

North

The **Methodist Church** 

Bedfordshire

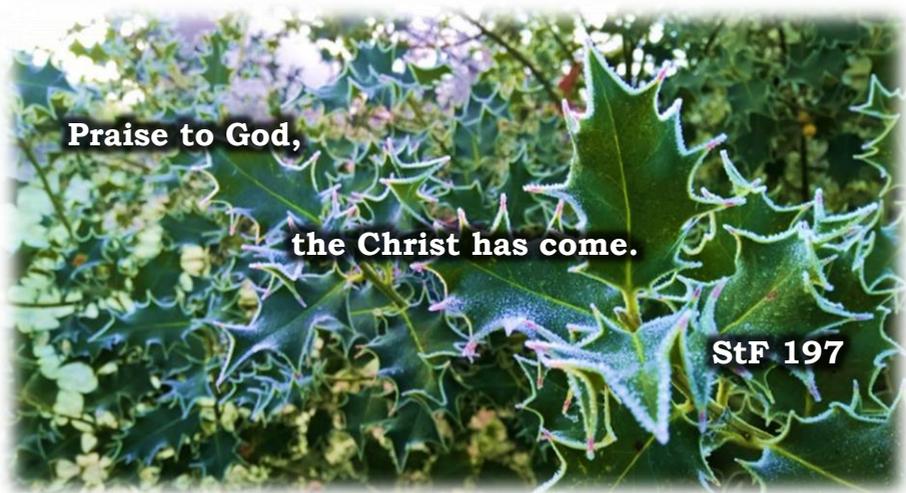
Circuit

34/1

Magazine

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Winter 2022/23



The events listed within may be subject to hybrid arrangements due to the ongoing prevalence of COVID-19.

Please check relevant information prior to planning attendance.

Circuit information...see inside for further details.

For Christmas Eve services, see page 13.

For diary dates, see page 26

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, Stewartby LEP,
(Rest day – Saturday) Willington and Wootton

Deputy Superintendent
Rev Silas Wood *swood11@me.com* 01525 571392
Primary Pastoral Responsibilities: Ampthill, Clophill, Flitwick,
(Rest day – Friday) Haynes and Lidlington LEP

Rev Leslie Noon *leslienoan@hotmail.com* 01767 304635
Primary Pastoral Responsibilities: Beeston, Cardington LEP, Priory (Bedford),
(Rest day – Saturday) Sandy and Trinity (Biggleswade)

Rev Chris Sandy *christopher.sandy@methodist.org.uk* 01234 860464
Primary Pastoral Responsibilities: Clapham, London Road (Bedford), Oakley,
(Rest day – Friday) Park Road (Bedford), Putnoe Heights and Sharnbrook

Rev Lorna Valentine *lorna.valentine@methodist.org.uk* 01462 813284
Primary Pastoral Responsibilities: Henlow, Langford, Shefford
(Rest day – Tuesday) and Upper Caldecote

Circuit Stewards

Co-ordinating Circuit Steward
Jane McVey *janecmcvey@aol.com* 07866 802179

Michael Carr *mcarr49@hotmail.com* 01234 824504

Nick Guy *nick.guy1@btinternet.com* 07980 985125

Phil Timms *phil.timms@tesco.com* 07732 771690

Finance Steward
Alan Davis *alaned163@gmail.com* 01234 215057



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...



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.

A Pastoral Letter

by Rev Chris Sandy

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

***In the darkness, see the coming light,
Word of God speaks through the darkest night,
keep a watch, the time is near,
time for hope and not for fear so,
let it burn.’ (StF 174)***

Friends, it is the time of the year again that comes with mixed feelings and emotions, although chief of which should be feelings of much anticipation and joy because of the light that is to come. The light that will shine through darkness in our lives and around us.

The time of the year when we think about giving and receiving of gifts, church fairs or bazaar, carols, turkeys and puddings. It is also a time when some would be remembering their lost loved ones. It can also be a time when some families already struggling could become victims of loan sharks in order to buy gifts for children and family members. Others would become homeless or jobless, and some are refugees in foreign lands, whilst others are still dealing with the effect of COVID-19. It doesn't matter what our situation might be: what matters is that the Light of the World has come, and let us keep alight that light of Hope, Justice and Peace. ***‘Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.’ Isaiah 41:10 [NRSVA]***

To wait is one aspect of our life that most if not all of us struggle with. We sometimes get so impatient that we end up doing something stupid that we regret later. Did I hear you say, not me? The way we behave in traffic jams, in queues at banks, supermarkets, a posting to come through or an answer to prayers. We often get frustrated with waiting and we are always in a hurry to get to the next place or do the next thing. It is human nature, and we always try to justify our actions. Waiting is even harder when we want to hear news about something or even when we pray and expect an immediate answer. In such instances, our patience can be tested, and we start to question God and His ways. We may even wonder whether God hears our prayers or is asleep or away on a vacation.

