

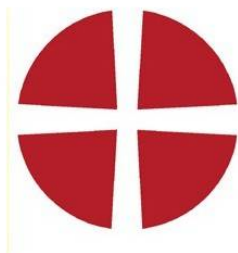
Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles, sent in their news, or told us about their events. We really would like this to be a newsletter written and enjoyed by all across the circuit. We'd love you to share your news, prayers, events, tips for life or thoughts in general. The deadline for the July/August Circuit Newsletter is Monday 18th June.

We welcome your feedback on the content, format, and distribution of the newsletter. Please let us know your thoughts.

Anyone wishing to submit articles for the July/August Newsletter please send through to Caroline at the circuit office circuit.admin@hotmail.com by Monday 18th June please, we look forward to hearing your news.

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter or information from Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit please ring 01284 731082 or email circuit.admin@hotmail.com

DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the policy or position of The Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit, it's employees or its members.



Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit

Newsletter June 2022

Psalms of Praise and Climate Change.

Some weeks ago several of our ministers and local preachers attended a course run by Wesley House Cambridge called: Preaching Good News into the Climate Crisis. Although I wasn't one of those who took part, I have been interested in what was taught on the course. At our recent Local Preachers meeting we had a really good discussion about the course which has enabled us to look more closely at the world around us.

As a circuit we have agreed to become an Eco circuit and many of our churches have begun the journey to become an Eco church. At Stowmarket we are quite a way into the process, and we are hoping that soon we will achieve the first award. To achieve this we needed to develop our land. If you know Stowmarket church you may think we have no land. However, our car park is just the right sort of land we needed. For years we have spent hours trying to clear away all the weeds and brambles that intrude onto our parking area. Now though we can safely leave it and 'wild' it to encourage wildlife to come and stay. We have provided bug hotels and have a 'wild' garden planter.

With all this in the background I have tried to use creation in the services I lead. I am trying to be mindful and intentional so that at least one element of my service reflects the world around us. On Sunday I used that wonderful psalm of praise Psalm 148.

It speaks to us about the earth, fire, hail, snow and frost. About sea creatures and farm animals about all the peoples of the earth and is also inclusive in language, speaking of men and women, young and old. Although I had chosen to use this Psalm it wasn't until it was read at the service that I really listened to it with my Eco climate focussed ear. You know how you can hear or read something dozens of times and suddenly then it speaks anew to you. That is what happened to me. I heard all that the Psalm was expressing. That we need to praise God in good times and bad, in snow and sunshine, in neatly mowed lawns or ragged wild areas.

If you haven't already had the opportunity, please do visit the Every Garden Matters exhibition at the Museum of Food (Formerly the Museum of East Anglian Life) in Stowmarket. This focuses on how we can do our own personal bit to save the planet one garden at the time. Each of us can give a little of our gardens to 'wild' and provide bug hotels.

Here are some verses from Psalm 148 which express all that is good in God's creation.

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Praise the Lord! Amen.

Grace and Peace, Rev Rita Carr



(Photo taken during my sabbatical titled 'Ant on Flower')

Sunday 26th June

Rev Jason C Vinyard

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643294747?pwd=cnJ2NmJGMm4wNmmpHU0JOMVNWQVVJUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 4329 4747

Passcode: 540493

Dial by your location

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

0208 080 6591 United Kingdom

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

Sunday 03rd July

Francis Carr

<https://zoom.us/j/85852814435?pwd=MFINMG1oMGhNWTViUmMzZkNScCtQQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216

Dial by your location 0208 080 6591

0208 080 6592

0330 088 5830

0131 460 1196

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0203 901 7895

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216

Sunday 10th July

Rev Rita Carr

<https://zoom.us/j/85852814435?pwd=MFINMG1oMGhNWTViUmMzZkNScCtQQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216

