

MK Methodist Circuit – Monthly Newsletter - July 2023

Circuit Meetings and Fellowship Diary July/August 2023

- Wednesday 12th July, 7.30pm : Circuit Leadership Team Meeting at St Thomas, Simpson
- Sunday 23rd July, 3.00pm – Farewell service for Revd Nicola Martyn-Beck at St James, New Bradwell, MK13 0AA.
- Sunday 20th August, 2.30pm – Welcome service for Revd Dave Haseldine and Revd Edson Dube, at Newport Pagnell Methodist Church, MK16 8AQ.

Dates for your diaries:

- Tuesday 12th September, 7.30pm : Circuit Meeting at Newton Longville Free Church, MK17 0AX
- Sunday 17th September, 2.30pm : Commissioning service for Circuit Stewards and Local Preachers at Queensway Methodist Church
- Sunday 22nd October, 4.00pm : Circuit Thanksgiving Service for Worship Leaders and Local Preachers at Hanslope Methodist Church. *All Welcome, not just Local Preachers!*

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

CIRCUIT NEWS

MK Circuit Treasurer Vacancy

We have an urgent need to recruit a new circuit treasurer to replace David Harbey. Briefly this role involves the following:

- managing Circuit finances
- supporting the Property Steward with managing the Circuit manses
- managing the Circuit Churches Assessment processes
- managing the Local Ecumenical partnership (LEP) Assessment process
- attending various meetings

The role will suit an organised person with good administrative skills including knowledge of spreadsheets. Ideally an experience of finance in a charity or church environment and accounting or bookkeeping. It can be filled by a lay or an ordained person. Currently the time commitment is a couple of hours a week with attendance either online or onsite at a variety of circuit and district meetings approx monthly.

More information can be gained either from Edson or David Harbey.

Circuit Office!

We are setting up a Circuit Office at Freeman Memorial Church. 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. If you can help please let Ann know.

News from our Churches

Newport Pagnell Methodist Church

On 6th July we held our last planned Tuesday Conversations. This has been taking place on the first Tuesday of the month and each had a theme relevant to what was happening on that particular week. July's theme was '*Endings and Farewells*' as we prepare to say goodbye to Revd Nicola Martyn-Beck. This was followed by the sharing of a supper.

These conversations have been very interesting as we all share our experiences and learn something new from them. We have also enjoyed the sharing of the food provided by different members of the group.

The second Tuesday of the month is our Teapot and Sing. The fourth Tuesday is Coffee Craft and Chat where people come along with their own craft projects and enjoy the company.

We have been having some maintenance work done at our church. Replacement of outside lights that were broken, resurfacing of interior woodwork such as the communion table and rail, the pulpit and font. Being such an old building it is necessary to keep up with these things, we are lucky to have found a local handyman who is willing to do some of these odd jobs for us.

On 17th June we held our annual Pastoral Tea. It was a really pleasant time with quizzes and sing songs, not to forget the Cinderella play which was hilarious.



Queensway Methodist Church News



SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY, 18TH JUNE

We had a full Church for our Sunday School Anniversary. The children and youth led the whole Service on the theme *Trust and Obey*. The Service included prayers, favourite Bible verses, readings, Sermon, Bible Quiz, Hymns, a poem (below), a piano solo, and awards. The children and young people are hoping to raise £3,000 for tickets to this year's Methodist children's and youth weekend, 3Generate. Tickets including travel expenses are £120 per child and many of our families have more than one child wishing to attend. Donations, pledges and offers of sponsorship were made during the Service, but if anyone in the Circuit would like to help, please contact: Queensway Methodist Church 07483 827704, QueenswayMC@outlook.com.





SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY POEM

If you have faith as small as a GRAIN of mustard seed,
NOTHING shall be impossible unto you.
(Matthew 17:20)

The Mustard Seed by Utima Assis

When we have trust as small as a mustard seed
we can move mountains,
We can be the towering robust mountain
that is far from the vicinity of human eye
and within the vicinity of the infinite sky.

