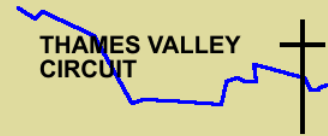




Thames Valley Methodist Circuit **CIRCUIT NEWS**



Latest news items added:

- **World Church Relationships Bulletin – April edition** See page 1
- **Circuit Meeting Minutes** See page 4
- **Easter Message** See page 1
- **Prayers for Kemerovo** See page 2
- **Amount raised within the circuit for AfC in the last 12 months** See page 2

Easter Message



To read this year's Easter Message from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Loraine N Mellor and Mrs Jill Baker, go to:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/easter-message-2018/>

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS NEWS BULLETIN

The April edition of The World Church Relationship News Bulletin includes interesting articles about the impact of Methodism and our Mission Partners throughout the world, in particular:

- The Korean Armistice Agreement.
- Methodists and Baptists working together worldwide.
- Benin – the first Synod since unification.
- The newest / oldest Mission Partner.

[Click here to see it.](#)

Prayers for Kemerovo

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Loraine N Mellor, and the Vice-President, Jill Baker, have called for all Methodists to pray for those affected by the fire that engulfed a shopping and entertainment complex in the Siberian coal-mining city of Kemerovo, killing at least 64 people, the majority of whom were children.

The President said “Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of those who were killed and injured, and to all affected in whatever way by this horrific and preventable fire.”

The President shared the following prayers:

Sisters and brothers in Christ, at this time of death and parting, we are confident that God knows us and is with us. As we seek the strength and comfort of God, let us bring our confusion and sorrow, our anger and pain, and lay them before God.

God of infinite compassion, look in love on those who mourn. Be their support and strength that they may trust in you. And be delivered out of their distress; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CIRCUIT THEME FOR THE YEAR

Each connexional year the Thames Valley Circuit has a specific theme, which we invite everyone to remember and think about!

This year's is the words in John, chapter 10, verse 10:

“I have come that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.”

When thinking about this theme, you might like to look at the various translations and consider the slight differences in emphasis and meaning.

Action for Children (AfC)

We are delighted to report that, in the last 12 months, the circuit has raised over **£5000** for AfC. This information was given at the AGM of the circuit AfC committee. To this will be added the amount raised by one church – whose representative was unable to attend.

EASTER LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Thames Valley Circuit,

As a Circuit, we shall begin our Lenten season on Ash Wednesday with a Labyrinth Prayer Walk. This will be held on **Wednesday, February 14th at St. Andrew's Methodist Church**. This act of worship is self-led and can be done any time between 11.30am and 7.30pm. Stewards will be available to assist/pray with you. This is a good way to begin the season of Lent and I would like to encourage as many of you as can to attend.

The Circuit Training Day will be on **Saturday, March 3rd at Windsor Methodist Church**. We hope to begin at 10am with refreshments and conclude the day by 1pm. We are asking that each church send at least two people to the day. We will be looking at Working Positively Together as one group before breaking into two sessions covering pastoral visiting and how to be a good representative for your church at meetings. Oftentimes, the complaint is made that communication is poor across the Circuit. If we all know our responsibilities when we attend Council or Circuit meetings, perhaps these communication issues would improve. This is a day to share good working principles in fellowship with one another.

There are a variety of worship activities to participate in during Holy Week itself. **High Street** will be having Celtic Reflections from **26th to 28th March**. These will take place at 12.45pm and all are welcome. There are Holy Communion services on Maundy Thursday across the Circuit but if you are free in the afternoon, why not join the folk at **Old Windsor** who will be showing a film. On Good Friday, there are opportunities to join a March of Witness in Slough, Maidenhead or Windsor. As a Circuit, we are extremely grateful to visiting Presbyters who have offered to conduct Holy Communion on Easter Day itself.

As well as the Ash Wednesday Prayer Labyrinth, there are three other Circuit Services in this quarter. Firstly, the quarterly **Healing** Service takes place on **Sunday, March 4th**. As usual, this will be held at Windsor Methodist Church at 6.30pm. Come and pray for a friend, for yourself or for the world. Secondly, the **Easter Offering Service** is on **Sunday, April 15th**. This year, the venue is **High Street** and the afternoon begins at 5pm with tea followed by the service. The last event is an **Aldersgate Celebration on Sunday, May 27th in Windsor Methodist Church at 6.30pm**. More details, nearer the time.

Lent is a time to 'spring-clean' our spiritual practises in preparation for Easter. This year, I plan to use the devotional book '**The Art of Lent**'. Each day, the book looks at a different painting and offers reflections on it. The book has been written by Sister Wendy Beckett and published by SPCK. As I travel around the Circuit, I might share some of the insights from my Lenten studies with you in worship. May we all find new inspiration for the spiritual journey as we live the Easter message of resurrection and new life.

Sonia

MEDITATION WEBSITE

If you have a few minutes to spare, why not try one of the meditations at “TakeTime”! This is a recently-launched website, www.taketime.org.uk.

These meditations are inspired by the tradition of St Ignatius and the stories of Jesus. They are free and are meant to enable you to encounter Jesus in a new way through guided meditation – all you have to do is listen and relax! If you would like further information, go to the website or contact [Connie Jeffery](#).

THAMES VALLEY CIRCUIT ANNUAL REPORT

The Circuit’s 2017 Annual Report, for the connexional year September 2016 – August 2017 is available on the website. You can access it from the ABOUT US page of the website or by clicking [this link](#).

SMALLER CHURCHES NEWSLETTER

The Smaller Churches Newsletter for March – May 2018 is available on the website. You can access it from the OUTREACH page of the website or by clicking [this link](#). It includes a letter from Sonia applicable to everyone in the circuit.

PICTURES TO SHARE

The Circuit has two sets of illustrated books which are intended for use with people who have problems in communication, such as those suffering with stroke or dementia.

Each Church in the Circuit has at least one book which is available for use when visiting Care Homes, etc. If you wish to take advantage, please check with your church’s Senior Steward for details of the procedure for borrowing.

CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on 13th March 2018 can be accessed by clicking [this link](#).

NEVILLE WALTON: "HEADS UP" CHARITY APPEAL

Neville Walton is raising money for 'Heads Up' an Oxford based pioneering scientific research charity, aligned to The Head and Neck Cancer Unit, at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford. His treatment for tonsil cancer was recently carried out by this unit.

Such was the excellent skill and care Neville received, he is asking family and friends to consider making a donation to support their clinical, teaching and research work in the field of cancer of the head and neck.



His daughter, her partner, his grandson and friends, The Pink Mohicans, are committed to cycling more than 500 miles across France in aid of the Charity.

The family would like to thank you in advance for any gift you feel able to make.

Please send your donation to:

Neville Walton (HN)
Benwell House
Cox Green Lane
Maidenhead
Berks
SL6 3EY

or via The Just Giving website <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Gillian-Walton>

