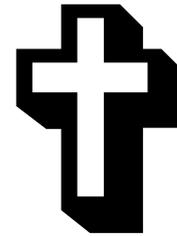


The Methodist Church – Bristol District

Upper Thames Circuit

Monthly Newsletter

No 32



September 2016

Dear friends,

During the summer I worshipped in an English-speaking Anglican Church in Italy and the priest told us a story. There was a king who was having trouble with the people in his country. They didn't want to listen to him and they didn't want to listen to one another. All their time and energy went into falling out with one another or trying to get one over each other. It was not a happy kingdom. One day the king had an idea. He divided the people into two groups and gave each group a task. He instructed the first group to go out into the kingdom (it wasn't a very big one) and bring back all the flowers they could find. Off they went, and after a few weeks they returned with cartloads of flowers from all over the kingdom. "That's really good," said the king. "Now tell me, did you find any weeds?" The first group of people started to grumble amongst themselves. "What is this stupid king on about?" they asked themselves. "He told us to go and get flowers and that's what we've done. Why is he now asking us about weeds?" In the meantime the king instructed the second group to go out into the kingdom and bring back all the weeds they could find. A few weeks later they also returned with cartloads of weeds and all manner of plants that stung and pricked and stuck to you. "Well done," said the king. "Now tell me, did you find any flowers?" The second group of people started to grumble amongst themselves. "What is this stupid king on about?" they asked each other. "He told us to go and get weeds and that's what we've done. Why is he now asking us about flowers?" Both groups went back to their homes and communities feeling far from happy. But over time things in the kingdom began to change. The people began to realise that you find what you are looking for. If you look for flowers you will find flowers, and if you look for weeds you will find weeds.

As a circuit we are beginning a new year, and it's a good point at which to ask ourselves what we are looking for. It's not just a good question for us as a circuit, but also for us as congregations and us as individual Christians. What are we looking for? Are we looking for flowers or are we looking for weeds?

May God grant us the help of the Holy Spirit to live as people devoted to Christ with our eyes firmly fixed on him, so that we may see with eyes of faith. In this new year may each of us seek Christ in the situations we face and the people we encounter, and in so seeking, may we find him there and be blessed.

Happy New (Church) Year!

Rachael

NB: The deadline for items for the October newsletter is Thursday, 22nd September

DISTRICT AND CONNEXION NEWS/EVENTS:

The New Room

For the latest news from the New Room, please see Appendix 'E' of this newsletter

Three Notes from Emma Mills (District Youth Enabler)

1. District Youth Week-end

As most of you will know the Bristol District have a District Youth Weekend (DYW) once every other year in the Autumn. The last one was October 2015.

In the Autumn of the year without a DYW we have a lower key event which the current District Youth Council (DYC) have recently given the title "District Youth Weekend: Fun Size" (DYW: FS) J

Due to me having been off for such a long time, I am still playing a massive game of catch up, so we haven't had the chance to organise this yet. Some youth workers were warned a few months ago that there might not be an event this Autumn.

BUT..... the DYC are really keen to still go ahead and I feel we have the time to organise a low key event if we push it into November.

Before I start the official planning I would be really grateful please if youth workers could please drop me a message saying whether or not they think it's likely that they and their young people will want to attend, giving a very rough idea of numbers.

I know most of you won't meet again with your young people until September but we would be really grateful if we could get a decent idea of interest ASAP before we consider booking activity providers & venues please. We have found over the years that if youth workers are keen, available & enthusiastic then that often means the young people will attend meaning we can begin to gain an idea of numbers.

The plan the DYC have come up with is a ONE DAY EVENT (not overnight):

- Leap of Faith 2 hour activities (The Wild Place Bristol)
- Looking around the Wild Place animal park
- Evening Meal
- Worship
- Silent Disco

It was felt important that as it's a one day event it should be fairly central regarding travelling times, hence why it's based in Bristol again.

We will either start late morning (bringing packed lunches) or early afternoon, and finish by 10pm, timings need to be sorted.

The only date looking like an option is **Saturday 12th November 2016**.