Waiting is a virtue that should be exercised in what we do. **Isaiah 40:31** tells us: ***'But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint' [KJV].*** Friends, let us learn to trust God and wait for His time and moment. Let us allow God to be God and not try to force situations to suit our purpose. Let us wait with much anticipation and prayer. Cowper the hymn writer also exhorted:

***Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust Him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.'*** (StF 104)

Stay well and stay blessed.

Chris



Medical Detection Dogs (MDD), a world-leading, innovative charity, trains dogs to save lives using their amazing sense of smell. It does this through *Medical Alert Assistance Dogs*

and *Bio Detection Dogs*, both of which can be trained to detect the scent of life-threatening medical conditions that could affect us all. This work is much needed. One in two of us born after 1960 will be affected by cancer during our lifetime.

Diabetes is on the rise. The number of severe allergies people suffer from has increased and many are life-threatening. The challenge that all of these place on the NHS is well known, and lives are lost due to late diagnosis. The charity's work has the potential to save thousands more lives and transform the future of disease detection. Dogs offer a reliable,

cost-effective and simple solution to detecting diseases early and reduce the need for intrusive, unpleasant treatment.

Bio Detection Dogs are trained to detect the tiniest smells associated with diseases like cancer, Parkinson's, malaria and bacterial infections. This pioneering work could lead to dogs playing an important role in screening for diseases and improving patient care in hospitals. Beyond this, the vision is to help scientists and medics develop faster, cheaper, non-invasive methods of diagnosis. For example, there is currently no definitive test for Parkinson's, and when it is diagnosed, the condition is often too advanced for treatment to be effective. For prostate cancer, earlier and more accurate diagnosis will lead to more effective treatment and increase the chances of survival. Working with NHS Trusts and oncologists, scientists, universities, both in the UK and internationally, MDD is continuing studies into a range of diseases and has published several scientific papers about its work.

Medical Alert Assistance Dogs support people with complex health conditions when they are in danger of having a potentially life-threatening medical event, so they can take the necessary action and prevent hospital admission. Using the power of their nose, these assistance dogs can be trained to detect even the faintest changes in the smell of their human partner. Conditions such as Type 1 diabetes, severe allergies, PoTS, Addison's disease and other chronic medical conditions with crisis-type episodes are among those that the dogs can be trained to detect and alert, well before their human partner is aware that an episode is about to occur. As well as reducing ambulance call-outs and hospital stays, these dogs give their partners and their families greater confidence, peace of mind, independence and quality of life, allowing them to lead full and happy lives.

WOOTTON METHODIST CHURCH

- - - REVISITED - - -

Greetings from Wootton

by Thea Lee

When I was asked to do an update on David Goodson's piece about Wootton, I tried hard to pass it on to someone else, but there were no takers!

There are many of you who will be aware that David and Suzy and Courtney have moved north to be nearer to their daughter, son-in-law and now their new grandson. To say that their going left a huge gap at Wootton could be seen as an understatement, but we wish them well in this new phase in their lives.

We still hold fast to our philosophy to inspire everyone in the church to have a passion for Jesus and His Kingdom, in the community of Wootton and wherever God sends us. This means that our church may be used as a stepping stone on their faith journey for some people as they come, hear God's message and then move on.

Our congregation is now around 25-30 regular worshippers who gather each Sunday to encounter God, hear His Word, pray and sing his praises. We continue to have a variety of teaching themes and welcome the input of Ministers and Local Preachers as we study God's Word.

We are very blessed to have Allan and Nicola Tresidder as leaders in the Boys' Brigade & Girls' Brigade. In addition to this, they and their

team have taken on our young people's work on a Sunday morning with an exciting new format called Treasure Seekers. We are hoping to see this grow, and were greatly encouraged at our recent Harvest and Enrolment service when quite a few from the Brigades joined with our regulars and had a great time.