Dial by your location 0208 080 6591

0208 080 6592

0330 088 5830

0131 460 1196

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0203 901 7895

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216



Circuit Zoom Services

Sunday Zoom Services are at 6pm. Please see zoom links and passcodes below. You can access zoom on your landline by dialling any of the numbers below and inputting the meeting id and passcode when asked

Sunday 5th June

Rev Val Spencer

Sunday 20th March

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8411347306?pwd=bkxNZEp4SmhITG9sZDdHWjFJUjVBZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 134 7306 Passcode: 240250

0203 481 5240 0208 080 6591

0203 901 7895 0208 080 6592

Sunday 12th June

Rev Jason C Vinyard

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643294747?pwd=cnJ2NmJGMm4wNmpHU0JOMVNWQVVJUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 4329 4747

Passcode: 540493

Dial by your location

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

0208 080 6591 United Kingdom

Sunday 19th June

Rev Rita Carr

Holy Communion

(Please have your bread and wine alternative with you ready)

<https://zoom.us/j/85852814435?pwd=MFJNMGI0MGhNWTViUmMzZkNScCtQQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216

Dial by your location 0208 080 6591 0208 080 6592

0330 088 5830

0131 460 1196

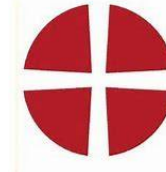
0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0203 901 7895

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216



Circuit Sunday Zoom Services are at 6pm. Zoom links for all services are later in the newsletter, there is also an option to 'dial in' via your telephone for these services. Please do join us in our circuit worship.

News from the Circuit: At the last circuit meeting Jane Brooker and Francis Carr were gratefully nominated and accepted as new Circuit Stewards. They join the existing team of Bill Humm (Senior Circuit Steward), Andrew Walker (who joined the team in August), Richard Meadows (Circuit Treasurer) and Richard Wild (Assistant Circuit Treasurer).



Rev Ruth Ridge will be on Sabbatical from 16th May to 19th August. We wish her well in her pursuits during this time. Please raise any concerns or issues with Rev Jason and Rev Rita whilst Rev Ruth is away.



Caroline has increased her hours in the Circuit Office, and will usually be available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 930am – 230pm.



News from Christchurch, Needham Market: Like other Churches, Christchurch has been concerned about the situation in Ukraine. We have been able to support relief efforts directly because Rebecca, the granddaughter of one of our members, lives and attends a church in Romania We have so far sent £608.50 via her bank account which we raised from our

April coffee morning and donations from individual members and church groups.

They been travelling to the Ukraine border, purchasing and taking essential supplies needed by the refugees. We received a thankyou video from Rebecca showing sleeping bags etc that had been bought and this was projected onto our screen to show the congregation on Sunday.



News from Northumberland Avenue: Guardians & Tiddlers has got off to a great start! We have around 8 families who join us each Thursday. If you know of anyone who may also be interested in joining the group, we meet each Thursday, 1pm - 3pm (term time only - our last session before the summer break will be Thursday 21st July, recommencing on Thursday 8th September) Families with children aged from new-born - preschool are welcome; £1 per family - stay the whole session or drop in anytime. Find our Facebook

Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/guardiansandtiddlers/>
 If you have any queries please email northumberlandtiddlers@outlook.com

CAMEO - Come And Meet Each Other

Join us on the first Wednesday of every month at 2.30pm in the 'club room' for informal chat with tea/coffee and biscuits! (The 'club room' is located next to the kitchen. Please use the rear entrance and follow the corridor round to the double doors)

Coffee Morning and Stalls - We are holding a coffee morning and stalls on Saturday 9th July 10.30am - 12.30pm. Refreshments, clothing stall, bric-a-brac, books, tombola, sweets in the jar and more! There will be a basket available for those that wish to give a 'gift day' donation towards the church funds. All welcome!