I would be really grateful to hear from all youth workers in the district ASAP please (although appreciate many are either away or busy with holiday clubs!).

2. 3GENERATE NEEDS YOU!

25th – 27th November PGL Liddington

As many of you will know 3Generate, the Methodist Church's Children & Youth Assembly, moved to Swindon last year and returns again this year. The event is very popular and growing year on year (this year's tickets sold out in record time).

As the event grows, the need for volunteers grows with it. Volunteers will be needed from all over the country, but Local people can play a vital role in the events success. The event particularly needs people to help set up on Friday, to man the registration desks on Friday evening, to help with de-registration on Sunday lunch time and clearing up on Sunday afternoon.

This year we have created a web page that lists all the volunteer roles that are needed, also more details and the application form, please follow the link below
<http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/3generate/getting-involved/volunteering>

REGISTRATION DESK FRI EVE & CLEARING AWAY SUN AFT

If you are unable to commit to attending the full weekend or any of the roles below then PLEASE could you consider offering to help out with one or more of the following roles:-

- Setting up Friday 2.30-4.30pm
- Registration Desk Friday 6pm-10pm
- De Registration Sunday 12-3pm
- Clearing Away 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Please don't hesitate to contact Chris Parker for further information parker@methodistchurch.org.uk and/or chat to me J. As you would expect the majority of volunteers will need a relevant DBS and have had safeguarding training, also there is an on-line recruitment process for safeguarding reasons, but any queries regarding this please don't hesitate to ask.

3. All of the following info which I thought you might be interested in has come to me via Facebook.

I highly recommend you have a look at (and ideally sign up for notifications from) the Methodist Children & Youth Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Methodist-Children-Youth-126895266084/>
AND The Methodist Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DMLN-Bristol-West-Midlands-334381623380567/?fref=ts>
As they both provide really useful information

LAY WORKER DAY RETREAT

Advance Notice for all Lay Workers.

The DMLN Regional Team is delighted to offer another Day Retreat for Lay Workers at Barnes Close near Bromsgrove on **Tuesday 15th November 2016** (10am to 4pm).

The Retreat is entitled Preparing the Way. The day will be shaped to help us prepare personally for the Advent season and to reflect on how the Advent season can be one in which we invite others through our work to prepare for Christ's coming.

There will be time together and plenty of time for creativity, personal space and reflection. The day will be led by regional team member Andrew Roberts.

Places are limited to 33 and a contribution of £15 per participant is requested. To book your space please email Andrew via robertsa@methodistchurch.org.uk He will then provide details of how to pay the requested contribution. Please note that replies to emails may not be immediate during the summer holiday period.

2) ***HOLINESS & JUSTICE SESSION RESOURCE***

In a time of turmoil we are called to do more than despair. Use this to explore Holiness and Justice with a children's or youth Group.

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/2286893/conf-holiness-and-justice-booklet-0716.pdf>

3) ***YOUNG PEOPLE & YOUTH WORKERS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET REFUGEES FROM CAMP AIDA IN PALESTINE***

The Methodist Church is excited to be linking with the Amos trust to offer the opportunity for Methodist young people (aged 12-30) and their youth workers to meet with Alrowwad refugees from camp Aida in Palestine. The refugees from near Bethlehem are visiting the UK for a couple

of weeks in partnership with the Amos Trust and we would like to invite Methodist young people to come and meet them.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-young-people-meet-alrowwad-refugees-tickets-25266194869?aff=es2>

Methodist Heritage Days

Methodist Heritage

After the success of last year's Heritage Conference, this year the Methodist Heritage Committee has decided to hold two regional heritage days – 1 October at Central Methodist Church, York, and 5 November at Salisbury Methodist Church. Both days are FREE to attend and will run with the same full programme of plenary keynote speakers and optional workshops, with something for everyone – historians, archivists or anyone with an interest in using our Church's buildings for mission through heritage.

So that you don't miss out, we are purposely holding the days at venues north and south to enable as many people as possible to attend. We do hope you will be able come to whichever one is most convenient for you.

SO – SAVE THE DATE NOW!

