



*Circuit Newsletter*  
*Summer 2018*



*'A Circuit shaped for discipleship and mission'*

## Letter from the editor

I hope you enjoyed the first edition of the Circuit Newsletter and are looking forward to reading this edition. I thank all those that contributed to that, and this, editions.

I must first apologise to those who tried to email the office using the email address printed in the first edition - it was wrong and escaped numerous proof reads! The correct email address is: [snhmcc@outlook.com](mailto:snhmcc@outlook.com).

Because of this the Circuit Leadership Team have decided to extend the closing date for the competition to name the newsletter and so you now have until 31st July to get your entry in. Those that have already been submitted will, of course, still be included in the selection process.

I know lots of you spent many sleepless nights trying to work out who played Scrabble - well it was the Methodist. If you have a puzzle which you think others will have fun solving then please send it in for inclusion in future editions.

It's been a very busy time with James on sabbatical and sorting out the plan for the summer was especially tedious with more preaching slots than preachers available so that means more Local Arrangements for our churches. This should not be seen as a negative thing - it does give us the opportunity to try new ideas. My church in Brampton used the opportunity to take a group to St Ives to witness a lively, and enjoyable, Café Church and we may even try it in our church in the future. If you are interested in trying this in your church then Rev. Matt Finch says he has some prepared café style services which can be used as the basis for a service. I think this is their 'takeaway' service so why not phone him and place your order!

Also, The Connexion features some pre-prepared services which can be downloaded, tweaked and used by local congregations in a Local Arrangement setting. The website address is: [www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/resourcing-local-arrangements](http://www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/resourcing-local-arrangements)

Please let me have items for inclusion in the Autumn edition by 12th August 2018.

Kind regards and every blessing

*Frank Cannon*

## Thoughts As A Day Begins

The sky is all an azure hue,  
The lark's on the wing and the morning dew  
Is sprinkled on cobwebs and five-bar gates.  
The shepherd stands and the sheep dog waits  
His well-loved master's call; to obey  
What he may command, what he may say.



The air is heavy with the sound of wings  
Of birds and bees and creepy things;  
And scents of fragrant summer flowers  
Brimming with honey which, hours by hours,  
The never tiring buzzing bees  
Will take to hives, their Queens to please.

The stillness of the night has passed -  
But for a while - this hour won't last  
Too long - but e're it does, should we  
Not think of things as they can be?



The babbling stream ne'er ceases long  
Composing its delightful song.  
The breeze enveloped in a cotton shroud  
Dusts the blue; while a thrush sings loud,  
Praising the trees for the cool retreat  
They will offer to him from the noon-day heat.

Can we not cast our cares aside  
And let these peaceful scenes abide  
Within our mind's eye, soul and heart,  
And then to others this peace impart?



*Written by Jessie Smith*  
*4th March 1971*

*"We must seek the loving-kindness of God in all the breadth and open-air of common life."  
George A. Smith*

## **‘Ecumenical Nostalgia’**

**by Revd. Dr. Clifford Owen (associate minister at All Saints, Hartford)**

If anyone ever asks me: ‘what was the most fulfilling job I have ever had in the church? I have no hesitation in giving an answer. It was from 1989 - 2002 when I was the Ecumenical Officer for Worcester Diocese coupled to being the County Ecumenical Secretary for Worcestershire and Dudley....13 happy years!

I travelled from Dudley to Upton on Severn, and from Broadway and Evesham to Great Malvern. I visited all of the Churches Together groups, and checked over LEPs (Local Ecumenical Partnerships) I got to know a host of great folk of all denominations and had some wonderful colleagues.

The abiding ecumenical memory I have was standing in front of 2000 people at the Malvern Three Counties Showground for the Millennium service in 2000, and asking people from each denomination to raise their hands. At least ten different denominational groupings were represented. I can remember saying: ‘Some of you might be thinking that this is a most strange experience because we represent so many different things, but I believe that the Lord is happy today because we have the most normal service possible. We are all praying and working together.’

It was many years before that my personal ecumenical vision was formed; Especially when we built a church of three denominations: C of E, Methodist, and United Reformed. We had one congregation, three ministers and varied the form of worship each week. But everybody came to everything!

Being an ecumaniac requires something akin to conversion and it stays with you all your life. It requires a vision that keeps whispering to you that you cannot rest until Christ’s body (His church) is visibly one.

That is why, in retirement, I have offered to help out on St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit. The Methodist Conference and the Church of England General Synod will soon be coming to a decision about interchange and mutual recognition of ministries. Whatever their decision, I’m getting on with it!... and if the synods fail me, I shall still get on with it because they will be wrong!