When our trust is smaller than a grain of sand,
the shining dazzling stars
align in the most perfect way,
forming the most ethereal unimaginable constellations
known to mankind.

My life-giving illuminous sun
My dark defying moon
Minuscule shimmering pixels of stars,
My whole vast world,
My everything
in God's almighty hands
Not slipping and sliding through
the small cracks of his fingers
But resting safely on the gentle palms
of his hands.

When our trust is as small as a mustard seed,
we will not fear life determining earthquakes,
For these earthquakes will fear us
Tremble at the thought of us
and collapse at the sight of us ■

Newton Longville Free Church



Warm Welcome Space - This initiative was started in November 2022 - then Warm Space - and is held in our Church but is an initiative of the Church and the Parish Council with volunteers from a broad cross section of the local community. We provide our Church premises from 09:00 to 15:00 every Wednesday. It started a little slowly but we now get up to 50 people every week, these include members of the community who want company, need a warm space in winter and get offered coffee, tea, cakes and at lunch time a bowl of soup and a roll. Because of its success we decided to continue into the summer because of the need for people to be able to meet and spend time together as a community. The initiative was started by Sue Sparling one of our Church members who with the Parish Council sourced volunteers and funds to get off the ground. It is now running well with the funds made available and donations in cash and goods. We are very grateful for all those who attend, those who volunteer and especially those who help fund us, so to you all thank you very much.

Every Tuesday from 10:00 to 12:00 Sue also runs a **“Coffee Morning”** where the local community can come along and enjoy a natter and a cup of coffee, tea and some cake or biscuits. This has been running for quite a few years and is still as popular as ever.

Sue – again - also runs a **“Songs and Rhymes”** group for infants up to 4 years with mothers in attendance where the toddlers have fun and are kept busy with art projects, colouring story reading and singing. This group is popular in the Village with up to 15 toddlers attending with their Mums.

To the future we are celebrating our **20th anniversary of the opening of the Newton Longville Church** and this will be celebrated with a special service on 20th August 2023, led by Rev Edson Dube followed by a bring and share “brunch”. We will also be holding our **“Harvest” celebratory service** on the first Sunday of September; this will be led by Sue Sparling.

Freeman Memorial Methodist Church

Cornerstone Children's Choir - Saturday 15th July, 7 - 8pm. Adrian Boynton presents the talented Cornerstone Children's Choir and exceptional young instrumental soloists at Freeman. This fundraiser promises an unforgettable evening of music. The highlight is the Choir's captivating performance of Michael Hurd's enchanting Cantata 'Swinging Sampson.' Stick around after the performance for delightful refreshments. Admission is £5/person, and children enter for free.

Zimbabwe Event - Freeman Memorial Church Congregation and the Zimbabwe Fellowship are holding a joint Lunch on **Sunday 16th July**, 12.30pm. Join us for Food, worship and fellowship. Everyone in the Circuit, including LEP's are welcome.

West End United Church

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

Watling Valley Ecumenical Partnership

Sharon Grenham-Thompson Farewell Service – Sharon is leaving Watling Valley Partnership for pastures new. Her Farewell Service will be on **Sunday 30th July**, 10am at St Mary's, Shenley Church End. This is also a Partnership service with all the WVEP ministers taking part. All Welcome.

DISTRICT NEWS

District Voluntary Vacancies

From the Chair:

We are seeking a new **Secretary to the District Executive (DE)** to take over from the Revd Lesley Dinham by January 2024. The person who fills this role is an ex-officio member of the District Executive. Most meetings of the DE are on zoom, in the evenings from 7.30 – 9.00pm.