1 OCTOBER at CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH, YORK

OR

5 NOVEMBER at SALISBURY METHODIST CHURCH

If you feel you would be interested in attending either of the days please complete and return the attached form.

We look forward to hearing from you

Best wishes

Diane

Diane Foster | Administrator on behalf of Methodist Heritage

The Mission & Advocacy Cluster | The Connexional Team

020 7467 5117 [Direct Line]

Note: the booking form is attached to this newsletter at Appendix 'A'

CIRCUIT NEWS/EVENTS:

We send our best wishes to Adrian German for a swift and complete recovery following his recent operation.

Circuit Celebrates its 20th Birthday with a Circuit Service

The Upper Thames Circuit will celebrate its 20th birthday on 1st September. This achievement will be recognised at the Circuit Service at the Church of Christ the Servant, Abbey Meads, on Sunday, 4th September at 6.30pm, which will also be a service of welcome for Rev Rachael Wilson as she becomes the minister of that church. A poster advertising the service is at the end of this newsletter and is also available as an attachment to the email to which this newsletter is attached. Please publicise this event widely within your church and community.

Circuit Camp Service

There will be a Camp Service at Brinkworth on **Sunday, 18th September**. The theme will be outreach – with a need to expand God’s Kingdom, to increase our enthusiasm by bringing us together to increase, enliven and uplift our desire to take the wonderful spirit of Jesus further into our communities. Thoughts will be centred around the Good Samaritan and the road to Emmaus. **Gates will open at 12.30pm for a hog roast** (thus enabling folk to attend their usual morning service before coming for lunch). **The tent celebration service will follow at 2.30pm** for approximately two hours, depending on how the Spirit leads. Seating will be provided. Young, talented musicians, along with those who have extreme talent on piano and electric organ will accompany, with choral voices to lead our singing.

The venue will be the recreation ground or playing fields behind the old Methodist Chapel in Brinkworth village (postcode SN15 5AG) where new amenities have recently been put in place, so electricity, toilets, kitchen and ample parking are all available to us. The location will be signposted on the B4042 approximately 4.5 miles from Royal Wootton Bassett, heading towards Malmesbury. Posters and fliers will be distributed within the Circuit and Phil Neville would like to visit your church to offer a personal invitation and enthusiastically outline the arrangements for the day. Local churches of other denominations have been invited to join us, along with youth groups, young farmers’ clubs, vintage and veteran machinery clubs, etc. so we anticipate a joyous union, an uplifting of spirits and a will to join in raising the profile and presence of Jesus in our lives and to carry it forward into the lives of others.

We are honoured that the Chairman of the District, Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, will be joining us, as will Rev Keith Osborn, Rev Rachael Wilson and Rev David Perkins who in particular, will act as the service leader and master of ceremonies for the day.

Braydon Chapel has offered itself to God, through its congregation, in organising this event. Please come and join us and we ask you to try, wherever possible, to invite someone you know who possibly hasn’t found our Lord as yet, to come and share in the fun and uplifting of spirits on this special day and maybe our Lord will fill those hearts yet empty, with the wondrous spirit that has been found by us.

On behalf of the Braydon Methodist Chapel and the organising committee.

Phil Neville (Steward)

Vacancy for Pioneer Worker at Abbey Meads

There is still time to make an application for the Pioneer Worker post – a full time post. A copy of the advertisement is featured at Appendix ‘B’ of this newsletter. For further information please contact the Circuit Office.

Vacancy for Circuit Administrator for Upper Thames Circuit

Bob Mawer will be leaving his post towards the end of 2016 and a successor is required. Some changes to the role and responsibilities have resulted in a new Job Description and an increase in the number of hours for this part-time role, from 6 to 12 hours per week. A copy of the advertisement is featured at Appendix ‘C’ of this newsletter. For further information please contact the Circuit Office.

Church of Christ the Servant, Abbey Meads

This will be the venue for our **Circuit Service** at 6.30pm on the 4th September, when Rev Rachael Wilson will be welcomed as the minister. This will coincide with Rachael’s role as minister becoming a full-time post, thus allowing her to continue with her existing commitments as minister of Cricklade United Church and Blunsdon Methodist Church.