Knit and Natter continues to give people the opportunity to come together and do exactly that! As a group, they have contributed many knitted items for various services including Harvest and Nativity, Christmas ornaments for our tree, items for the Shoebox appeal and an amazing Last Supper tableau.

We have a Prayer and Bible Study group that meets on a Tuesday in the Prayer Room from 9.30am. Please feel free to come and join us.

Our Hub Café is now run by Cathryn and Andrew Watters, local to, and well known in, Wootton for their "pop-up" Keeley House Bakery. They open the Hub Monday-Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm and it has been well used by the local community. Look at their Facebook page for more information.

Things may have changed for us, but we stand in the love and strength of God, are listening to His plans for us and are committed to doing His work in this church and in our community.

Thea Lee
Senior Steward

World Federation Assembly

by Jenny Broadbridge



World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women

For six days in August I had the pleasure of attending the International Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW) - and all from the comfort of my sitting room. Originally planned for 2021 in Gothenburg, it was postponed one year, and transferred to Zoom. What an undertaking!

For the past six years, Alison Judd from Southampton has been the International President, and on the opening day there were 242 participating screens joining from around the world in many different time zones. We in the UK were fortunate as our timings were 10.00am – 2.00pm.



The theme of the Assembly was “*Go and Bear Fruit - Fruit that will last*”, and the opening worship led by Alison was colourful and joyful with an Assembly song which was repeated throughout the week. Included was a brilliant drama entitled “*By their fruits ye shall know them*”, written and presented by ladies from Southampton, which portrayed a heavenly garden being cared for by a gardening angel.

An unsuspecting visitor discovered that it isn't always the people who seem to have the loudest voice or who spend the most time at church who produce the greatest fruit. A salutary lesson!

Three aspects of Alison's opening devotions were that we should be Spiritual, Productive and Sustainable.

After a short break, Alison told us about all the world visits she had made before COVID intervened, including the British and Continental Europe Seminar in Belfast, which Sheila Smith and I were able to attend in 2018.

Closing devotions were led by a group from Europe Continental on the Fruit of Love.

Day Two opened with devotions on the theme of **Joy**, led by members from the South Pacific Area. Following this, the officers elected to serve for the next five years were introduced. They come from Zimbabwe, Chile, Ireland and Hong Kong.

The bulk of the morning was devoted to a thought-provoking Bible study by Jill Baker. Taking the theme “*Go and Bear Fruit that will Last*” from John 15, Jill pointed out that the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 is singular. This means we should have it all, unlike the Gifts of the Spirit which are only selectively given. Jill described the *Seeds* as our *Spirituality*, the *Fruit* our *Productivity* and the *Spirit* our *Sustainability*.

Prior to closing prayers on the theme of **Peace**, given by a member from South Asia, we heard reports of work being done with the United Nations.

Day Three opening devotions from Latin America were on the theme of **Patience**. Much of it was in Portuguese with a printed translation, including a song translated as: “We will not doubt but trust in God alone”.

A short Memorial Service was then held for former officers who have died since the last World Assembly in Houston in 2016.

The Assembly’s main language was English, but there were simultaneous translations taking place into several other languages. When we went into breakout groups, we picked a number according to our language - but the English speakers were then also divided according to their surname initial. I think there were about ten English-speaking groups!

I found my breakout group very interesting as we talked about our own situations. We discussed global warming and changes in climate. A lady from Ghana told us the winter had been colder than any they had known before. When asked what the temperature actually was, we were told about 20°C. It’s all a matter of what you’re used to! A lady from New Zealand was totally wrapped up against the cold, but the time there was about midnight! Papua New Guinea is suffering from real soil erosion, and we were told that the church is much nearer to the coastline than it was a year ago, and they are going to have to do something about it before very long. Sobering.

On Day Four we had reports from all nine world areas about their recent activities, but I missed much of it due to another engagement. The closing devotions were on **Faithfulness**, with a crowing cockerel punctuating the background!

Day Five was given over to the younger generation and the Helen Kim Memorial Scholars. Helen Kim was a Korean lady who set up a leadership development programme for young women aged 18–30 which is offered every five years by WFMUCW. It was really inspiring

hearing what the outgoing Scholars have been doing, and hearing from each of the newly elected Scholars regarding their interests and aspirations. Our outgoing Scholar, Rachel Allison, has been a tremendous ambassador for Methodist Youth, and has had the privilege of attending a session of the United Nations in New York.

