



Circuit Newsletter
Spring 2018



'A Circuit shaped for discipleship and mission'

Welcome to the first edition of our new quarterly Circuit Newsletter which I hope you will find interesting, enjoyable and useful.

This is **YOUR** newsletter and to make it a valued publication it needs **YOUR** input! There must be numerous stories out there just waiting to be told—historical events and anniversaries from your Church so why not share them with your friends in our Circuit. I know several of our Churches produce their own newsletters so if you feel that there are articles in them that you would like to share with a wider audience then just send them to me, hand-written or in Word format, and I will make sure they are included in future issues. Please also include any relevant pictures in JPEG format but make sure you have the permission from the photographer (it is also appreciated if you can include the photographer's name that way they can be acknowledged for their picture) and any persons depicted in them to avoid any problems with copyright and/or data protection. If you are not sure about any item for inclusion either give me a call or send it to me and I will advise you where necessary.

Please send all items for inclusion to me at the Circuit Office or by email at: snhmcc@outlook.org.uk

Kind regards and every blessing

Frank

Circuit Administrator.



Competition Time

You will have noticed that your first newsletter has a pretty boring title! So we are asking you to come up with suggestions for a more interesting title for your newsletter.

Ideally, it should reflect our mission and/or geographical area or other suitable reflection on our Circuit.

Please send your suggestions either in writing or by email to the Circuit Office by 14th May 2018.

The winning title will be used on the next, and future, editions with the winner being acknowledged in the next edition.

Your prize will be seeing your suggestion on the front page of every edition!

“Christ shared our experience; he suffered as we suffer; he died as we shall die, and for forty days in the desert he underwent the struggle between good and evil.” - Basil Hume

Dear Friends

How well do you know your history? Who was King of England in 1193? It was Richard I, also known as Richard the Lionheart. On one occasion as he was returning home through Europe he was captured by Leopold V of Austria. A ransom of 150,000 marks, equal to three tons of silver was demanded for the king's release! This was an enormous amount of money but the people of England so loved their king that they raised the money! That's where the expression, 'a king's ransom' comes from.



At Easter we remember the immeasurable price the King of Kings paid so that we could live freely. Mark records these words, *'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'* (Mark 10:45) and Paul writing to the Galatians reminds us, *'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.'* (Galatians 5:1)

What are you doing with that freedom? How does your life express your love and gratitude for Jesus? May our lives reflect the transforming, joyful truth of Easter every day and not just 1 in 365.

With love and prayers,

James



District Celebration Service

Saturday 5th May 2018 at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds

The Circuit are planning to provide a coach to this service - it will pick up from Berkley Street, Buckden, Brampton, Huntingdon and St. Ives arriving in Bury St Edmunds at around 4.00pm. It will depart for the return journey around 8.00pm. The cost of the coach will be £5.00 per person with the District and the Circuit subsidising the total cost of providing this facility.

Tickets are available through the Circuit office on a 'first come - first served' basis and so it is advisable to book early.

"God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, "I love you." - Billy Graham

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)

Hi! My name is Ruth Butler and I worship at Huntingdon Methodist Church. Judith Bainbridge from Warboys and I are the Circuit representatives for MWiB.

Q. So, what is MWiB?

An organisation run by, and for, Methodist Women in Britain.

Q. So who belongs to MWiB?

Every woman in Britain who attends a Methodist Church. In other words, YOU! (if you are a woman.)

Q. So, what do we do?

Judith and I are responsible for organising the Easter Offering and the Easter Offering Dedication Service. The Easter Offering envelopes will be distributed to your church before Easter and people will have the opportunity to donate over the Easter period. The money donated is used for Mission at Home and Abroad.

The Easter Offering Dedication Service is to be held on Tuesday 1st May 2018 at Huntingdon Methodist Church at 2.30pm. The Service will be led by Rev Pam Siddall and will be followed by light refreshments.

The District hold two District Days each year, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn. These take place in different churches and run from 10.30am. until 3.30pm. The day includes worship, a small amount of business, news and a guest speaker.

At lunch time there is an opportunity to shop at the Fair Trade and Christian Resources' stalls.

