



District President
Maryline Pratt

District Secretary
Heather Peach

District Treasurer
Nina Rawlins

Women's Network aims to **encourage**, **enable** and **equip** women to participate fully in the life of the church and in society. A wide variety of events under the Women's Network umbrella is organised at local church, circuit, section and district level and everyone is very welcome to attend. Our District President's project is to raise awareness of and funds for the Uzuakoli Support Group.

Give thanks for:

- the contribution of women to the life of the church

Please pray for:

- those women who are not yet aware of the value of Network events in the development of their spiritual life and fellowship with others, that they may come to know more about the love and support of Network
- more people to come forward who are willing to hold office and organise events
- the work of the Methodist Church Nigeria in Uzuakoli: the leprosy colony, motherless babies home, St Christopher's School and the Royal Cross Hospital, aided by the Women's Network in the UK through the Uzuakoli Support Group

 The **Methodist Church**
Northampton District

Empowering God

Thank you for **equipping** each of us uniquely with differing gifts.

May we **encourage** each other to use these gifts to the full.

May we **enable** each other to participate fully in your work on earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



District Prayer Diary

07/08

The **Methodist Church** 
Northampton District
www.methodistdistrict23.org.uk

Superintendent

Rev David Cooper

Ministers

Rev Dr Robert Bates
 Rev Dr Tony Bell
 Rev Brian Brown
 Rev Fleur Houston
 Rev Das Gill
 Rev Jean King
 Rev Jonathan Todd
 Rev Dr Ralph Waller
 Rev Dr Martin Wellings
 Rev Robert Whorton

Supernumeraries

Rev Philip Beuzeval
 Rev David Clarkson
 Rev Jan Day
 Rev Nigel Gilson
 Rev Geoffrey Hunter
 Rev Leslie Marsh
 Rev John Rowland
 Rev Michael Skinner

Circuit Stewards

Kate Dobson
 Mike Gorringe
Treasurer
 Martin Slade

 The Methodist Church
 Northampton District

The Oxford Circuit, as well as the work in the city, has the context of urban development and village life. There are eleven churches as well as a Local Ecumenical Partnership at Blackbird Leys. The staff reflects an interesting diversity in the contexts in which they work – in the life of congregations and Christ Church Cathedral, in university chaplaincy, in the workplace, in a college of the university and chaplaincy in a hospice. It offers us the constant challenge that, as our work is centred on God so it is centred on the life of each individual .

Give thanks for:

- the varied gifts of the circuit staff
- for those who lead worship, that with creativity and imagination, they may help others to experience the presence of God
- increasing contacts through industrial chaplaincy, supported by the district
- opportunities for ecumenical and inter-faith sharing

Please pray for:

- the circuit as it faces the challenge of the recommendations of the circuit review
- for the work amongst the many children and young people at Bladon
- for Rose Hill as the church community faces the challenge of mission in the estate
- the work of Horspath Chapel and Meeting Place as it offers the opportunity for retreat space
- for the work of chaplains in the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes and for the John Wesley student society at Wesley Memorial
- for a growing sense of mission to enable greater sharing in the communities served by the churches

God of life within and yet beyond us, when, in all the challenge to respond to the needs of individuals and communities, we are pushed towards movement and activity and choice, help us to sense your presence in stillness and in waiting. Give to us the courage to live in the open-endedness of the unknown future where the Spirit will lead us to discover your purpose for us and those with whom we share, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Thame and Watlington Circuit stands at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, straddling both Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. There are eight circuit churches; seven established in village communities with one in the historical market town of Thame. Christchurch, Thame is a Methodist/URC Local Ecumenical Partnership which reaches into the community as host to 'Mind', caring for folk by providing food and fellowship, and 'Fusion' which offers a place for young people to come together in a safe environment. The church continues to grow in numbers and all circuit churches maintain a caring, pastoral ministry, especially to those unable to attend church regularly.

