



The **Methodist** Church Stamford Circuit

Registered Charity :1160930

MARCH 2024



“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

1 Corinthians 2:2

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The Circuit Newsletter exists to build up fellowship across the Stamford Methodist Circuit. Items for inclusion in the Circuit Newsletter should be:
Inspiring, encouraging of faith and discipleship to promote the growth of church relationships within the Circuit.

Could you please send any articles for the April 2024 Circuit Newsletter to:

Email: admin2322@gmail.com

or by post to:

The Circuit Office at Stamford Methodist Church

Articles should be sent no later than Friday 15th March 2024.

Rev Andrew Hollins ~ Superintendent Minister

11 Jackson Way, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 1FG

Tel: 01780 762282 Email: StamfordMethodistSuper@gmail.com

Rest Day: Monday

Rev Ruth Charlesworth

2 Coggles Causeway, Bourne, Lincs

PE10 9LN Tel: 01778 422258

ruth.charlesworth@methodist.org.uk

Rest Day: Friday

Rev Bekkie Wright

2 Wensum Close, Oakham. LE15 6FU

Tel: 01572 720721

Bekkie.wright@methodist.org.uk

Rest Day: Friday

Phil Jones- Circuit Mission Enabler

5 Rycroft Close, Deeping St James, PE6 8NX

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Friends,

Every now and then an idea catches on in social media and almost everyone jumps on board and wants to have their say. People film themselves giving their opinion and then continue to add their views in written comments, where arguments and debates take place as everyone tries to persuade others that "I am right; listen to me."

Recently one of these ideas became particularly heated. Looking at the state of the world someone, somewhere announced that the UK was bringing back conscription and that everyone would be called up to fight for their country. There was uproar, people speaking up to say whether they would or would not fight, arguments over who was patriotic, who had the best ethics and morals and so on. In reality, this was all just talk and bluster as the government have no intention of bringing in conscription.

But it left me thinking: what would I be prepared to stand up for or to speak out about, and if I was called to fight what would I be prepared to fight for? Where is that line which once stepped over, I can no longer be silent? What would I be prepared to give everything for?

For God that moment came in Bethlehem and then Jerusalem over 2000 years ago. God taking on humanity as Jesus, living our life, walking the land, speaking to people, eating, laughing, crying, sharing friendships and meeting with us face-to-face. God taking on humanity so that we could truly see God and truly hear God and, when the point was reached that the disciples finally understood who Jesus was, turning to Jerusalem and beginning that long journey to his death, one step at a time, but never turning his face away from what was to come.

Jesus gave his life so that we might find our own lives. The world lashed out, angry at the message Jesus was bringing and finally demanded crucifixion, we demanded the death of God so that we need never be challenged by the words of God again. If that was what we needed in order to see the extent we had fallen and to at last repent, turn around and live once again in God, then that was what Jesus would give.

Jesus gave his life, died on the cross and because of that so many of us across the centuries have seen the depth of God's love for us.

We know that's not the end, because God cannot die; there is resurrection and hope, new beginnings, fresh starts and a new way of living and being. However, this Lent, as we relive the story of Jesus turning to Jerusalem and beginning that walk to his death, I ask that we do not just jump straight to the resurrection but that we look at the crucifixion.

What are you prepared to fight for? What are you prepared to stand up for and speak out about? Where do your allegiances lie? My answer to that question:

WITH GOD

My God who died for me so that I may see for myself what it means to truly live.

Blessings through this Lent and Easter season.

Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Pray without Ceasing March 2024



Suggestions for each day of the month. A few spaces have been left for your own concerns.