The Spring Day is on Thursday 26th April 2018 at Ipswich when the speaker will be Rev. Catherine Dixon from Kings Lynn.

The Autumn Day on Thursday 11th October 2018 is hopefully going to be held in Cambridge which will be much easier for us to attend. The speaker will be Anne Richardson who will talk about hearing difficulties.

The venues move around the District. The last one was at Ely but some of us have travelled as far as Lowestoft!

Judith and I are hoping to arrange a coffee morning and Bring and Buy event to raise money for the President's Charity. Each President has her own charity to support and Ruth Arnold, the current President, is supporting the 3 B's (bees, bedrooms and Blessings) initiative in Jamaica led by Rev. Everard Galbraith who was the speaker at the last District Day in Ely. More details to follow.

So that is a little about MWiB. I hope it makes it a bit clearer and hope to see you on May 1st.

Ruth Butler (HMC)

Paste Eggs At Easter

In the North of England these hard boiled eggs are called pace-eggs or paste-eggs, from a dialectal form of Middle English *Pasche* or the French *Pasques* for Easter or after the Latin *Pasca*



My parents originated from the North, Mum's family came from the Newcastle area and Dad was from Durham City.

A tradition that came to us from the North was that of making paste eggs to eat at Easter.

The history of eggs at Easter is varied and well documented however the religious and historical significance of the eggs was lost on us.

Mum used to put several eggs into a pan of cold water, add lots of onion skins, bring to the boil then boil for some time so that the eggs would be hard boiled.

The emerging eggs would take on the colour from the onion skins in varying shades of brown, with a marbled or mottled final appearance.

When it came to eating them, the tradition is to hit your egg against your table neighbour's egg, the 'winner' is the final egg to break (I now know this is referred to as 'Jarping')



The egg inside the shell would have taken on some colour, but it didn't alter the taste.

A recent internet search reveals more complex ways of colouring the eggs, including carefully wrapping each egg in an onion skin, followed by a square of thin fabric before boiling.

A leaf or flower can be placed against the shell, before the egg is tightly fastened with string inside a stocking leg or pop sock. After boiling the leaf 'appears' on the cooked egg.

Using red cabbage instead of onion gives a blue/purple egg.

A smear of edible oil on the shell improves the final appearance, as does refrigeration.

Pam Wear

"Easter is the only time when you can put all your eggs in one basket and get away with it!"

Spotlight On



Hilton Church



150th Anniversary

at Hilton Methodist Church

Do come and join us to celebrate !

On Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd April, 2018, we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of church services at Hilton Methodist Church. The first service was on 21st April 1868. Why not come and celebrate with us? We'd be delighted to see you.

There is an exhibition in the church on Saturday and Sunday with tea, coffee and squash with delicious cakes in the schoolroom.

After the exhibition on Saturday, the Sedici Choir will be giving a concert in the church at 6.30pm.

There is no charge for admission to either the exhibition or the concert but donations will be gratefully received.

On Sunday 22nd April there will be a joint Anglican and Methodist service at 11.15am. We've invited Rev. Hugh-Nigel Sheehan to preach and there will be a celebration fruit cake and tea, coffee and squash after the service.

The exhibition will be open:-

Saturday 10am. to 12 noon and then from 2pm. to 6.30pm.

Sunday after the morning service and from 2pm to 4pm.

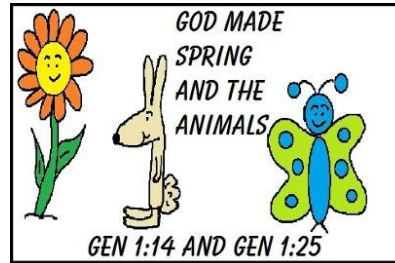
Finally, if you attended Sunday School at Hilton Methodist Church, were a member at Hilton Methodist Church or know anything at all about the Methodist Church at Hilton, we'd love you to share this with us if you haven't done so already.

Please put Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd April in your diary now.

Celebration!

