

MK Methodist Circuit – Monthly Newsletter - March 2023

Circuit Meetings and Fellowship Diary March/April 2023

Friday 3rd March, 7.00pm: **World Day of Prayer Service** at Woburn Sands Methodist Church, MK17 8RL

Wednesday 8th March, 7.30pm: **Local Preachers Meeting** via zoom

Saturday 11th March, 10.00am – 3.00pm: **Bible Month Training** at Newport Pagnell Methodist Church, MK16 8AQ. See page 2 for more information.

Sunday 12th March, 3.00pm : **Online Holy Communion Circuit Conversation**, 3.00pm at Woburn Sands Methodist Church, MK17 8RL

Tuesday 14th March, 7.30pm : **Circuit Meeting** at Stony Stratford Methodist Church, MK11 1JS

Wednesday 15th March, 10am : **District Presbyteral Synod** at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, Marlborough Rd, Banbury OX16

Sunday 19th March, 2.30pm : **Circuit Service – Visit of Vice President, Mr Anthony Boateng** at Queensway Methodist Church. More details to follow

Saturday 22nd April, 10am : **District Representative Synod** at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, New Inn Hall St, Oxford OX1 2DH

More upcoming events can be found here - <http://mkmethodist.org.uk/events/>

CIRCUIT NEWS

Lent Group in Newton Longville – open to all

Newton Longville Free Church and St Faiths Anglican Church are holding a joint Lent Group. The group will meet on Wednesdays as follows:

1st March, 8th March, 15th March, 22nd March, 29th March

All meetings start at 7pm at Newton Longville Free Church - London End, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes MK17 0AX.

All are invited.

Artificial Christmas Tree requiring a new home!

Would anyone like a 7 foot artificial Christmas tree with stand that is looking for a new home? If you would, please contact:

Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck, email nicola.martyn-beck@methodist.org.uk



Bible Month

Bible Month is an annual campaign that celebrates scripture by inviting the whole Methodist Connexion to feast on one particular book of the Bible together.

Through a menu of carefully curated resources, training and learning opportunities, churches and circuits are encouraged to 'taste and see' the goodness of an individual text; enjoying some of its unique flavours, considering its origins, appreciating its place alongside the rest of scripture, and savouring the unique contribution it might make to our faithful living and learning today.

Join us for Bible Month 2023 as we spend the strange and fascinating book of

REVELATION

**The Church
Then and Now**

**The Triumph
of the Lamb**

**Witness, Worship
and Waiting**

**Heading
Home**

Revelation is one of those biblical books we can be tempted to avoid. Its odd and even disturbing imagery can make it quite an uncomfortable and perplexing read. But this pastoral letter, written by an elder sage to a diverse group of committed yet messy, tired, hurting and confused churches can actually offer us a lot of comfort and instruction about how to live hopefully, faithfully and lovingly as God's people today, however challenging a time and place we might find ourselves in.

We've produced a host of resources to help you and your churches chew over the text of Revelation in a host of different ways together; appreciating its strangeness, hearing its encouragement and responding to its challenges. This year's menu includes short **Animations** on each theme, a **Reading Guide**, a **Bible Journaling Kit**, and our usual **30 Days with Revelation** booklet filled with study notes, small group session plans and all-age worship activities.

**Check out the links below
and join in the feast!**



**Purchase your
copy of 30 Days
with Revelation**

preachweb.org



**Register for our
Training Day**

[BM23-Training
.eventbrite.co.uk](http://BM23-Training.eventbrite.co.uk)



methodist.org.uk/biblemonth



facebook.com/biblemonth



youtube.com/biblemonth

We are pleased to be offering Newport Pagnell Methodist Church as a hub for this year's Bible Month training day (see above) on **Saturday 11th March**. Bookings can be made via Eventbrite using the link <http://bm23-training.eventbrite.co.uk/>

