

## **MK Methodist Circuit – Monthly Newsletter - June 2023**

### **Circuit Meetings and Fellowship Diary June/July 2023**

**Thursday 8th June**, 7.30pm: **Local Preachers Meeting** at West End United Church, Wolverton, MK12 5JZ

**Wednesday 14th June**, 7.30pm : **Circuit Meeting** at Freeman Memorial Methodist Church, Bletchley, MK3 5HH

**Sunday 23rd July**, 3.00pm – **Farewell service for Revd Nicola Martyn-Beck** at St James, New Bradwell, MK13 0AA

#### ***Dates for your diaries:***

- **Sunday 20th August**, 2.30pm – **Welcome service for Revd Dave Haseldine and Revd Edson Dube**, at Newport Pagnell Methodist Church
- **Sunday 17th September**, 2.30pm : **Circuit Service** at Queensway Methodist Church

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

### **CIRCUIT NEWS**

#### **Circuit Office!**

We are setting up a Circuit Office at Freeman Memorial Church in readiness for when Edson takes over as Superintendent in September.

The office has quite a lot of furniture but we could really do with a large round meeting table. Do any of our churches have one spare please? We are also looking for an office desk chair with wheels.

Thank you!

## News from our Churches

### Deanshanger Methodist Church

#### Breakfast Communion

Once a quarter, for over 20 years, we have served full English cooked breakfast plus local fruit with yogurt, cereals, toast, croissants, and home-made preserves. Starting from 8.15am, followed by Holy Communion at 9.15am, we enjoy a special time sitting and sharing together.

Next one, led by Rev Margaret Goodall, (who began it all those years ago)  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.** Do join us!!  
Let us know if you are coming for the first time (Anitra Bull 01908 563633)



### Newport Pagnell Methodist Church

#### Coronation Lunch!



### Update: Blankets for Turkey

The week after Easter we travelled to Turkey taking the blankets & donations given for those affected by the Earthquake. They were received with extreme gratitude and excitement. The blankets were distributed by our niece & her husband to those who came from Hatay and Iskenderun, the worst affected areas where entire communities collapsed & who are living in temporary accommodation in student halls. The money was given to the Military hospital in Adana & received by the Hospital Chief who again was extremely grateful and said the money would be put into a fund providing basic needs like shoes, clothes, food & bus tickets to those who arrive at the hospital with no means to help themselves. **THANK YOU** for all your support, I cannot tell you how grateful they were & how much it meant for them to know people cared enough to do something. God bless you all. *Elaine*

### West End United Church

£50 was sent to St Marks Meals in lieu of a fee taken by the Independent Examiner who examined last year's church accounts. This charity helps to supply meals for disadvantaged families through schools their children attend. £350 has been sent to Samuels Charity. This was money raised from coffee and communion collections during the first three months of the year.

### Queensway Methodist Church

**Tea Dance** - Tickets for sale at £5 for the Tea Dance at Queensway on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July in aid of Air Ambulance. Contact Judy on 07835 439146. If you can't dance, come along and enjoy live music provided by Fenny Stompers Jazz Band who will be playing a variety of music from Barn Dances, Foxtrots to Rock'n'Roll!

Everyone welcome.



**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 CORONATION AFTERNOON TEA

Around 40 people attended our Community Coronation Afternoon Tea. As you can see, we had a great time making crowns, attempting the quizzes, enjoying the Tea, chatting together, and to crown it all (pardon the pun) being entertained by our resident Close-up Magician, Ken Hawes!



## Woburn Sands Methodist Church

A great street celebration was held in Woburn Sands to celebrate the Coronation with a fly past by a Lancaster bomber over the Methodist church.



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



## Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

### Advert for new Priest in Charge

The SEP have advertised for a permanent full time Priest in Charge. There was a short closing date, due to delays at the Diocese, so it's likely they will have to advertise again. Interviews were booked for 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

## **METHODIST NEWS**

**Wesley Day - 24<sup>th</sup> May**, was Wesley Day. At 12pm there was a Holy Communion at Wesley Chapel led by Revd Steve Penrose. You can watch the service [here](#). There was also a Choral Evensong from St Paul's Cathedral. The President, Revd Graham Thompson, gave a reading which you can listen to [here](#).

**Methodist Homes Sunday – 11<sup>th</sup> June**: Click [here](#) for a letter from Revd Graham Thompson about MHS Sunday material. Last year more churches than ever supported MHA. This year we will be looking at 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and thinking about how we can do so much more together than apart, with a particular focus on our intergenerational work. Worship resources for MHA Sunday are available to download [here](#).

**World Refugee Day – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023** - Refugee Week takes place annually in the week around World Refugee Day: 20 June. ([Sunday 25 June falls within the week.](#)) The programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK started in 1998 in reaction to growing hostility towards refugees and asylum seekers; long before the phrase “hostile environment” became current. The organisers say their aim is “to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration, enabling refugees to live in safety and continue making a valuable contribution.” [Find out about Refugee Week here](#). Though the specific issues and stories relating to refugees, and immigration more generally, vary from year to year, the basic questions and concerns are a constant thread. [Refugees and the Bible – readings to explore](#) is one place to begin thinking about the issues in worship. For hymn suggestions and other materials related to these readings, see [A wandering Aramean was my ancestor – Refugee Week](#). A brief overview of what the Bible says about refugees can be found in [Wandering people – learning from the Bible](#).