News from Stowmarket: May 2022 - 186 Years !
 On May 22nd Stowmarket friends celebrated their church anniversary with a wonderful service led by Josie Keys, and a lunch for 30 plus in the hall afterwards. As well as being Aldersgate Sunday, Josie left us thinking about the story in John 5 of the

man at the pool who had been restricted by his illness for many years. Jesus' question to him in verse 6 was "Do you want to be made well?" Being healed has consequences. We leave behind the pain we have learned how to handle, and step into a new life with capability and a story to tell. It was a great challenge to listen to God's plan for us for further mission and activity. Thank you Josie!



ECO Groups Day

18th June 2022

Food Museum

10-4.00

Iliffe Way, Stowmarket

Suffolk IP14 1SL



As a complementary event to our "Every Garden Matters" Exhibition we are pleased to invite you to this networking day.

Stowmarket Eco group has learned much from other groups, and hopefully we have inspired one or two others along the way.

This day is a deliberate effort to get a wide variety of groups together—voluntary and statutory, to share information and grow our effectiveness whether people feel like a complete beginner or an experienced expert.






Every Garden Matters

How to Save the World One Garden at a Time

9 April – 8 October 2022

Co-curated exhibition with Stowmarket Eco Future Group



Drawings from pupils at Trinity CEVAP School, Stowmarket



foodmuseum.org.uk
Food Museum, Crowe Street, Stowmarket IP14 1DL

The exhibition continues. (Remember that it is free entry to Abbots Hall and the walled garden. Alternatively, your museum entry ticket allows you to visit for a whole year)



News from Trinity: We are enjoying being back in the Sanctuary and we are sure all our Preachers really appreciate it. If you receive this before Saturday 4th June and are in Bury that morning, please stop to say hello, we will be outside Trinity Church welcoming passers-by with a free cake and drink to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Planning is also going ahead to open our doors again soon for Wednesday Coffee Morning as part of our community outreach.



We had the sad news recently that two of our long-standing Members have died. Maureen Wayman and Eileen Fox. Eileen played the organ at Trinity for over 60 years. Maureen and her late husband Doug contributed to the life of the Church for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends. Maureen's funeral is on 6th June with a 1.30pm Service at Trinity. Eileen's funeral is on 20th June with a 12 noon Service at Trinity. Jesus is with us. Blessings to you all.



News from Bradfield: Last February when Michael Phillips, Choirmaster of the Mead Singers, rang to ask if we would like them to make their annual visit on the Monday of Holy Week, I accepted it joyfully. It would be April 11th in the middle of bright springtime and surely there was time for the virus to fade away before then!

It was not to be. Things got worse but Michael never lost heart and on the appointed day arrived with a choir of seven. Meanwhile the task of raising an audience was equally worrying. Our tiny church congregation could all be ill, nursing loved ones or in quarantine. It is always a worry that the choir will be bigger than the audience, but luckily our frantic advertising and the loyalty of friends produced an audience of nineteen. It was a success! The programme consisted of readings, prayers, choral music and hymns where the congregation joined in. The latter is a most wonderful tonic for the members of little churches. They feel part of a great celebration! £130 was also raised for the Ukraine Appeal! If you can be free for next year's concert, please do come! Monica Place, Bradfield Methodist Church

News from The Martins, Residential & Dementia Care Home:



It is at this time of year that we celebrate MHA Sunday. This is an opportunity to give thanks and celebrate our specialist Care and Support Services. We have been blessed with the presence of an MHA home in our circuit, where many a Methodist Member has been able to live out their lives surrounded by great care and dedication.

MHA Sunday is celebrated on **12th of June 2022** and the theme for this Sunday is Growing Together. This theme is inspired by Isaiah 43:19 where we read:

'See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up: do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in waste land' (NIV)

This theme helps us to focus on how the beauty, tranquillity and joy of nature, can reduce isolation and bring communities together.

The Martins has a beautiful garden well-tended by our gardener Alan. It helps our residents to get out into the fresh air whilst using their senses of Touch, Smell and Sight. As soon as our residents walk in the garden, you can see the joy on their faces.