1. For people with Birthdays or Anniversaries this month
2. Rev Andrew Hollins
3. Empingham Chapel
4. Ketton Chapel
5. Oakham Church
6. Rev Ruth Charlesworth
7. Ryhall Chapel
8. Thurlby Chapel
9. Uppingham Church
10. Rev Bekkie Wright
11. Those who use our premises on Mondays
12. Those who use our premises on Tuesdays
13. Those who use our premises on Wednesdays
14. Barn Hill Church
15. Bourne Chapel
16. Deepings Church
17. Peace in a troubled world
18. Phil Jones Circuit Mission Enabler
19. **
20. Julia Husbands CF&YM Enabler
21. Those who use our premises on Thursdays
22. Those who use our premises on Fridays
23. Those who use our premises on Saturday
24. All those in authority
25. Our Local Preachers
26. **
27. Circuit Administrator Rowan
28. Supernumerary Ministers
29. The sacrifice of the Cross
30. Circuit Officers
31. Give thanks for Risen Lord

Any suggestions or requests please let Nina Rawlins know on 01780 753649 or email ninarawlins@yahoo.co.uk

Statement from the Superintendent Minister
which was read out at the conclusion of worship
in all churches in the Stamford Methodist Circuit
on Sunday 11th February 2024

For the past eight months or so, the Circuit Meeting (which is the trustee body responsible for the circuit) has been engaged in a process of reviewing the resourcing of ministry and mission in the circuit, and its priorities for growth. Local churches have contributed to this consultation in various ways. The Circuit Meeting on 6th February discussed, and agreed unanimously, proposals which were brought by the Circuit Leadership Team. A summary of these proposals is:

- From 1st September 2024 the circuit will have two ordained ministers. In addition to serving as the Superintendent, one minister will have pastoral charge of Ketton, Oakham, Stamford and Uppingham Methodist churches. The other minister will have pastoral charge of Bourne, Deepings, Empingham, Ryhall and Thurlby Methodist churches.
- The two ministers will live in the manses they currently occupy – in Oakham and Stamford – for the short term. The Circuit Leadership Team will keep the locations for the manses under review. The most appropriate use of the manse in Bourne, which will become vacant in August 2024, will form part of this.
- Paid Lay Workers will continue to form part of the circuit ministry team. However, the roles will change to *Pastoral & Discipleship* and *Discipleship & Evangelism*. The total paid hours, allocated between these roles, will be 54 to 60 hours per week.
- Administrative support for the circuit ministry team will be increased from 10 to 20 hours per week.

A budget for these proposals is being drawn up. This will be available to local Church Councils to inform decisions about their assessment contributions to the circuit for the year 2024/25 and beyond.

Please continue to hold the circuit and its churches in prayer at this time of change. Thank you.

Rev. Andrew Hollins – Superintendent Minister

Stamford Methodist Circuit Service

**Palm Sunday 24th March
6.00 pm**

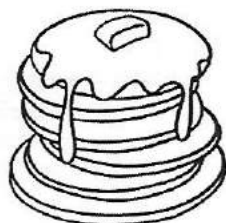
**at
Stamford Methodist Church
with
The Reverend Gill Newton**



**President of the
Methodist Conference**

Bourne MC Pancake Morning

A successful pancake and coffee morning was recently held at Bourne where over £180 was raised for MHA. Our grateful thanks to all who supported and helped on the day!



I Was Reading.....

A winner knows how much they still have to learn, even when they are considered an expert by others. A loser wants to be considered an expert by others before he has learned enough to know how little they know.

Pessimism, fright, and discouragement are contagious. And so too is courage!

Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least. Most of us don't get to our most important tasks until mid-afternoon.

Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong..... of their strength or the rich..... of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this, that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord.

Give me neither poverty or riches, but only give me my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, "Who is the Lord?" Remember you don't own anything - you're just an administrator of God's estate and an executor of his will.

It is better to say nothing and appear to be a fool than to open your mouth and confirm it. What you don't say you won't have to explain or apologise for later.

Every minute given to anger is a minute taken away from joy.

A fool says, "I have no time to pray," but later... he finds all kinds of time to attempt to repair the damage prayerlessness.... produced...

There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn't matter who gets the credit.

Bitterness feeds upon the host. It does nothing to the object of the displeasure.

Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with it.

Do not love sleep or you will grow poor, stay awake and you will have food to spare.

Ultimately, it's not the number of days in your life that count, but the quality of life in your days.

KLP

Christian Aid Lent Lunches

at the United Reform Church Hall, Broad Street, Stamford

All are welcome!!

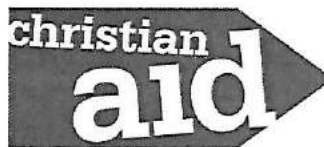
Soup, Bread, Chees and Drinks

Come and meet new people and enjoy the fellowship.