Give thanks for:

- continued support for all work and witness in the circuit, particularly at Haddenham Methodist Church
- the work of the Holy Spirit in the redevelopment of Cuddington Methodist Church
- the example of all dedicated Christian folk at Chinnor Methodist Church, working amongst young people and others in need
- our loved ones who, in Christ's name, make great sacrifices on our behalf, so that the Kingdom may come

Please pray for:

- our staff, circuit stewards, circuit officers and lay workers in their leadership roles
- wisdom and guidance as we review our circuit policies
- the Holy Spirit to touch the lives of all folk, especially in committing themselves to become local preachers, worship leaders and circuit and church stewards
- all who have discovered the joy of the gospel and those who yet have not

Superintendent

Rev Derick Chambers

Minister

Rev Charlotte Collins

Lay Workers

Philip Snowdon
 Colin Watts

Circuit Stewards

Mick Gibbons
 Chris Williams

Circuit Administrator

Eileen Duncombe

 The Methodist Church
 Northampton District

Lord God, forgiver of sins and Lord and Father of each of us, remind us daily that our sins can be forgiven in Jesus' name.

Speak to us through the prayers, hymns and readings and give your servants words fitly spoken, which will be like apples of gold in settings of silver.

Bless your servants as we bring your word and prepare all present in worship to hear from you.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Superintendent

Rev David Jenkins

Ministers

Rev Jim Gorringe
 Rev Fred Ireland
 Rev Ann Varker
 Rev Penelope Wilcock

Supernumeraries

Rev Kenneth Anderson
 Rev Barrie Heafford
 Rev Peter McKay
 Rev Bill Murphy

Circuit Stewards

Keith Edlington
 Frankie Fisher
 Christine Palmer
 Christine Sara
 Peter Vernon

This rural Circuit of 14 churches is centred on the market town of Aylesbury, which is "located within the fastest growing sub-region in the country (and possibly in the whole of Western Europe)" (Vision Framework for Aylesbury). There are local concerns about adequate infrastructure for the thousands of new homes. The Circuit is making its own preparations for the increased mission opportunities such major growth will bring.

Give thanks for:

- committed leadership in the Circuit and local churches
- the readiness to pursue fresh ways of relating within some village communities
- the high level of mutual understanding and pastoral support shown in many situations

Please pray for:

- careful and imaginative following through of our Circuit's policy
- the realisation of Aylesbury Methodist Church's Community Centre major building scheme
- each church's relationships with its local community, especially in sustaining new ventures
- a developing sense of enjoying Circuit celebrations, events and friendships

Lord God,
 Creator of all life;
 Inspiration of all goodness;
 Origin of all love,
 We love you, and gladly offer you the adoration of our lives this day.

from 'An Alphabet of Prayer' by David Jenkins

Our Circuit covers a large part of the attractive south Oxfordshire countryside and includes the towns of Didcot and Wallingford, as well as Wantage and Abingdon, and the surrounding villages. We have twelve churches including two LEPs, both of which are in Abingdon, and a total membership of just over 700. Our area is home to a number of scientific establishments and hi-tech industries which have brought people to live and work here. We are also an area in which a considerable amount of new housing has been built and much more is planned especially at Didcot and Grove.

Give thanks for:

- enlarged and renewed premises at Peachcroft and Wallingford and the new opportunities resulting
- John's Stanbury's ministry as he moves towards becoming Supernumerary
- the ministries of Ruth Whitehead and Steve Godfrey as they move on from our two LEPs

Please pray for:

- the churches at Didcot and Grove both seeking to respond to the next phase of major house building in their areas and both with major building schemes proposed
- our small village congregations
- Trinity Church in Abingdon seeking a new URC Minister
- Peachcroft making decisions about future ministry
- the 'Shaping Circuit Policy' process
- the forming of a new Circuit Staff team for September 2008

Superintendent

Rev Martin Smithson

Ministers

Rev Steven Godfrey
 Rev Stephen Hinds
Police
 Dcn Deborah Hinds
Hospital Chaplain
 Rev John Stanbury
 Rev Helen White

Lay Worker

Jim Price

Supernumerary

Rev David Kynaston

Circuit Stewards

Martin Appleyard
 Marlene Chalkley
 Michael Howlett
 Brian Mansfield
 Malcolm Newton
 Gill Skidmore

Lord Jesus Christ,
 we pray that we
 who are amongst those
 who most frequently mention your name
 may also be found amongst those
 who most urgently seek your truth,
 most deeply explore your ways
 and most readily live in your resurrection light.

