

MK Methodist Circuit – Monthly Newsletter - April 2023

Circuit Meetings and Fellowship Diary April/May 2023

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

Tuesday 25th April, 10am – 3pm : Northampton District Lay Employees Gathering at Milton Methodist Church.

Thursday 11th May, 7.30pm : Circuit Safeguarding Leads Meeting at Christ the Cornerstone

Tuesday 30th May, 7.30pm : Circuit Leadership Team Meeting at All Saints Church, Loughton

Dates for your diaries:

- Sunday 23rd July - Farewell service for Revd Nicola Martyn-Beck at St James New Bradwell, 3pm
- Sunday 20th August - Welcome service for Revd Dave Haseldine and Revd Edson Dube, at Newport Pagnell MC, 2.30pm TBC

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

CIRCUIT NEWS

Services and Activities for Holy Week

Details of Services and Activities for Holy Week in the Circuit and LEPs can be found on the Circuit website on the Services page - <http://mkmethodist.org.uk/services/>

Mission Development Plan 2022 - 2027

Our Mission Development Plan for 2022 – 2027 was adopted at the March Circuit Meeting It can be found on the Circuit website, Resources section:

<http://mkmethodist.org.uk/https-mkmethodist-org-uk-resources/>

It will be reviewed in June 2027.

News from our Churches

Hanslope Methodist Church

Hanslope MC recently held a Cake Sale in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee's Relief Fund following the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

They were delighted to raise £355 for the Fund and were so grateful to all those who contributed and helped make the event such a success - all the bakers, tea/coffee makers, cake servers, washer uppers, plus of course, those who came and bought the cakes, and not forgetting the people who made cash donations.

We are blessed to live in such a generous and compassionate village.



Queensway Methodist Church

- Following the success of their first Café Worship, they are planning to continue these on the 4th Sunday of every month.
- Steve has been busy putting the two memorial benches in place opposite the church garden, in memory of Mary Cox and Jean Croucher. A lovely addition to the church grounds.
- The church has been hosting school visits on the theme of Easter during March led by Jane.
- They have been busy on their Eco Church project and have applied for their Bronze Award.
- The church will be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III with a traditional Afternoon Tea on Saturday 6th May.

Queensway will be hosting a Tea Dance on Saturday 1st July, 2.30 until 5pm, Music by local band, "The Fenny Stompers" covering various types of music. So put your best foot forward, bring your families & friends and come join in the fun! Tickets: £10 each - including light refreshments. Ticket sales: enquire on 07835 439146. Proceeds to Charity.



CHORAL MEDITATION FOR PASSIONTIDE

Sunday 2nd April at 3.30pm
at St Mary's, Shenley Church End.

A service of meditation in words and music for Passiontide at St Mary's, led by Rev'd Wendy Carey, with music sung by the Cornerstone Choir.


We are delighted to be hosting this service which will include readings from a number of different sources and feature the Choir of Christ the Cornerstone singing beautiful choral settings for this Holy Season. Do join us if you can for this special service, which will last about an hour. The offertory will be in aid of St Mary's.


DISTRICT NEWS

Northampton District Lay Employees Gathering – Tuesday 25th April 2023

The next in-person Lay employees gathering in the District will be held on Tuesday 25th April. It's going to be a time of networking, encouraging and timely inputs.

This event is for any lay employees or volunteers in our circuit churches.

 10am – 3pm (BYO lunch)

 Guest speakers to be announced soon

 Milton Methodist Church

To book your space, please click this link- <https://bit.ly/3yqt1e1>

Please contact the Circuit Administrator if you will be attending, for car sharing purposes – email office.mkmc@yahoo.com



The **Methodist** Church
Northampton District

2023

**LAY EMPLOYEES
GATHERING**

25TH APRIL 2023
10AM - 3PM


MATT FORSYTH
Host

**+GUESTS TO BE
ANNOUNCED**

COMING
SOON

Milton Methodist Church
To book go to- <http://bit.ly/3yqt1e1>



District JDS Co-ordinator

The Northampton District has a vacancy for a **Coordinator for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity for 2023-26**

The role is open to both lay or ordained. At the moment it is voluntary with expenses.

Full details can be found on the Circuit website, News section -

<http://mkmethodist.org.uk/news/>

Closing date for applications: Friday 31st March 2023

*District Ordinands
Testimony Service*

CELEBRATE WITH US THE TESTIMONY
OF THE REVEREND
STEPHEN SPAIN
with guest preacher
The Rev'd Richard Andrew,
Chair of the Darlington District

21st May at 6:00pm
Lime Walk Methodist Church
47 Lime Walk
Oxford OX3 7AQ
Followed by refreshments

NB: *For parking please use Thornhill Park and Ride
*The service will be livestreamed via
<https://www.youtube.com/@LimeWalkMC>

OTHER METHODIST NEWS

Reflections for Holy Week

Join the Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Conference, and Anthony Boateng, Vice-President of the Conference, in a short video reflection **released each day at 9am, from Palm Sunday (2 April) to Easter Day (9 April)**. Each video will be shared from the Methodist social media channels. Please follow using the links below to make sure you don't miss out on these individual reflections from our President and Vice-President:

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Vocations Sunday – 7th May

[Vocations Sunday this year is on 7 May](#). Which happens to be on the same weekend as the coronation of King Charles III. Very likely, he too will be thinking about his vocation.

