

## MK Methodist Circuit – Monthly Newsletter - May 2023

### Circuit Meetings and Fellowship Diary May/June 2023

- **Thursday 11th May**, 7.30pm : **Circuit Safeguarding Leads Meeting** at Christ the Cornerstone, Central MK
- **18th – 28th May** : **Thy Kingdom Come**. See further on in this newsletter for the programme of events organised by [Churches Together in Milton Keynes](#)
- **Tuesday 30th May**, 7.30pm : **Circuit Leadership Team Meeting** at All Saints Church, Loughton
- **Thursday 8th June**, 7.30pm: **Local Preachers Meeting** at West End United Church, Wolverton
- **Wednesday 14th June**, 7.30pm : **Circuit Meeting** at Freeman Memorial Methodist Church, Bletchley

#### *Dates for your diaries:*

- **Sunday 23rd July**, 3.00pm – **Farewell service for Revd Nicola Martyn-Beck** at St James, New Bradwell
- **Sunday 20th August**, 2.30pm – **Welcome service for Revd Dave Haseldine and Revd Edson Dube**, at Newport Pagnell Methodist Church

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

### CIRCUIT NEWS

#### **Visit of the Vice President of the Methodist Church in Britain to the MK Circuit**

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March the Milton Keynes Circuit welcomed the Vice President of the Methodist Church in Britain, Mr Anthony Boateng.

The Vice President preached at a Circuit Service held at Queensway Methodist Church that was attended by members from circuit churches and LEPS, both ministers and lay. The uplifting message preached by Mr Boateng was based on a Theme of "Revival", with Bible readings from Acts 2: 4 - 21 read by John Careford a member of Freeman Methodist Church and a Local Preacher. The second reading was read by a Queensway Sunday school pupil Samuel Atieku who read Luke 7: 18 -28. In his address he emphasised the need for the Methodist Church both local and national to engage in Revival in order to fulfil its calling. The Vice President also commended the presence of groups such as the MCZF and Ghanaian Fellowships in the Circuit as a positive start in reviving our churches.



The Queensway Choir led the procession, with prayers from Rev Nicola Vidamour and Mrs Jacqueline Commey and the Benediction from the host minister, The Rev Edson Dube. After the service, the gathering was treated to food from different cultures represented in our churches provided generously by the Queensway Women's Fellowship and MCZF Manyano/Ruwadzano.

*Pause for thought*

*Hebrews 10: 25 reads "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching."*

Circuit gatherings and services are a way of fostering the oneness in the body of Christ. We learn, pray and encourage one another in order to grow in faith.

By Rev Edson Dube

### **Rev Beatrice's Birthday Surprise!**

Rev Beatrice and her family send thanks to everyone who was involved in her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Surprise in March. Here are some lovely photos from the day.



### **Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III**

Prayer booklets of Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III from the Church of England (published by Church House Publishing) are available from the Cornerstone Shop at £1.50 a copy.

## **Eco Churches Workshop in Milton Keynes**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Christ the Cornerstone, from 10.00am - 1.00pm

(People can continue discussions informally over their packed lunches.)

Stuart Kean who is organising this workshop writes: *"I'm convenor of the Eco Church Initiative at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone in Milton Keynes. Our Eco Church activities have been going for just over a year and one of the activities we're organising this year is a workshop involving local Eco Churches from the Milton Keynes area and a bit beyond, to learn more about implementing Eco Church actions and importantly to share and learn from each other's experiences.*

*The workshop will include presentations from Simon Brown, the A Rocha Coordinator for speakers and representative of an Eco Church with a Silver Award followed by questions and answers, breakout groups discussing each of the 5 key areas of church life for Eco Churches with plenary feedback and Next Steps."*

For further information please contact Stuart Kean [stuart.kean@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.kean@gmail.com) or Margaret Broadhurst [mebroadhurst@yahoo.com](mailto:mebroadhurst@yahoo.com)

## **News from our Churches**

### **Deanshanger Methodist Church**

#### **Lent 2023: Love in Action**

Instead of a bible study during Lent we invited four people to give a short talk about the area in which they have experience which shows 'Love in Action'. This was delivered in an informal setting with coffee, and was followed by a discussion.

