

Upper Thames Methodist Circuit 7/23

Bristol District



November Newsletter 2017

The opening letter is written by Mr Paul Holloway, Circuit Steward

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday I had the privilege of attending the valedictory service at Blunsdon Methodist Church. What a thrill it was to see the church full and to witness the support from members of all the other churches in our Circuit for the faithful folk at Blunsdon. For me (and I am sure for many others) it was something of a bitter sweet occasion. Yes, as I have said above, it was good to join with others in praising God and thanking him for all the good things that have taken place in that church over the years, but I couldn't help feeling sad at the end of an era. My memories of Blunsdon Chapel go back to the 1950s when I accompanied my dad when he, as a local preacher, in the old Swindon Circuit preached there. Then in later years Joy and Ray Jones invited me to be their auctioneer when they held annual (I think) fundraising auctions.

You will note that the service last Sunday was not a FINAL service, but merely celebrated the cessation of regular services on the premises. The fellowship at Blunsdon will still meet for worship in a private house and your Circuit Leadership Team, along with the Leadership team at Highworth (as Blunsdon is currently a class of Highworth church) is actively considering possible ways in which the premises may be able to continue to be used in the future for such things as a Sunday School, Messy Church, Youth Club or for the more elderly folk as the venue for afternoon tea etc.

One thing is for certain is that if it is God's will that the "People known as Methodists" still have a role to play in the life of the village of Blunsdon, then He will make it possible. I am convinced that, even if the traditional form of worship that I, as a cradle Methodist, and others love is not to continue in Blunsdon, then our Lord will lead us in new ways to His praise and glory.

With every blessing

Paul Holloway, Circuit Steward

NB Deadline for items for the December/January Newsletter is Wednesday 22nd November

District News

Methodist Women in Britain

Report by Bristol District Representative, Carolyn Buley, of the MWib Forum Meeting September 2017 – please see attached report.

Circuit News/Events

Bible Study Day – Save the date - Saturday 3rd February 2018 10 – 4pm

To be led by Rev Bev Thomas 'Who do you see in the Kingdom of God?' at Highworth Methodist Church. More details to come.

Ignite! Youth Services

The next youth service will take place on Sunday 5th November at Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church at 6pm – everyone is welcome although the focus is on young people.

Highworth Methodist Church

- Highworth Church has once again invited Silhouette Theatre Co. this December:
"A Christmas Carol" suitable for children (6 years+) and adults.
Friday 15th December at Highworth Methodist Church. @ 4:30pm
Tickets £4:50 from The Lighthouse Bookshop.
- Highworth Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar Saturday 25th November 10am - 1:30pm

A short introduction from Jon Lewis (Mission enabler at Highworth Methodist Church)

Well....I'm here! My name is Jon Lewis and I've recently been appointed the new Lay Mission Enabler for Highworth Methodist Church. This is a new role for me as it is for the Church. Over the past 6 years (in 2 different appointments) I've ministered in Cornwall as a youth and children's worker so this is where my expertise lies. However, I have been involved in several mission projects as part of my work with young people and will be looking to draw on this experience to assist me in this new role.

I'm reminded as well of all the characters in the bible we read of who ended up in roles that were vastly different from where they started. Shepherds to kings. Fishermen to Preachers. I thus feel nervous and excited by the task at hand but sure of God's spirit to guide me!

On a final note please feel free, especially as we start this new journey to make suggestions about people to contact and missional projects and activities you feel could be of interest to myself and the church. I can't promise I will act on every suggestion but I do intend to pray and discern every thought passed on to me, especially as you may all see needs and areas of growth that I may be blind to. Together I trust and pray that we will see many turn to Christ in the upcoming years, with and without my input.

God bless all.

Jon Lewis

Christ the Servant

- Shoe boxes – Christ the Servant is a drop off point for Christmas charity shoeboxes. There will be a special all age service to send them on their way with prayers on Sunday 19th November 10am at CTS.
- Caravanserai model will be at Christ the Servant from 27th November until Christmas. Please contact Chris German pioneer.christtheservant@gmail.com if you would like to book a slot to bring a group you belong to, or a group of friends
- Christmas market to be held on Saturday 25th November 10am

Cricklade

Come and Sing Handel's Messiah in aid of Children In Need at St Sampson's on Saturday 18th November – see attached poster for details.

Royal Wootton Bassett – Job Advert

Families Worker

Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church, Wiltshire



www.rwbmc.co.uk

Is God calling you to work with children and families?

We're looking for someone who is passionate about developing families work within the church and the wider community alongside the minister, Youth Worker and team.

This is a new post building on a foundation of previous successful lay work. Active links with two local Anglican churches are already in place

As a church we are excited about this new opportunity. If you share this excitement we'd love to hear from you.

Full time post: £21-25,000 pa

An enhanced DBS is required.

It is an occupational requirement that the post holder be a practising Christian.

To speak to someone about the job please contact Revd David Perkins on 01793 849241 or skyeperky@hotmail.com. For an application pack please email: circuitadmin@upperthamescircuit.org.uk

Closing date: Monday November 6th

Interviews: Week of Monday November 20th

Dates for your diary

Sunday 5th November

Saturday 18th November

Sunday 19th November

Saturday 25th November

27th Nov – 24th December

Friday 15th December

Saturday 3rd February

Ignite! Youth Service at RWB 6pm

Come and sing Handel's Messiah at Cricklade

Shoebox service Christ the Servant 10am

HMC Christmas Bazaar 10 – 1.30pm

CTS Christmas Market 10am

Caravanserai model at CTS

Silhouette Theatre Company HMC 4.30pm

Bible Study Day

Contact details (Upper Thames Circuit)

Circuit Office

circuitadmin@upperthamescircuit.org.uk

Superintendent

superintendent@upperthamescircuit.org.uk

Senior Circuit Steward:

seniorcircuitsteward@upperthamescircuit.org.uk

Circuit Treasurer

treasurer@upperthamescircuit.org.uk

Postal address

**Highworth Methodist Church
Vicarage Lane
Highworth
Swindon
SN6 7AD**

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 8.30 – 12 noon

Telephone

01793 764544