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." - Pope John Paul II

Spring—whilst sorting through the Circuit safe I came across very old and tatty book entitled ‘The Wesleyan Methodist Magazine for the Year 1824’. This contains numerous articles, memoirs, obituaries, sermons and poems which appears to be a collection of articles for that particular year. In it I found the hymn entitled ‘Spring’ reproduced below, the author of which is not stated, together with a note from the editor.



“Hail, hail! reviv’d, reviving Spring
Fair type of heaven’s eternal year;
While nature’s work thy praises sing,
Lo! Gratitude salutes thee here.

Now pour the bounding notes along;
Teach choirs below, to choirs above,
To echo back the solemn lay;
And, as they praise unbounded love,

Chorus

*To God, the universal King,
Be sacred every grateful choir;
In endless hymns all praises sing,
That endless bounty can inspire.*

To join in bounty’s holy-day.
All lost beneath stern Winter’s reign
Creation’s genial powers appear’d;
Spring called them into life again, -
See, budding verdure shows they heard:”

In the early period of Methodism, this Hymn, we believe, was frequently sung. But at the request of the Correspondent, who says that, with the exception of the first verse and chorus, it is now not much known, we reprint it entire. - Editor

I wonder if any of you have ever heard it or even know the tune it was sung to?

Frank



“The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring.” Bernard Williams

“ Unwrapping Good News With Great Joy”

Since the early 1990’s all the Churches within St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Church have generously supported Operation Christmas Child – the gift filled Shoebox Charity - in **SO** many ways whether with prayer or practical including donations of items and transport money.



Operation Christmas Child is a ministry project of Samaritans Purse International Relief. The UK is one of 8 countries that donate over 11,000,000 filled shoeboxes to 110 countries worldwide each year.

The overseas Christian partners know that many of these children may have never experienced the joy of opening a gift, or know how loved and valued they are. OCC changes this and enables those Partners to demonstrate God’s love tangibly to these children through the simple gift of a shoebox.

But it doesn’t stop there ...

After the children receive a shoebox at a local church distribution, they may be invited to enrol on ‘The Greatest Journey’ programme, where they can learn more about Jesus through 12 fun and engaging lessons taught by local trained teachers in their communities.

For Us ..

That gift filled shoebox started in October and November being brought in by YOU, Your families, Churches, Youth Groups, Schools and Businesses (with the help of volunteer car and van drivers) to St Ives Burleigh Hill Farm and Berkley Street. At the Centres - processing those boxes in earnest by hundreds of trained volunteers was no easy task. Each one was quality controlled according to the Customs and Excise rules and regulations for each receiving country and the Charity itself before being packed into secured cartons.

People often ask what happens to the “unsuitables” (that’s liquid soap/ books with too many words)– unless broken, they are redistributed to appropriate local Charities.



“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” - Saint Augustine

All the cartons came to Burleigh Hill Farm along with those from neighbouring parts of the county and beyond.

OUR GOOD NEWS? Almost 15,000 boxes were processed and exported to Liberia, Estonia, Central Asia and the Middle East. It was with great excitement and a lot of exertion filling those containers and lorries, but made easier with the help of Farmer Mark and his lifting equipment. Those present feel quite emotional on seeing them leave, waving them Bon Voyage. Prayer has accompanied these boxes from the beginning while being created, in the processing centres, along their voyages and for the receiving children and we ask you to keep praying for this project.

The UK this past campaign has sent 700,000 boxes to 13 countries. We were very much part of that figure.



THANK YOU to everyone.

Sue Shorter - OCC Year Round Volunteer
Logistics and Community Team West Anglia

Brenda Horden - OCC Year Round Volunteer Area Co-ordinator West Anglia
hordens@hotmail.com

Facebook: operationchristmaschildwestanglia

Samaritans-purse.org.uk

Photographs courtesy of Mark Bunting Photography (www.markbuntingphotography.co.uk)



What does the 'M' stand for?

On a recent radio 'phone in' callers were asked what little 'white lies' they told their children! One caller rang in saying that, on passing the local MacDonaldis, one of her children asked what the big 'M' stood for - she told them it stood for 'Methodist Church' and so they have never asked to go there!

At least we are helping to keep her children healthy in body if not in soul!

"However weak we are, however poor, however little our faith, or however small our grace may be, our names are still written on His heart; nor shall we lose our share in Jesus' love."