The aim was to show how Christians have put their faith into action and was based on the passage in Matthew 25: 31-46 vv 35-36 *'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me'*



The Four sessions were taken by:

- Joy Chapman with her display of Fairtrade goods.
- Don Head from The Christian Foundation based at Wolverton which offers innovative learning opportunities within their eight social enterprises for young people 15-25 years.
- Ian Anderson from MK Money Lifeline, a charity since 2012, which offers debt advice for anyone in need in Milton Keynes.
- Rev Wendy Carey's talk '*Life in Prison*' gave us a graphic insight into her dedicated chaplaincy work in several prisons over many years.



## Queensway Methodist Church

Messy Church took place in March in the Church Hall, led by Jane Brough, our Family Worker, assisted by Mike, Steve, Jean, Peter and Ken. We welcomed 46 parents and children to our first Messy Church. We shared the Easter story with them and provided family fun and games, Easter craft activities, songs, and a hot meal. It was a great success! Thank you to everyone involved in our mission to share the love of God with people in our community.

During Easter week Queensway hosted several visits from Knowles school. We welcomed 130 children, plus staff, into our Church. Jane talked with them about Easter, engaged them in an activity, showed them a video explaining the Easter story and we all joined in with two action songs on the screen—Our God is a Great Big God and Oh Happy Day. The children and staff very much appreciated the visits.

At the end of March a group of children from Knowles School came to do some more work on the garden. They did some weeding and planted some potatoes in the raised beds. This is an ongoing project with Knowles School.

Queensway will be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III with a traditional Afternoon Tea on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Following the success of our first Café Worship, we are planning to continue these on the 4th Sunday of every month

**Tea Dance**  
For Charity

Saturday, 1st July, 2023  
2.30 till 5.00 pm

Hosted at Queensway Methodist Church Hall,  
Fenny Stratford, Bletchley

Music by well-known local band: **The Fenny Stompers**  
covering various types of music

*So put your best foot forward, bring your family & friends and come join in the fun!*

**Tickets: £5 each**, plus Raffle (including light refreshments)

Enquiries/Ticket Sales:  
07835 439146

Proceeds to Charity

**QUEENSWAY METHODIST CHURCH • ECO CHURCH PROJECT**



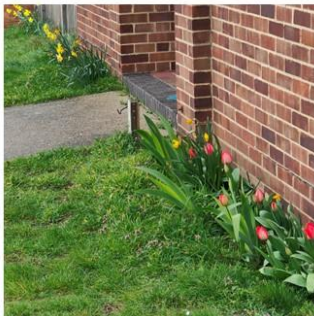
Planting fruit trees



We made several pumpkin pies for our Community Café!



Water butts installed to conserve water for the raised beds



Bulbs planted by children from Knowles Primary School



- We have also installed two compost bins.
- We actively encourage recycling and have placed recycling bins in Church and Hall.



We plan to grow a variety of tomatoes again this year



This is an ongoing project with Knowles Primary School who regularly visit to work on the garden

The produce is available for anyone to come and pick what they need.



Memorial benches, made from sustainable wood, opposite the raised beds. In memory of Jean Croucher and Mary Cox

## Easter biscuits in Newport Pagnell

On Holy Saturday Methodists joined members of the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic and United Reformed churches in Newport Pagnell High Street for the annual distribution of Easter Biscuits to the shoppers and shopkeepers of Newport Pagnell. This tradition has taken place over many years and the greetings that accompany the biscuits are always warmly received. The churches in Newport Pagnell are spread along the High Street with the Anglicans at the top, the Catholics at the bottom and the Free Churches down a number of side alleys and lanes. Ministers and members of the churches that form Churches Together in Newport Pagnell meet regularly as they share in prayer and acts of mission for our town. This year 400 heart shaped biscuits and cards were given to our friends and neighbours as a way of sharing our Easter joy. Below are photos of Newport Pagnell Methodist Church on Easter Day.