Donations to Christian Aid

Fridays in March, 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd

12.30 to 1.30pm



Dear friends.

Back in January 2020, Fhavys and I moved from Cambridge to Stamford. Thanks to Covid and a lengthy lockdown however, it wasn't until Advent Sunday 2022 that I took my first service in the circuit and appeared on the plan as a Supernumerary minister. Since then, I've been blessed with appointments throughout the circuit, and grateful for the welcome both Favi and I have received as we've shared with you in worship and got to know you all as friends.

But my retirement is to be short lived. Having been called to ministry some thirty years ago, I was amazed to experience that same sense of vocation again, and so the journey continues.

After much consideration, the Methodist Church has graciously allowed me to return to active ministry and in September I'll be taking up an appointment as presbyter in the Somerset Mendip Circuit.

We'll be sorry to be leaving Stamford, but glad of the opportunity to continue in ministry. We'd like to take this opportunity to assure you of our love and prayers as you too go through a period of challenge and change. We 'll remember our time among you with much joy and happiness.

We've much to be thankful for and not least the assurance of God's love for us in Jesus. In his strength we face new challenges and opportunities. By his grace we're commissioned with the task of sharing His good news and proclaiming His Kingdom.

May God bless us all as we journey on in His name. If your journey ever brings you to Somerset be sure to look us up. A warm welcome awaits.

Yours with every blessing.

Rev. Andrew and Fhavys Bell.



Café Church at Ryhall

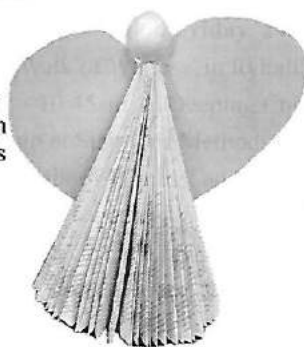
February 28th saw Ryhall Methodist Church's first Café Church which was led by Rev. Ruth Charlesworth.

We welcomed old and new friends (some armed with chocolate and coffee cake.)

The theme of the morning was, Angels and after a recent tidy session at the church we had a box of old hymn books so with this information Ruth taught us all to make hymn book angels like the one pictured.

We are hoping to run these session on the last Sunday of each month so do join us sometime.

M. Roberts



“Wondering and Weaving”

Kaleidoscope Quiet Morning Reflections

Eight of us gathered together on 10th February and were welcomed by Linda after coffee. We began with music and meditation on our theme of the day “Wondering and Weaving” as we reflected on the three objects shown – a rock, a candle and a pastoral scene.

We were asked to think about how God had woven people into our lives to be our “rock”, or a “guide” at various times or even just once in the past. We also thought about special places where God had given us peace over the years.

After a while we shared our thoughts and memories – all speaking of how God uses people to give us strength, to be a guiding light for us and how places He draws us to give us peace. It was very moving to hear the different experiences from childhood and beyond. Linda said a prayer as we thanked God for all of the memories and the way He uses people and places in our lives to give us what we need at a particular time.

We then enjoyed our nibbles with more coffee and began a crafting session of weaving bookmarks with coloured wools with Linda demonstrating and keeping us right. We also made prayer plaits, plaiting wool to then knot and use for prayer. It reminded us of a kind of rosary – albeit in a different form. Colouring in was done too and we enjoyed the time sitting altogether in the sunny conservatory.

At the end Audrey shared a wonderful poem she had written during this time and we ended the session feeling very relaxed and happy to have been together. It was a morning of chat, reminiscences, craft and friendship and we look forward to our next session in May “Pause for Thought” when we are asked to bring something that is special to us. Come and join us!

Contributed by Beryl Teasdale

Kaleidoscope Quiet Morning

‘Pause For Thought’

Saturday 11th May 2024

9.15am for 9.30am – 11.30am


At the home of Beryl and Ron Teasdale: Ashbrook, First Drift, Wothorpe, PE9 3JL
Join us for personal reflexion, stillness and sharing.
An informal time of relaxation and peace.

Tel: Linda Bosworth 01572 823965 to book a place.