News from our Churches

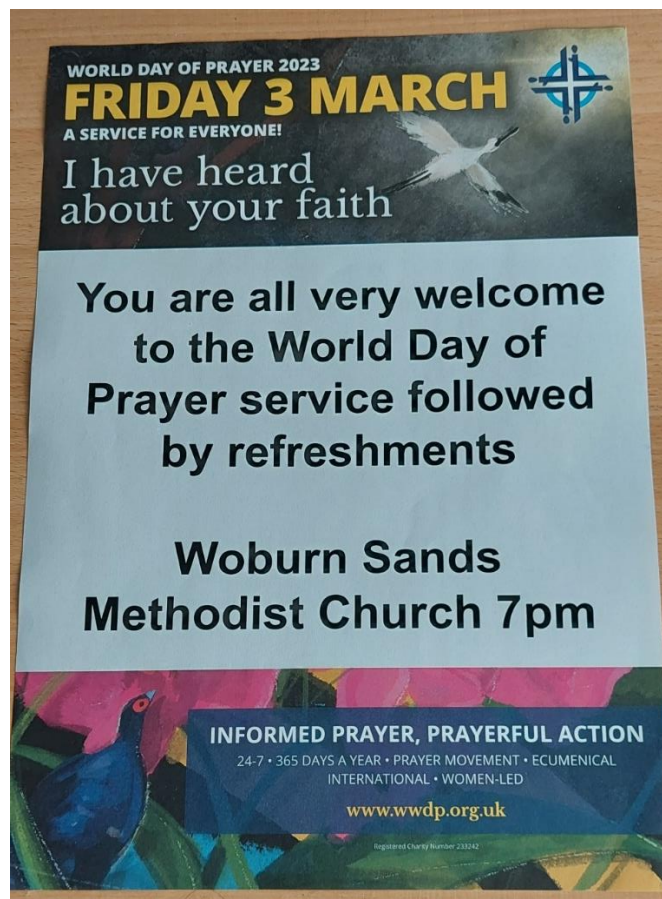
Woburn Sands Methodist Church

Christmas Cracked

We had a wonderful preparation for Christmas with pupils from Fulbrook School in December. Using materials from the Bridgebuilder Trust, we hosted Christmas Cracked for 47 pupils in Year 5, a lower number than before as the school goes through transition. The afternoon included visits from The Nutty Professor (Stef Muzz in his banana costume!), puzzles, thoughts from our minister Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck and an interview with one of the Bethlehem shepherds, who told the children all about his experiences on that eventful night. We also sang the Calypso Carol and played Christmas charades. It was a memorable afternoon, and the children all went back with a better idea of what Christmas is all about. Many thanks to all who took part, especially Dave Sweetnam who organised everything.

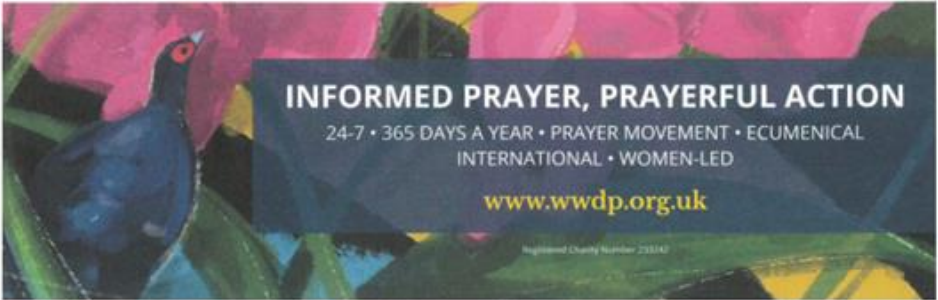
Christmas Cracker

On the Wednesday before Christmas the Holiday Club team, led by Valerie Symon, was host to 24 children plus 8 young leaders for Christmas Cracker. A day of worship, fun and games, crafts, wreath making and cooking culminated with a walk to Frosts Garden Centre where we were welcomed to the restaurant to sing carols and Christmas songs. We were given a very warm welcome by both the customers and staff and look forward to a return visit next year.





**Come and join us at
The Salvation Army
Ramsons Avenue
Conniburrow
MK14 7BA
at 12.30**



OTHER METHODIST NEWS

'Love Is' campaign

This year's 'Love Is' campaign will take place from 31st March – 14th April.

Easter - No borders to God's love



This year's [Easter Offering Service](#) takes inspiration from Leviticus 19:34 (*"The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as a citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself"*). The service celebrates stories of the Methodist community offering welcome, hospitality and support to people who are displaced, forced to migrate and seeking a new life.

The service has been prepared by Methodist Women in Britain to support fundraising for the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain. Find out more on the Methodist Easter Offering page.

Other useful materials reflecting on the Easter Offering theme can be found on StF's [Refugees and Migrants](#) page – including [The "stranger", a Bible study](#) that unpacks different Biblical terms for refugees and migrants.

www.methodist.org.uk/EasterOffering

Support for Cost of Living Crisis

If your church is working to help those affected by the cost of living crisis, it may be eligible for a grant. [Click here to view a list of grants available.](#)

In addition to this list, The Benefact Trust has announced funding to support charities responding to the crisis. [Click here to view the details.](#)

Warm Spaces – funding and volunteers

If you're running a Warm Space this winter, please do register with [Warm Welcome](#) – it helps local people find your space and is used by social, community and health workers for referring people.

