

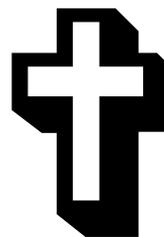
*The Methodist Church – Bristol District*

*Upper Thames Circuit*

*Monthly Newsletter*

*No 23*

*October 2015*



Dear Friends

We were sitting in the office a few days ago reviewing the circuit meeting and making sure we had completed all the jobs left over, when Bob reminded me I needed to write a letter for the October Circuit Newsletter. I asked for some ideas and both Bob and Andrew reminded me of our President's challenge. At this year's Methodist Conference Rev Steve Wild, this year's President, challenged each church to add one new member to their congregation by next year's conference in July. My first reaction was that that does not sound much of a target to me, I would have looked for one new member for each member by July next year, but maybe I am being simply unrealistic and over ambitious. I look around some of the churches and wonder what a new member would make of them. Then I look at the disciples and at how Jesus lived alongside them, he ate, slept, travelled with them, sharing their lives and getting to know them. He knew how impulsive Peter was; he knew John's devotion; he knew that Thomas needed to see the evidence. In his Gospel, John records Andrew as being one of the first disciples, who almost immediately called his brother Simon, whom Jesus called Peter - a rock. He also tells how Jesus called Phillip who went and called Nathaniel. Elsewhere it is Phillip and Andrew who brought some Greeks to see Jesus.

We are not called so much to convert people, but to bring them to Jesus, he it is who plants faith in people's hearts, he it is who transforms lives, he it is that makes all the difference. We are called to go and make disciples, or a more literal translation of the Greek in Matthew 28:19 would be, "as you go". It is the everyday business of every follower of Jesus to be a disciple. Disciples are in the business of both learning and teaching; the context in which they learn is everyday life and the context in which they teach is everyday life. It is the business of every disciple to live out their faith wherever they find themselves and to be authentic to Jesus in every way. I have been looking at seed packets recently. By and large with seeds, you get what you sow. What have you been sowing recently as you have been travelling along life's road?

My prayer this month is that you will find the courage and the words in Jesus Christ to be a disciple of Jesus.

May God bless your sowing

Keith

***NB: The deadline for items for the November newsletter is Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October.***

## **CIRCUIT PLAN: SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2015**

### **Please note the following amendments to the Plan:**

- a) The Circuit Event on 17<sup>th</sup> October will **NOT** be held at Freshbrook Evangelical Church. The correct details are:  
  
"Closer to God – The Discipline and Practice of Prayer"  
Speaker: Rev. Chris Voke (Spurgeon's College)  
10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.  
Highworth Methodist Church
- b) On 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm there will be a Youth Service at Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church, led by Robin Phoenix-Stone.
- c) The service at Highworth Methodist Church on the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> October will be a service of Holy Communion.
- d) The service at Blunsdon Methodist Church on 15<sup>th</sup> November will be at 10.30am NOT 3.00pm.
- e) The 6.30pm service at Shrivenham Methodist Church on 15<sup>th</sup> November will be taken by Rev. Rachael Wilson (not Ann Coventry) and will be a service of Holy Communion.

### **DISTRICT NEWS/EVENTS:**

#### **Methodist Women in Britain – Induction of Bristol District President**

An induction service of Chris Seward as Bristol District MWiB President will be held at St Peters, Brislington, on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 3.30p. Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, Chairman of the Bristol District, will officiate and preach at this service, after which refreshments will be served. A poster is attached to the email to which this newsletter was attached.

Appendix 2 of this newsletter contains information about some of our District Youth events.

### **CIRCUIT NEWS/EVENTS:**

#### **Circuit Event: 17<sup>th</sup> October**

On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, we welcome Rev Chris Voke from Spurgeon's College, who will lead us on the subject, "Closer to God - The Discipline and Practice of Prayer." Publicity for this event has already been circulated and a poster advertising the event is attached to the email to which this newsletter was attached.

#### **Circuit Job Vacancy**

There is a vacancy for a part-time (20 hours per week) Youth Worker in Shrivenham with effect from January 2016. The advertisement for this post has now been issued and is attached as an appendix to this newsletter. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in this position, please contact Bob Mawer, Circuit Administration Assistant for further information (contact details are at the end of the main section of this newsletter). The closing date for applications is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## Highworth Methodist Church

### Café Church

At 10.30am on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, Highworth Methodist Church launches **Café Church** - a relaxed and informal event to which all are welcome! Free coffee, cake and a chat are all on offer.