Highworth Methodist Church

There are several events for you to note at Highworth Methodist Church.

The first is the **Highworth Festival Prayer-Time Pop-In** on Saturday 17th September and the second is **Café Rendezvous**, which takes place every Saturday from 10.30am – 12.15pm. Posters containing further details of both these events are included as attachments to the email to which this newsletter is attached.

A note from Lou Ashford:

This December on Wednesday 21st, we at Highworth have invited The Silhouette Theatre Company to present "A Twist in the Tail"; this is a family show which tells the nativity story from the point of view of the Inn- Keeper. I have seen Silhouette Theatre Company before and they are excellent. We wondered if **any of our Circuit Churches would be interested** in having them at their church either the day before or after? We can provide them with accommodation and the cost is £350 + travel which is reduced if more than one church books them to perform. The show lasts 1hour, 20 minutes.

We are also considering inviting Liz Babbs to bring her show "Cupcakes and Comedy" and wondered if any of the other churches would be interested in hosting her as well. I have information that I can forward to anyone interested.

Lou Ashford (you can contact Lou by telephone: 01793 201703, or by email: louashford231@gmail.com).

A note from Terry Williams:

I am promoting a Reed Rage (bassoon quartet) concert featuring my son who plays with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on double bass. It will be held at the Methodist Church on 9th September. Tickets are available from the Lighthouse Bookshop or they can be reserved by calling me on 01793 762669.

Terry Williams

A poster containing further details of this event is featured at Appendix 'D' and is also attached to the email to which this newsletter is attached.

Shrivenham Methodist Church

Café Inspire

The next Café Inspire will be held on 10th September in the Shrivenham Primary School, from 10.00am until 11.30am. Come along for a coffee, a 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.

OTHER NEWS/EVENTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Could you come to the rescue of a refugee child?

A campaign has been launched in Swindon to find caring people who could give refugee children a home. Following the Government's recent commitment to help more unaccompanied asylum seeking children from other European countries resettle in the UK, Swindon Borough Council has agreed to try and assist with this pressing need.

The children may have been separated from their parents by war, while others have been orphaned. They are predominately teenage boys displaced from countries such as Eritrea, Afghanistan, Iran and Syria. Extremely

vulnerable, many of them have experienced trauma and being at serious risk of exploitation, sexual violence, disease and cold in their current situation.

Age, sexuality, marital status and whether or not you have children of your own are no barrier to becoming a supported lodgings carer.

Carers receive free full training and ongoing support, as well as payment and allowances to help cover their time and expenses. Placements vary in duration from a few months to several years.

Please spread the word and if you are interested call 01793 464329 or email fosteringrecruitment@swindon.gov.uk

News from Ammerdown

16 – 18 September Healing Tides - Libby Dobson and Sarah Chabowska will be combining their special gifts as composer and musician (Libby) and poet and photographer (Sarah) to take you on a journey of discovery into the healing tides of God's love. Give your spirit space to breathe, and your soul an opportunity to be restored, as we reflect together upon the ebb and flow of life. For further information or to book a place go to <http://ammerdown.org/Healing-Tides-A-Weekend-Guided-Retreat-2016> ring 01761 433709 or email centre@ammerdown.org

16 – 18 September 'Go west young man' Travel with St Paul. - Revd Ward Jones This weekend course offers a fascinating potpourri of reflection and biblical study with a hint of retreat and a touch of history and geography. For further information or to book a place go to <http://ammerdown.org/Go-West-Young-Man-2016> ring 01761 433709 or email centre@ammerdown.org

18 – 24 September Finding Fulfilment – The three essential needs of the human being. Jill and Antonio Benet and Jacqueline Evans will lead you in a week of meditation, practice and reflection is especially designed to feed our spiritual, material, and emotional needs. It will draw on the practice of Centering Prayer, the Law of Three manifesting within and around us, and the principles of Alexander Technique. For more information or to book a place go to <http://ammerdown.org/Finding-Fulfilment-2016> ring 01761 433709 or email centre@ammerdown.org

Christian Vision for Men - A brand new style of men's day.