So I have enjoyed myself taking services at Sawtry and Ramsey, Great Barford, Hilton and in Huntingdon Methodist churches. I don’t have to struggle into a cassock (though no-one would really mind if I did!) but spiritually there is life out there in the Circuit. After all John Wesley lived and died a member of the Church of England and the eighteenth century revival in which he was instrumental under God bequeathed the legacy which today we call Methodism.

I believe a key factor in the next great revival will be the coming of churches together. That’s why I am getting on with my bit now!

“The God who existed before any religion counts on you to make the oneness of the human family known and celebrated.” - Desmond Tutu



## Summer Sundays in East Yorkshire

As a teenager growing up in Hull I attended a thriving Methodist Youth Fellowship and Young People's Fellowship.

During the weeks of the summer holidays we didn't have our usual evening meetings, instead we headed out and about – often to the coast.

Each Sunday afternoon we would meet up in the Church Car park. Two or three of our group were old enough to own their own car whilst others (like my future husband) borrowed from their trusting parents.

Once lifts were allocated and cars were full, we set off to the pre-arranged place, usually a beach, where we played single wicket cricket, rounders or football until it was time for tea followed by Church.

Tea was usually a picnic that we had brought with us. However, I recall an incident with a tea urn at one of the Churches and so we must have taken refreshments there sometimes. One very generous Church family regularly offered us a real farmhouse tea. It may have been at the same farm near Market Weighton where Circuit Barn dances were held, in a proper barn, with us all sitting on straw bales.

At one Church a nearby field caught fire and the fire brigade had to be called (nothing to do with us we were just observers). At another our leader locked his keys in his car. We discovered that our keys fitted his car!



We visited several rural Churches: Aldbrough, Atwick, Bewholme, Leven, Little Weighton, Skidby and Ulrome. There may have been others that I don't fully recall. At each Church we were welcomed and allowed to lead the worship. The congregations encouraged and tolerated us and I think enjoyed our "modern" services. Ralph McTell's "Streets of London" featured frequently. However, we still included some of the old Wesleyan favourites from time to time.

Our long suffering leaders must have made all the arrangements with the Churches, all we did was to turn up and do our thing, no one bothered us with the administration.

We have happy memories of those times, and we are grateful to all the adults who supported us without fail.

*Pam Wear*

"There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord, but few of us are willing to do little things." - Dwight L. Moody



## 1918–2018 Remembrance 100

### 100 days of prayer and peace-making

The Methodist Church has been involved with many other partners under the umbrella of ecumenical organisation HOPE, in developing a programme of activities and resources collectively called 'Remembrance 100'. Together we are encouraging 100 days of prayer and peace-making activity, from 4 August (the anniversary of the start of the war in 1914) to 11 November (Armistice Day).



There will be many ways in which you, your community, church or school can get involved. Those of you who support heritage sites or historic chapels with war memorials may be opening in September for Heritage Open Days (known as 'Open Doors' in some places), and will want to make the connection to this anniversary and promote peace at other points in 2018.

Why not end your 'Open' days or church anniversary with a 'peace party'? The young men on your church roll of honour are likely to be in the 1911 census. Who were they in life and what did they do before the war? Add them to our family history website [www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk](http://www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk). These men were often very young and their stories are an engaging way into this subject for children and discussion of how we can 'make peace in the playground'.

Lots of organisations are working hard to provide the resources you need to stage a local event or to engage with a local school. As details become available, HOPE will be posting links to all the resources at: [www.remembrance100.co.uk](http://www.remembrance100.co.uk)

More people than ever are expected to observe Remembrance Sunday on 11 November this year, on the hundredth anniversary of the end of World War 1.

Reproduced with permission from  
Heritage News – Spring 2018 edition  
[www.methodistheritage.org.uk/  
news.htm](http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk/news.htm)

They shall grow not old,  
As we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them,  
Nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun,  
And in the morning  
We will remember them.



“God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supplies.” – Hudson Taylor

## Ten Little Methodists

**10** little Methodists went to church when fine  
But it started raining - and then there were nine.

**9** little Methodists stayed up very late  
One overslept - then there were eight.

**8** little Methodists on the road to heaven  
One joined a rambling club - then there seven.

**7** little Methodists heard of Sunday flicks  
One thought he would like to go - then there were six.

**6** little Methodists kept the place alive  
One bought a television - then there were five.



**5** little Methodists seemed loyal to the core  
The minister upset one - and then there were four.

**4** little Methodists argued heatedly  
Over forms of worship - and then there were three.

**3** little Methodists sang the service through  
Got a hymn they didn't know - then there were two.

**2** little Methodists disputed who should run  
The next Harvest Social - then there was one.

**1** faithful Methodist, knowing what to do  
Got a friend to come to church - then there were two.

**2** sincere Methodists each brought in some more  
So their number doubled - then there were four.

**4** sturdy Methodists simply couldn't wait  
Until they found four others - then there were eight.

**8** eager Methodists searching round for souls  
Praying, working, witnessing, draw others in by shoals.

**S**hoals and shoals at every service cramming every pew  
O God, supply this grace and zeal in our own Circuit too.



*The author is unknown but this was submitted by Judith Bainbridge*

*"The Bible is worth all the other books which have ever been printed." - Patrick Henry*

## Can you help?

Some of the smaller churches find buying posters with a Christian message expensive so we thought we would try to produce a few and print and laminate them.