During half-term we have two fantastic events at Highworth:

### Epic Explorers Bible Club

We will be presenting 'Epic Explorers' a Bible club based on the Christianity Explored Course for children. It will run from Wednesday 28 October – Friday 30 October from 10am until 12noon. Come and solve the mystery of a lifetime! Join us as we explore the life of Jesus with music, games, crafts, activities and lots of fun! For all primary school aged children.

### Superhero Party

On Saturday October 31 6pm-8pm the Superhero Party will be back for all the family. Come dressed as your favourite superhero and join in the music, fun and games. A great alternative to the usual Halloween celebrations that promises to be loads of fun.

Please speak to Paul Taylor on (01793) 950930 for further details of either of these events.

### Church Anniversary

On the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November, we are celebrating our church anniversary. Rev Paul Ashby and his wife Carmel are coming to lead the weekend.



Paul is a former minister at Highworth Methodist Church, from about 1988 to 1995. Paul then went on to be the Old Testament tutor at Cliff College. Carmel is a local preacher.

The overall theme for the study day on Saturday is: **'God encounter'**. Two teaching / practical sessions led by both Paul and Carmel, 10.30 -12.30, then a session after lunch, along with a time of worship. Please do come along. Refreshments will be provided, but do bring your own packed lunch. They will also lead and take both services at the church on Sunday (10.30am and 6pm).

## Shrivenham Methodist Church

### Café Inspire

The next Café Inspire will be held in the Shrivenham Primary School on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October from 10.00am until 11.30am. Come along for a coffee, bacon roll and/or some yummy cake and a chance to chat to folk of all ages who enjoy doing the same. Activities (creative and otherwise) are provided for younger and older children. A new management committee has been appointed to oversee the operation and development of Café Inspire and the Chair if this committee for the coming year (September 2015 – August 2016) will be Rev Richard Hancock from St Andrew's Church, Shrivenham.

## Alpha

Shrivenham Methodist Church will be hosting an Alpha Course on Monday evenings at 7.00pm. It is being led jointly by Methodist and Anglican leaders and of course every evening will start with a meal. If you know anyone who is interested in finding out more about the Christian Faith in a low-key and friendly environment, please bring them along. The first evening is geared particularly to those who are "just looking" and will be an exploratory session with no obligation to attend the full series. For further information please speak to the Church Secretary, Bob Mawer on (01793) 780038.

## Vacancy for Youth Worker

The Upper Thames Circuit is looking to recruit a Youth Worker in Shrivenham from January 2016. Please see Appendix 1 of this newsletter for further details and please pass the information on to anyone who may be interested.

## **OTHER NEWS/EVENTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **Christmas Care 2015**

Please see Appendix 3 of this newsletter for information about how you can help some of the lost, least and broken in the Swindon area in the run up to Christmas.

### **Treasurer Wanted**

Swindon Central Church is looking for a treasurer – to take responsibility for the finances of this three-pronged organisation which includes Central Church, Roundabout Café and Pilgrim Centre. Please contact Judith Furse for further information: (01793) 976196, [info.swindonbraille@talktalk.net](mailto:info.swindonbraille@talktalk.net)

### **Concert for Nepal Earthquake Appeal**

A **Grand Brass Band Concert** featuring local bands Swindon Pagasus Brass and Swindon Brass, with traditional entertainment from the local Nepalese community, will be held at 7.00pm for 7.30pm on Saturday 3rd October at Citifaith International Church, Regent Street, Swindon. The cost is £10 for adults and £5 for children. Tickets are available from the Information Centre in Swindon Central Library, Citifaith International Church, Walcot Dome, John Roe (tel: 485082 or email [john.roe1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:john.roe1@tiscali.co.uk)) or email [chair@swindonpegasus.com](mailto:chair@swindonpegasus.com)

### **The Divide - One World Week: 18th - 25th October 2015**

Hope in Action: Inspiring a culture of hope to build a more peaceful and equal world

Swindon Equality Group (supported by SC4J)

Film night: The Divide (Release date 16/10/15)

7 characters battling to cope with the consequences of a growing income inequality are woven with archive charting the growing income gap, to paint a lyrical picture of how economic division creates social division and personal anxiety.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm - The Arts Centre

Tickets can be purchased via the usual Wyvern Theatre website and will be £5 (with some concessions). This link will take you to the booking page. [https://swindontheatres.co.uk/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article\\_id=047A9109-7A65-4985-9418-A2770CE802F9](https://swindontheatres.co.uk/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=047A9109-7A65-4985-9418-A2770CE802F9)