As we know, gardens do cost money in order to keep or make them more beautiful. We hope and pray that our Circuit will be able to help our Residents to continue the use of the garden. Your donations are gratefully received and may the Lord bless the generous giver.

If you would like me to visit you, either for a Sunday Service or for an informal meeting (like a coffee morning), then please contact me on 01449 259379.

I hope that you will support us again as you have done for so many years and look forward to receiving your donations.

May God bless you. With my best wishes,

Francis Carr, Chaplain @ The Martins and Circuit Rep for Bury St Edmunds Circuit.



www.arocha.org.uk/events

FoxeARTh ART DAYS

Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve

The reserve is about a mile north of Foxearth village, between the River Stour and the lane north-west of Constable's Farm and Constable's Barn (private dwellings with postcode CO10 7HZ).

 **charm dragonfly townhouse**

10.30 am onwards – with an epilogue at 3.00 pm for those who wish to join in.

Please come and enjoy a time of open air drawing or painting on the reserve. You don't have to be an expert—help will be provided if you'd like it. Basic materials available for a donation or bring your own.

Wellies or boots may be advisable and please bring your own Packed Lunch/drinks.

Children are welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.



To book your place please contact Stella Davis 07599398866
artwisestella@gmail.com

FACILITIES:
Compostable toilet, Parking

component within the scheme whereby a Methodist circuit or district could register and work towards becoming an Eco Circuit or Eco District Eco Circuit/Eco District will not be a whole new scheme, with its own Eco Survey etc, but something much simpler whereby a circuit or district can register its interest in and work towards an award. This acts as an incentive to be working both at circuit/district level and encouraging local church-level engagement with Eco Church. To become an Eco Circuit/Eco District, the circuit or district needs to:

1. Have registered its intent.
2. Have established a point person or group to act within the circuit or district.
3. Have written an environmental policy that has been agreed by a circuit meeting or district synod. This should include points on travel, the environmental performance of manses (taking into account the Methodist Church standing order guidelines on Energy Performance Certificates¹) and a commitment to reducing carbon emissions. ¹ The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, Book VII Part 2, Guidance on Provision of Adequate Accommodation for Manses (See http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/rm/guidelines_for_manses.pdf, page 14)
4. Have achieved the EC Bronze/Silver/Gold level in the Buildings category for its district/circuit offices (where appropriate) and land (where appropriate).
5. Have gained a number of Eco Church awards across the circuit or district according to the criteria listed in the appendix below.
6. Have sought to ensure that environmental issues are embedded within the curricula of ongoing presbyteral and local preacher education and support.
7. Have managed any circuit or district investments with due consideration to the environmental implications/opportunities of such investments, taking into account the climate change investment policy of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church² and the resources available within the Ethical Money Churches project.³
8. Be working with other denominations and/or other faiths to promote environmental awareness and Eco Church.
9. Be recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives. These criteria closely reflect those of the Eco Diocese scheme adopted by the Church of England (see <http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/eco-diocese/>).

[eco-circuit-district-guidelines-1217.pdf \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/9735/eco-circuit-district-guidelines-1217.pdf)
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/9735/eco-circuit-district-guidelines-1217.pdf>

OLD NEWTON METHODIST CHURCH



Our June lunch will be a

Jubilee Special

to celebrate

Her Majesty's long reign.

Friday, 10th June

12.15 - 1.30

Do come and join us



Message from Bury Quakers: we gather each first Saturday in the month at 11.30am for 30 minutes on Angel Hill in Bury to bear silent witness to the pain and harm caused by climate change; to the suffering of people around the world who are living with the impacts of climate change known as 'loss and damage'; to the need for an international fund to bring about climate justice; to the necessity of working to minimise further damage for future generations; to acknowledge our privileged position and recognise our own contribution in damaging creation, and to provide a local witness to global inequality. We believe that our deep silence enables us to reflect on the grief, fear and hope which urge us to action.