Donald Hilton

Superintendent
Rev Ian Duffy

Ministers
Rev Richard Donaghue
Rev Peter Goodhall
Rev Asif Karam

Lay Workers
Anne Crawford
Dawn Haley

Supernumeraries
Rev Nicola Blois
Rev Elgin Crewe
Rev Michael Gilyead
Rev Brenda Woods

Circuit Stewards
John Applegate
Keith Crawford
Maureen Jackson
Ann Jerome
Ruth Lapworth

We are a Circuit of 17 churches in the delightful leafy countryside of West Oxfordshire, bordering on the Cotswolds. The River Thames crosses the Circuit to the north of Faringdon and the River Windrush runs through the centre of Witney, our main market town. High Street church in Witney is our largest church with 241 members and an impressive suite of premises. There are three medium sized churches – Faringdon (66), Davenport Road in Witney (57) and Long Hanborough (56), the remainder being in small towns and villages with membership figures from 6 to 34.

Give thanks for:

- new growth at some of our smaller churches
- the dedication and commitment of the Methodist people
- circuit prayer initiatives
- the ever-closer working relationship with our Anglican friends and the work and witness of our various Churches Together Groups

Please pray for:

- our Circuit Staff and their families
- our Circuit Stewards and Lay Workers in their leadership roles
- the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we develop strategies for the next 5 – 10 years
- the building and strengthening of relationships within our own church community and beyond

We pray for ourselves as Christians, that what we believe may find expression in our working day: that we may be easy to work with and dependable in small things as well as large. May we be fair to both our work and our home; when we have to compromise, may it be in the general interest and not just our own. Amen

We thank the Rev John Amankwatia for his four years in this Circuit, and wish him well as he takes up his new appointment in Sunderland. Our Circuit continues to explore and respond to Fresh Expressions of Church, Time To Talk Of God, Godly Play, and many other ideas and visions. We try to find the right balance between venturing into the unknown and respecting the traditional and more familiar worship which many find comforting. This is not always an easy balance to strike, and one that requires sensitive action based on careful listening.

Give thanks for:

- our new youth worker, Samantha Preston
- our ministers, local preachers, pastoral carers and lay workers, their enthusiasm and dedication and the necessity for all to work together and talk and listen carefully to one another in everything
- those for whom tradition is important, who brought us to where we are, and without whom we would not have places to worship
- those in our churches who dare venture into unknown territory and are prepared to take risks for God
- Margaret Deakin and Colin Powlesland as they leave the CLT

Please pray for:

- John Lambert in his last year before retiring, for Sue his wife, and for his churches, Prestwood, Gerrards Cross and Denham
- David Jebb as he takes on the added responsibility of Chesham for a year, and Pam Sitford and Kate Hoskin as they provide him with pastoral assistance at St John's, Amersham, and Little Chalfont
- Graham Evans, as he continues to amaze us with his gifts
- all who hurt and suffer in our churches, those who feel estranged, lonely, bitter, angry – may God show them His healing power
- an ability and willingness to love the unlovely, wherever they are, by witnessing for Christ in the community at large

We pray for God to encourage and enable us as we face one year with a somewhat reduced staff, and for a sense of humility and privilege whenever we meet with people who would not normally set foot in our churches. We pray that we may always meet the people right where they are, especially those in bereavement situations where the word of God is often ready to be received and shared in surprising and beautiful ways. We pray for a growing awareness not only of our God-given gifts but also of our shortcomings. Above all, we give thanks for having been called to follow our risen Saviour and ask that we may always be prepared to be surprised by the ways He continues to appear to us on the journeys we make.

