COVID and financial concerns, as in most churches, things have not been easy, but we have all come through with God's help.

We pray that Kempston West will continue to be a working church, financially sound, open to all and more importantly as a family of love, trust and joyful fellowship with each other in our life in Christ.

*Lynda Smith*  
Steward Kempston West



## SANDY METHODIST CHURCH

If you come and visit Sandy Methodist Church, you will find these two displays in the hall. They have been put together during recent Local Worship services when we don't have a preacher leading the service. The first reflects on John 15:5, and as we stuck grapes into bunches, we thought about the seven churches of the new Eastern Section of the North Bedfordshire Circuit, and we prayed for them and their congregations and our new relationships.



The second was inspired by Rev Leslie Noon's post-Sabbatical service on colour. The Tapestry (Life is but a weaving) poem by



Corrie ten Boom was a last-minute addition that perfectly summarised the service, and as we gathered round the loom made by David Germany and wove ribbons together, we talked about what God was doing in each of our lives and prayed for one another. Both services were good times of

conversation, craftsmanship and congregational blessing from God, and we now have the reminders lighting up our church hall.

Jenny Endersby

## WOOTTON NEW LIFE CHURCH

Along with thousands of other locations, Wootton Methodist held a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the end of September. Friday 27th wasn't the warmest (or driest) of days, so it was a good job we were inside! On Saturday 28th the weather was much better. On both days a good number of people came along to support the fundraising event, by purchasing from the various stalls, or making a donation.

As in previous years, the Coffee Morning was run by, and supported by, members at Wootton, and those from the wider community. Over the two days we raised nearly £1,200 for Macmillan, to help them in the work that they do supporting those living with cancer.

In 2023 nationally, Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' raised £18m to help them continue the greatly appreciated work that they carry out.

For some months, Wootton Methodist have been hosting a 'Neighbourhood Chat' on Wednesdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm. Between 30 and 40 people from the local area (who have little or no other contact with the Methodist Church) come along. In addition to 'chat', they consume cake, enjoy fellowship and coffee (or other such drinks). On 18th December we will be making this our midweek pre-Christmas carol singalong.

Starting on 7th October, and then on the first Monday of each month, from 2.30pm to 4.00pm the Neighbourhood Chat team, with help from others, has been running a 'Memory Gym' for those with dementia, and their carers. All qualifying supporters, carers and individuals are welcome to attend. The work is being supported by the Tibbs Dementia Foundation.

Breaking news - we have received this message from Kath, the organiser:- *The feedback from the first session of the Memory Gym has been amazing. I was stunned by the number of people that came, 35 in total, and how much they enjoyed it. Today another six people have said they that they want to come. The comments on the Wootton Community Group and our own Facebook page are so positive. There is definitely a need for this group.*

*Brian Addington*



>>> NEWS FROM CHURCHES <<<

## **LONDON ROAD COMMUNITY CLUB**

If you are a member of a local social media group, you will no doubt be familiar with posts asking for recommendations of gutter cleaners, electricians, etc., along with requests to look out for lost cats. Amongst these on my phone was a post from someone new to the area asking if there was anywhere locally they could play table tennis. This got me thinking of the equipment standing idle after the closure of London Road's Youth Club a few years ago. Why could we not welcome members of the church and local community to an open social space to play games or just spend time with others over tea and coffee? London Road held its first 'Community Club' on 27th September. A dozen or so people turned up, church members and some new faces, and everyone said what a great time they had. A wonderful opportunity to form new relationships and connect Church with community.

Community Club will run on the last Friday of each month from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. All ages are welcome (but children must be accompanied).

*Andrew Constant*

# **Oakley Methodist Church**

## **Looking back to 1974**

- Coal miners and railway workers were on strike.
- The country was restricted to a three-day working week.
- A global oil shortage and energy crisis meant lower speed limits to conserve fuel.
- Two general elections, with a hung parliament for a time, and a minority government for a time.
- Britain entered recession.
- The President of the USA resigned.
- Turkey invaded Cyprus.
- The National Front won 10% of the votes in London elections.
- State of emergency declared in Northern Ireland.
- Lethal IRA bombs exploded at the Tower of London, Guildford pubs, the Houses of Parliament, Birmingham pubs, a Woolwich pub, the Brooks Club and a coach on the M62.
- The mortgage interest rate rose to over 15%.

But 1974 wasn't all doom and gloom.

McDonald's opened its first restaurant in the UK.

A Moscow summit promised an easing of tensions in the Cold War.

Sinclair released his budget pocket scientific calculator.

ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with 'Waterloo'.

And in 1974, in Oakley, after much earnest and prayerful discussion, planning and money raising, the chapel was demolished and a new Methodist church opened. The old chapel, a Victorian brick box, was showing many signs of its age. Damp here and there, tie bars holding it together, fixed pews of course, and a wheezy harmonium to accompany the hymns.

The congregation at the time was a mix of old and young, long-time residents and newcomers, enthusiastic and sceptical.

At a pivotal meeting, old Mr Payne (he was probably in his sixties!) had a conversation with the Chairman that went like this:

Mr Payne: *What do we need a new church for? This one's good enough.*

Chairman: *But you've just moved into a new bungalow. Don't you prefer it to your old house?*

Mr Payne: *Ooh yes. I love it. Bright and cheerful, airy rooms, warm and comfortable, every modern convenience.*

Chairman: *That's what we want here.*

Mr Payne voted for a new church.