Over the past six months, we have been joined by people many other people, including members of a variety of wildlife and environmental groups. You will all be very welcome join us for as short or long a time as you wish. This is an opportunity to join in spirit with similar events calling for climate justice which are held by multi-faith groups around the country .



We are often talking about Eco Church/Eco Circuit/Eco District, but what exactly does this mean for us as individuals and a collective church circuit? Below is an article about what Eco Church is, what it seeks to achieve and how it works. Your challenge this month is to simply talk to everyone and anyone about the environment, the impact we are having and how both the big, and the small things we can all do can help change how we live and the world around us.

The Methodist Church Background Eco Church is an award scheme run by A Rocha UK in partnership with the Church of England, Christian Aid, the Methodist Church and Tearfund. Its goal is to be a vehicle that will help churches of all shapes and sizes integrate caring for the wider creation right into the heart of their church lives, impacting their whole church programme.

Since its launch, hundreds of churches have registered and churches are regularly gaining bronze, silver and gold awards. Eco Church has become a key tool encouraging and celebrating the engagement of Methodist churches in England and Wales in wider creation care. Eco Circuit/Eco District Emerging from the growing interest in Eco Church has been a number of requests for a

Your church caring for God's Earth

[Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project](#)

[Eco Circuit - Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit](#)

Eco Update



Clive Davis has been busy making boxes for Stowmarket Methodist Church car park and forecourt. As soon as we get the flowerbox planted up Stowmarket will have earned its Bronze Eco Church Award!



Coffee Morning & Stalls

SATURDAY 9TH JULY
10.30AM - 12.30PM



All Welcome!

The Methodist Church
Northumberland Avenue
Bury St Edmunds
IP32 6NA



Ixworth Methodist Chapel

Tigger says

**'WELCOME to COFFEE and CHAT
Tuesdays 10am to 11.30am**

**We have re-started our Coffee Mornings and
there is a happy buzz about the place again on
Tuesday mornings.**

**We have the usual village support and
everyone is glad to be back.**

**We'd welcome you, too, if you'd like to join
us.**

Trinity Sunday - Caroline Edwards

I am often asked how our youngest child was named. She was not born on Trinity Sunday as some people have questioned previously. She was born on the 3rd day of the month, the youngest of three children and the daughter of a Priest (my husband), so it seemed quite apt for her to be named Trinity. My husband and I considered how many references to her name there may be in her life; the number of churches with the same name (I obviously didn't know I would later be based at Trinity MC!), the relevance of her name spiritually and how nice it would be to have a name that triggered so many questions. What we hadn't considered at the time was what it would be like for her as a tiny toddler in church on her first Trinity Sunday!

All was well when we arrived, we'd found a parking spot and actually managed to arrive on time and far from flustered to a Church Service; which was in itself a rare occasion with 3 children. The service started without a hitch and then the sermon began, the preacher mentioned that it was Trinity Sunday and my eldest children chuckled between themselves. My little Trinity looked up from her toys, confused but very clearly listening to what was happening around her. The sermon continued, as did Trinity's intrigue as to why someone stood at the front was mentioning her name. She gradually crept further and further to the front of church to find out what was going on. The Priest, who continued his sermon, was totally unaware of the impact he was having on the tiny toddler shuffling towards him. As he continued talking about the relevance of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit, and exactly at the point his words mentioned 'the importance of Trinity', my Trinity had had enough of him calling her name, shouted a very loud 'aroo' sound and grabbed his leg! Somewhat surprised at first, – and naturally losing his train of thought – he looked down, smiled then laughed hysterically along with the rest of the congregation at the timing of Trinity's interruption, the relevance of his sermon on Trinity Sunday and new meaning (at least in their church) of the importance of Trinity Sunday! As my husband says, the Priest met Trinity in 2 ways that day, and perhaps Trinity met with the mystery of faith herself! Be careful what you name your child and remember that children are always listening!

one has an illustration of St Matthew holding 2 serpents which he is fighting, and the skill with which they have been drawn and coloured is breathtaking. There are “doodles” in the margins added by medieval monks – doodling is not a modern day past time it seems! The exhibition is free and open until June 8th, but you do need to book.