We also require a **Convenor for the Shared Districts Probationers Committee**. This is a role which requires the holder to liaise with District Chairs and District Probationers Secretaries in 4 Districts (Northampton, Lincolnshire, Nottingham & Derby and East Anglia). It is largely about liaising with the Chairs & DPS's before the Committee, requesting and receiving reports and ensuring that probationers in the 4 Districts (9 this year in total) have dates for meetings in their diaries. The Convenor needs to attend the Committee (this year held in person over two days in March 2024) and support the small group conversations with committee members in the days before held on zoom.

Helen Dixon Cameron

May 2023

More details can be found on the Circuit website, News section - <http://mkmethodist.org.uk/news/>

The **Methodist** Church
Northampton District
2023

**RENEW
GATHERING**

21ST AUGUST
2023
10AM - 3PM

**COMING
SOON**

**MATT
FORSYTH**
Host

**NIGEL
PIMLOTT**

**+GUESTS TO BE
ANNOUNCED**

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

METHODIST NEWS

New President and Vice President - The Revd Gill Newton has been elected and inducted as President of the Methodist Conference alongside Vice-President, Deacon Kerry Scarlett. The induction took place on Saturday 24 June at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole, during the Methodist Conference. If you missed the President & Vice-President addresses at The Methodist Conference, you can find them [here](#). They both talk about what treasure looks like in our personal lives and how we can find it in our communities and churches.

Presidential Designates



The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Helen Cameron to serve as President and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office with the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference in Leeds in June 2024. Revd Helen spoke on BBC Radio Northampton about her election. Click [here](#) – tune in from 2hrs 52mins.

Dealing with Conflict - The Methodist Conference has voted to roll out a scheme to help resolve disputes in church communities across the Church following a successful pilot project. The Conference adopted the recommendation for the five-year programme, in partnership with Place for Hope, to offer an integrated approach in support of Positive Working Together and extending the Reconciliation and Mediation Team as a Connexion-wide programme. The Reconciliation and Mediation Team Pilot Project is run with Place for Hope and started two and a half years ago in three regions, with 18 mediators now qualified to work on the project.

A Justice Seeking Church - The report from the Walking with Micah project, *A Justice-Seeking Church* was taken to the Methodist Conference this year. This report outlines why we do justice, what we do, and how we do it, all as part of the Methodist Church. Join a webinar, listen to the audio version and read a summary of the report [here](#).

The Methodist Conference has overwhelmingly voted to recommit the Methodist Church to being a Justice-seeking Church. The report received by the Conference hopes to encourage more Methodists in acting for justice, along with their local communities, and to focus

efforts on contributing to change in key areas including poverty, refugees, the environment, discrimination and peace. More information on the Circuit website, News page.

Methodist Youth President for 2024/2025 - We're looking for the next Methodist Youth President for 2024/2025. If you're interested then you need to be between the ages of 18-23 and a member of the Methodist Church. This is a great role and opportunity to travel around the UK and overseas, to learn new skills and leadership, and be the face of the younger generation of the Methodist Church. Apply to become the next President [here](#).
Closing Date for applications: Tuesday 8th August 2023

Portfolio reader for candidates' portfolios - Do you know anyone who might be interested to become a portfolio reader for candidates' portfolios. This role replaces the assessment previously carried out. The readers carry out a robust process and offer guidance to the candidate and the Connexional committee. Full details on the Circuit website, News page

Methodist Diaconal Support and Advisory Committee - The Methodist Diaconal Support and Advisory Committee is looking to recruit two new members: a presbyter and a lay person to use their experiences and skills to support the ministry of the Methodist Diaconal Order and Methodist Deacons. Click [here](#) for more information.

Leadership Year – 12 fully funded places available - Would you like to see the young Christians in your community developed into humble, discerning, authentic, courageous leaders? The Leadership Year is an exciting opportunity for 18-30 year olds across the Connexion, who want to invest time in developing their leadership abilities. It is aimed at those who may just be starting out in a leadership role, or who are wanting to be involved in leadership, which may be within a church setting, or outside the Church. Full details on the Circuit website, News page. *Applications close on Friday 22nd September 2023.*

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 21st July.