As an alternative to the seated, indoor events that we run, CVM this year launched something very different. **Code Unleashed** is a chance to get out into the open, have a laugh with some other guys, 'walk on the wild side' in the great outdoors, make fire, build a slingshot and other stuff. More importantly though, it's a chance to spend time connecting with God, maybe for the first time! Oh and of course... eat!

And our next CODE Unleashed day is in Wiltshire!

As Christian men, by nature we take our place fighting in a 'greater battle'. So at the Code Unleashed day you'll get 'tooled-up' to stand stronger in the spiritual conflicts that take place in our families, work places, communities and churches.

Discounts for 2 or more people...

The Code Unleashed day will be held in Brokerswood Country Park and is perfect for you to come along with a men's group, your mates or just yourself.

It's also an event you can bring a 'not-yet-believing' mate to, who may be ready to:

Take that next step in his journey closer to Jesus.

Build a fire with you.

Both!

We'll look to deepen our understanding and commitment to serving God side-by-side as a 'band of brothers', so that's why we're offering discounts for group bookings.

Code Unleashed

Saturday 24th September, 2016

Time: 10am – 3pm

Brokerswood Country Park, Wiltshire BA13 4HR

Booking of 1 person (no discount) £25 each

Booking of 2 people (20% discount) £20 each

Booking of 3+ people (40% discount) **£15 each!!**

(includes lunch & hot drinks)

1. Save the date
2. Get a group of guys to come along
3. **Book** them in
4. Come and have a great day

Book for the Code Unleashed day [here](#)

Trident

Did you know that a number of churches (including the Methodist Church) have agreed a statement on the replacement of the Trident missile? For your information, it is published at the end of this newsletter, immediately before the appendices.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday 4 th September	Circuit Service, Christ the Servant Church, Abbey Meads, 6.30pm
Saturday 10 th September	District Synod
Thursday 15 th September	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting, 17 Wentworth Park, Freshbrook, 7.30pm
Sunday 18 th September	Hog Roast (12.30pm) and Camp Service (2.30pm) hosted in Brinkworth by Braydon Chapel
Tuesday 27 th September	Circuit Meeting, Purton 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

Email: superkeithosborn@gmail.com

Postal Address: Highworth Methodist Church, Vicarage Lane, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7AD

Replacement of Trident is "unwarranted" and "unethical" say Churches

13 July 2016

The Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and Quakers in Britain have said that the proposals to renew the Trident nuclear weapons system are "unwarranted" and "unethical."

This announcement comes in advance of the Parliamentary debate on Trident that is to take place, where the UK Government will seek approval to spend £41 billion on building new submarines to carry nuclear weapons.

The Churches have previously expressed dismay that the UK Government is resisting discussions sponsored by the United Nations on multilateral disarmament. UK Churches have been represented at Non-Proliferation Treaty conferences in New York and have sought for many years to influence Government policy on nuclear weapons. In 2015, 26 faith leaders called on the UK Government to join with others in developing a robust plan of action to lead to a world free of nuclear weapons.

With a combined membership of over one million people in the UK alone, the leaders of the five Churches are encouraging all to pray and [write to their MPs](#).

Earlier this week, the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church reiterated its opposition to the Trident nuclear weapons system and called for the negotiation of a treaty banning nuclear weapons. Alan Yates, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church said: "We appreciate that negotiations take time, but the UK must take steps down the nuclear ladder. The threats that we face today are diverse and nuclear weapons simply cannot offer security or peace for anyone."

Rachel Lampard, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference added: "It is scandalous that the UK Government has consistently opposed opportunities for discussion on multilateral disarmament. A decision to build Trident submarines now, just as talks on disarmament are due to get underway in the United Nations General Assembly, seems ill-timed and unwarranted."

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Quakers in Britain said: "We see that of God in everyone and seek to love our neighbours as ourselves. A teaching which is present in many religions. This means we cannot threaten others with weapons of mass destruction. We will build a more secure future by modelling in our own actions the behaviour that we ask of others."