Charles Spurgeon

The Berkley Street Project

The latest project was started just before Easter 2017 when it was agreed that to support St Johns Hospice, Moggerhanger by raising funds to purchase a special bed and mattress totalling £4,400.

A number of regular and special events were organised to achieve this target. These included Pancake Party, Easter Breakfast, Coffee Mornings, Souper Lunches, Afternoon Strawberry Tea, an Evening Film Show, the Autumn Fayre, sales of a wide range of homemade and homegrown produce including over £100 raised by one very active octogenarian with her marmalade and tomatoes!



The fund was also swelled by sales of books and items from the Bargain Centre.



Donations from local people and groups such as the Womens' Own Group, Ladies Fireside Group and our Church meant we achieved the target by Christmas 2017.

It has been a real joy co-ordinating this project. Everyone has been so keen to support it, and at all the special events there has always been a really lovely, special atmosphere.

My sincere thanks to everyone who contributed in whatever way. God bless you all.

Daphne Brown

Berkley Street Pancake Party

On Shrove Tuesday, Berkley Street held its annual pancake party, hosted by the stewards. This year's event was the biggest ever! We had 65 people join us. Our youngest guest was 5 days old with every generation up to 80+ also being represented.

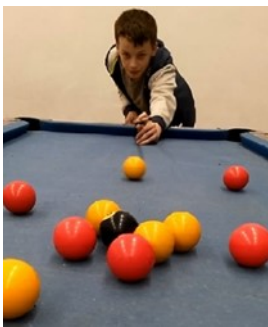


The event was free with any donations going to our current church project, to raise funds for a family worker. The donations raised £132.39.

“Here is the amazing thing about Easter; the Resurrection Sunday for Christians is this, that Christ in the dying moments on the cross gives us the greatest illustration of forgiveness possible.” - T. D. Jakes

Sharing The Best Of Who We Are

When we consider Paul's description of church as Christ's Body which is 'the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way' (Eph 1:23), it can make us very aware of the inadequacy of our individual church contexts however sincere our efforts. Perhaps the church being the fullness of Christ starts to ring true when we think about our combined experiences of being part of different churches with their diversity and richness. When I reflect on my association with varying denominations with my journey so far, in each I have been challenged by the groups and individuals who take seriously the call of their faith. It is this fullness and diversity which I hope the young people with whom I work can experience.



Recently in an ecumenical gathering we discussed how we as churches in partnership can bring the best of who we are to serve the young people in Huntingdon. As I consider recent activities over the last week I am encouraged that this is something which I am experiencing more in my role, whether at the active youth club at the Methodist Church, the reflective youth worship session at the local Anglican Church, or at a new

youth café venture run from the Community Church. In each case different churches are coming together in an open-handed way with their resources and the skills of their volunteers, prioritising the needs of young people in the area over and above their individual contexts and enabling mission to happen.



Genuine partnerships can happen at many levels but are always built on the investment in healthy trusting relationships from which good ideas can grow and differences can be celebrated. When churches come together we can resource larger projects in a sustainable way that we can't always consider as individual churches. In Huntingdon I am looking forward to the next term which will see the beach project, combined worship events, the primary schools work and the Summer Bible Club which only happen because we are working together as churches, sharing the best of who we are, and I hope reflecting the fullness of Christ to the young people we serve.

Richard Schwier

Youth and Children's Outreach Worker

"To a Christian, Easter Sunday means everything, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ." - Bernhard Langer

Growing Together In Faith

Sawtry Methodist Church Away-Day

On a grey wet Saturday in February, Sawtry Methodist Church set out on our church away day at Ferrar House in Little Gidding. Although it was cold outside the fellowship inside was warm and welcoming. We broke the day up into three sessions entitled: The landscape of our Circuit, Sacrificial Christian living - a simple model and the Church and Me. We started our day with some worship and Rev Alan Taylor led the first session, giving us an overview of the Circuit structure and Vision document. This was followed by tea and biscuits, because we're Methodists after all!