The Assembly ended on Sunday morning with a final service, which included the Installation of the new officers. We saw the new President in her home church in Zimbabwe enthusiastically applauded by the congregation there, all dressed in their matching colourful Sunday dresses. The preacher from Germany was Rev Rosemarie Wenner. Goodbyes were said and copious thanks were given.

The technology had been amazing and seemed to have gone without a hitch. We paid a mere £30 to attend and it was worth every penny. A wonderful experience.

Jenny Broadbridge



Circuit Matters

by Jane McVey

Dear Friends,

Many of you will have either attended or had feedback from the Circuit Meeting held in September. The new Methodist year has brought some changes with it, and we are delighted to welcome Rev Leslie Noon to the Circuit. She has responsibility for Priory, Cardington, Trinity, Sandy and Beeston churches and is settling in well. Rev Michael Giles is now our Superintendent Minister, and Rev Silas Wood has become the Deputy Superintendent. His appointment has been extended for another three years until 2026. Rev Chris Sandy has taken on responsibility for Putnoe Heights church.

We also welcome Phil Timms as a new Circuit Steward – great to have you with us, Phil. There are also changes to Stephanie Field's role as she

becomes the Circuit Manager – helping us all to run and manage the Circuit. Alan Davis has assumed the lead Circuit Steward role for Finance, and is getting to grips with all things financial – thank you, Alan.

The Circuit has a new website too – please do take a look if you haven't already.

We are pleased to see some growth in membership in one or two of our churches, and there are many thriving activities taking place across the patch. However, we also recognise that some churches are struggling to maintain all their commitments, with fewer people able or willing to take on responsibilities.

Wherever possible, we look at shared services, increasing local worship and lay leadership and using our Ministers as flexibly as possible. Some parts of our Circuit are looking at the model of one church across several sites. More of that to come next year. The Strategy Working Group is meeting again this autumn to review where we are and what else we should be doing.

We are currently selling Wilstead Methodist Church, and Cranfield has also closed, so the process to sell that will be underway soon. We thank all our friends in those areas for their dedication over many years and wish them well wherever they now choose to worship. Sometimes it is timely to remember that God is with His people wherever they are, not just in church buildings, and indeed, whilst our buildings can enable many things, the work of God happens through God's people, that's you and me wherever we are.

As we all return to all our 'normal' church activities, we ask God's blessing on us as we seek to discern the way forward for Methodism in North Bedfordshire.

Blessings *Jane McVey* Co-ordinating Circuit Steward

C H R I S T M A S E V E S E R V I C E S

Some services may still be streamed using Zoom, so again, please check.

FLITWICK	11.15pm	Holy Communion led by Rev Silas Wood
HAYNES	11.00pm	Christmas Eve Celebration led by Brian Addington
KEMPSTON EAST	4.00pm	Children's Christmas Service (Evening service tbc)
LANGFORD	11.15pm	Christmas Eve Carols and Communion led by Rev Lorna Valentine
LIDLINGTON	4.00pm 6.00pm 11.30pm	Children's Carol by candlelight Carols and Lessons by candlelight Midnight Communion
LONDON ROAD (BEDFORD)	6.00pm	Crib Service at St Michael and All Angels
PRIORY (BEDFORD)	3.00pm	Christingle Service In person, via Zoom (link available via the church office) or on our website after Christmas
PUTNOE HEIGHTS	5.15pm	Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
SANDY	4.00pm	Christingle Service
SHEFFORD	4.00pm 6.00pm	Christingle Service Christingle Service
TRINITY (BIGGLESWADE)	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service followed by coffee and mince pies
WOOTTON	7.00pm	Carol Service

At the time of going to press, no other services had been confirmed

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE CIRCUIT – OUR CHURCHES

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

PREACHERS TAKING APPOINTMENTS

1992	Brian Addington	1990	Pat Lilley
1992	Roz Addington	2008	Liz Little
2000	Brenda Ballantine	2021	Meredith Major
1992	Helen Boshier	1993	Ebo Ofori-Quaah
2009	Angela Brydon	2008	Claire Peck
1976	Michael Carr	2003	Sue Plant
2011	Paul Cooper	1975	Chris Robinson
1991	Alan Davis	2008	Glynne Rowlands
2021	Anne Foley	1996	John Sackett
1997	Graham Follett	1983	Ros Salisbury
2010	Chris Fox	2010	Geoff Talbot
2011	Hazel Hitch	2009	Perilyn Thomas
2005	Thea Lee	1970	Janet Watts
1973	Keith Lilley	2021	Angie Woodcraft