Preben Andersen

Superintendent
Rev Preben Andersen

Ministers
Rev David Jebb
Rev John Lambert

Lay Workers
Kate Hoskin
Pam Sitford

Youth Worker
Samantha Preston

Supernumerary
Rev Cesar Guidi

Circuit Stewards
Margaret Armstrong
Philip Bartlett
Graham Evans
Liz Nelson

Circuit Treasurer
Graham Evans

Circuit Meeting Sec
John Deakin

Superintendent

Rev David Miller

Ministers

Rev Peter Barnett

Rev Shameela Jameelee

Rev Moira Peters

Rev Janice Pettipher

Dcn Ruth Shepherd

Other Ministers

Rev Alwin Samuel

Oxford Diocese

Rev Louise Morrissey

*Wycombe NHS Trust***Supernumerary**

Rev Angela Singleton

Circuit Stewards

Lesley Hatton

Barbara Sparks

David Sparks

Beryl Taylor

Circuit Mtg Secretary

Roy Slocombe

Circuit Treasurer

Norman Donkin



The High Wycombe Circuit is situated in the southern most tip of Buckinghamshire. Along its southern border, which is the River Thames, it borders both the new South District and the Southampton District of the Methodist Church. The Circuit currently comprises 13 churches. These range from larger churches in the town centres of High Wycombe and Marlow, through suburban congregations, to some very small congregations in surrounding villages. It has been the policy of the Circuit Meeting to reduce the number of chapels in the Circuit whilst maintaining staffing levels which has resulted in the closure of 10 churches over the course of the last eight years; not always an easy process. The circuit embraces contrasting communities; Marlow is identified in government statistics as being one of the five wealthiest communities in England whilst Castlefield in High Wycombe is designated as one of the five most deprived housing estates in the South East Region.

Give thanks for:

- continuing growth among younger families
- the continuing development of new forms of worship
- new opportunities at Naphill emerging from their lunchtime café
- re-development of the Marlow Church
- successful outcomes to stationing

Please pray for:

- David Miller – our new Superintendent
- Shameela Jameelee in her new appointment
- Lane End as they try to work out a future without their building
- Wooburn Green as they move towards closure

MAY MY LIFE

Declare the honour of Your name, reveal the heart of Christ who came
To light the darkest place with sacrificial love.

Dave Bilbrough

Situated over a wide area of the delightful North Cotswold countryside, the circuit has nine churches. None of our communities is very large, and although some are predominantly elderly, our congregations are in good heart. One of them, Westcote has recently undergone extensive renovation to accommodate a growing congregation.

Give thanks for:

- those who have in the past laid the foundations and maintained the life and witness of the churches in the various communities
- the work and ministry of our Pastoral Lay Worker who has retired to the Royal Tunbridge Wells circuit
- the work of the Circuit Leadership Team, Authorised Ministers, Supernumerary Ministers, Lay Pastoral Co-ordinator, and others who have maintained the life, work and worship of the circuit since his retirement
- the loveliness of the surroundings of the circuit, the pleasant countryside in all its abundance, variety and beauty
- those who maintain a happy loving spirit and radiate the joy of knowing God to all whom they meet

Please pray for:

- our Superintendent Minister as she approaches her sabbatical
- our new minister, Alan Swann as he begins his ministry among us
- the ongoing ministry of our Authorised Ministers and the Churches in Shipston Youth Worker
- the Circuit Stewards and other Lay Officers of the circuit and churches, whose work is often taken for granted
- the members of our congregations, and the communities served by our churches
- those who find life difficult in rural areas through isolation, loneliness, scarcity of affordable housing, dearth of employment or prospects, lack of access to amenities and services, low wages or poverty
- those who suffer as a result of globalisation, centralisation and the closure of local facilities, eg. hospitals and factories, and the stifling of local enterprises, initiatives and services