The second session, also led by Alan, looked at how we interact with each other and those in our community and how we can do this in a more meaningful way. Alan took the reading John 15: 1-17 - Jesus as the vine and we as the branches in community together. The greatest gift we can give someone in our modern society is time and an understanding ear, so many people feel lonely or ignored. Alan introduced a simple model to us in how to be more present to those we meet, a simple four step plan: really listen to someone, try to understand their circumstance without judging them, forgiveness - help bring reconciliation and then take care of them.

We then broke for a hot lunch and shared time together to get to know each other more and also to have a look at the tiny Chapel in the grounds (see photograph).

The final session of the afternoon, led by some of the Sawtry Leadership team, looked at “who am I?”, “who are we as a church?” and “what do we have in our hands?”. In Exodus 4:2 God asked Moses “what is that in your hand?” Moses replied “a staff”, to Moses it was just a stick, but to God it was the serpent that helped set his people free and the staff that struck water from the rock at Horeb. We often spend time as churches berating all the resources we don't have, but God asks what do we have in our hands? Using a cooking analogy, we can decide to make spaghetti



bolognese for tea and then bemoan that fact we don't own a pasta maker, or we can open the fridge and see we have lots of eggs and vegetables and realise we can make a lovely frittata!

We closed the day with a simple communion service to bring us back to the central theme of the day of Jesus being the centre of all we do as a church together. The afternoon ended with more tea and this time scones with jam and cream, after all what is a Methodist away day without cake?

Kate Paterson

Easters in Zimbabwe

Our Easters in Zimbabwe followed the Catholic tradition of celebrations. Attending a Maundy Thursday Mass was the beginning of the services, and this included the washing of the feet of 12 parishioners.

Good Friday service was held at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and was a solemn occasion.

Easter Saturday was a time of preparation, arranging flowers, cooking yeast cakes such as Kugelhopf (a speciality from Alsace and an influence from my father) and Resurrection Bread (a sweet yeast bread). It was also a time of quiet reflection.

Christ's Resurrection was celebrated at a midnight Mass on Saturday night. In more recent years the Mass was no longer at midnight but earlier at about 8 o'clock in the evening. This Mass was always a very joyful occasion with the church beautifully decorated with yellow and white flowers and much singing during the service.



In Harare on Good Friday three large crosses are carried from three different suburbs meeting at the Catholic Cathedral in the centre of the city for a Good Friday service. As I remember, the crosses were large and heavy and carried by various parishioners in a procession. A lovely tradition bringing together people from different backgrounds.

When we lived in Zimbabwe Easter was not as commercial as it appears in the UK. For example, when our children were growing up for some of the years there were no chocolate Easter eggs in the shops. Even when chocolate eggs were available they only appeared a few weeks before Easter.

Generally, we gave each of our children a basket with a small selection of chocolate bars and, when available, an Easter egg nestled in the centre of them.

We also used to hard boil eggs and paint them. Each person's name was painted on the egg. On Easter Sunday morning the eggs were hidden in the garden by the youngest member of the family. It was good fun searching for one's egg among the rockeries and flower beds.

Easter usually falls towards the end of the rains and often heralds the cooler drier season, so the weather is warm with clear blue skies.

We are in Zimbabwe now and there is very little evidence of Easter chocolate in the shops!

The above article was written by Margaret Lewis who is the mother of Pam Wear's son-in-law, Tim. Pam believes Margaret's parents were European Missionaries in Zimbabwe.

Life in all its fullness...

Matt Finch reflects on why he is riding the 300 miles from London to Paris...

When I was fourteen years old I decided that faith was for me because I heard Jesus' words from John 10:10- *'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness'*. In my teenage angst and looking to the future I wanted a life that would be lived to the full. It is a passage that I often returned to- not because being a Christian protects us from hard times or means things will always be easy but because we can know God's best for us in situations and places of struggle.



This promise of Jesus is something that the world needs to hear- people are only getting busier, more stressed and unfulfilled. It is easy for those who take faith for granted the support and inspiration that God gives to us. It is a message that the world longs to hear that there can be hope, fullness and abundance beyond the strains and pressures of life. Beyond living miserably.