## West End United Church

Charity collections by West End's congregation in April, during Communion services and at coffee after Morning Worship, were donated to Dementia UK, which provides life-changing care for families affected by all forms of dementia including Alzheimer's disease.

## Christ the Cornerstone

**Menopause Café** - Once a month in the Cornerstone Café 2.30 – 4.30 pm, starting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Tea or coffee and cake will be available, courtesy of Milton Keynes City Council.

## Woburn Sands Methodist Church

### World Day of Prayer

We had a lovely representation from churches to celebrate World Day of Prayer on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The service was written by women from Taiwan with the message that God is with us through all our trials and He can transform our situations.

Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck and Rev Diana Young were leaders in the service and churches from St Mary's, St Michael's, St Botolph's and Husborne Crawley provided the women's voices.

Bob Ardern exhibited the world globe he and Wendy made. Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments together.



### Easter Cracked

Woburn Sands Methodist Church presented the Bridgebuilder Trust's Easter Cracked to year 5 children and six staff from Fulbrook School in March. It was a successful afternoon with all visitors learning about the Easter story through worksheets, film, an eye witness account from a Roman soldier at the cross and making a paper cross. The children went home with their workbook, two storyboard booklets and an Easter Egg....happy.



Maundy Thursday communion was celebrated by 13 of us sat around a table, and began with hot cross buns and drinks before the service. We joined the other churches on Good Friday for a walk of witness and short service around the war memorial. Our large wooden cross was put up outside the church and had a crown of thorns on Good Friday and was decorated with flowers for Easter day. Chris Linford led our Easter Service.

The Woburn Sands congregation plans to join the town Coronation celebrations in the High Street on 8th May.

Make a note in your diary for the  
**Plant Sale and Local Art Exhibition**

**Saturday 17th June 2023**

**9 - 12.30pm**

**At The Methodist Church**

**High Street, Woburn Sands**

Homegrown Plants, Exhibition of local artwork

Refreshments, cakes, and card sales



## Woughton Ecumenical Partnership

Here is Rev Nicola V at the Labyrinth Prayer Workshop at Christ the Vine during Easter Week.



---

## **DISTRICT NEWS**

Dear Friends

I am delighted to make the following announcement;

*Following the retirement in the summer 2024 of the Rev'd Canon Helen Cameron, we are delighted to announce that, subject to the agreement of the Conference in June this year, the Rev'd Sonia Hicks will become Chair of the Northampton District. Rev'd Sonia Hicks brings a wealth of experience in pastoral ministry in the Methodist Church in Britain, in the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas, and in the Methodist Church in Ireland. Currently, Rev'd Sonia is serving as Superintendent of the Wembley Methodist Circuit. Rev'd Sonia has considerable recent experience in connexional leadership, being well-known as the President of the Conference in 2021-22, and, is currently the Chair of the Methodist Council. Sonia brings to us joy in the Lord Jesus, a broad range of expertise, a passion for justice for everyone, and excitement and enthusiasm for our large, diverse District.*



Kind regards

Paul Spray [synod.secretary@northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk](mailto:synod.secretary@northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk)  
Northampton Methodist Synod Secretary





---

## **OTHER METHODIST NEWS**

**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](#) 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.

**Coronation Weekend – 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May:** There are lots of creative possibilities for evangelism and community engagement over the coronation bank holiday weekend. You'll find ideas, resources and a list of five key pointers [here](#). Rev Michael D Parker, Chaplain General of the British Army, shares this [prayer](#) that can be downloaded for use in services. Also see the Churches Together in Milton Keynes website – <https://www.ctmk.church/>

**Christian Aid Week - 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023:** There is a particular focus on helping farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for

their children. For further details see the Christian Aid Website -

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

**Methodist Homes Sunday – 11<sup>th</sup> June:** Click [here](#) for a letter from the Revd Graham Thompson about MHS Sunday material. And further information can be found here:

<https://www.mha.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/mha-sunday/>

**Aldersgate Sunday - 21<sup>st</sup> May:** The twelve practices of A Methodist Way of Life are all great ways to encounter God this **Aldersgate Sunday**. Whether you're planning a Love Feast or onsite/online worship, you can now find resources on the Singing the Faith webpages.