Superintendent

Rev Linda Brock

Minister

Rev Alan Swann

Authorised Ministers

Rev P van de Kastelee

Rev Ralph Mann

Supernumerary

Rev Peter Crofts

Circuit Stewards

Jo Barnard

David Howarth

Jackie Palmer

Elizabeth Woolcock


Teach us, Good Lord

To serve Thee as Thou deservest;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To labour and not to ask for any reward,
Save that of knowing the we do Thy will
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen

St. Ignatius of Loyola 1491-1556

Superintendent
Rev Alan Haine

Ministers
Rev Dorothy Hewitson
Rev David Jackson
Rev Lynda Spokes

Lay Worker
Malcolm Bromhall

Supernumeraries
Rev James Cooper
Dcn Margaret Hale
Rev Barbara Halstead
Rev Thea Jones
Rev John Myer
Revs Mary and Trevor Pheasey
Rev John Warren

Circuit Administrator
Julie Moore

Circuit Stewards
Walter Stageman
Val Trinder

 **The Methodist Church**
Northampton District

The Banbury Circuit consists of 19 churches in Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire with the market town of Banbury at its centre. Most of the churches are small village chapels and there is a considerable amount of sharing with other denominations, especially Anglicans. St. Francis' Church on the Hardwick estate in Banbury is a Local Ecumenical Partnership between Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists and United Reformed.

Give thanks for:

- the way that the Circuit has responded in the face of having to make do with two ministers instead of three for at least a year
- for the way that 4 of our Supernumerary Presbyters and Deacon have been willing to take pastoral charge of churches and undertake pastoral care for the year
- for our new part-time lay worker, Malcolm Bromhall
- for a new willingness to meet in small groups and to become equipped for mission, especially in the smaller churches
- for experiments in more contemporary worship at both Fairway and Marlborough Road churches

Please pray for:

- the possibility of moving forward in this year rather than just holding ground, even though we are short-staffed
- more to respond to the call to preach
- the swift recovery of our Superintendent who is suffering from severe eye problems as we begin the year

Lord God, as we approach a future that seems strange and uncertain, help us to be assured that whatever else may change, we can rely on You.
We thank You that Jesus is waiting to bring to light hidden talents and pray that He may equip each one of us for the tasks to which He calls us.
We offer all our prayers and all our mission in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Circuit works within the Milton Keynes Ecumenical Mission Partnership which includes Anglican, Roman Catholic, URC, Baptist and some black-led and Pentecostal Churches. There are 7 Methodist congregations, 1 Methodist/URC, 1 Methodist/Baptist LEP, 5 LEP areas, and several local groupings of churches known as 'Churches Together'. Co-operation with black-led and Pentecostal church is also increasing and improving. Milton Keynes circuit faces constant change in this rapidly expanding and diverse city.

Give thanks for:

- the steady growth at Newton Longville Methodist /Baptist LEP since the opening of the new chapel a year ago
- the Circuit Away Day and follow up which explored the Methodist contribution to the Mission Partnership in the next 5 years
- the 'Disciple Course' which was run successfully during the past year
- the contribution of the new members of staff
- the appointment of a new URC minister, Rev Vic Webb, to be the Methodist/URC LEP at Wolverton
- new opportunities for outreach

Please pray for:

- Beverley Hollins taking up her new appointment from December
- the circuit as it seeks to fill the gap and find new ways to go forward in mission
- co-operative ventures with other denominations and within the Mission Partnership
- Circuit and LEP staff working together to seek God's Kingdom
- Alpha and Disciple courses starting in September
- new people coming to live and work in MK

Almighty and most merciful Father,
Pour out on your church the spirit of your Son Jesus
So that dreams may be dreamt and visions seen.
Open our eyes to recognise where he would have us work for him
And give us the will to do what he puts into our hands,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Superintendent
Rev Alan Harvey