The lectionary readings this year invite us to consider that our vocations do not happen in isolation, but as part of work that God has done and is doing. The writers of the 2023 Vocations worship materials ask: “As we see Charles III building on that which has come before, we ask, What are we called to do which builds on what God has done before in our communities?”

The [materials \(available in English and Welsh\)](#) offer a whole service outline, with an all-age talk, a sermon, prayers and, of course, hymn suggestions. This content might act as launch pad for one's own reflections, or could be used as it is, as a local arrangement.

Methodist Homes Sunday – 11th June

Methodist Homes Sunday will fall on 11th June this year.

One Voice Podcast (Northampton District)

Reverend Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng are the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference and have been spending some time in Northamptonshire. Find out what it's shown them, how it has affected them and hear their responses to some of your questions. We cover scripture, church buildings, President and Vice President rapport and how they've picked up each other's interests. [Listen on Spotify](#).

Hope & Anchor

Calling all volunteers.... Are you an energetic person who loves meeting new people? Recruitment is now open for volunteers for Hope & Anchor – our venue at events and festivals this Spring and Summer. Do you love having conversations that go beyond small talk? Do you love experimenting with being church in places way beyond our church buildings? Do you have time to attend an event, offering around six hours of volunteering during each day of the event? If so, we are looking for you! Please click [here](#) for further details and how to apply.

3Generate Needs You

Applications have opened for an amazing volunteering experience supporting 3Generate 2023!

New people are needed to join the incredible team of staff and volunteers working to make 3Generate the amazing event it is. There are loads of ways you can get involved, from supporting children and young people in the venues to admin support at the event, or even just helping with set-up and pack-down during the weekend. There's something for everyone, and they can practically guarantee a memorable time whatever you end up doing! If you'd like more information, click [here](#) to find out more and apply.

Information about last year's 3Generate event held in Birmingham last September : Two films: a [6 minute version](#) and a shorter [2 and a half minute](#) version.

Pre-loved StFs

The Connexional Team and the Book Depository at Englesea Brook are setting up a recycling scheme enabling copies of *The Methodist Worship Book* and *Singing the Faith* that are surplus to requirements – for example when a chapel is closing – to be resold. This will help to support the Methodist Church's commitment to Net Zero, and a proportion of the income from the sale of books will go to the Mission in Britain Fund to support the work of the Church.

If you know of any books which need a new home, for now please contact the publishing team at publishing@methodistchurch.org.uk.

Homes for Ukraine

In March 2022 the government opened the Homes for Ukraine scheme to provide a route to safety for those fleeing war. JPIT have released a podcast and blog reflecting on the lessons learned, which can be found on their website www.jpit.uk. Could you encourage those who

are hosting in your churches this week? Perhaps you could invite them to share their reflections this coming Sunday, or organise a day out for their guests.

The Methodist Church's partners in Ukraine are still processing around 100 applications for matching at any one time, meaning the need for hosts to come forward remains. Please encourage people to sign up at www.methodist.org.uk/methodistsforukraine.

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 \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://www.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 18th April** - The Church as an Evangelising Community, 11am – What does it mean to be part of an evangelising community? For the local church to be living and working in sync with their neighbourhood? Co-hosted by Ben Aldous, Principal Officer for Mission and Evangelism at Churches Together in England, and Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church in Britain.
- **Wednesday 19th April** - Dual Transformation webinar, 7pm. Its aim is to inspire and give hope to both those in established churches and in brand new projects by looking at the similarities and differences between those two contexts. The Methodist Church.
- **Wednesday 17th May** – Radiate webinar. For those interested in global relationships and global mission. Two sessions: 1 – 2pm or 7 – 8pm via a Zoom webinar. The Methodist Church.
- **October 2023** - Evangelism for Leaders: new course dates. Five sessions on zoom, on Thursdays from 10am starting on 5th October. This course is for all leaders in the Methodist Church (lay and ordained, paid and unpaid).

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.



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”

JOB VACANCIES

- Lay Pastoral Assistant, Peterborough Circuit
Closing date for applications: Friday 31st March 2023

- Church and Community Enabler, Nene Valley Methodist Church
Closing date for applications: Friday 28th April 2023

Full details on the Circuit website, News page - <http://mkmethodist.org.uk/news/>

**Deadline for entries for the May edition of the Circuit Newsletter:
Friday 7th April**