If you can create such a poster please do.

You could take your favourite Bible verse, a simple message like “Have you smiled yet today ?” or make a poster to invite people to church. Even better you could have a look at the lectionary for the next quarter (which you can find online or in the Methodist Worship book).

This is not a competition and there are no prizes but contributions from folks of all ages (including children) are welcome.

Our initial idea is that each interested church asks the steward to collect one from the circuit meeting and then swap it next time for another one. This will ensure that the rotation of posters is good and that no poster stays on a wall “for ever” ! If a poster gets damaged we’ll simply print another one.

Please take care that any pictures you use are not copyright.

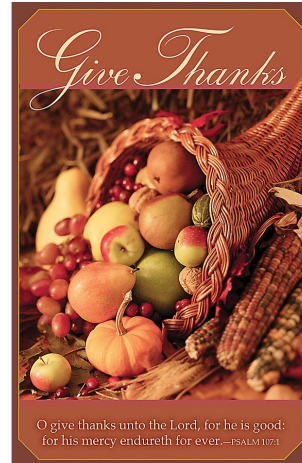
Please submit your poster by email, if possible - or in printed form if not, to Frank Cannon by the end of August.

*Pauline Zahner*

## Bible Trivia

- Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?  
A. *Noah - he was floating his stock while every one else was in liquidation.*
- Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?  
A. *Samson - he brought the house down.*
- Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?  
A. *Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the garden in a Fury;  
David's Triumph was heard throughout the land;  
A Honda - because the Apostles were all in one Accord.*
- Q. Who is the greatest babysitter in the Bible?  
A. *David - he rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.*
- Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?  
A. *Ruthless!*

*“My life was changed in one breath from God.” - Donna Summer*





## M.W.I.B. Easter Offering Dedication Service

Tuesday May 1st 2018 at Huntingdon Methodist Church

On a lovely sunny afternoon approximately forty people met for the Easter Offering Dedication Service which was led by Rev Pam Siddall.

The theme of the Service was 'Seek Peace and Pursue It' which can be found in Psalm 34.

The beautifully planned service was centred around stories from our Mission partners in Sri Lanka, Israel / Palestine and Japan.

These were read by representatives from around the Circuit.

There were also Bible readings and a short reflection from Pam.

Hymns to reflect the theme were accompanied by Isobel Daniels.

Judith Bainbridge made a very moving display to accompany the theme (see photo above taken by Jessie Sheppard).

After the service we shared fellowship over light refreshments.

My very sincere thanks to all who took part or attended what turned out to be a memorable and thought provoking service.

*Ruth Butler (HMC)*



## Afraid of the Dark

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mummy, I don't want to go out there - it's dark!"

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you."

The little boy looked at his mother and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?"

"Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere and is always ready to help you when you need him," she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and opened it a little. Peering out into the darkness he called out, "Jesus? If you're out there would you please hand me the broom!"

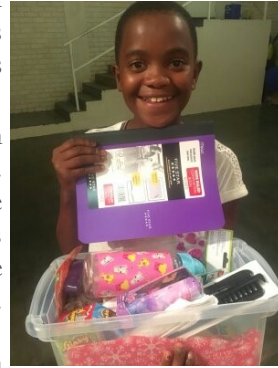
*Michelangelo's Mother: "Mike, can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?"*

## Operation Christmas Child Visit to Namibia

Sue Shorter from Huntingdon went out to Namibia in early April (with 14 others from UK, The Faroe Islands and Northern Island) as part of an Operation Christmas Child Vision Trip.

Seeing children receive the boxes - from the USA - with amazement as they hadn't ever had a gift was humbling. Their simple life in Zinc hut type housing meant there were little possessions of their own. One little boy was insistent we saw his chicken wire truck - it was great he then had a car in his box along with a plastic donkey. Real donkeys were braying nearby on the farmland!!

But Sue saw how the volunteers forming the National



Leadership Team of Namibia train, under the guidance of Samaritan's Purse trained Pastors and Sunday School teachers, "The Greatest Journey " - a 12 week course teaching the Gospel in simple terms using lovely illustrations, activities, songs, verse learning and prayer.

Grandmothers were visited, looking after large extended families (all children) with little means - so food parcels accompanied with prayers and devotions were given/shared soon to be followed with the gift filled boxes.