PREACHERS UNABLE TO TAKE APPOINTMENTS

1960	Laurie Andrews	1965	Vivian Martyn
1969	David Bushman	1978	Jim Ragless
1970	Keith Harding	1954	Daphne Stiles
1966	Chris Izzard	1969	Silvia Thomas
1978	Keith Jordan	1957	Archie Whitby
1961	Pat Larman		

PREACHERS ON TRIAL

Jenny Endersby

ACTIVE WORSHIP LEADERS

Ampthill

Patsy Aston
Margaret Byass

Beeston

Sonia Butler
Mary Millar

Clophill

Anne Cooper
Victoria Higgins

Kempston East

Rosemary Simms
Stuart Simms
Geoff Talbot
Barbara Tipping

Langford

Jenny Broadbridge

London Road

John Caves
Andrew Constant

Oakley

Noel Evans
Jeanette Letch
Jane McVey

Priory

Lynne Gound
Marian Knights
Carmen Rowe

Sharnbrook

Marian Blyth

Shefford

Mairi Perks

Stewartby

Elaine Sullivan

Trinity

Tricia Mapletoft

Willington

Keith Tompkins



Circuit Men's Luncheon Fellowship

We meet at Priory Methodist Church on the second Wednesday of the month from October to May inclusive.

We assemble at 12.15pm for 12.30pm start and finish around 2.30pm.

The programme includes speakers and or discussions, interspersed with hymns, readings, and prayers, but above all, fellowship together.

Bring your own packed lunch, but cold and hot drinks are provided.

How much does it cost? Usually £3.50.

Why not come and join us...

For more details contact any of the following:-

Gordon Beeden	gbeeden@virginmedia.com	01234 267782
Alan Davis	alaned163@gmail.com	01234 215057
Mike Elliott	mike.elliott@zapboing.com	01234 355329
Noel Evans	noel@rory.plus.com	01234 262882

who will be pleased to help.



Social Action Mission Stream

The Social Action Mission Stream (SAMS) has been championing the Eco Church programme since 2019. Since then, five of our churches have achieved a Bronze Award - Sharnbrook, Putnoe Heights, Flitwick, Willington and Beeston. Some of our churches are now actively working towards Silver - and not just those who already have a Bronze Award! As you can see, the churches are varied in size and location, proving that Eco Church really is for everyone.



So what is Eco Church and how does it work? Eco Church is run by A Rocha UK, a Christian charity which is part of the worldwide family of A Rocha organisations

committed to nature conservation as an expression of Christian mission. Eco Church is an award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. It provides a holistic way to help you integrate creation care into church life. Once you've registered you can take their online survey to see how you are currently doing and where you might make simple changes.

The survey looks at five key areas:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

It takes into account whether or not your church is a listed building and whether or not you have any land, and you can save your survey responses at any point and return to update them as your church completes additional actions.

In June, the Methodist Conference stated its aims...

- to have 50% of all Methodist churches registered with Eco Church by 2026
- to have 50% of the Methodist churches registered with Eco Church having achieved a Bronze award by 2026
- to have 20% of the Methodist churches registered with Eco Church having achieved a Silver award by 2026.

Find out more at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/> or speak to a member of the SAMS team:

Marian Blyth, David Barnes, Shelly and Andrew Dennison, Stephanie Field

'tis the season for pantomime

by Keith Tompkins

Who doesn't enjoy a visit to the good olde traditional panto?

The pantomime is still a treat for old and young, whether it be a local drama club or a huge city centre attraction.

Being with the Bedford Marianettes for over 50 years, I always loved being in a panto. In my first one, I was cast as one of the Babes in Babes in the Wood, which we performed in the long gone but treasured Bedford Civic Theatre. Although a lovely quaint theatre, it did have its drawbacks, for instance small dressing rooms. The men's dressing room was mainly taken up by the Dame's huge costumes - plus the Dame hogged the make-up room for about two hours.

My fondest memory of pantomime was when we had the schoolroom scene. The teacher was of course the Dame in a gown and mortar board. The cast played the naughty schoolboys and schoolgirls. Much fun was had on the collapsing school bench. The boys loved playing jokes on the schoolgirls - huge trick spiders, whoopee cushions - the lot. As the youngest male in the cast, I was given the task of thinking up all the jokes to play on the girls, so the longer the week went on, the more drastic the jokes became! The other favourite scene was the kitchen scene, usually making a wedding cake, and always resulting in a mess.