Here is a short 'teaser' for the film: <https://vimeo.com/137598224>

## Swindon Interfaith Group Civic Celebration

Swindon Interfaith Group Civic Celebration  
Wednesday 21st October 7.30pm - The Pilgrim Centre, Regent Circus  
Contact Steve Aftelak 01793 536815 for details  
or check out [www.swindoninterfaith.org](http://www.swindoninterfaith.org)  
Refreshments to follow presentations

## Experiences of and escape from war-torn Syria

Swindon & Marlborough Amnesty International Group  
Experiences of and escape from war-torn Syria  
Basel Esleem, Syrian Refugee  
Thursday 22nd October - 7.30pm  
The Friends Meeting House on Eastcott Hill  
There will be refreshments and time for questions and discussion to include what, if anything, the UK  
Government and its allies should be doing.  
Liza Lishman  
[liza.lishman@btinternet.com](mailto:liza.lishman@btinternet.com) [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)

## Oddments Theatre Company

Join us for coffee and croissants and a chance to see Oddments Theatre Company act out stories  
based on Jesus and his miracles on Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10.30 am at St Mary's Church, Purton.  
All very welcome!

For further information contact Judith Wells [mailto: [Judith@JudithWells.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:Judith@JudithWells.wanadoo.co.uk)]

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	District Safeguarding Meeting, Eden Grove Methodist Church, Bristol 7.00pm
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting, Toothill 7.30pm
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	"Closer to God" – The Discipline and Practice of Prayer - Chris Voke Highworth Methodist Church 10.00am – 4.00pm
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting, 1 Garraways 7.30pm
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Circuit Meeting, Blunsdon Methodist Church 7.30pm

## UPPER THAMES CIRCUIT CONTACT DETAILS:

Office hours: 9.30am – 12.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays  
Telephone: (01793) 764544  
Email: [upperthamescircuit@gmail.com](mailto:upperthamescircuit@gmail.com)  
Email: [superkeithosborn@gmail.com](mailto:superkeithosborn@gmail.com)  
Postal Address: Highworth Methodist Church  
Vicarage Lane  
Highworth  
Swindon  
Wilts  
SN6 7AD

**ADVERTISEMENT**

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The Upper Thames Circuit and Shrivenham Methodist Church together with Longcot Chapel are seeking an enthusiastic and committed

**Youth Worker**

from January 2016. The successful candidate will be employed for 20 hours per week, working with the church and community to develop activities for the 10+ (secondary) age group. Currently there are few youth activities in Shrivenham but it is an expanding area. The worker will have the opportunity to seed new initiatives, building on the already successful Café Inspire programme meeting in the local primary school and in conjunction with other church and community activities.

The appointee will, by experience and action, be committed to the values and ethos of the Christian faith. S/he will be a good communicator and prepared to work, in and out of church, with young people and their parents to build self-esteem and Christian understanding. They will create opportunities and connections for young people to realise their God-given potential, social commitment and engagement with the complexities of the world whilst making a positive difference. They will be supported by a caring church committed to Bible teaching and its practical reality.

To obtain an application form (Appendix 5.8 of Lay Employment Advisory information on Methodist Church Web Site) or further information please contact:

Bob Mawer  
Circuit Administration Assistant  
Highworth Methodist Church  
Vicarage Lane  
Highworth  
Swindon  
Wilts SN6 7AD

Email: [upperthamescircuit@gmail.com](mailto:upperthamescircuit@gmail.com)

Tel: (01793) 764544 (Wednesday and Friday mornings)

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

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Salary: £21,000 – 25,000 per annum (pro rata)

This is a fixed term contract for 2 years.

Closing date for applications: Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015

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## Bristol District Children & Youth

### 1. **3Generate Methodist Church's Children & Youth Assembly**

NEW DATE 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
NEW VENUE "PGL Adventure Centre, Swindon"

Please note the booking line opens on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 9am. This event sold out within a couple of days last year so I strongly advise that you have collected in all the necessary information from the young people wanting to attend by the 6<sup>th</sup> June so you can get your tickets as soon as the booking line opens. It is a fabulous event and would be great if more of our district attended. Please ask your churches and circuits for assistance with funding.

Don't forget it's open to children too aged 8+ so please pass this onto the children's workers in your church.

Children & young people attend this event without their youth workers, although any offers from youth workers (employed or voluntary) to help at the weekend would be gratefully received. If you volunteer at the weekend then you won't be charged to attend. I have done it for 3 years now and find it really rewarding. Please contact me for further info if you are interested.

For further information, please see the flyer attached to the email to which this newsletter was attached.