**3 Generate:** This year's 3 Generate will take place at the NEC Birmingham from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**1450+ Church Leaders Oppose the Illegal Migration Bill:** A statement signed by more than 1,450 church leaders opposing the government's Illegal Migration Bill has been handed to 10 Downing Street, saying that the government's proposals are "incompatible with our Christian conviction that all human beings are made in the image of God". [Read more about the statement and signatories on the Methodist Church website.](#)

**Prayer for Ukraine:** The Methodist Peace Fellowship has partnered with the Fellowship of Reconciliation and others in praying weekly for peace. They've been praying every Friday at 7.30pm since the war in Ukraine began. All are welcome to join these led sessions, regularly or occasionally. [Simply register to join.](#)

**JPIT Internships:** JPIT, the Joint Public Issues Team, run three annual internships, hosted by the Methodist Church, aimed at recent graduates aged 21-30. These are 12-month, full time, living wage roles, starting in September 2023. Applications have just opened for the full-time role, which focusses on communications, engagement and research. Applications for this role are open until 22 May. JPIT are holding an open meeting on May 4, for potential applicants to learn more the internships and application process. Applicants can find out [more here.](#)

**Hope & Anchor Podcast:** The [Hope & Anchor podcast](#) is back for another season. An inclusive space for real conversations that change things, we start with the news of the week and dive right into the spirituality of the stories – with people of faith, no faith, and everyone in between. This season is hosted by Trey Hall and Jaz Ampaw-Farr, searching for honesty and grit, and hopefully loads of laughter along the way.

**52 ways to pray:** A set of new Methodist prayer cards offers 52 different prompts for creative prayer; different ways that we can fulfil the Methodist Way of Life commitment to "pray daily" as far as we are able, with God's help. The cards can be used by individuals or groups, at church events onsite and online, in homes, schools and care homes. Available to download as [a PowerPoint](#) or [PDF version](#) for easy use in digital meetings and church services. Or, [buy a print pack from Methodist Publishing.](#)

## Spring Issue of *the connexion* magazine


The magazine, that is full of inspirational stories about the life and work of the Methodist Church, is out now! With a focus on how we might make 'Room for Faith' in our hearts, lives, churches and communities, this issue spotlights churches opening their doors as a warm space, a vaccination clinic and an interfaith art exhibition. The Youth President James Carver writes about his visit to South Korea and the Revd Dr Leao Neto on how the Church is becoming language-diverse and spiritually enriched. The online version is available [here](#). If you would like to become a regular subscriber to the paper version of this free magazine, you can sign-up [here](#)



---

## 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, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 @ 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

*“Where does the Church go next?”  
The vision of ecumenism from the perspective of CTE  
(Churches Together England).*

**Speaker: Bishop Mike Royal,  
General Secretary, CTE**



*Join Churches Together across Northampton, Peterborough & Rutland to hear Bishop Mike Royal address the gathering, with a time of Questions & Answers. The evening will also include a brief AGM, Worship & Welcome for Mrs Allison Shefford (CEDO Northampton) and dedication of Denominational Ecumenical Officers.*

*Light Refreshments will be available.*

*Booking through Eventbrite (free)*

[Churches Together Shire and Soke AGM Tickets, Tue 16 May 2023 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Contact email: [allison.shefford@shireandsoke.org.uk](mailto:allison.shefford@shireandsoke.org.uk)

**St John the Baptist Church, Church Street, Boughton, Northants NN2 8SF (Just off the A508)**  
*(What Three Words: Crown.Scare.Units)*  
*(Please note there is limited parking so you will need to park in the village)*