I am increasingly aware, perhaps you are too, that there are many folks who struggle alone, feeling they are unable to talk about their anxiety or problems. In particular men!

You may know a man, you may be a man, but did you know that the biggest killer amongst men between 20 and 45 years old is suicide. Each year around 4500 men take their own life and often this will be a surprise to those closest to them. It is a growing problem as men find it increasingly harder to cope with life in twenty-first century Britain. It is important that we let people know that it is ok to struggle and it is vital to talk about it before it gets too much.

So, as I approach 40 years old this year I am going to cycle from London to Paris 26th-28th July to raise awareness of men's mental health and to seek to get people talking by donning my lycra! I will be riding to raise money for the charity CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) which seeks to reduce suicide amongst men and support those who are finding life tough before it's too late. The charity runs a confidential website and phone chat service, arranges meetings for men to talk and seeks to raise key issues facing men.

I need to raise £1450 and would love it if you could sponsor me to hit this target. You can sponsor me by emailing mrmrfinch@googlemail.com, phone or via www.justgiving.com/fundraising/revmattfinch

Many thanks and look out for the lycra!

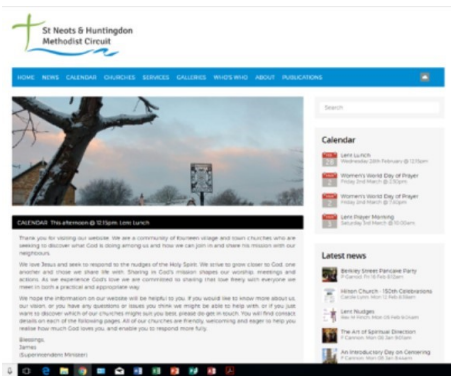
"We were old sinners - but when we came to Christ we are not sinners anymore."

Joel Osteen

Circuit Website

Have you visited the Circuit website yet?

Our Circuit Website is kept up to date with news, stories and events that are going on in the Circuit.



Every church has its own page which gives details of services over the next four weeks which is automatically updated from the Circuit plan - this is also available from the home page by clicking on its link.

The more information, articles and pictures we have the more attractive and interesting the site becomes so please let us know what is going to happen, is happening and has happened in your church or area!

All articles should be sent to the Circuit Office in the same formats as for the newsletter.

So why not check it out at: www.snahmc.org.uk

Future editions ...

Items for inclusion in the Summer edition should be sent to the Circuit office by Monday 14th May 2018. Written articles should be in Word format and photographs and graphics in JPEG format. Please ensure that you have the photographer and any persons depicted permission to use the photo.

Disclaimer - the views expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit or the Methodist Church.

Items and photographs in this publication must not be reproduced without the written consent of the author/photographer. Further details are available from the Circuit office.

“The moment someone chooses to trust in Jesus Christ, his sins are wiped away, and he is adopted into God's family. That individual is set apart as a child of God, with a sacred purpose.”

- Charles Stanley

AN EASTER PUZZLE—SO WHO PLAYS SCRABBLE?

After you have shared in Easter Day worship, eaten too many Easter Eggs, realised that it is only about 8 months to Christmas, and you don't want to watch The Sound of Music for the umpteenth time - try this little brain teaser! Solution in the next edition.

There are 5 houses in a row and each one has an occupant. You have to put the 5 occupants in the right house. The houses are different colours and each occupant has a different religion, favourite drink, favourite food and favourite game.

Use the following clues to find out who plays Scrabble:-

The Presbyterian lives in the red house;

The Salvationist plays Cludo;

The Catholic drinks tea;

The green house is on the immediate left of the white house;

The green house owner drinks coffee;

The person who eats crisps plays monopoly;

The person in the yellow house eats sandwiches;

The person living in the house right in the middle drinks milk;

The Methodist lives in the first house - Number 1;

The person who eats cakes lives next to the one who plays snap;

The person who plays ludo lives next door to the person who eats sandwiches;

The person who eats pizza drinks soup;

The Baptist eats fish;

The Methodist lives next to the blue house;

The person who eats cakes has a neighbour who drinks water.

House	1	2	3	4	5
Religion					
Colour					
Drinks					
Eats					
Plays					