Ministers
Rev Chris Batten
Dcn Richard Beckett
Rev Mindy Bell
Rev John Bradley
Churches Together in England
Rev Beverley Hollins AM
Rev Liz Morris
Without appointment

Supernumeraries
Rev Phyllis Brock
Rev David Moore
Rev Dennis Reynolds
Rev Peter Sharrocks

Circuit Stewards
Marilyn Mahon
Philip Michael
Ian Wass

 **The Methodist Church**
Northampton District

Youth Workers

Helen Bamber
Adam Bradley
Matt Brown
Tom Lewis
Samantha Preston
Kirsty Rowntree
Brian Stocker
Ben Webb
Jonny Whitmore

KIDS WANT CHRIST

This was the title of the first District Children's & Youth Workers Day held in May 2007. About 50 people from around the District who work with children and young people met together for a day of learning, sharing and reflection. Those who attended identified the following as the most useful reasons for coming along: encouragement and learning from others; chance to meet others doing the same work; opportunity to see the bigger picture; sharing in the workshops.

Kids Want Christ 2008 will be held on Saturday 10th May 2008; be there if you can or, if not, pray for those who will. Amen.

 The Methodist Church
Northampton District

Give thanks for:

- the youth and children's workers employed to serve God across our District
- all volunteers working with children and young people
- the effective work - socially, physically, morally and spiritually - taking place through many of our churches
- Norman Hooks, who has supported, encouraged and challenged the church to engage fully with children and young people, as he moves to his new appointment

Please pray for:

- the children and young people in the church today; that their enthusiasm for faith may be captured by others; that they are empowered to steer the church on the next part of its journey; that the church will listen and respond to what they have to say
- those who work faithfully in the service of children and young people, that they may know the encouragement and support of the whole church in their ministry
- Church Councils across the District to seriously consider creative ways of making the gospel relevant to the younger generation
- churches where there are no children present, that they may be willing to make the changes necessary for younger people to feel at home
- churches and circuits seeking new and exciting ways to engage with children and young people

Picture the children and young people in your church and/or circuit.

Picture those who support, encourage and work with them.

Lift each one before God: thanking God for their gifts; sharing with God when we have let them down; asking God to continue to guide them on their journey. Amen.

Buckingham, Bicester & Brackley Circuit

The '3Bs' is a rural circuit straddling the A43 between the M40 and the M1. Our ten churches come within Bucks, Northants & Oxon, with a minister based in each of the towns in our name. We value the three traditions embraced by the Well Street Church, Steve coming to us from the URC, with the Baptists being represented too. Having focused on youth worker provision we are now developing the mission and pastoral gifts of lay workers. We are also looking at our buildings and developing new forms of worship.

Give thanks for:

- the privilege of serving God in this beautiful place
- those whose vision has led us to this point
- those who share a vision of where God is leading us now
- the fellowship and support of ecumenical partners

Please pray for:

- grace, forgiveness and encouragement in our life and witness
- the wisdom to honour the vision of our forebears by doing a new thing in worship, the church's life and mission, and with property
- God's guidance for the church in village communities with small congregations
- God's continuing guidance in further staffing appointments, both lay and ordained

Superintendent

Rev Nick Young

Ministers

Rev Andrew Bradley
Rev Steve Fisher

Supernumeraries

Rev Michael Langley
Rev Roger Lee
Rev David Mann

Lay Worker

Richard Wilson

Youth Workers

Adam Bradley
Tom Lewis
Brian Stocker

Circuit Stewards

Ann Beasley
John Bennett

Circuit Secretary

Malcolm Wainwright

Circuit Treasurer

David Teckoe

Property Administrator

Bill Crisp

 The Methodist Church
Northampton District

Triune God, the richness of your diversity and the community of your being are reflected in a wonderful creation:

men and women are made in your image;
old and young are embraced within your eternity;
cultures and races are united by your fellowship;
rich and poor are brought together by the gospel imperative to share.