**An event at the [MK Rose](#) is planned for World Refugee Day. More details to follow.**

**Show Hospitality not Hostility this Refugee Week** - This June, faith groups across the UK are coming together to be communities of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary. As the government's Migration Bill proposes a ban on claiming asylum in the UK, could you host a meal or tea during Refugee Week to stand in solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers? If you think you can, then click [here](#) for more information.

**Birmingham hosts Conference** - The annual [Methodist Conference](#) runs from **22 June**, beginning with its two-day Presbyteral Session. This year, Conference is taking place in Birmingham. All the information you need about following proceedings, either by watching them on the live stream or by reading the reports in detail, can be found on the Conference page of the Methodist website.

**Volunteering opportunity at Greenbelt Festival 24 - 27 August** - Looking for volunteers to act as comperes for the children's work at Greenbelt this year. [www.greenbelt.org.uk](http://www.greenbelt.org.uk). If you, or someone you know, is experienced with ministry with children, can communicate to large groups of children and their families, can hold a crowd and would like a free ticket to

the festival in return for 6 hours work each day, then please invite them to apply; [SheepApp \(sheepcrm.com\)](https://sheepcrm.com) mentioning that they would like to compete in their application.

**3 Generate 2023, 6th – 8th October at NEC Birmingham** - Tickets for this year's 3Generate, the children's and youth assembly of the Methodist Church, are available from the [3Generate web pages](#). Tickets will be on sale until Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

**Scholarships and Funding** - Applications for the academic year 2023/2024 are now open. All members of the Methodist Church, lay and ordained, may apply for support for proposed higher education (HE) study. This is usually for a taught Masters, a research degree or in a theological subject area. The application form and the guidelines (including criteria and details of who to contact) are below.

[Application form for support for higher education study](#) (Word doc)

[Guidelines for the application process](#) (Word doc)

***Closing date for applications is 1pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.***

### **Take the Veg Pledge**

Young Christian Climate Network are a group of Christians aged 18-30 who are passionate about climate justice.

We are currently running our latest campaign, Take the Veg Pledge. This is encouraging Christians to commit to being vegetarian between 5 – 11 June 2023. Alternatively, if you are planning on attending a Christian festival this summer, then we'd love for you to commit to eating a vegetarian diet for the duration of the festival.

We understand that food represents so much more than a meal on a plate – it is part of our identity and culture. But it is for this reason that we would love for you to consider signing up for our campaign – diet is one of the key changes one can make to help tackle climate justice.

You can find out more about the campaign, including resources, FAQs, and details about the science behind our campaign [here](#).

As a fellow Methodist, I am enthusiastic about our identity as a justice-seeking church and hope you will see how this small act can be part of that calling.

Finally, if there is anyone aged 18-30 in your district who is interested in climate justice, please do encourage them to [contact](#) YCCN – we are a very friendly bunch and would love to have them join!

Every blessing

Phoebe Parkin, Secretary for the Young Christian Climate Network

## 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/>

- **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.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> June, repeated on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Reflect (Methodist Spirituality). Online quiet morning.** *‘Journeying with God, past, present and future’*
- **3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June – Good News Training Events.** We are called to celebrate the good news of God’s transforming love with our neighbours, whether they live down our street or half-way around the world. All We Can and The Joint Public Issues Team are hosting three events to explore how we can use our worship gatherings and spaces for reflection and action to explore these topics. Manchester, London and Nottingham.
- **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June - Dignity For All Conference** in 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.
- **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June - Free Event for Prospective Church Treasurers.** A brief, non-technical introduction to the role of church treasurer. The Connexional Team in conjunction with the Association for Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT).
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June - New Housing webinar.** How can we work alongside those at the economic margins in new towns. CHS Group (Cambridgeshire housing association) and JPIT.
- **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 - The Festival of Prayer 2023.** A day to explore prayer as a way of life. Rippon College Cuddesdon
- **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September - Exploring Digital.** A day online exploring the digital world for Methodist churches and communities. The Methodist Church.
- **October - Evangelism for Leaders:** new course dates. Five sessions on zoom, on Thursdays starting on 5<sup>th</sup> October. This course is for all leaders in the Methodist Church (lay and ordained, paid and unpaid). Evangelism for Leaders: new course dates! – October 2023

**Getting Started Online** is a new course from the Methodist Church exploring our place in the digital world. It’s made up of [24 short videos](#). *“We are excited about the opportunity that the online world provides for us as a Church seeking to grow and reach out to all people. The digital world is a mission-field like any other and we are looking forward to discovering more about it with you over these sessions.”* You can access the course on our online learning platform [MCBX](#). If you are new to MCBX, you will need to register first to make an account.



## **NEWS FROM AROUND MK**

### **MK Foodbank**

[MK Foodbank](#) write:

We are seeing a significant rise in residents in MK needing our services, if you can help with food or monetary donations [Please help here](#)

To help with our Fundraising efforts we have now launched our Text To Give Platform, through [Donr](#). You can now donate through this trusted platform anything from £5 to £1000.

We have also now launched our [Mobile Top Up Service](#), which is here to help lift food bank users out of the poverty line and buy items instead of having a food parcel. The shop is a service run by MK Food Bank Volunteers and is designed for anyone who lives in Milton Keynes who is in financial hardship. Find out more here: [Mobile Top Up Shops](#)

### **Pledge to MK Food Bank!**

We have created a [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.

**Pledge to help us this year and [get in touch for your PLEDGE CARD](#) now, details on the link above!**

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