

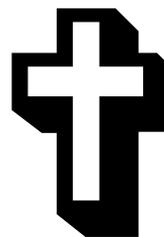
The Methodist Church – Bristol District

Upper Thames Circuit

Monthly Newsletter

No 22

September 2015



Rev David's Bit

Is the glass half full or half empty for you? And does it matter? For a Christian, Yes! Our belief in a God who by His Spirit shares our journey, who is not detached from our daily life, whose engagement with us means that there is purpose and meaning even in the everyday events, makes optimism an outworking of Christian hope. If we can see only the negative we diminish God and we diminish ourselves. Of course as citizens of the world there are times when we have to walk in the mess but we can still keep our heads up and see Kingdom things and live by Kingdom principles. The psalmist knew this – “I will lift up my eyes until the hills.....” To be without hope is, according to Paul in Romans, the mark of the ungodly. When we are in the difficult place we need to know that it is not the whole picture and that there is good beyond it (and even within it) and who better to affirm that than those who share their life with God? So we need each other to increase our hope and our positive approach to life. (One of the key roles of a Circuit!) As we start this new Methodist year, let us be determined to do all that we can **together**, so as to “praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that’s to come.”

David

Rev David Perkins

NB: The deadline for items for the October newsletter is Wednesday, 23rd September.

CIRCUIT PLAN: SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2015

Please note the following amendments to the Plan:

- a) The Circuit Event on 17th 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 11th 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 18th October will be a service of Holy Communion.
- d) The service at Blunsdon Methodist Church on 15th November will be at 10.30am NOT 3.00pm.
- e) The 6.30pm service at Shrivenham Methodist Church on 15th November will be taken by Rev. Rachael Wilson (not Ann Coventry) and will be a service of Holy Communion.

DISTRICT NEWS/EVENTS:

We warmly welcome our new Chair of District, Rev Dr Jonathan Pye and support him in our prayers as he settles in to his new role. We very much look forward to meeting him at our Circuit Service at 6.00pm on 13th September at Highworth Methodist Church, followed by light refreshments (provided by the Highworth and Shrivenham churches).

BRISTOL DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL

The Bristol District Youth Council comprises a small group of young people from across the district, who meet a few times a year. They are heavily involved in Bristol District Youth issues such as event planning and they also input ideas into the national 3Generate Methodist Children & Youth Assembly.

It's a fabulous way of gaining a range of skills such as problem solving, planning and public speaking; forming friendships with other young Christians; exploring personal faith; understanding more about the Methodist Church and all whilst having a whole load of fun. They have been involved in fundraising; they regularly lead worship and do presentations at Synod; and along with attending 3Generate they go away together for a few days every summer. This year they also interviewed Michael Eavis and two of them were privileged to represent England at the European Methodist Youth Camp in Ireland.

Do you know of any young people linked with a Methodist Church in the Bristol District who may be interested in joining the DYC? Young people aged 11-23 are welcome, although we would suggest that ideally 13+ works best considering the demands of the role.

This can be a particularly great opportunity for young people who are in congregations with low numbers of young people &/or no youth group, as it provides the chance for them to engage in fellowship with other Christians their age and be supported in a youth work capacity.

BRISTOL DISTRICT YOUTH PRESIDENT

Once a year we encourage the young people of the district to consider standing for District Youth President.

The young people attending the District Youth Weekend called "ResQ" in October this year will vote for the new District Youth President and the Vice Youth President. They will then be officially welcomed into their roles during the Sunday morning service.

Do you know anyone who would suit this role (aged 13-23)?

I really look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks
Emma

Emma Mills' contact details are:

Youth Work Enabler
Bristol District of the Methodist Church
07989 496316
Emma.YouthWorkEnabler@virginmedia.com

DISTRICT FACEBOOK GROUP
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BristolDistrictYouth/>

DISTRICT YOUTH WEBSITE
www.BristolDistrictYouth.co.uk

See Appendix 2 for a fuller list of events.

CIRCUIT NEWS/EVENTS:

Circuit Service: 13th September

Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, who has been appointed as Bristol District Chair w.e.f. 1st September, has accepted an invitation to take a service in our circuit on Sunday 13th September. This will be held at 6.00pm at Highworth Methodist Church and will be followed by light refreshments. We look forward to meeting Rev Dr Jonathan Pye and to enjoying a time of warm fellowship together.