Work in us this redeeming transformation that we may be signs of hope in a broken world as a glorious re-creation heralds the coming of your kingdom.

Superintendent

Rev Dr David Palmer

Ministers

Rev Julie Bradshaw
 Rev Michael Cassidy
 Rev Mark Cheetham
 Rev Alistair Helm
 Rev Christine Kennell
 Rev Jill Marsh
 Rev Paul Richards
 Rev Nutan Suray

Lay Worker

Robin Stevenson

Supernumeraries

Rev John Atkinson
 Rev Peter Brooks
 Rev John Clarke
 Rev Peter Hudson
 Rev Albert Mosley
 Rev Arthur Rowe
 Rev Derek Softley
 Rev Alan Tongue
 Rev Kenneth Wilson

Circuit Stewards

Anne Dodge
 Janet Harrison
 Elvy Morton
 Philip Sutcliffe

Our Circuit includes the city centre of Leicester, the inner city areas of east and south Leicester, the towns of Oadby and Wigston, plus the villages to the south and east of the city. We have fifteen churches, two of which are LEPs. We are hoping to increase this number in our circuit. The circuit also supports the University of Leicester Ecumenical Chaplaincy Team. As one of the three Leicester circuits, we are keen to continue developing a common identity, supporting one another in creative and helpful ways, as well as holding joint staffs meetings and other opportunities for growing together. 'The Key' continues to be a catalyst for drawing young people together from across the city. It is with great joy that we welcome two new members of staff: Rev Mark Cheetham, our new probationer minister; Rev Paul Richards, a Baptist minister who comes onto the circuit staff and will have a special brief in one of our churches (Christchurch) to pioneer new ways of being church. We pray God's richest blessings on them and their families.

Give thanks for:

- a freshening of the circuit's continuing enthusiasm for mission
- the prayerful sacrifice of many in the circuit for mission
- for new members in our churches, especially young people
- the new ministers in our circuit: Paul Richards and Mark Cheetham
- the vision (across the circuit) for and commitment to exploring new ways of being church
- the developing exciting work in the city centre, especially through our Bishop Street church and the staff there
- the work of the Street Pastors every weekend in the city centre; a partnership with other Christians, the police and other agencies

Please pray for:

- the ministry of Paul Richards and his work of pioneering new ways of being church
- the ministry of Mark Cheetham as he begins his probationary period in our circuit as part of his formation as a Methodist minister
- their families as they come to a new city, especially Mariet and Mark as they adjust to their newly married early years
- the churches at Oadby and Great Glen as they support and play their full part in Mark's ministry and formation
- the further developing aspects of the ministries of Bishop Street, Nativity, Christchurch and Uppingham Road churches

Leicester City Centre

In Leicester City Centre one of the major initiatives created by the churches in the last two years has been Street Pastors. On Friday nights four trained, lay and ordained people go onto the streets of Leicester City Centre between 10pm to 3am, to listen, talk, help and advise the many clubbers, homeless and club workers in the city centre at night. It is hoped that the scheme will continue to grow and recently Street Pastors have also been able to cover one Saturday a month.

fountainhead community

... a group of people who meet together in Leicester City Centre on a Wednesday lunchtime. They focus on the people, business, and general life of the city centre through prayer and reflection; making each other aware of the joys and needs of the city of which they are a part.

Leicester City Centre Missioner

Dcn Andrew Carter

What would it mean to live
in a city whose people were changing
each other's despair into hope?
You yourself must change it.

What would it feel like to know
your country was changing?
You yourself must change it.

Though your life felt arduous
new and unmapped and strange
what would it mean to stand on the first
page of the end of despair?

Adrienne Rich, from 'Faithful Cities'

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13.2

Towns and cities are the places of encounter with those of different cultures and faith. Hospitality and welcome are key strategies for people of faith seeking to improve the lives of their community. Strangers become neighbours, outsiders become a new family.