So those people, now mostly gone but remembered fondly, dedicated themselves to the future. They wanted the Gospel to be preached and the community served more effectively.

They knew the past, but the future was unknown. Nevertheless, the old guard - the Coopers, Bartholomews, Parrots, Bunnies (yes, it was a bit of a menagerie), and those of us new to the village, committed our resources of time and talents to an unknown future.

And here we are, 50 years later. In that time, much has changed, but the Church, the nation and the world still seem to move from one crisis to another.

Some of that unknown future has been revealed over the years, and this church and the Parish Church have steadfastly continued to spread the Christian message of hope and redemption.

And as we and our friends of 50 years ago did, we can look back to the past, but as it was then, the future is unknown.

But that doesn't matter, because we can affirm with conviction, as we did 50 years ago:

**We'll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come.** [*Singing the Faith No.67*]

*Alistair Riach*

# TAIZÉ 2024

A group of us from the Elstow Team Ministry, along with our friends from the Church of the Transfiguration in Kempston, had the pleasure of visiting Taizé in July. Led by Fr Paul Messam, Rev Mike Stewart and Rev Steve Marsh, we set off in our minibus on the evening of Saturday 20th July and returned to Elstow Abbey in the early hours of Monday 29th July.

The Taizé community is an ecumenical Christian monastic community in the Burgundy region of southern France. It is composed of about one hundred brothers, from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from about thirty countries around the world. Fr Paul has proudly been attending Taizé for many years now, and Mike and Steve have also visited in recent years too. However, for the majority of our group, it was our first time at Taizé!

We camped together for the week and immersed ourselves in the life of the Taizé community, which involves attending three services at the main church each day, as well as taking

part in group study and discussion. Another requirement of the Taizé community is that everyone actively volunteers to support the community in a whole host of ways. This can be anything from welcoming people to the church, to cleaning the toilets! Our group was involved in many different aspects of the Taizé community throughout the week.

As the only British group during our week in Taizé, we gave a great account of our nation, as we welcomed people from many different countries and traditions to our group. It was lovely to have the opportunity to meet so many people from countries such as France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy and beyond! Many of us made some great friends during our time in Taizé, and we hope to meet them there again in the future.

Overall, we had a truly memorable and blessed week in Taizé and all of us are certainly looking forward to attending again next year! If anyone is interested in joining our Taizé trip next year, then do please speak to me, John Henry or any of the clergy team in the Elstow benefice.

*Cyrus Moghtadaii*

*Churchwarden at St Michael and All Angels, Bedford*

# SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS

[smallactsofkindness.co.uk](http://smallactsofkindness.co.uk)

01923 372717

Small Acts of Kindness is a registered charity, reducing loneliness and isolation for older and vulnerable people, with a particular interest in helping those who are cold in their homes. They do this by sourcing, packing and distributing practical gifts and information.

The largest project is their *Warm in Winter* gift bags, which are given

FREE to those aged 55 and over. They contain essential, practical, keep warm items including fleece blanket, thermal hat, gloves and socks, a mug, hot drinks, soup and porridge. They also contain their comprehensive Purple Pages information pack, which is full of literature and telephone numbers signposting to relevant support, services and activities.

The items and information together break the cycle of loneliness and isolation that can have such a devastating effect on an older person's health. For some, they are a lifesaver, reaching those who are having to make the unimaginable choice between heating their home or buying food.

*Warm in Winter* gift bag recipients have said...

"I was thrilled and comforted by all the warm and good things in one small bag. It was magic."

"Receiving this gift brought a tear to my eye. I often feel forgotten, but this showed someone is thinking of me."

"I found the blanket to keep me warm so I can get a good night's sleep."

"Made me feel very happy and not so alone."

Working with over 150 community partners, 450 volunteers and with thanks to the kindness of their donors, Small Acts of Kindness reaches over 15,000 people every year.



All gift bags are distributed free of charge to people aged over 55 across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. To nominate yourself or someone you know for a *Warm in Winter* gift bag, please call 01923 372717, email [info@smallactsofkindness.co.uk](mailto:info@smallactsofkindness.co.uk) or get in touch via our website [www.smallactsofkindness.co.uk/forms/nominate](http://www.smallactsofkindness.co.uk/forms/nominate)

If you are an organisation or community group working with older people and would like to distribute *Warm in Winter* gift bags to your service users, please contact [giftbags@smallactsofkindness.co.uk](mailto:giftbags@smallactsofkindness.co.uk)

To find out how you can get involved as a volunteer, or to support their work by donating, either one-off, or a monthly donation by joining The Kindness Club, please visit [www.smallactsofkindness.co.uk](http://www.smallactsofkindness.co.uk)

Every gift bag is a small act of kindness, that makes a big difference, helping people to feel warmer in their home, cared for and less lonely.



Registered Charity Number: 1178546

Dear Friends

## **News from the Circuit Leadership Team**

We are well settled into the new Connexional year by now, and we are also well into Autumn. Guess what, we are even well into planning our Christmas arrangements!

District Synod was held in our Circuit in September – in Biggleswade, and it all went very smoothly. Thank you to Stephanie Field in particular for organising it all and to many local helpers who came and served tea, showed people around and generally oiled the wheels as it were.