### 2. **European Methodist Youth Camp** **We are looking for a youth worker (paid or voluntary worker) to possibly take 2 young people to Belfast in the summer! Can you help? Travel and the ticket price which includes accommodation & food will be covered!**

We have 2 members of the NYC (age 17 and 14) really keen to go to this conference and it would be a great experience for them. Sadly we are struggling to find an adult to go with them and the organisation state that at least one adult needs to attend to be responsible for young people under the age of 18.

Check out the full details here, it really is a very exciting opportunity [http://download.emk-jugend.de/201501161135\\_EMYC\\_CampProgrammeInformation.pdf](http://download.emk-jugend.de/201501161135_EMYC_CampProgrammeInformation.pdf)

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Emma ASAP  
[Emma.YouWorkEnabler@VirginMedia.com](mailto:Emma.YouWorkEnabler@VirginMedia.com) or 07989 496316.

It is not 100% certain that we will be allocated the places or that we have got the funding yet but we are investigating all that at the moment. You will not be expected to pay for the event ticket or the transport costs. We are ideally looking for a male youth worker but would be grateful to hear from anyone who is interested (who has up to date CRB/DBS checks and safeguarding training).

### **3. DMLN : Bristol & West Midlands**

**Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network Facebook Group: A great way to connect with what's going on in our region of the Methodist Church**

News, resources, articles and events from the Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network in Bristol & West Midlands.

If the below link doesn't work then type "DMLN Bristol & West Midlands" into Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/DMLN-Bristol-West-Midlands/334381623380567?fref=ts>

They are now on twitter too @DMLNbwm

Click on this link to see answers to frequently asked questions about the DMLN

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/learning/fags>

### **4. The Youth Work Foundation**

**Financial support to would-be youth workers across England to help them access [JNC recognized qualifications](#).**

The Foundation's mission is to support the most deserving applicants to become qualified youth workers regardless of their background.

This mission is built on a belief that young people benefit from youth workers who have a variety of backgrounds and life experiences

<http://www.nya.org.uk/supporting-youth-work/youth-work-foundation/>

# Christmas Care 2015

Chairman: Patsy Moloney 01793 642368 Secretary: Paula Kimmel 07773302941 Catering Manager: Noreen Vitale 07533 065105 Coordinator: Diane Killick: 01793 336420 Life President: Betty Spence 01793 485483 Treasurer: John Davison 01793 827627

## Providing temporary shelter for the homeless and lonely over the Christmas period

[www.christmascare.co.uk](http://www.christmascare.co.uk) Charity Number: 1131756

All enquiries to Patsy Moloney 01793 642368 or by email to [care@christmascare.co.uk](mailto:care@christmascare.co.uk)

Christmas Care 2015 will run from 11 am on Christmas Eve to 11 am on the 28<sup>th</sup> December. The venue is **Queens Drive Methodist Church Hall, Park South, SN3 2JX.**

Once again we are looking for volunteers to help run the shelter. Volunteers will be asked to work 4 hour shifts. 7 am to 11 am, 11 am to 3 pm, 3 pm to 7 pm and 7 pm to 11 pm; the longest shift is from 11 pm to 7 am. Please come to our volunteer meetings to find out more.

If you can't volunteer, we will gratefully receive donations of food such as non-perishable items, cheese, vegetables, tinned goods, fresh meat, milk, cereal etc.; we also require 12 turkeys by the 19<sup>th</sup> December. We require sleeping bags and clean duvets and bedding, toiletries, board games and books. Cash donations are greatly appreciated as they will help us to cover our expenses; cheques made payable to Christmas Care.

*We are extremely grateful for all donations of clothing however can we ask that only **clean adult winter clothing and footwear in good condition** are donated. Due to a change in circumstances which are beyond our control, we cannot accept summer clothing, children's clothing, dirty or worn out items.*

### Volunteer Meetings

At Queens Drive Methodist Church Hall at 7.30 pm  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

### Church Opening Times in December for All Donations Donation Dates and Times

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 10 am – 3 pm  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 7 pm – 9 pm  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 10 am – 3 pm  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 12 noon – 2 pm  
Tues 24<sup>th</sup> December, OPEN ALL DAY

The **Pilgrim Centre in Regent Circus** will take in donations Monday to Friday 10 am to 2 pm from 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Due to insurance requirements we are unable to accommodate either guests or volunteers who are under the age of 16.

Leading up to and over the Christmas period we will be adding the latest news and updates to our Facebook page. Please follow us on: [www.facebook.com/ChristmasCareSwindon](https://www.facebook.com/ChristmasCareSwindon)