Future dates and themes:-

Saturday 10th August 2024: *Good to be Alive*

Saturday 9th November 2024: *Psalms and Songs*

	Year B	3rd March	10th March	17th March	24th March	31st March	7th April
	Lectionary	Lent 3	Lent 4 Mothering	Lent 5 Passion	Lent 6 Palm Sunday	Easter	Easter 2
Pray for...		Circuit Stewards	Oakham MC	Borune MC	Methodist Conference	All who lead worship	Empingham MC
Bourne	10.30am	Charlesworth HC	Local Worship	Wright	Cameron	Booker HC	Law
					Newton 6pm @ Stamford U		
Deepings	10.30am	Cameron	Collins	Charlesworth HC	Cockburn	Gent HC	Wright
			4pm Messy Church		Newton 6pm @ Stamford U		
Empingham	10.45am	Booker	Charlesworth Café		Newton Café		Cappitt
				3pm Wright TTC	Newton 6pm @ Stamford U	3pm Wright HC	
Ketton	3.00pm	Pursehouse	Bell	Hollins			
	6.00pm				Newton 6pm @ Stamford U	Hollins HC	Wright
Oakham	10.45am	Lewis	Bell	Fytche	Hollins	Wright HC	Lamb
			3pm Hollins EAW		Newton 6pm @ Stamford U		
Ryhall	10.30am	J Allen T	Hollins	Love	Local Worship A/Café	Hollins HC	Bailey
					Newton 6pm @ Stamford U		
Stamford	10.30am	Wright HC	Local Worship	Hollins	Martin	Bell A/HC	Hollins
	6.00pm				6pm Newton Circuit Service		
Thurby	10.30am	Sworn	Martin	Hensman	Charlesworth	6.30am HC @ Manor	Local Worship
					Newton 6pm @ Stamford U	10.30am Lewis HC	
Uppingham	10.45am	Gent	Atwell-King	Ruzvidzo	Wright	Charlesworth HC	J Allen
	10.45am				Newton 6pm @ Stamford U		
Sunday Prayers	10.30am	Charlesworth	Law	P Jones	Newton/ Hollins	Wright	Hollins

VISITING PREACHERS

Rev. Canon Helen Cameron - Chair of the Northampton Methodist District


Mr. Matt Forsyth - Northampton Methodist District Mission Team Leader

Rev. Sarah Lamb - c/o Oakham Methodist Church

Rev. Gill Newton - President of the Methodist Conference

Rev. Kim Shorley - Northampton Methodist District 'New Places for New People' Coordinator

Mr. Brian Thornton - c/o Deepings Methodist Church

	Year B	14th April	21st April	28th April	5th May	12th May	19th May	26th May
	Lectionary	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6	Easter 7 / Ascension	Pentecost	Trinity
Pray for...		Thurlby MC	Northampton District	Ketton MC	Deepings MC	Uppingham MC	Stamford MC	Ryhall MC
Bourne	10.30am	Charlesworth	Pocock	Atwell-King	Charlesworth HC	Fytche	11.30am @ Circuit Farm Weekend	Bailey
Deepings	10.30am	Hollins	Charlesworth	Local Worship	Thornton CA	Charlesworth HC	11.30am @ Circuit Farm Weekend	Cappitt
		4pm Messy Church				4pm Messy Church		
Empingham	10.45am	Wright Café/ HC			Wright HC	P Jones Café	11.30am @ Circuit Farm Weekend	Booker
			3pm Husbands TTC	Local Worship				
Ketton	3.00pm						11.30am @ Circuit Farm Weekend	
	6.00pm	Hollins	H Cameron HC	Local Worship	Hollins	Collins		Hollins HC
Oakham	10.45am	Local Worship	Hensman	Wright HC	Cockburn	Pursehouse	11.30am @ Circuit Farm Weekend	Wright HC
		3pm Wright EAW				P Jones EAW		
Ryhall	10.30am	Bell	Hollins HC	Forsyth A/Café	Cameron	Hollins HC	11.30am @ Circuit Farm Weekend	P Jones A/Café
Stamford	10.30am	Shorley	Law	Hollins GCM	Hollins HC	Ruzvidzo	11.30am @ Circuit Farm Weekend	Hensman
	6.00pm		2pm Hollins Scouts					
Thurlby	10.30am	Gent	Pursehouse	Charlesworth	Pocock HC	Cappitt	11.30am @ Circuit Farm Weekend	Charlesworth HC
Uppingham	10.45am	Love	Wright HC	Local Worship	C Allen	Wright HC	11.30am @ Circuit Farm Weekend	Hollins HC
	10.45am							
Sunday Prayers	10.30am	Atwell-King	Martin	P Jones	Charlesworth	Pursehouse	Wright	Law