In most sections, churches and Mission Groups are getting to know their new Ministers and other churches in their group. We were pleased to welcome Rev Paulette Tedd in September and she has pastoral responsibility for the new Great Ouse Mission Group – which comprises Clapham, Oakley, Sharnbrook, Willington and Howard Memorial Church at Cardington. She is settling in well and I know will be a great asset to the Circuit.

Rev Chris Sandy now has responsibility for the Bedford Methodist Churches – London Road, Park Road, Priory and Putnoe Heights. They have made an excellent start and plan to continue to forge an identity as Methodist Churches in Bedford with a focus on mission.

Rev Leslie Noon has taken the Eastern section of the Circuit – Beeston, Henlow, Langford, Sandy, Shefford, Trinity and Upper Caldecote – again with a focus of bringing churches together where it makes sense to do so and exploring models of shared church where practical.

Greensand Community Methodist Church continues to work effectively as a multi-site church with a growth in members and many positive experiences.

Rev Michael Giles will be leaving us next year, so we have gone into Stationing for a Presbyter to lead that section – covering Haynes, Kempston East and West and Wootton. We will have to wait and see whether or not we are successful.

However, we are having to face some serious challenges in the next two to three years and beyond. It is likely, in view of declining numbers of members and income levels, as well as the shortage of Ministers being trained, that we will go down to four Ministers in the next few years. It is difficult enough to resource all our churches now, but it will not be possible to sustain our current number of churches in the future.

Our current strategy is to create shared churches – whether multi-site churches or other models as a way of using our people, both ministerial and lay, most effectively, but on its own that will not be enough. We will also use technology to broadcast services, live or recorded, again as a way of sustaining local worship. Building up local Worship Leaders is very important too, as is having different service times on Sundays. All of these are important and ways we can continue to sustain what we do.

But we all have to think seriously about what will generate energy and mission and a positive growth in the future. We all know how good it feels when we come together for worship as larger groups – how can we do that in a way that empowers people rather than alienates them?

Somehow we must do that if we are to survive as a Methodist witness in North Bedfordshire. Anyway, we go on in faith, trusting in our God to lead us – and that we will listen to what the Spirit is saying to us.

Every blessing

*Jane McVey*

Co-ordinating Circuit Steward

## NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE CIRCUIT – OUR CHURCHES

<b>GCMC Ampthill</b>	----- Dunstable Street, corner Chandos Road, Ampthill	<b>MK45 2JS</b>
<b>Anjulita Court</b>	----- Bramley Way, Bedford (access from Tyne Crescent)	<b>MK41 7GD</b>
<b>Beeston</b>	----- The Baulk, Beeston, Sandy	<b>SG19 1NR</b>
<b>Cardington</b>	----- Cople Road, Cardington	<b>MK44 3SH</b>
<b>Clapham</b>	----- 27 High Street, Clapham, Bedford	<b>MK41 6EQ</b>
<b>GCMC Clophill</b>	----- High Street, opposite The Causeway, Clophill, Bedford	<b>MK45 4BE</b>
<b>GCMC Flitwick</b>	----- Chapel Road, Flitwick	<b>MK45 1EA</b>
<b>Haynes</b>	----- Silver End Road, Haynes	<b>MK45 3PS</b>
<b>Henlow</b>	----- High Street, Henlow	<b>SG16 6BS</b>
<b>Kempston East</b>	----- Bedford Road, Kempston	<b>MK42 8DA</b>
<b>Kempston West</b>	----- High Street, Kempston	<b>MK42 7AL</b>
<b>Langford</b>	----- High Street, Langford	<b>SG18 9RU</b>
<b>Lidlington</b>	----- Church Street, Lidlington	<b>MK43 0RJ</b>
<b>London Road, Bedford</b>	--- London Road, corner Barford Avenue, Bedford	<b>MK42 0NT</b>
<b>Oakley</b>	----- High Street, corner Chapel Pound, Oakley	<b>MK43 7RQ</b>
<b>Park Road, Bedford</b>	-Park Road West, corner Beaconsfield Street, Bedford	<b>MK41 7SB</b>
<b>Priory, Bedford</b>	----- Newnham Avenue, Bedford	<b>MK41 9QJ</b>
<b>Putnoe Heights, Bedford</b>	--Putnoe Heights, opposite Arrow Leys, Bedford	<b>MK41 8EB</b>
<b>Sandy</b>	----- St Neots Road, opposite Engayne Avenue, Sandy	<b>SG19 1BP</b>
<b>Sharnbrook</b>	----- Park Lane, Sharnbrook	<b>MK44 1LS</b>
<b>Shefford</b>	----- Ampthill Road, Shefford	<b>SG17 5BD</b>
<b>Stewartby</b>	----- Park Crescent, Stewartby	<b>MK43 9NL</b>
<b>Trinity, Biggleswade</b>	-- Shortmead Street (near Trinity Close), Biggleswade	<b>SG18 0AP</b>
<b>Upper Caldecote</b>	-Biggleswade Road, corner Ashby Drive, Upper Caldecote	<b>SG18 9BL</b>
<b>Willington</b>	----- Station Road, corner Chapel Lane, Willington	<b>MK44 3QH</b>
<b>Wootton</b>	----- Cause End Road, Wootton	<b>MK43 9DE</b>