A favourite in most pantomimes is the kids' singalong where, at great risk to himself the leading man invites the kids onto the stage to sing a song. The biggest problem was to stop the little perishers wandering off to explore backstage. Usually in this scene, the panto horse, goose or cow came on. There was always muttering from the back end of horse as the kids delighted in pulling his tail.

One year there was a popular TV advert for Pink Paraffin which featured a creature called Pongo - a sort of two-legged elephant which sniffed out paraffin. The producer decided that that year's panto

would have a Pongo for the singalong, and I was volunteered for the role. A sort of plywood frame was built around me and padded out. They made such a good job of it that the TV people found out about it and asked if they could use it in their adverts, as their version was trashed. So we did some advertising shoots and our reward was tickets for the London Palladium panto.

In the larger city pantos, these singalongs give the stars an opportunity to shine, particularly if they are pop stars. One panto I took my daughter to featured Ruth Madoc who played Gladys in Hi-de-Hi! She was the Fairy Godmother in the show, but of course turned up as a Yellowcoat for the singalong. Stars from the wonderful Croft and Perry comedies, such as Peggy and Spike from Hi- de-Hi! and Yvette from 'Allo 'Allo! still appear in pantos to this day.

The flash that made the Fairy Godmother or Demon Prince disappear in my day was always a hit or miss affair. Flash powder was placed into a metal tray and ignited by the stage manager. It either worked too well and blinded the first three rows of the audience, or it didn't work at all, leaving the Fairy Godmother or Demon Prince standing there like a proper lemon!

My younger daughter has kept up the family tradition of appearing in panto, recently appearing as Principal Boy at the Royal Theatre Christchurch in Snow White. Her cover was blown when as she entered the stage her niece yelled out, "Hello Auntie Kara!". Her husband Ben "flies" folk around the theatre on wires in the big city productions, and appeared on Michael McIntyre's Christmas show in 2019.

I hope this has given you a bit of an insight into the fun and frolics of pantomime and encouraged you to book one this Christmas.

What's that I hear you yelling?

"Oh no it hasn't!"

Keith Tompkins

News from Anjulita Court and Ladyslaude Court

First thank you to you all for your support of our work at Anjulita.

At the time of writing, we are advertising for the post of part-time chaplain (12 hours a week) to work alongside me. I have recently reduced my contracted hours so that I can do some work for the wider MHA when needed.

It is a joy to be back worshipping together at Anjulita Court. Our pattern is to have a service and Songs of Praise on Wednesdays and Thursdays in the coffee shop for all units and Ladyslaude residents, and one or two Sunday services a month for everyone.

During the pandemic it became evident how valuable it is to have services on the individual units. It enables more staff to be present, and those residents who rarely, if ever, come downstairs can be a part of them. For this reason, I don't have a Sunday service every week for all units, but rather I ensure that each unit has its own service once a month.

We've also decided to move the annual Memorial Service to later in the year to be held close to All Saints' and All Souls' Days.

Blessings

Rev Sarah Burrow (Chaplain)



Messy Church is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), which is registered as a charity, number 233280 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.

LONDON ROAD, BEDFORD

We held Messy Church during our Harvest Festival weekend, and a total of 39 people of all ages attended. We were thinking about the duty of care we have for God's world and all the living things that share it with us. There were plenty of activities for everyone to try, including making fat balls for the birds and bug hotels. Part of our rear lawn has been given over for wildlife and this reminds us of the responsibility God has entrusted to us. As always, we had a time of joyful worship and enjoyed lunch together.



Our next Messy Church is Messy Nativity on the afternoon of Sunday, 11th December.

OAKLEY:

Messy Church for All takes place after school from 3.30pm – 5.30pm (all ages welcome – all children to be accompanied) as follows:-

Tuesday 15th November

Tuesday 13th December

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

Contact Jan Follett or Michael Carr for more details.

WILLINGTON:

We have Messy Church planned for 16th November and 14th December.

We haven't yet planned for 2023 but it is usually on the third Wednesday of the month. Timing is from 3.15pm - 5.30pm.



FOOD AND FUN CLUB NEWS - PRIORY

On 2nd and 31st August, Priory hosted our Food and Fun Club which offers sessions for families during the school holidays. We provide a range of activities in the morning, giving parents and carers a chance to relax and chat over a drink, followed by a brief Christian message and a two-course meal. The theme for our first session was “*Freedom to Choose*” and for the second one, “*New Beginnings*”. We had a teddy bears' picnic, and in addition to craft activities, we were able to make good use of the garden behind church for water play and generally letting off steam!