REFERENCES

A: All Age Worship CA: Church Anniversary Café: Café Church CC: Church Council CT: Churches Together

EAW: Easy Access Worship GCM: General Church Meeting HC: Holy Communion

T: Transport may be required (Church Stewards to please check with preacher) TTC: Tea Time Church U: United Service

Local Worship is intended to be planned, prepared and led using the gifts of local church members.

(Church Stewards are responsible for coordinating these arrangements).

Sunday 3rd March Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:12-22	Sunday 21st April Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18
Sunday 10th March Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Sunday 28th April Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22: 25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8
Sunday 17 March Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Or Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Sunday 5th May Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17
Sunday 24 March Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 118:1-2, 19-20 Or Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16, and Mark 14:1-15:47	Sunday 12th May Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19
Sunday 31st March Acts 10:34-43 Or Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8	Sunday 19th May Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Sunday 7th April Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31	Sunday 26th May Hosea 2:14-20 Psalm 103:1-13, 22 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 Mark 2:13-22
Sunday 14th April Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	

Circuit Website ~ www.stamfordmethodistcircuit.org

Please visit the Circuit website for regularly updated information about services, events and prayer requests. Any helpful comments for the website would be gratefully received by Rev Andrew Hollins. Thank you.

Worship resources around the circuit

A digital projector and laptop are available for use around the circuit. Please contact Ian Husbands (01780) 753968

Bourne

Singing the Faith (other hymn books available on request); Pew Bibles (NIV); MWB (Communion Service). Projection Facilities

Deepings

Singing the Faith; (other hymn books available on request) Pew Bibles (GNB); MWB (Communion Service). Projection Facilities.

Empingham

Singing the Faith; (other hymn books available on request) MWB; *Pew Bible* (NIV)

Ketton

Singing the Faith; MWB (Communion liturgies only); *Pew Bible* (NIV). Projection facilities

Oakham

Singing the Faith (other hymn books available on request); *Pew Bible* (NIV); AVA team and projection facilities on request

Ryhall

MWB; *Pew Bible* (NIV); Singing the Faith (other hymns books available on request)

Stamford

Singing the Faith (other hymn books available on request); MWB; *Pew Bible* (NIV); AVA team and projection facilities

Thurlby

Singing the Faith; SoF 1-6; Worship Book Communion Services; Pew Bibles (NIV). Projection Facilities

Uppingham

Singing the Faith (other hymn books available on request); *Pew Bible* (NIV); AVA team and projection facilities

KEY:

NRSV: New Revised Standard version

NIV: New International Version

GNB: Good News Bible

HP: Hymns & Psalms

SoF: Songs of Fellowship

MWB: Methodist Worship Book

AVA: Audio Visual Assistance

Bourne Methodist Church

The Stamford Concert Singers are coming once again to Bourne Methodist Church on
Friday 5th April at 7.30pm

Tickets are £6 each and are available from Richard Bailey tel: 01778 782495

Alternatively you can pay on the night at the door!



Circuit 'Wesley Day Celebration'

on Friday 24th May at Bourne Methodist Church

Led by Richard Bailey

We will be singing some Charles Wesley Hymns
with various readings and poetry.

An offering will be taken for M.H.A



Safeguarding Training

Come along to our session of learning, discussion and reflection:

Friday 19th April 2024

10am – 1pm

at Deepings Methodist Church

We will be sharing information, having discussions, and taking part in activities that together will help us to improve our safeguarding and safety knowledge and skills.

This session is designed for anyone who is a member and/or in a volunteering capacity as part of our Methodist Circuit and is recommended for anyone helping at church groups or events (for children and/or adults), as a pastoral visitor, steward and anyone who wants to know how to help keep our members and attendees safe within our churches and their wider events.