Schools for the students with learning difficulties, Impaired Hearing and Vision were also visited, Soup

Kitchen Clubs, out of town settlements and Sunday Schools meant there were 8 occasions of sharing and seeing up to 300 at any one time.

Being with the National Leadership Team daily, sharing worship and prayer, picnics and events meant a lot to the Team and gave each one a lot to reflect on.

The simple gift of the Shoebox opens so many doors, not only to the child, but their family and community.

Guidelines for filling a shoebox this year are available.

Please - Do start now and keep it FUN.

For further information please contact Sue by email at:

[b.shorter@btinternet.com](mailto:b.shorter@btinternet.com)

*Sue Shorter, Year Round Volunteer OCC West Anglia*



“Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening.” - Mahatma Gandhi

## Dear Friends

I hope that you will enjoy reading the summer edition of the Circuit Newsletter. It is full good news stories from around Circuit and the churches within it. The phrase *Good News* is an interesting one found throughout the Bible. In the Old Testament prophets challenged people to be bringers of Good News. At the heart of New Testament is the gospel which is the joining of two words *good spiel*, it begins with Jesus and then the account of how his followers spread it throughout the world.

In an age of 24-hour news it is easy to become weary of headlines that warn of pending crisis or highlight the negatives. So, I invite you in this letter, yes to find the things that have happened and future events planned please get involved, but more importantly discover the reason for these things. God's Good News for the entire world. As churches we often shudder when the word evangelism is mentioned- we think we all need to be Billy Graham, however translated it simply means to be messengers of good news. And this message is not about money raise or events to go to, as lovely as they might be, rather it is that God that loves us absolutely. So, whether you are a long time member of the Circuit, new to faith or have just picked this newsletter up by chance- may you grasp something of God's good news for your life. And know that you are loved, that you are precious and you can know the hope and peace of Jesus.

Every blessing,

Rev Matt Finch

## Future editions ...

Items for inclusion in the Autumn edition should be sent to the Circuit office by 12th August 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.

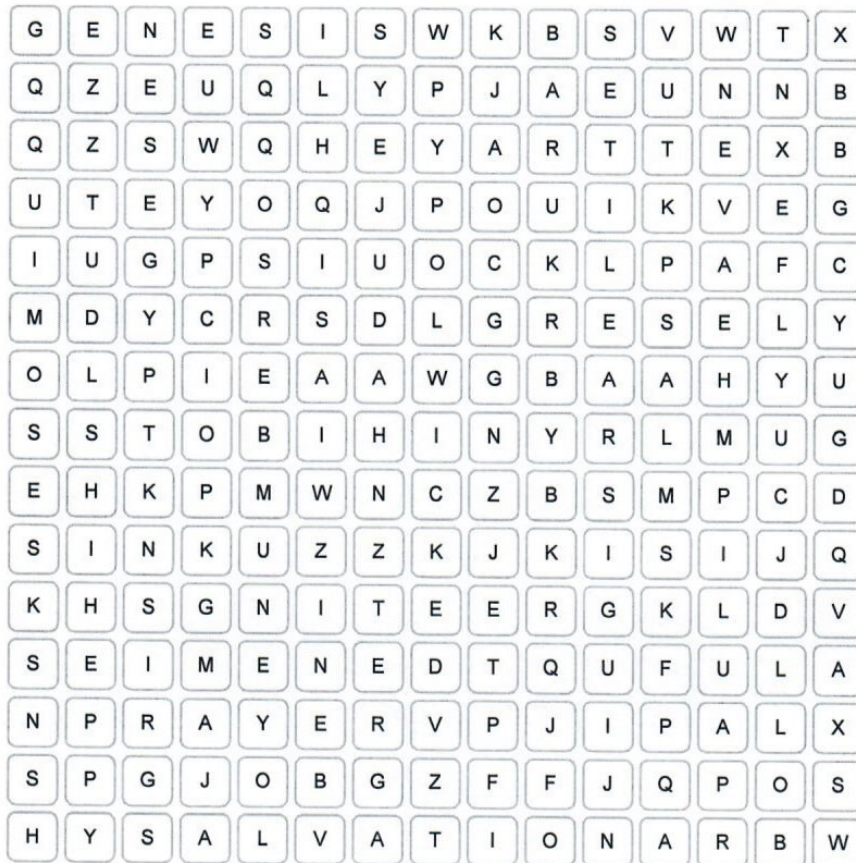
**Disclaimer** - the views expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit or the Methodist Church.

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.

## Biblical Word Search

Can you find all the hidden words in this word search?

Words can go in the following directions: ↓ ↑ → ←



Egypt

Enemies

Genesis

Greetings

Heaven

Israelites

Job

Judah

Moses

Numbers

Paul

Prayer

Psalms

Salvation

Wicked