We walked from the Cathedral to the Abbey Crypt ruins for Vespers to conclude our weekend – it rained but no-one seemed to mind as we celebrated together our common faith in Christ and our belief that St Benedict gave us something very special in his Rule which still resonates with us today.

There are other “goodies” to see at the Abbey and in the Cathedral - I have attached photos to give you a taste!



You are warmly invited to...

C.A.M.E.O

(COME AND MEET EACH OTHER)

When?

The First Wednesday of each month
2.30pm

Where?

The Methodist Church
Northumberland Avenue
IP32 6NA

**ALL
ARE
WELCOME**



~ FREE PARKING ~ FULLY ACCESSIBLE BUILDING ~



Join us at
Christchurch
Needham Market

COFFEE MORNING

with

CAKE STALL

Books and Puzzles

Every 2nd Saturday

10am – 12noon

All welcome



Over the weekend we had talks on Benedictine spirituality from Jutta Brueck, an Anglican priest who has been involved in monastic communities for many years and from Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury. Both spoke on the importance of community life, contemplation and on silence. There were four workshops to choose from in which the influence of St Benedict on modern day life was examined and discussed.



Rev Canon Philip Banks, Bishop Alan Hopes, Bishop Martin Seeley, Dean Joe Hawes

Sunday was a very special day where for the first time in the history of the cathedral (from its inception) there was a Roman Catholic Mass followed by an ecumenical Eucharist. The mass was celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes (Roman Catholic) and the sermon preached by Bishop Martin Seeley, followed by a Sung Eucharist in which the roles were reversed. It was wonderful to have these two services together in Christian unity, and there were many of us there who hope that this can be repeated in future years.

Afterwards we had the opportunity to view some ancient manuscripts from the Abbey Scriptorium. When the Abbey was closed by Henry VIII, its library had about 3,000 books. Of these only 270 survive; 121 of the books that remain are in the possession of Pembroke College, Cambridge who have loaned 7 of the manuscripts for the 1000 years celebration. They are quite beautiful –

Abiding Wisdom – Jane Brooker

Abiding Wisdom at St Edmundsbury Cathedral – Article from Jane Brooker
1000 years of Benedictine spirituality was celebrated this month with a conference at St Edmundsbury Cathedral over a weekend in the middle of May. Benedictines from monasteries, lay communities, churches and of varied denominations all came to celebrate the founding of the Abbey at St Edmundsbury by King Cnut about 1000 years ago. It was in 1020 that King Cnut ordered a round stone church to be built to house the body of St Edmund – the celebration was to have been in 2020 but, like so many other events, was delayed due to COVID.

For those not familiar with the story, St Edmund was a young king captured by Vikings (Danish) who tried to persuade him to abandon his Christian faith; had he done so they would have allowed him to remain a king, but under their control. He refused to do so and was tied to a tree and then shot with multiple arrows. He was then beheaded and his head thrown into woods. His body was found, and his men heard a wolf crying to them “hic, hic” (which means here, here). When they followed the wolf’s call they found the wolf guarding the king’s head which was then reunited with his body. Body and head then fused together which is considered to be the first of many miracles.



I have attached a picture of the wolf's head (I suspect not a real wolf!), and a sculpture of the young king with a wolf beside him, and also a picture of a tapestry displaying the martyrdom of King Edmund with Viking longships in the background. All can be seen at the Cathedral.