You will receive a 'Foundation Level' Creating Safer Spaces Safeguarding Certificate for your attendance (to be updated every four years).

Please book via Charlotte Davis

SMCSafeguarding@gmail.com or 0797 606 4410

Stamford and Rutland Circuit Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
MARCH			
Friday 1st		World Prayer Day (previously Women's World Day of Prayer)	Ecumenical worship in various places
Friday 1st	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunch	URC Stamford
Friday 8th	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunch	URC Stamford
Thursday 14th	8.30am	Circuit Ministry Team Meeting	5 Ryecroft Close, Deeping St James
Friday 15th	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunch	URC Stamford
Saturday 16th	10am to 3pm	Bible Month (Genesis) Preparation/ Training Day	Stamford MC
Wednesday 20th		Northampton Methodist District Presbyteral Synod meeting	Trinity MC, Loughborough
Friday 22nd	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunch	URC Stamford

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday, 28th March

6.30pm at Bourne MC

7.00PM Holy Communion at Ketton Methodist Church

7.30pm Tenebrae Service at Uppingham Methodist Church

Good Friday, 29th March

10.30am 'Walk of Witness' in Ryhall, with Rev. Andrew Hollins

10.45am at Deeping Churches Together

10.45am Worship at Stamford Methodist Church, led by Rev. Andrew Bell

11am Churches Together 'Walk of Witness' and Worship, led by Bekkie in Oakham Town Centre

12.noon Churches Together 'Walk of Witness' in Stamford Town Centre

12 noon Service at Uppingham, led by Rev. Bekkie Wright

7.00pm Reflective Worship at Ketton Methodist Church, led by Rev. Andrew Hollins

YOU ARE INVITED TO DINNER

☺ **FREE OF CHARGE** ☺

at 6.30–6.45 p.m. for 7.00 p.m.

at our home in Uffington

on

Monday 22 April 2024, Tuesday 11 June 2024 and Wednesday 2 October 2024

There are seven Feasts of the LORD in the Bible: three in the spring, one fifty days later, and three in the autumn. The three in the spring are jointly known as Passover (Pesach) and start on **Monday 22 April** this year, fourteen days after the religious new year. Pentecost (Shavuot) is fifty days later falling on **Tuesday 11 June** this year. Then, in the autumn, the first of the three feasts is Rosh HaShanah (Head of the Year), which is known in the Bible as Day of Making a Noise (Yom Teruah) and is now the Jewish civic new year falling on **Wednesday 2 October** this year. On each of these three dates you are invited to our home to have a meal and think a bit about the symbolism of the feasts for Christians.

There is a tradition that the head of the home provides for their guests, and we like to keep this tradition as it is a picture of God having provided Jesus for us. So, please do not bring anything except yourself if you would like to come. All we ask is that you please:

- ♦ Book in by either emailing us at bibloui@gmail.com or phoning 07957 992003.
- ♦ Arrive at our home in Uffington at 6.30–6.45 p.m. for a 7.00 p.m. start as there is a tradition that the evening does not start until everyone has arrived.

The evening will finish at about 9.45 p.m. **We will give our address to people who book in.**

Passover is a bit more formal than Pentecost and Rosh HaShanah. At Passover, there is an order of events (known as a Seder) and we eat various things throughout the evening. At Pentecost and Rosh HaShanah, we will start with a meal and Jane will talk and answer questions for about 30 minutes at the end.

You are welcome to book in for one or all of the evenings until we are full. The food will be gluten and dairy free buffet-style, and vegan food will be available for those wanting it. Please let us know, when you book in, if you have any other dietary requirements.

Feel free to phone or email us if you have any questions relating to the invitation.

Hugh and Jane Allen

NIXON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

I am pleased to say that our appeal for donations towards new mattresses for the Nurses School at the hospital has now reached its target of £12,000.

We have donated £6,000 and the balance came from the Lancashire Methodist Circuit.

Thanks to everyone who contributed towards this important project.

Roger Ing

STAMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT INVITES YOU TO...

TOGETHER AT THE FARM

near Rutland Water

BETTER, STRONGER TOGETHER

Saturday 18th May

3-5pm

An afternoon of creativity, activity and fun for all ages in and around the farm
Farm walks, baking, art and crafts, games and space to enjoy the surroundings with friends.