- **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **June/July 2023** - Beginning a Church at the Margins: A three session interactive online course. A space to think about connecting and becoming a community of new Christians amongst and led by people experiencing poverty. The Methodist Church.
- **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June** - Dignity For All Conference. Leeds Gathering people from across our churches who are passionate about ending poverty alongside people taking action in communities already to listen, learn and make a plan together to strengthen the movement to end poverty. JPIT, working with Church Action on Poverty and the APLE collective.
- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - “Who are you? Living a Godly life”. Ripon College, Cuddesdon. The Community for Spiritual Formation
- **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023** - The Festival of Prayer 2023. A day to explore prayer as a way of life. Rippon College Cuddesdon
- **October 2023** - Evangelism for Leaders: new course dates. Five sessions on zoom, on Thursdays from 10am starting on 5<sup>th</sup> October. This course is for all leaders in the Methodist Church (lay and ordained, paid and unpaid).

---

## **NEWS FROM AROUND MK**

### **HMP Volunteer Opportunities**

In every community, there are people who are out of sight and out of mind behind prison walls. It is important that they are treated fairly and humanely and that they are helped to change and reintegrate into society because, at some point, perhaps very soon, they will return to those communities.

So, in every community, there are also Independent Monitoring Boards or IMBs: members of the public, appointed by ministers, with unrestricted access to a nearby prison and those within it. They work with others, contributing their own experience and gaining new skills. They gain a unique insight into what can make prisons, and therefore society, a better place.

The local IMB are looking to recruit new members. If this sounds like something you would like to hear more about, then please visit [www.imb.org.uk](http://www.imb.org.uk) to find out more or to apply. More information can be found [here](#)

### **Pastoral Support Volunteers for Milton Keynes University Hospital**

The Chaplaincy Team at MKUH are looking to recruit some more pastoral support volunteers. These volunteers will need to be comfortable to provide listening support to people of all faith and belief groups, including those from a non-religious worldview, as part of the chaplaincy team. Before the formal recruitment process a number of weeks training is required to make sure that the role is a good fit for the person. The chaplaincy team are passionate about providing pastoral, spiritual and religious care which values each individual and enables them to be met as a whole person rather than an illness or a machine to be fixed. More details can be found [here](#) and in the leaflet [here](#).



# Thy Kingdom Come!

**18 - 28 May 2023**

**18 - 28 May      The Chapel at Cornerstone      MK9 2ES**  
Open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm, Saturday 9am - 6.30pm, Sunday 9am - 12pm & 4 - 6.30pm  
There will be prayer stations set up with the themes of Thy Kingdom Come and the Chapel will be open and available to all who would like to make use of it for prayer

**Tuesday 23 May      A Prayer Walk      7 - 8.30pm @ Campbell Park**  
Meet at car park by the canal: Milton Keynes MK9 4AD  
Enjoy the beauty of creation as we walk, reflect, pray and chat together with members of Church without Walls

**Wednesday 24 May      Give us this Day our Daily Bread      7.30 - 9pm**  
**New Life Church, Ridgeway Centre      MK12 5TH**  
Join us as we seek God's leading through this ongoing season of financial challenge. We will pray for many of the social action projects that MK churches are running with a view to making a difference

**Thursday 25 May      Thy Kingdom Come      7.30 - 8.30pm**  
**St Marys Shenley Church End      MK5 6LL**  
Come and look afresh at the words of the Lord's prayer and how you can use it to enrich your prayer life. Followed by refreshments.

**Saturday 27 May      Peace be With You      6 - 7.30pm**  
**The Milton Keynes Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, Fishermead      MK6 2SP**  
invites you to join us for an evening of prayer for peace within. You can expect lively music, the reading of Scripture, prayers, and a message from Pr Pavle Trajkovski.

**Log a Prayer on the CTMK Prayer Wall**  
<https://www.ctmk.church/p/prayer-wall.html>



**OTHER!**

Karibuni Children

# May Fayre

Saturday 13th May | 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM  
Aylesbury Rugby Club, HP22 5RN

**FREE ENTRY!**  
Small Business Market • Fun Games •  
Face Painter • Cakes and Plants • African  
Food • Raffle • Kids Tombola

[www.karibuni.org.uk](http://www.karibuni.org.uk)

**Deadline for entries for the June edition of the Circuit Newsletter:  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**