## **PREACHERS TAKING APPOINTMENTS**

1992	Brian Addington	2008	Liz Little
1992	Roz Addington	2021	Meredith Major
2000	Brenda Ballantine	1993	Ebo Ofori-Quaah
1992	Helen Boshier	2008	Claire Peck
2009	Angela Brydon	2003	Sue Plant
2018	Paul Burgin	1975	Chris Robinson
1976	Michael Carr	2008	Glynne Rowlands
2011	Paul Cooper	1996	John Sackett
2021	Anne Foley	1983	Ros Salisbury
1997	Graham Follett	2010	Geoff Talbot
2010	Chris Fox	2009	Perilyn Thomas
2011	Hazel Hitch	1970	Janet Watts
1973	Keith Lilley	2021	Angie Woodcraft
1990	Pat Lilley		

## **PREACHERS UNABLE TO TAKE APPOINTMENTS**

1969	David Bushman	1965	Vivian Martyn
1991	Alan Davis	1978	Jim Ragless
1966	Chris Izzard	1954	Daphne Stiles
1978	Keith Jordan	1969	Silvia Thomas
1961	Pat Larman		

## **PREACHER ON NOTE**

Carmen Rowe

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

### **GCMC Ampthill**

Patsy Aston  
Margaret Byass

### **Beeston**

Sonia Butler  
Mary Millar

### **Clapham**

*Charles Abban (T)*

### **GCMC Clophill**

Anne Cooper  
Victoria Higgins

### **GCMC Flitwick**

Maryan Pateman

### **Kempston East**

Rosemary Simms  
Stuart Simms  
*Terry Stevens (T)*  
Barbara Tipping

### **Langford**

Jenny Broadbridge

### **London Road (Bedford)**

John Caves  
Andrew Constant

### **Oakley**

Noel Evans  
Jeanette Letch  
Jane McVey

### **Priory (Bedford)**

Lynne Gound  
Marian Knights  
Carmen Rowe

### **Putnoe Heights**

*Sue Allen (T)*

### **Sandy**

Jenny Endersby

### **Sharnbrook**

Marian Blyth

### **Shefford**

*Beckie Gray (T)*  
Mairi Perks

### **Stewartby**

Elaine Sullivan

### **Trinity (Biggleswade)**

Tricia Mapletoft

### **Willington**

Pat Davies  
Keith Tompkins

*(T) = In training*

# **I wish it could be Christmas every day!**

by Phil Timms

For those of you who don't know me, I work for the supermarket chain Tesco and have done since 1998. For the first 19 years I worked in stores in various management roles, with the final decade being spent as a Personnel Manager, and for the last seven years I have worked at our Head Office in Welwyn Garden City managing the union relationship, writing employment policy and leading people change projects and consultations. All very exciting topics, as I am sure you will agree!

One common gripe people often share with me, is "Christmas gets earlier and earlier, and then on Boxing Day you put out the Easter eggs!" If you think Christmas starts early for you as the customer, imagine what it is like for those of us who work here! The buying team spend all year preparing for Christmas: in fact the lead time to order toys can be up to 18 months ahead, so the toys they are buying in October 2024 probably won't make it onto the shelves until Christmas 2026. One of the advantages we have in working at Head Office is that the campus where we are based also houses the test kitchens, and from time to time we get invited over to sample various dishes that are being trialled, so that the food team can see how their recipes score against our competitors. All retailers exert a great deal of energy focussing on their Christmas range: the Christmas quarter is known as the golden quarter, the time of year where if you win, you safeguard your full year results. As a Personnel Manager in stores, from September I would begin forecasting our Christmas sales and planning our recruitment needs. In Milton Keynes Kingston (my last store) we would typically take on an extra 100-150 temporary colleagues, all of whom would need interviewing and inducting and training, and that's not to mention planning Christmas dinner sittings for circa 650 colleagues – that was always a massive event.

So what about being a Christian in retail?

Christmas is very commercialised, and I have to admit sometimes it saddens me that the true meaning of Christmas is being lost, but I think my feeling above all is, how wonderful it is that Christmas and Easter are major parts of my calendar both as a Christian and as a retailer.

I could moan about Christmas being too commercialised, I could moan about it starting earlier and earlier, but isn't it wonderful that Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ – is still celebrated in 2024 as a significant event.

Now clearly the retailers are not especially seeing Christmas as an opportunity for them to share a Christian message, but when the decorations go up, I find it easier to talk about being a Christian with the people I work with. I buy and accept presents that are given with love, just as the baby Jesus was given gifts, and I share my faith more boldly than perhaps I do at other times.

As Christians we cannot change the commerciality of Christmas, and in my opinion we are fighting a losing battle if we try. So let's use this time to make the most of the advertising and pomp that retailers create (& pay for), to bring our message alive. Let's celebrate that the retailers are giving us free publicity and therefore that we have a bigger platform than normal to say that Christ was born and came to save!

Supermarkets love to have choirs in their shops singing songs – so why not do that and spread the Christian message? Think about what your church looks like: let's put our decorations up with pride, and let's make it a place that welcomes people in like the retailers do. Maybe send Christmas cards to the local houses nearby, welcoming them to the events that you are running. Christmas is for all, and Christmas does begin with Christ – our job is to help people find that Christ, whether they are in a shop, online, or homeless on a pavement outside.