GUARDIANS & TIDDLERS

Baby & Toddler Group
Newborn - Preschool

£1
PER
FAMILY

THURSDAYS
1PM - 3PM
(TERM TIME ONLY)



The Methodist Church
Northumberland Avenue
Bury St Edmunds
IP32 6NA



Enquiries:

northumberlandtiddlers@outlook.com

OLD NEWTON METHODIST CHURCH



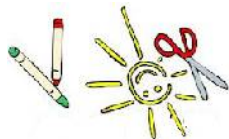
TUESDAY, 21st June

10.45 – 12 noon

Do join us for coffee and nibbles
with lively chat – a great opportunity
for meeting up with old friends
and making new ones.

OLD NEWTON METHODIST CHURCH

CRAFT CIRCLE



Our Craft Club meets in the Chapel Hall on
the third Tuesday of each month. It is a very friendly group of folk who enjoy
meeting together to practise familiar crafts
and learn new ones.

There is also plenty of time for chat and tea drinking.
You would be most welcome to join us. You don't need to be expert at any
craft – it's all for fun and friendship!

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 15th June** from 2.00 till 4.00

Prayers for Refugees and for those held in captivity

For Refugees

Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;
look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger,
homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief;
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in
your Kingdom of justice and of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For those held in captivity

Merciful Father,
we cry to you from the depths of our concern
for those wrongly imprisoned or held captive:
for those trying to secure their release,
that the ways of peace and diplomacy may prevail over acts of violence and
aggression,

that their captors may know a change of heart;
through him who was sent to proclaim liberty for captives
and to set free those who are oppressed,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

O Lord God,
your Son Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

In his resurrection
he restores life and peace in all creation.
Comfort, we pray, all victims of intolerance
and those oppressed by their fellow humans.
Remember in your kingdom those who have died.

Lead the oppressors towards compassion
and give hope to the suffering.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/prayers-refugees>

something – whether they've been preaching for decades or it's their first sermon. Your words are important and we want to hear from you!

Ian Lister

Ian is forty years old and lives in Paignton in Devon, the town where he grew up, although he was actually born in Blackpool. He studied at the University of Sussex and soon after graduating moved to Surrey where he worked as a software engineer for about ten years before returning to his roots in Devon. For him it is great to be back by the sea and he now works for a social care organisation and enjoys the technical and creative side of producing videos and animations.

Ian has been a local preacher in the Methodist Church for around six years. Preaching isn't something he imagined he'd be doing, but through the encouragement of others he was gently nudged to explore it and he found great truth in the statement that where God calls, he also equips. Ian hopes to continue to grow in experience through preaching in the local churches.

What inspired you to enter Sermon of the Year and what would you say to those thinking about entering next year?

This is the fourth time I've entered the Sermon of the Year competition. For those who preach regularly it offers a challenge because you don't know anything about the readers and can't assume any local knowledge. For anyone who has never preached before it is a great opportunity to 'dip a toe in the water' and you might discover it is something you want to explore further.

Conference Sunday

The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world. This year the Conference will meet at Telford 23 – 30 June. For live-streamed public events please see [Conference Live Stream \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2022/conference-live-stream/) <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2022/conference-live-stream/>

Sanctuary Sunday

Sanctuary Sunday is 19th June this year, one day ahead of World Refugee Day on 20th June. Many stories and resources can be found here [Refugees and Migrants \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/categories/theme/refugees-and-migrants/) <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/categories/theme/refugees-and-migrants/>

Bury St Edmund's Circuit Day with Lay Community of St Benedict

The date for this Circuit event is the **Saturday 15th October** where we shall explore the life and times of St Benedict and his spirituality. The Lay Community of St Benedict have been invited to join us and will speak on St Benedict – his life & vision and the new monasticism. Workshops are planned, although not finalised: -

Lectio Divina, Art, Writing, Music (for ecumenical Eucharist)



[A prayer at Pentecost \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/posts/a-prayer-at-pentecost/)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/posts/a-prayer-at-pentecost/>

God's Spirit is approaching

Through time, across continents, soaring over creation

God's Spirit is speaking

Whispering and comforting, roaring and challenging

God's Spirit surrounds us

Beyond touch, warmly embracing

God's Spirit transforms us

Making our horizons wider

our faith stronger

our hopes possible

Sermon of the Year – Finalists for Leaders & Preachers Trust Sermon

Here are the finalists for the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust Sermon of the year final. This year's entries are entitled '**Welcome the Stranger**'. You can watch it live at 7.00pm on Thursday 23rd June on YouTube. If you register beforehand, you will receive a digital copy of all ten shortlisted sermons.