Circuit Event: 17th October

On Saturday, 17th 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 (50%) Youth Worker in Shrivenham with effect from January 2016. The advertisement for this post will appear in a selection of local and national publications shortly, and an early draft 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).

Blunsdon Methodist Church

Epic Explorers Holiday Club

22 children attended the annual Holiday Club in Blunsdon – this time a joint venture between Blunsdon Methodist Church and St Leonard's Church. The club was called Epic Explorers and was based on Christianity Explored for kids, telling the Christian message in easy to understand steps allowing the young people to respond appropriately as the week developed. On Sunday we had a united family service celebration at St Leonards Church which was well attended as a number of the families who came joined with the regular congregations.

Highworth Methodist Church

Highworth Methodist Church celebrates its anniversary on the week-end of 21st and 22nd November. Rev Paul Ashby and his wife Carmel will be here for the week-end and Paul will be taking both services at Highworth on the Sunday.

Shrivenham Methodist Church

Café Inspire

The next Café Inspire will be held in the Shrivenham Primary School on Saturday, 12th September 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. If you bring along your copy of the Shrivenham News (Parish Magazine) you will qualify for free refreshments! 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 of this committee for the coming year (September 2015 – August 2016) will be Rev Richard Hancock from St Andrew's Church, Shrivenham.

OTHER NEWS/EVENTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Please note the following items forwarded from the Ammerdown Centre, Ammerdown Park, Radstock, Somerset BA3 5SW:

14 to 16 September Living with Feeling led by Srs Margaret Lyth and Felicity Young. Through carefully guided creative and contemplative activities facilitated by Sr Felicity Young and Sr Margaret Lyth, you will discover how to be at peace with your feelings – by acknowledging them and then treating them with kindness. It is a very gentle experiential process which can help give renewed colour and energy to our lives, and reveal that even our difficult feelings can be doorways to God. For more information or to book a place go to <http://ammerdown.org/Living-with-Feeling-2015> , email centre@ammerdown.org or ring 01761 433709.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday 12 th September	District Synod, Kingswood, Bristol
Sunday 13 th September	Circuit Service with Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, Highworth 6.00pm followed by light refreshments
Tuesday 15 th September	Circuit Meeting, Royal Wootton Bassett 7.30pm
Tuesday 6 th October	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting, Toothill 7.30pm
Saturday 17 th October	"Closer to God" – The Discipline and Practice of Prayer - Chris Voke Highworth Methodist Church

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
Wilts
SN6 7AD

ADVERTISEMENT

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

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

www.upperthamescircuit.org.uk

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

This is a fixed term contract for 2 years.

Closing date for applications: Friday, 30th October 2015

Bristol District Children & Youth

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

NEW DATE 20th – 22nd November
NEW VENUE "PGL Adventure Centre, Swindon"

Please note the booking line opens on Saturday 6th 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 6th 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

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Emma ASAP
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. Connecting Disciple LOCAL

17th June : A chance for lay workers from the Bristol and West Midlands Region to get together, network, worship, celebrate!

This FREE OF CHARGE event is primarily aimed for lay workers but volunteers are more than welcome to attend too.

4. Lay workers Gloucestershire Circuit Support Group

Are you employed by the Methodist Church and based in the Gloucestershire Circuit & feel you will benefit from meeting with others in similar roles?

A new informal support group has been set up for the Gloucestershire Circuit. The first meeting was in a coffee shop in Gloucester City Centre. It's a great opportunity for lay workers to share ideas, off-load, learn for each other, ask for advice, share resources and talk about good news stories too! If you are a lay worker working for the Methodist Church in the Gloucestershire Circuit then it would be great if you could join us. It's all relaxed and flexible.

If you are not a lay worker in Gloucestershire then why not set your own group?

It could be similar to this one, or an interdenominational youth work support group within a particular town/city, or a volunteer youth workers support group for your area?

If any support groups like this already exist, no matter how informal, I would love to hear about it, thanks Emma.

5. Ark Bus Drivers Required

Are you able to help this fantastic project? Are you over 25 with a full clean driving licence?

If interested or if you would like more information, contact them via their website www.thearkbus.org.uk

6. 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>

7. 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/>