To close I'll leave you with some facts:

In Tesco in 2023:

- Tesco donated enough surplus food during Christmas week to feed 250,000 people.
- In our busiest period, we served over 14,000 customers every minute – so think about the staff!
- We sold 88 million Brussels sprouts and 4 million bags of carrots in the week leading up to Christmas.
- On the Friday and Saturday before Christmas, 7 million pigs in blankets flew off our shelves.
- On the Saturday before Christmas, over 200,000 turkeys were sold – that's more than two every second.
- The Tesco winter food collection collected over 2 million meals for foodbanks across the UK.

In Church:

- According to Premier Christian News, attendance at church grew by 20% last Christmas.

In the New Year, Tesco will be measured on its Christmas performance and the analysts will tell us if we got it right or not. What will the analysts say about your Christmas at your church - 20% growth? - Let's hope so!

May God bless you all at this most special time of year – may you all be blessed, and may you all recognise those blessings and use them to the full.

Every blessing

**Phil**  
(Circuit Steward)



# First Ever Eastern Section Awayday

About 30 people from all seven Eastern Section churches gathered together in the middle of October for our first ever Awayday. We met at Willington Methodist Church, which was an excellent venue, and the theme of the day was **'Calm in the Storm'**.

In the morning, we explored the story of Jesus calming the storm – making paper boats and pondering how we would feel if we were in the boat (puking over the side or desperately trying to save the boat, screaming in fear or praying to God). We used Rembrandt's painting of the account and a 'Visio Divina' exercise (divine looking) to bring us further into the story, and



we shared in groups about our storms and how we deal with them. We found the reflections and thinking really helpful. Then in the afternoon, for something completely different, we enjoyed either being creative using a number of different mediums or playing a variety of board games, all of which was great fun. We went home telling others how much we enjoyed it and are looking forward to another Awayday in the spring.

*Rev Leslie Noon*



## Circuit Service for Advent

Theme : From Darkness to Light

Organised by Methodist Women in Britain

Sunday 1st December at 3.00pm

GCMC Ampthill

all are invited

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## Listening

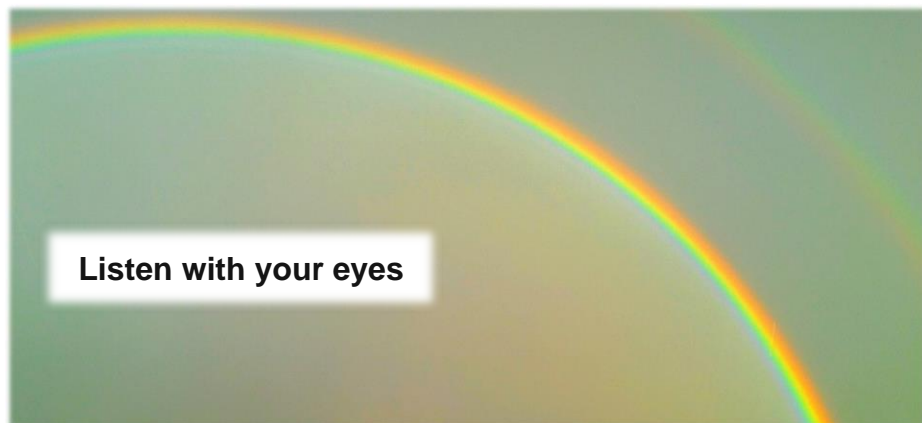
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by Rev Paulette Tedd

I have a strong childhood memory of a cut-out yellow basket, with a pop-up baby Moses. I made this at Sunday School, no doubt whilst listening to the story of Moses.

As an adult, I spent 18 years as a solicitor, listening to people, and helping them to understand the law and how it applied to their circumstances. At the start of my career I advised those who lived a life of deprivation. For most of my career, however, I was employed by a number of local authorities as a solicitor.

Listening is a skill that transfers well to ministry. The distinction is that in the legal world you suggest options for ways forward. In ministry on the other hand, you rely on God and the Holy Spirit to guide you rather than saying, “This is what you can do, or my advice is to do that”. God began to speak to me through the Bible as I read the text and prepared services as part of the church band. I felt led to preach and later applied for ministry during lockdown in 2020, and began my course with The Queen’s Foundation in 2021. My husband and I arrived in Bedford during the summer, and I continue to listen, so that I can absorb and learn more about what it is to be in ministry.



There is another way to listen. Listening with your eyes as opposed to your ears may seem a strange thing to say, but it turns out you can learn a lot by doing this. I was surprised to see these words in a children's song that teaches the colours of the rainbow. Red and yellow and pink and green. You may remember, as I do, singing this at school, or you may have sung this to your children or little ones you care for.

I was reminded of the melody and words, curiously enough after moving to Bedford. A few years ago whilst on holiday in Suffolk, I bought a painting by artist Claire Dowson, titled Autumn Leaves. I was attracted by the vibrancy of the colours on the canvas, depicting fallen autumn leaves



*Autumn Leaves : Claire Dowson  
Buckenham Galleries, Suffolk*

lying on the ground. Seen through the eyes of the painter, the leaves take on a vivid kaleidoscope of reflective colour representing the change of season from summer to autumn. A favourite season of many, autumn tapers the heat of summer and the loss of garden blooms into a wonderful in-between season before the cold of winter. As I placed the painting against a new wall, in a new place, I found myself looking at the painting in a new way, seeing its life-giving energy all over again in a different place.