<https://www.preachweb.org/finalists>

LWPT is always pleased to receive gifts to support vocational training or legacies. Find out more at www.lwpt.org.uk - **Stella Davis**

Find Out More About Those Taking Part

Charmaine Yip

Although raised in a Christian home, Charmaine only came to saving faith ten years ago. With her conversion came a hunger for the Bible, a book she had previously found dull and impenetrable. Charmaine has seen her life transformed by God's Word and now has a passion to make Jesus known through gospel proclamation. She loves the timeless relevance of the Bible and its application to constantly evolving social issues, particularly those relating to justice and equality.

Charmaine has no preaching experience to date but draws her inspiration from her paternal great grandmother who, as a widow with two young daughters, was transported from India to work as an indentured servant in South Africa and taught the Bible in her native Telegu to fellow labourers. Charmaine is 52 years old and lives in Bromley.

What inspired you to enter Sermon of the Year and what would you say to those thinking about entering next year?

If it wasn't for Sermon of the Year, I'd never have dreamed of writing a sermon! Not only is this event a wonderful opportunity for preachers of different experience (or none) to get valuable feedback from seasoned judges, it's also a great launching pad for fledgling or aspiring preachers like me. Thanks to all at *Preach* magazine for running it.

Last year I wrote my first sermon and it was placed among the top ten entrants, so this year I wanted to enter again but wasn't sure about the text. A wise friend advised me to take a piece of scripture and pray into it for a few days. It was amazing to see how the Holy Spirit opened the text to me and showed me its riches and relevance to the topic.

I would say to those thinking about entering next year, especially all the aspiring preachers out there, to be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit and go for it! Ultimately, it's not about us preachers; it's about what God can accomplish through us. My prayer is that the Spirit glorifies Jesus and makes Him real to people through the sermons in this event.

Katharine Crew

Katharine is 30 and works at Union Chapel Church as their Social Justice and Community Outreach Worker. She lives in Harpenden, Hertfordshire and was recently accredited as a Methodist Local Preacher in the West Hertfordshire and Borders Circuit. The circuit contains a range of churches from larger town centre churches to smaller village chapels, and includes her home church, High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden. Katharine began preaching as a teenager in her circuit's Youth Worship Team, where she loved the encouragement of knowing her perspective was valued. After not preaching while at university, she felt its absence from her life and began to explore her call to preach. She is particularly keen to bring under-represented voices into her services, and to encourage other people to explore a call to preach so that a broad range of perspectives are heard. In her spare time Katharine enjoys dancing, acting, and learning Welsh.

What inspired you to enter Sermon of the Year and what would you say to those thinking about entering next year?

I've been following the Sermon of the Year competition for years now and my favourite thing about this competition is that I get to read/ hear sermons from people I otherwise wouldn't have heard from. To me a joy of preaching is that God uses us to preach. God could inspire every preacher to preach the exact same sermon, but God chooses not to. Instead God uses our gifts, knowledge and experiences to add to our sermons. So each new preacher I hear offers me an insight to God that only they can bring.

We face a real problem in the church if we only hear sermons from narrow perspectives – particularly those who have been traditionally privileged. There's been so many times I've sat in church frustrated because women have been erased or because I don't understand the sermon illustrations which are before my time. The joy I feel at relating to a sermon or learning from a new perspective, reminds me how valuable it is that everyone is encouraged to preach.

To those thinking of entering next year I'd say go for it. Sermon of the Year celebrates the art of preaching and recognises that each person can teach us