We have a group of regular families who are getting to know us and feel comfortable to share some of the challenges they are facing. This autumn, we also plan to send invitations out via the local Foodbank as we are aware that there may be more families needing this opportunity.

Our next Food and Fun Club will be on Monday 19th December. Details from the church office.

HOLIDAY CLUB NEWS – CARDINGTON

On a Friday evening in August, 95 people of all ages were gathered in Howard Memorial Church, Cardington for prayer, laughter and food. It was the culmination of “Jubilee Joy”, this year’s edition of our annual summer holiday club.

This year was our 30th consecutive holiday club. Some of the leaders helping to run it attended in their own childhoods. A total of 52 children (aged 4 to 14) came during the week, an average of 41 each evening. They enjoyed games, singing, dancing, Bible teaching and a variety of handicrafts. Some of the craft work has stayed in church while the majority has gone home to the surprise of some parents, dazzled at what their children have achieved.

Within hours of the end of the holiday club, a number of people were enquiring about our regular Friday Night Clubs.



Yes, it’s hard work. It is also deeply rewarding for the leaders and organisers, and most importantly for the young people who experience not just something of God’s love for them but also their responsibilities towards everyone else.

It’s easy sometimes to see children as pending people, who will become valid at some point in the future.

This piece of artwork, by an eight-year-old girl, is now on our communion rail. It shows the depth of thinking going on in younger generations, and should motivate all of us to encourage it.

Rev Martin Truscott

HOLIDAY CLUB NEWS - CLAPHAM

Powerpoint : **Prep Week**

by Sheila Jordan

Powerpoint Children's Holiday Club has been run in our village for about 28 years by both the Methodist Church and the Parish Church. This year, some of us were able to take part in prep week again after not being able to for a while.

The week before Powerpoint, two of us attended the Fellowship Centre (the parish church hall) each day from 10.00am to 3.30pm to help prepare the artwork and set scenery that would be required. There we joined the junior team and the ladies from the Parish Church, all of whom worked very hard to have things ready in time. A brilliant job was done by all. It was a great time of fellowship for all involved and an opportunity to make new friendships. A lot of effort went in to having things ready in time, and a special thank you goes to Sue Liley who did the planning and gave much of herself to prepare a lot of the scenery beforehand. She amazingly managed to pull it all together even though some days during the week she had to work. Also great thanks to the two ladies who kept us fed and watered, supplying us with wonderful buffet lunches.

Our previous youth worker Beckie who now works for the Anglican Diocese also attended throughout the week to mentor the junior team, helping them to bond and supplying them with Safeguarding training.

There were also a number of men and women on site who helped with moving furniture, putting up the set, preparing the grounds and putting up tents.

While this was going on, the two main presenters, Keith and Emma, spent many hours sorting out the running order of the presentations and writing scripts, a lot of which was done by FaceTime, sometimes going on into the early hours of the morning.

As you can see, a lot of work goes into preparing just one week's club, but we are sure all who spent their time and effort would say it was great fun and well worth doing, to reach so many children in our village, plus a few outsiders.

Powerpoint : **Diary of a Disciple – Luke**

Almost 60 children came to the Powerpoint holiday club at the beginning of July, to enjoy a week of fun, friendship and instruction in the Gospel: the life of Jesus on earth and how He can help their daily lives. We covered:-

Who is Jesus?

What did Jesus do and say?

What happened to Jesus?

A challenging programme for the leaders and presenters.

Two weeks before the start Keith had no co-presenter. It seemed all avenues were closed. Then Emma, Keith and Sheila's daughter, said that she would do it. So her twin sons and daughter were signed up to the groups. What a brilliant and God-guided decision.

There were four groups 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12-year-olds. All were catered for in teaching and activities in a wonderful sunny week, culminating in a free BBQ on Friday afternoon. We were so privileged to see such a willing leadership and so well-organised a holiday club.

Just to point out here, that our teenage helpers provided the live music played professionally.

We would like to thank all the young teenage helpers who joined in with the groups, with the decorating and also with the presentations.

The churches did well in working together, presenting the Gospel of Jesus. Everybody worked hard and with purpose. Thank you Holy Spirit for your guidance.