Listening with your eyes is a good description of really observing and wondering at the spectacle of autumn. In the hearing we can observe a green leaf is much more than its singularity. On its own it has its own green value; together with all the other leaves on a tree, it has another sort of beauty. Falling to the ground and becoming brown, bronzed, yellow or a mixture of those, it becomes another wonderful spectacle and part of a community of change. To hear what another person sees with their eyes, encapsulating the brilliance of the scene of fallen autumn leaves, is a window into the heart of another person's wonder at the season of change. Stopping and observing gives us an opportunity, I believe, to understand the joy of another person. We experience delight in the scene in turn. Using our sight in this way feeds our senses as we see and hear autumn in the rustling leaves of the painting. Who knew! It turns out it's perfectly possible to listen with your eyes.

**Rev Paulette Tedd**



Messy Church is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), which is registered as a charity, number 233280 [www.brf.org.uk](http://www.brf.org.uk)

Messy Church enables people of all ages to belong to Christ together through their local church. It is a way of being Church which is particularly suited to families, but welcoming to all.

It usually consists of all-age craft activities, worship and a meal for all the family. There is no fixed charge, but donations are welcome to cover costs. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please check church websites or Facebook pages for details regarding Messy Church events around the Circuit.

## **LIDLINGTON**

Advance notice: Messy Church at Lidlington is still in the planning stages. We expect to be starting in January - the exact date is yet to be decided.

## **LONDON ROAD (Bedford)**

We had an enjoyable Messy Church session on Saturday 5th October, where our theme was 'Seasons'.

We also thought about being thankful for God and everything good in our lives, including the ever-changing seasons.

32 people attended, and as always we had some lovely feedback about how everyone who attended enjoyed the crafts, music and food.



Thank you to all that helped in any way. We look forward to our next Messy Church, which will be our Messy Nativity on Sunday 15th December at 2.00pm. All welcome.

***Hannah Mason***

## OAKLEY

Messy Church for All takes place after school from around 3.15pm – 5.30pm at Oakley Methodist Church (all ages welcome – all children to be accompanied).

Dates are as follows:-

Tuesdays – 19th November, 17th December, 14th January and 11th February.

If possible, please do let us know that you can come by sending an email to [mcarr49@hotmail.com](mailto:mcarr49@hotmail.com)

There are also sessions for pre-school age children every Thursday in term-time only from 10.00am – 11.45am at St Mary's Church in Oakley.



## TRINITY (Biggleswade)

Messy Church happens on the third Saturday of the month.

Families are invited to join in crafts, activities, Christian stories and enjoy a meal together.

Dates are as follows:-

Saturdays – 16th November, 21st December, 15th February, 15th March, 19th April and 17th May.

Sessions are from 10.30am – 12.30pm with lunch included.

Watch our Facebook page for the 'theme of the month'.

It is very helpful to know if you are coming!

Please indicate on the Facebook page or send an email to [bmapletoft@hotmail.com](mailto:bmapletoft@hotmail.com)

## WILLINGTON

We will not be having Messy Church in December, but we will be having a Messy Pop-up Nativity on Sunday 22nd December at 10.30am and then back to normal in January and February as noted below.

Dates are as follows:-

Thursdays – 16th January and 20th February.

Both from 3.15pm - 5.30pm.

Please check with Pat on 01234 838667.

*The Messy Church® name and logo are registered trade marks of Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a charity (233280) and company limited by guarantee (301324), registered in England and Wales*

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# HOLIDAY CLUB REPORT : CLAPHAM

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## Powerpoint 2024

Preparation for Clapham Joint Churches Children's Holiday Club started early. Lots of prayer support was so valued prior to and during the Club. There was opportunity for intergenerational 'get-togethers' such as Pudding Night which proved fun and enjoyable and helped both 'The Team' and Junior Team (13-17-year-olds) gel.

During Prep Week (first week of the school holidays) all Junior Team attended daily, taking on painting scenery for the set and completing Safeguarding training, and several young people stepped forward to take parts in the daily dramas. Delicious light lunches and home-baked cakes were much appreciated and enjoyed by all.

On Sunday 28th July, a Powerpoint Commissioning Service took place at the Parish Church. The Holiday Club ran from Monday 29th July-Friday 2nd August from 9.45am-12.00 noon. Between 45-50 children attended daily. Scripture Union material 'Pyramid Rocks' was used for the Bible teaching, fun games and many crafts. There was drama, singing and even keep-fit too! The presentation in the main hall was led by Keith as *Captain Ketchup* and Emma (Keith's daughter) as *Flash*. The memory verse was Romans 8:28 [NIV] and was learnt over the week:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

The children were amazing at learning this by heart. It took me back to Sunday School Anniversaries when we all had recitations to learn!

The week rounded off on Friday afternoon with a presentation in the main hall followed by a delicious barbecue. This was attended by families and team members. Much appreciation was shown by parent/carers for the exciting week their children had experienced. May all who attended feel richly blessed, and we look forward to Powerpoint 2025!