5-8pm

BBQ and puddings
Barn Dance with live band!

Sunday 19th May

11.30am

Worship for Pentecost in the Barn,
for the whole family led by Rev Andrew Hollins and Rev Ruth Charlesworth.
Followed by 'bring your own' picnic and games.



At Normanton Lodge Farm,
Empingham Road, Normanton LE15 8RW
What3words: senders.desks.most

Please PRAY for:

Bourne

We pray for those in our congregation who are unwell at this time, particularly Helen White awaiting her cancer operation and Roger Macey recovering from a knee replacement. We pray for all who grieve particularly Peter Rowland and family on the death of Gladys, may your love Lord surround them all at this difficult time. We pray for our broken world and think of all those suffering the effects of war, famine and flood particularly when we gather for the World Day of Prayer Service.

Deepings

Pray for the Churches Together Good Friday Walk through the Deepings, that it may be an effective witness to the local community.

Empingham

We give thanks for extra children at the Toddler Group, for the families attending Tea Time church, and the opportunity to go into the local school. Pray for the work with children & young families.

Prayers for church members unable to attend worship, for their health & strength.

Ketton

We thank God for some beautiful Spring days and the joy of snowdrops, another reminder of God's powerful creation for us all to share.

We pray for friends who have been in hospital and especially for healing as they recover at home or await further investigations.

We remember faithful disciples across the circuit who have died and ask your comfort for those who mourn.

We ask your blessings on Circuit changes that have been made and pray for the Ministry Team in the year ahead.

Oakham

Oh Lord, we are all finding problems across our family at the moment. We have been supporting our youngest children as each child has been finding a tummy ache, another is sneezing and another has just been told to they have tonsillitis.

We are praying regularly too as we know how You are helping us to care for each of them. God is encouraging us to keep them improving each day.

Amen

Ryhall

God of all, bless our community with a heart to see it anew and to see all the people within it. We pray you will open our hearts in such a way, both individually and as a community, that we may find the courage to engage with those we don't always see as neighbours and help us love them as sisters and brothers. Amen.

Stamford

As we look towards Easter and the various emotions associated with it, let us pray for all those who struggle with their emotions and their well being. We pray that the peace and love of God can be felt be all, allowing them to feel at peace with themselves.

We thank you Lord for the signs of Spring - the bulbs that have produced an explosion of colour. The blossom growing on the trees, the grass growing after its winter sleep, and the days getting longer.

Please PRAY for:

Thurlby

Dear Lord, As the Church grieves for a much loved member we ask that You will be very near to the congregation and that we will know Your presence with us. May we hold each other in prayer and support. We ask Your blessing on the lent course, may it renew our love so that we may grow in faith and knowledge of You. Amen

Uppingham

Pray for all the new folk, who are attending the activities held in the church, will find it a welcoming place and feel comfortable to start attending the services on Sundays.

Pray for all the older members of our Church who are unable to get out due to their frailty and for those who care for them.

Pray for us as a Church as we seek to be a witness for Christ in our town.

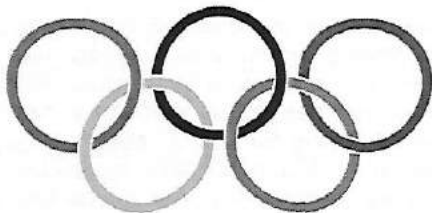
Circuit Trivia Quiz

Just under 100 people from across the Circuit enjoyed good food, fun and fellowship at the Circuit Trivia Quiz on Saturday 20th January. 12 teams faced questions on a wide range of subjects including geography, food, science, music, Bible and words, along with the favourite 'Bring Me' and 'Film' observation rounds. A wonderful team from Second Helpings provided a hot dinner and the 'puddings table' had a glorious variety of sweet treats brought by those attending the quiz.

Donations for the Circuit charity 'Water Aid' amounted to £740 with another £180 in Gift Aid.

Many thanks to all those involved!

**LONDON
2012**



Olympic Torch ~ Did anyone in the circuit participate in the 2012 Olympic Torch relay, or do you know someone who did? If so, Rev. Andrew Hollins would be pleased to hear from you. Thank you.