Sheila Jordan

BELIEF Events 2022



BELIEF AGM

Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 10.00am using Zoom.
Please contact Stephanie Field belief@standrewsbedford.org
for the Zoom link.

For more information, please visit our website

www.beliefbeds.org

email BELIEF@StAndrewsBedford.org

BELIEF is registered as a charity, number 1123911



Circuit Diary Dates

FOR DETAILS OF OTHER EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT PLEASE
SEE THE CIRCUIT WEBSITE www.northbedsmethodist.org.uk

*The events listed below may be subject to hybrid arrangements
due to the ongoing prevalence of COVID-19.*

Please check relevant information prior to planning attendance.

NOVEMBER

Weds 9th 12.15pm Circuit Men's Luncheon Fellowship – Team Quiz
at **Priory, Bedford**. Contact Mike Elliott for
further details mike.elliott@zapboing.com (see page 17)

JANUARY

Mon 23rd 7.30pm Circuit Church Treasurers' meeting using **Zoom**

FEBRUARY

Thurs 23rd 7.30pm Circuit Meeting using **Zoom**

Ministers in other appointments

Rev Chrissie Howe *howec@methodistchurch.org.uk* 07799 902568
(Secretary of the Methodist Forces Board)

Rev Terry Wright *terry.wright144@mod.gov.uk* 07581 009784
(Forces Chaplain at Chicksands)

Ecumenical, Authorised & Associate Ministers

Rev Sarah Burrow *sarah.burrow@mha.org.uk* 01234 273642
Anglican (Anjulita Court and Ladyslaude Court MHA Chaplain)

Rev Martin Truscott *martintruscott@gmail.com* 07989 965172
URC (Minister - Cardington)

Rev Catherine Wilson *vicar@bromhambenefice.org* 01234 825665
Anglican (St Mary's Church, Oakley)

Supernumerary Ministers

Rev Richard Barrett *regbarrett2@btinternet.com* 01767 312723

Rev David Bown *davidbown47@hotmail.co.uk* 01234 589194

Rev Julie Bradshaw *julie@iw2.co.uk* 01234 405530

Rev Bill Davies *wjdavies35@outlook.com* 01234 210918

Rev Douglas Ford

Rev Jim Gorringe *jimgorringe@icloud.com* 01234 216352

Rev Cassandra Howes *cassandra.howes@gmail.com* 01234 793177

Rev Alan Kirk *alankirk58@hotmail.com* 01234 317699

Deacon Vera Pearson 01234 270737

Rev Brian Webb

Rev David Winwood *david.j.winwood@btinternet.com* 01234 359930

Circuit Finance Officer

Anne Ainley *northbedsfinance@gmail.com* 01234 831174
07787 104540

Circuit Property Secretary

Richard Ward *richard.ward4@btinternet.com* 01234 852400

Circuit Meeting Secretary

Mary Millar *marymillar992@btinternet.com* 01767 631420

Circuit Safeguarding Officer

c/o Stephanie Field *northbedssafeguarding@gmail.com* 07522 928936

Circuit Manager

Stephanie Field *northbedscircuitoffice@gmail.com* 07522 928936

Magazine Editorial Team

Cheryl Benfield (Editor) *cheryl.benfield@ntlworld.com* 01234 851600

John Caves *johncaves@btinternet.com* 01234 831361

Shaun Endersby *shaun@oddpst.com* 01767 220623
(Technical Editor)

Churches should send their dates for the next Plan (with details of preachers they have booked) to **their Minister** by **Sunday 25th December**

Preachers should enter their availability on Chrestos by **Sunday 25th December**

All **Articles** for the next edition of the Circuit Magazine to a member of the editorial team no later than **Wednesday 4th January 2023** please

The Circuit Manager (Stephanie Field) is mostly home based, and can be contacted by either email *northbedscircuitoffice@gmail.com* or mobile 07522 928936.

The Circuit Finance Officer (Anne Ainley) works 7.00am to 10.00am Monday to Friday mostly from home, and can be contacted either by email *northbedsfinance@gmail.com* or landline 01234 831174 or mobile 07787 104540.

All post can now be sent to the Circuit Office.
Both are happy to meet people at the Circuit Office if required.

Magazine editorial information

A meeting to discuss the content of the next issue will be held using Zoom on **Friday 25th November** at 7.30pm
EVERYONE WELCOME

For Zoom details, contact an editorial team member (see page 27)

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
Circuit Charity Registration No. 1129523