***Helen Gadsden***

Clapham Joint Churches Rep

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## **HOLIDAY CLUB REPORT : LIDLINGTON**

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### *Creative Art Extravaganza!*

A wonderful summer holiday Creative Art Extravaganza was held in the church hall on 7th August 2024.

So much talent, and fun was had by all!

With thanks to the parents who have kindly allowed us to share these photographs.







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# HOLIDAY CLUB REPORT : CARDINGTON

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at Howard Memorial Church

Monday 19th August marked the beginning of our week-long Holiday Club at Howard Memorial Church, Cardington. This is an annual event which sees children aged 4-16 years from across the local areas come together to learn more about Jesus and His teachings.

This year, following the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, our Holiday Club was named 'On Your Marks', with an Olympic theme throughout the week.

Across the week, we welcomed 23 children into the church and had the support of 13 helpers to make it an engaging, exciting and enriching atmosphere for all.

Using a range of crafts, stories, songs and messy challenges, each day we explored a different Bible story and theme which was linked to a sport for the day.

In this article, I thought I would give you a brief outline of what we did across the week and how we explored the chosen Bible stories each day.

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

*1 Corinthians 12:27 [NIV]*

You guessed it... we began the week exploring the teachings from the body of Christ passage, with the focus being on working together as a team. Monday's sport was football, with the emphasis on each footballer having a different role to play in the team, just as we each have different talents and a different part to play in Jesus' team. The children explored what skills and talents they could bring to Jesus' team.

*“Jesus said, “Follow me!” Mark 2:14*

On Tuesday, our sport for the day was rowing. Just at the cox leads the team in the rowing boat, we imagined Jesus as the leader of our team and focussed on the stories where Jesus called his ‘original team’ to follow Him. We encouraged the children to think about, and pray for their ‘teams’ – their family, friends, school.

*“Jesus told him, go and do likewise” Luke 10:37 [NIV]*

On Wednesday, we explored The Parable of The Good Samaritan, where Jesus taught us to ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’. We linked this story to dressage; just as the horse follows the teaching of its rider, we should follow the teachings of Jesus. We discussed how it’s not always easy to follow the rules, and explored how we can pray for forgiveness.

*“Take courage! ... Don’t be afraid” Matthew 14:27 [NIV]*

Thursday’s sport was synchronised swimming (some links were more tenuous than others!) On this day, we shared the story of Peter’s faith when Jesus walked on water and calmed the storm. Just as the synchronised swimmers have faith in one another to do the right routine, we should have faith in God, and not be afraid. We also shared the ‘Footprints in the Sand’ passage with the children and encouraged them to think about events coming up in the future which they would like to pray for, for example, starting a new school, college or year group.

*“We have the seed of the gospel word. It is up to each of us to set the priorities and to do the things that make our soil good and our harvest plentiful.”*

Dallin H Oaks

I came across this passage recently, and it really resonated with me, as to why we actually put on this Holiday Club each year.

We focussed on The Parable of the Sower on Friday and linked it to a relay race, with the idea of 'passing it on'! We illustrated the parable using different plants and spoke about what we can do to pass on the Good News of Jesus, as the Holiday Club came to an end.

As a team of leaders, we reflected on our journeys to where we are now, leading the Holiday Club ... some of us were children at the holiday club many years ago; we heard the Good News as children, and now we are passing it on as adults to the next generation. This is the power that youth work can have, and we are really proud of the difference we can make to children's lives, even though we are just a small church in a small village!

Thankfully, the youth work doesn't end at the end of Holiday Club. We feel very passionately about 'passing on' the Good News of Jesus, and therefore still hold our Friday clubs. Friday Fun Factory (FFF for Reception to Year 4) and The Friday Experience (TFE for Years 5-13) run on alternate Fridays where we continue exploring our faith through crafts, games and stories. We pray that this can continue and we can continue to support the next generation in finding their place in Jesus' team!



### *Smile a while*

The Lord is my programmer, I shall not crash.  
He installed His software on the hard disk of my heart;  
all of his commands are user-friendly.  
His directory leads me to the right choices for His name's sake.  
Even though I scroll through the problems of life,  
I will fear no bugs, for He is my backup.  
His password protects me.  
He prepares a menu for me in the presence of my enemies.  
His help is only a keystroke away.  
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,  
and my file will be merged with His and saved forever. *Amen*

From "*A Barrel of Fun*" J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.



FROM THE EDITOR ...

As I hope you are by now aware, I am planning to step down as Editor of the Circuit Magazine next summer, but as yet we have not received any response to my previous requests for help or suggestions. As I see it, there are three possible options for the future:

- 1 – Someone steps forward to take on the role of Editor of the magazine in its present (or similar) form.
- 2 – The magazine continues in a different, probably reduced, format. Someone / Some people will of course need to be responsible for producing this.
- 3 – The magazine ceases to exist, and there will be no comparable vehicle for connecting the Circuit.

If you have thoughts, suggestions, bright ideas, offers of help, please share them with us.