Recalling that the Church of Scotland has spoken out against nuclear weapons for thirty years, the Rt. Rev Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the Church of Scotland said: "Attempts to sustain peace through the threat of indiscriminate mass destruction could not be further from the peace to which Christ calls us. It is vital that the UK demonstrates the sort of change it wants to see in the world; building peace through strong and courageous leadership and not by commissioning more nuclear weapons."

The Revd Stephen Keyworth, Faith and Society Team Leader, the Baptist Union of Great Britain added: "We have an opportunity to give strong moral leadership and to work creatively as peacemakers. We will never achieve the peace which Scripture encourages us towards with a defence policy built on fear -peace is achieved through justice and relationship, not fear."

**BOOK NOW!! MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS WE FINALISE THE
PROGRAMME**

**METHODIST HERITAGE REGIONAL DAYS 2016
SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH, YORK
SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER SALISBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Tel.No.	<input type="text"/>

I am interested in attending the Heritage Regional Day on:

Saturday 1 October at Central Methodist Church, York

Saturday 5 November at Salisbury Methodist Church

(Please tick where applicable)

Dietary requirements.....

PLEASE RETURN THIS RESPONSE FORM BY EMAIL TO:

fosterd@methodistchurch.org.uk

OR BY POST TO:

**Diane Foster
Administrator, Methodist Heritage
Methodist Church House
25 Marylebone Road
London
NW1 5JR**

The Upper Thames Circuit and The Church of Christ the Servant, Abbey Meads are seeking an enthusiastic and committed:

Pioneer Worker

to take up their duties by December 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. This is a new, full-time position within the ecumenical partnership. The successful candidate will develop and deliver a programme of mission and ministry, including new expressions of the Christian faith, in the North Swindon Area, building a team, working with the Minister and local ecumenical partners to make Jesus known through strategic community engagement, working with existing ministries of the church and pioneering new work.

The appointee will, by experience and action:

- demonstrate a personal faith in Jesus and be committed to the values and ethos of the Christian life,
- motivate, encourage and enable others, building strong and effective relationships,
- be willing to work with other churches, church workers and organisations
- display leadership, enthusiasm, dynamism and care for others, as well as working effectively as part of a team,
- identify the needs and assets of the church and local communities, seeking to optimise their deployment.

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

Tel: (01793) 764544 (Wednesday and Friday mornings)
www.upperthamescircuit.org.uk

Salary: £21,000 – 25,000 per annum

This is a fixed term contract for 3 years.

Closing date for applications: Friday 23rd September 2016

Interviews will be held in October 2016

The Upper Thames Circuit is seeking to appoint a:

Circuit Administrator

to take up their duties between November 2016 and January 2017. This is a part-time (12 hours per week) position. The successful candidate will provide a competent and professional administrative support service to the Superintendent Minister and Circuit Leadership Team, working from the Circuit Office at the Highworth Methodist Church

The appointee will:

- be committed to the values and ethos of the Methodist Church
- demonstrate excellent initiative, communication skills, both orally and in writing (including telephone, face-to-face, email and correspondence)
- build strong and effective relationships with ministers, preachers and other employees and volunteers within the circuit as well as visitors and people within the wider Methodist connexion.
- provide office management and administrative support on behalf of the Circuit Leadership Team in its management of human resources (both paid and volunteer). Strong IT skills are essential.
- maintain secure records and assist in the implementation of policies and procedures for appointments, safeguarding, personnel and payroll, finance, property and archives.
- be instrumental in producing monthly circuit newsletters and the quarterly circuit plan
- collate and submit circuit records of Methodist annual statistics
- keep stocks of stationery and office supplies and deal with the procurement of these

To obtain further information and an application form please contact:

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

Email: upperthamescircuit@gmail.com
Tel: (01793) 764544 (Wednesday and Friday mornings 09.30 – 12.30)
www.upperthamescircuit.org.uk

Salary: £7.50 per hour (currently under review for cost of living increase w.e.f. September 2016)

Optional Pension Scheme

Hours: 12 per week, over 3 or 4 mornings (to be negotiated) with occasional evening meetings

Appointment will be subject to DBS clearance and satisfactory completion of 3 months' probation.