In addition, Warm Welcome are launching a service to help you find and recruit [volunteers](#) for your Warm Space. Even if you have 'enough' volunteers, offering this opportunity can be a great way of including more people in your church community – whether it's young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh award, those looking to make new connections post-lockdown, or others who want to help out in the cost-of-living crisis.

Finally, Co-op and Crowdfunder are offering Warm Spaces up to £5,000 in matched funding to resource your space (as well as the possibility of £500 to get you going!). If you have not yet applied for funding, start your application [here](#).

Homes for Ukraine

Methodists for Ukraine is a project to enable Methodists to support Ukrainians through refugee sponsorship. The need for hosts to come forward remains high, but the supply is running low.

If you have a spare room or property available, you could be supported to host through Methodists for Ukraine. We'll match you with a suitable guest, and support you along the way to make sure hosting is safe and successful.

Visit the [Methodist Church website](#) or email Homes for Ukraine Support Officer, [Matt Ceaser](#). You can download posters and flyers to print from the [website](#).

[*Toolkit for churches responding to the crisis in Ukraine.*](#)

Vocations events

This Connexional year the Methodist Church is hosting events for those exploring ordained ministry:

Exploring Ordained Ministry – Saturday 18th March 2023 – *Why might you attend this event?* To find out more about: Being an Ordained person How to Candidate for Ordained Ministry What is included in the Training Pathways **Click [here](#) to book your place**

The events are free, however, booking is required. You are welcome to bring a friend or significant other with you. All events are interactive and prayerful, with space for you to ask questions. For more information please email mvw@methodistchurch.org.uk

Candidating for Ministry

If you know anyone who wishes to Candidate in 2023 they must do so by 30th April 2023.
Details can be found here: [Candidating for ministry \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk/candidating-for-ministry)

Voices in Harmony – Methodist Women in Britain Conference

14th – 16th April 2023 at Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, or join via zoom.

Full details on the Circuit website, Upcoming Events page -
<http://mkmethodist.org.uk/events/>

TRAINING/COURSES/TALKS

Further details of the following training/courses/talks, together with how you can register, can be found on the Circuit website, Resources page – <http://mkmethodist.org.uk/https-mkmethodist-org-uk-resources/>

- **Tuesday 7th March – Book Launch.** His Blood Be Upon Us: Completion and Condemnation in Matthew’s Gospel. Revd Dr Tom Wilson. St Philip’s Centre
- **Friday 17th – Sunday 19th March - Wells in the Wilderness.** Local Preachers’ retreat in Clitheroe led by Barbara Easton, Ex-President of the Methodist Conference. Reflect Retreats.
- **March/April 2023 - Climate Change short course.** A course for lay and ordained preachers and worship leaders who wish to develop greater confidence when preaching about the climate crisis. Wesley House Cambridge

The Community for Spiritual Formation

Through a programme of teaching, silence, worship and reflection based on a Benedictine monastic pattern, The Community for Spiritual Formation creates transformative space for people to be in communion with God, self, others, and creation for the sake of the world. Nicola Vidamour can provide more information.



Saturday 18th March 2023

“Celtic, Incarnate, Relational: a spirituality for today”

Online day with Ruth Harvey

Tuesday 18th – Friday 21st July 2023

“Who are you? Living a Godly life”

Three-Day Community with Sam Wells at Ripon College, Cuddesdon

NEWS FROM AROUND MK

Make the Pledge to MK Food Bank!

[MK Foodbank](#) writes:

“2022 saw a **40%** increase in demand for our services – which worked out as more than **50** new households contacting us every week. And 2023 is showing no signs of letting up. Unfortunately, the rising cost of food has also led to a drop in donations of food, which were down last year by nearly a third.

So, we are very excited to launch MK Food Bank *pledge* fundraiser this year in order to support our community who are in food insecurity.

We are asking you to commit to **Drop Food, Drop Money** or **Drop Time** to ensure no one goes hungry in Milton Keynes. Whether you are an individual, family, school or business **get involved** with our Pledge Fundraiser this year!

All the details can be found here - <https://mkfoodbank.org.uk/mk-food-drop/>

We have set up an appeal page on Local Giving so you can use this page to **Drop Money** by starting your fundraiser or donating a one-off or monthly amount.

*Thank you from MK Food Bank team!
Together we can really make a difference”*

**Deadline for entries for the March edition of the Circuit Newsletter:
Tuesday 7th March**