We're looking to grow the incredible volunteering team: **3Generate** happens because almost 300 volunteers come together to serve in a host of different roles. From being a steward, registering groups, assisting in venues, supporting those with additional needs, being on the youth support team or a village host in the group tents area – there are a wide range of ways your gifts and skills can make a difference. There is a great new stream too for young adult volunteers over the age of 18. Full details on the Circuit website, News page.

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 – Friday 21st July: “Who are you? Living a Godly life”**. Ripon College, Cuddesdon. The Community for Spiritual Formation
- **Thursday 20th July: Sunshine and Showers: Prayer’s Beautiful Messiness - Introduction for potential group leaders**. Coming soon: *“Sunshine and Showers: Prayer’s Beautiful Messiness”* is a great new resource to help groups explore prayer in a new way. Methodist Learning Network.
- **Friday 21st July: The Brian E. Beck Memorial Lecture and Open Day** at Wesley House Cambridge, also livestreamed online.
- **Saturday 22nd July: The Festival of Prayer 2023**. A day to explore prayer as a way of life. Rippon College Cuddesdon
- **Tuesday 25th July: Church at the Margins Rural Network**. An online space to encourage people who are supporting or nurturing new Christian communities amongst economically marginalised people. Methodist Church.
- **Wednesday 27th September: Radiate Webinar**. A time of storytelling where we will hear from Mission Partners, and about the most recent work of the World Mission Fund at the Radiate webinar. via zoom. MCB - Global Relationships.
- **Saturday 30th 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 5th October. This course is for all leaders in the Methodist Church (lay and ordained, paid and unpaid).
- **January 2024 - Whole Hearted Conference**: The Evangelism and Growth team have felt for a while that we need to gather people across the Methodist Church who have a sense of the hopeful future that the Holy Spirit is leading us to. So we have created the ‘Whole Hearted’ weekend event on 12-14 January 2024. Whole Hearted aims to help us having some time away from our local contexts, opening us to the bigger picture of God’s mission in the world today. As well as residential bookings for the whole weekend, there are also day tickets for Saturday 13 January.
- **Tuesday 12th – Friday 15th March 2024**: Three-Day Community event at Cliff College. Called *‘Views from the broken middle’* it will be led by The Rev. Dr. Canon Rachel Mann whose five teaching sessions will be part of a rhythm of silence, worship and small group sharing. The Community for Spiritual Formation

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 Christian Foundation

It is with great delight that the Board of Milton Keynes Christian Foundation announces the appointment of **Simon Rudiger** as their New Director.

Simon joins us from Aylesbury Youth Action where he's had the role of Chief Executive since October 2021, prior to that he was a member of the senior leadership team of One YMCA, leading the Youth Work teams across Beds, Herts and Bucks. He's also worked in youth work development roles for the United Reformed Church, Milton Keynes College, Milton Keynes Council, and a stint for the Christian Foundation (about 14 years ago!).

Having grown up in Milton Keynes, Simon and his family are re-locating back to the city after 13 years away and looking forward to re-connecting with everything MK. Simon will begin in post at the end of July 2023.

This appointment is made as our existing Director, **Stephen Norrish**, is retiring.

Further details here - <https://www.ctmk.church/2023/07/milton-keynes-christian-foundation.html>

JOB VACANCIES

- **Well Street United Church Buckingham – Youth Worker**
Closing date: Saturday 15th July 2023
- **The Connexional Team - Director of Ministry Development**
Closing date: Sunday 16th July 2023
- **Chesham Methodist Church – Community Worker**
Closing date: Monday 31st July 2023

More info on all the above Vacancies can be found on the Circuit website, News section - <http://mkmethodist.org.uk/news/>

**Deadline for entries for the August edition of the Circuit Newsletter:
Wednesday 19th July**