Contact details for the Magazine Team and the Circuit Leadership Team are all in the magazine.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Cheryl Benfield*

# Circuit Diary Dates

FOR DETAILS OF OTHER EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT PLEASE  
SEE THE CIRCUIT WEBSITE [www.NorthBedsMethodist.org.uk](http://www.NorthBedsMethodist.org.uk)

AND THE CIRCUIT FACEBOOK PAGE  
[www.Facebook.com/NorthBedfordshireMethodistCircuit](http://www.Facebook.com/NorthBedfordshireMethodistCircuit)

**Circuit Men's Luncheon Fellowship** is held  
on the second Wednesday of each month (October to May inclusive)  
at **Priory, Bedford** from 12.15pm until around 2.30pm.  
Please tell Mike Elliott ([mike.elliott@zapboing.com](mailto:mike.elliott@zapboing.com)) if you are interested  
and he will send you any updated information and reminders.

## DECEMBER

Sun 1st	3.00pm	Circuit Advent Service led by MWiB at <b>GCMC Ampthill</b>
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## FEBRUARY

Tues 4th	7.30pm	Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Meeting using <b>Zoom</b>
Thurs 20th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting using <b>Zoom</b>

## MARCH

Wed 5th	7.00pm	Circuit Ash Wednesday Service at <b>Putnoe Heights</b>
Wed 19th	10.00am (all day)	Presbyteral District Synod in the <b>Colchester Circuit</b>

## MAY

Sat 10th	10.00am - 1.00pm	Representative District Synod in the <b>South Essex Circuit</b>
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## **Ministers in other appointments**

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

## **Ecumenical, Authorised & Associate Ministers**

<b>Rev Sarah Burrow</b>	<i>sarah.burrow@mha.org.uk</i>	01234 273642
Anglican (Anjulita Court and Ladyslaude Court MHA Chaplain)		
<b>Rev Martin Truscott</b>	<i>martintruscott@gmail.com</i>	07989 965172
URC (Minister - Cardington)		
<b>Rev Catherine Wilson</b>	<i>vicar@bromhambenefice.org</i>	01234 825665
Anglican (Vicar at St Mary's Church, Oakley)		
<b>Rev Petra Yates</b>	<i>curate@bromhambenefice.org</i>	07504 118405
Anglican (Curate at St Mary's Church, Oakley)		

## **Supernumerary Ministers**

<b>Rev Richard Barrett</b>	<i>regbarrett2@btinternet.com</i>	01767 312723
<b>Rev David Bown</b>	<i>davidbown47@hotmail.co.uk</i>	01234 589194
<b>Rev Julie Bradshaw</b>	<i>julieiw2@gmail.com</i>	01234 405530

<b>Rev Bill Davies</b>
------------------------

<b>Rev Douglas Ford</b>		
<b>Rev Jim Gorringe</b>	<i>jimgorringe@icloud.com</i>	01234 216352
<b>Rev Cassandra Howes</b>	<i>cassandra.howes@gmail.com</i>	01234 793177
<b>Rev Alan Kirk</b>	<i>alankirk58@hotmail.com</i>	01234 317699
<b>Deacon Vera Pearson</b>		01234 270737
<b>Rev David Winwood</b>	<i>revwin.64@gmail.com</i>	01234 359930

## **Circuit Finance Officer**

<b>Damilola Obajemu</b>	<i>northbedsfinance@gmail.com</i>	07798 808988
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## **Circuit Property Secretary**

<b>Richard Ward</b>	<i>richard.ward4@btinternet.com</i>	01234 852400
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## **Circuit Meeting Minute Taker**

**Anne Cooper**

## **Circuit Safeguarding Officer**

<b>Stephanie Field</b>	<i>northbedssafeguarding@gmail.com</i>	07522 928936
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## **Circuit Manager**

<b>Stephanie Field</b>	<i>northbedscircuitoffice@gmail.com</i>	07522 928936
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## **Magazine Editorial Team**

<b>Cheryl Benfield</b> (Editor)	<i>cheryl.benfield@ntlworld.com</i>	01234 851600
<b>John Caves</b>	<i>johncaves@btinternet.com</i>	01234 831361
<b>Shaun Endersby</b>	<i>shaun@oddpst.com</i>	01767 220623
(Technical Editor)		
<b>Stephanie Field</b>	<i>northbedscircuitoffice@gmail.com</i>	07522 928936

**Churches** should send their dates for the next Plan (with details of preachers they have booked) to **their Minister** by **Sunday 29th December**

**Preachers** should enter their availability on Chrestos by **Sunday 29th December**

All **Articles** for the next edition of the Circuit Magazine to a member of the editorial team no later than **Sunday 5th January** please

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

The Circuit Finance Officer (Damilola Obajemu) works on Mondays 9.00am-2.00pm, and Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9.00am-4.00pm, and she can be contacted either by email [northbedsfinance@gmail.com](mailto:northbedsfinance@gmail.com) or mobile 07798 808988.

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

Circuit Office c/o Willington Methodist Church,  
Station Road, corner Chapel Lane, Willington MK44 3QH

### **Magazine editorial information**

A meeting to discuss the content of the next issue will be held using Zoom on **Friday 22nd November** at 7.30pm

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

For Zoom details, contact an editorial team member (see page 35)

*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.*

*IMPORTANT: If you are reading a paper copy of this magazine, then please pass to another person or recycle once you have finished with it. Thank you.*

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

see also The Circuit website at [www.northbedsmethodist.org.uk](http://www.northbedsmethodist.org.uk)  
Circuit Charity Registration No. 1129523