Closing date for applications: Friday 28th October 2016 (information packs available from 25th August)

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 9th November 2016

Highworth Festival

presents

Reed Rage

Bassoon Quartet



with special guest Anthony Williams on the double bass

in concert at

Highworth Methodist Church

Friday 9th September, 7.30 pm

Tickets £10 (accompanied children free) from

The Lighthouse Bookshop or Terry Williams 762669

News from The New Room, August 2016

Welcoming the President and Vice-President

A real highlight of the past month has been welcoming the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev Dr Roger Walton, and the Vice-President, Rachel Lampard, to the New Room. Roger and Rachel donned hard hats and hi-vis jackets to tour the Horsefair Project building site, ably accompanied by our manager David Worthington and Bristol Methodist District Chair Rev Dr Jonathan Pye. After inspecting plans for the new visitor centre with Beard Construction site manager Harry Humphrey-Ackumey, Roger and Rachel also visited Charles Wesley's House as part of their three-day visit to the Bristol District, which also included an evening with Street Pastors in Chippenham.

Up on the roof!

The team from Beard Construction is currently focusing on creating a roof for our new Horsefair visitor centre. Scaffolding is encasing the main steel structure as the timbers are added. The wood will be followed by insulation and bitumen layers - but then comes the exciting bit - the finished roof will also have grass on the top. That's one way to stand out in the city centre!

Other developments include the ongoing construction of the lift shaft, the education room, the library space and the archive room, where precious Methodist books and artefacts will be stored. Our Library Group is currently working on the designs for the new library, which will feature new stacks for books and periodicals, desks and equipment for students and researchers.

Remembering Asbury in Pill

Francis Asbury was one of the first Methodist bishops and is credited as co-founding the Methodist Church in America. But did you know that this all started in 1771 when he sailed to the States from Pill? The community in Pill and Methodists in the Bristol District are being offered the chance to find out more about Asbury with a series of special events, 200 years after his death. There are several events to get involved in:

Saturday, September 3rd: A Community Fun Day on The Green in Pill organised by Pill Methodist Church. From 11am-3pm there will be games, food and drink, a village trail, crafts, competitions, storytelling, face painting and stalls - plus a chance to find out about Francis Asbury and his unique link with Pill.

Then, on **Sunday, September 4th**, a 'Pill-grimage' will leave the New Room at 11am to walk approximately 6 miles from Bristol to Pill.

After a short reflective service at Asbury's Memorial Stone (the American Monument) at 2.30pm, there will be a service of celebration and commemoration at Pill Methodist Church at 3pm, plus refreshments.

For more information on any of these events please email info@newroombristol.org.uk

Paul Field in Concert at the New Room

Popular singer/songwriter Paul Field will be 'in concert' at the New Room on **Friday, September 30th at 7.30pm.**

Paul will be performing old and new songs from his collection as well as extracts from the 'Stolen Lives' project, which explores the issues of slavery and abolition.

We are looking forward to hosting Paul at the chapel and expect this event to be very popular.

Tickets, priced £8, are available online via Eventbrite. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

We encourage you to book in advance to avoid disappointment. For more information please email Education Officer Mandy Briggs (education@newroombristol.org.uk)

Please share these items of news with your family, friends and congregations!

The President of the Methodist Conference, Rev Dr Roger Walton, has written a review of the new book by our Warden, Gary Best. The review of A Tragedy of Errors, about Grace Murray (the woman John Wesley loved and lost) can be found by clicking [HERE](#)

The Upper Thames Circuit



CIRCUIT SERVICE

**to celebrate the 20 year anniversary of
the Upper Thames Circuit and to welcome
Rev. Rachael Wilson to a new phase of ministry
at Christ the Servant, Abbey Meads**

6.30 p.m. - Sunday 4th September 2016

**Church of Christ the Servant, Abbey Meads
Abbey Meads Village Centre SN25 4YX**

Preacher: Rev. Keith Osborn (Superintendent Minister)

ALL WELCOME