Celtic Advent by David Cole

A wonderful book with challenging sometimes intriguing reflections for during Advent. It has been a joy to discover different aspects of Prayer and its challenges.

It is an inspirational book leading the reader through Advent to the celebration of Christmas, through the eyes and beliefs of Celtic Christianity. You may or may not remember my passion for the Celtic saints and their strong sense of being grounded in creation and in God's love. This study is a unique approach to this season of waiting and gives the reader a new sense of wonder and discovery.

Advent has two traditional start dates, depending upon your understanding. There is the traditional church date of the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and then there is the first day of December, when you open the first door of your Advent calendar! But in the ancient church of Britain and Ireland (commonly referred to today as the "Celtic Church") there was another date - 15th November. The reason for this date was because 15th November is 40 days before Christmas (including Sundays unlike the 40 days of Lent). The Celtic church believed the importance of this time of preparation just like the preparation of Lent leading to Easter. At the same time we were encouraged to read about the three comings of Christ (new to me!!)

One of the day's asks us -

What does it mean to be in the world but not of it, to be afflicted in every way, but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed?

What can you do to begin, or continue, to live in the awareness of the reality that the Word has been made flesh, and that the Light has come into the world?

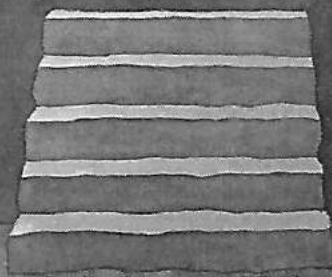
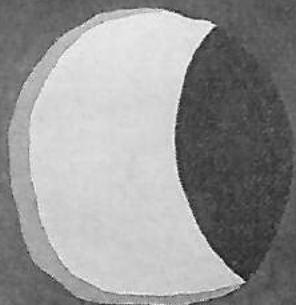
God Bless - John & Moyra

Online Worship and Evening Prayers on Sundays

The circuit team is aware that online Evening Prayers and Sunday worship are appreciated greatly by people within and beyond our church communities. However, the time and resources required to prepare, recording and share these online is considerable. A review has led us to make some changes, which will be introduced from the week beginning Sunday 3rd March. A single online recording of 'Sunday Prayers', shared at 10.30am, will take the place of the current Sunday worship and evening prayers. 'Sunday Prayers' will be longer in duration than the usual weekday prayers, and will be led by the person whose name appears on the circuit Preaching Plan. Evening Prayers for Monday to Saturday may or may not be led by that same person. Our hope is to still offer meaningful online opportunities for prayer and worship using the resources we have. (Offers of help with leading prayers and worship are welcome, e.g. people willing to record some Bible readings. Please speak to one of the circuit staff about this).

Deepening the Mystery

'unexpected treasures' of art



*You are invited to an exhibition
of works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection
between Friday 1 March and Sunday 7 April 2024*

Focolare Centre for Unity

69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG

The Methodist Modern Art Collection

*'... one of the art world's unexpected treasures, including some of the most
powerful and arresting religious art of the 20th and 21st centuries.'*

Tim Marlow, Chief Executive and Director of the Design Museum, London,
and former Artistic Director of the Royal Academy

The Collection includes exhibits by key figures of 20th and 21st century British art (such as Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink), as well as works by international artists. The exhibition will include a programme of workshops and lectures for all ages.

For more information, see Facebook: Art 2024 at WGC
or contact art2024@focolare.org.uk

*'The Empty Tomb' by Richard Bavin. Image from the Methodist Modern Art Collection
© Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.*

**REV'D ANDREW HOLLINS IS INTERESTED IN ORGANISING
A TRIP TO THIS EXHIBITION.**

PLEASE CONTACT ANDREW IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GOING.

**STAMFORD
METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTS**

**Taunton Deane
and Corby**

MALE VOICE CHOIRS



A Spring Concert

7.30pm Friday 22nd March 2024

**Tickets £10 (children £5) from Stamford Arts Centre (01780 763203)
From the Well at the church or at the door**

**All proceeds will be shared between the choirs
and the church Mission Projects :
Nixon Memorial Hospital in Sierra Leone and Bumps & Beyond**