Peterborough City Centre

Peterborough is a city facing major redevelopment, growth and change. A £400 million pound retail led city centre development puts pressure on local businesses and the Church has to relate to a culture increasingly defined by someone's ability to afford lifestyle choices. Westgate Church (a Methodist/URC LEP) is in the centre of that development and needs to discern its future in the face of the evolution of the city centre. So prayer for the City Council, the Developers and the Churches in the city centre would be valued. Westgate Church also hosts a variety of Christian Services including The Well (Counselling), CROPS (Schools and Youth work) and Options (Pregnancy Advisory Service) as well as numerous groups serving different needs throughout the city. The City Centre Chaplain works ecumenically representing the churches to the city, and vice versa.

Peterborough City Centre Chaplain

Rev Ian Houghton

Superintendent
Rev Michael Jackson

Ministers
Rev David Kemble
Rev Michael Lewis
Rev David Warnock

Lay Workers
Marie Armitage
Barbara Smith

Youth Worker
Jonny Whitmore

Circuit Administrator
Jennie Clark

Supernumeraries
Rev Gordon Chisnall
Rev David Livingstone
Rev John Palmer

Circuit Stewards
Peter Bowery
John Hardy
John Palmer

Circuit Secretary
David Hinchliffe

All the churches in the Circuit have been taken through the Know and Grow programme and we have found the results constructive and challenging. We are all being encouraged to develop appropriate and welcoming forms of evangelism. Three smaller churches have ceased to exist as separate societies; others are involved in improving and redeveloping their premises in response to a strong desire to serve the local communities with renewed premises. This autumn will see a circuit wide consultation take place which will help us be realistic about the present and the future. All these experiences reinforce the value of the circuit for mutual support in mission

Give thanks for:

- the ordination of Dave Warnock
- the circuit youth alpha course
- the commitment of church members
- the challenges that test our faith

Please pray for:

- a desire to re-ignite the exploration of prayer that began with 'Pray Without Ceasing'
- the Circuit Consultation process as we seek to explore the challenges of the present and future
- the effective use of our Circuit Advance Fund to support exciting property and ministry projects in the circuit
- the gifts of faith, hope and love

Lord, so often we hold too lightly to our belief.
May we plant the faith patiently,
calmly and untiringly,
in the good ground of hungry hearts. Amen.

Our Circuit is one of great contrasts, ranging from the late Victorian suburbs of north Leicester known as Belgrave, through the suburban communities of Thurmaston, Birstall and Syston, to the semi-rural villages of Queniborough and Rothley. Each area faces different challenges. The city section has a very large Asian population and several faiths; Christianity has to take its place alongside Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Jainism, and needs to find ways to express its faith in this context. Thurmaston is a community split by a by-pass, with the church on the wrong side. The village churches struggle to survive.

Give thanks for:

- the increased energy in the partnership between lay and ordained people in the Circuit
- the growing sense of unity and combined purpose within the Circuit
- community involvement in the churches and for the Punjabi Christian Fellowship at Harrison Road, the Assemblies of the First Born at Edgehill Road and the Soar Valley Music Centre at Claremont Street

Please pray for:

- the implementation of the Action Plan that has been developed over the last year by the Circuit Leadership Team
- the preparations for inviting a new Superintendent Minister
- the call to preach, and to other ministries within the churches, to be heard
- Pete and Sam Taylor as they start their Foundation Training
- the visit of a group from the Circuit to Cameroon to join in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon and to forge closer links with the people there

Loving God, like Martha we are anxious and distracted by so many things..... forgive us and enable us, like Mary, to identify and choose the "better part". For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Superintendent
Rev John Hucknall

Ministers
Rev Stephen Hoggar
Rev Ian Mason
Rev Edward Sakwe

Lay Worker
Sue Moore

Supernumerary
Rev Jack Hanson

Circuit Stewards
Keith Baker
Jo Kay
Richard Kettell
Peter Molesdale

Superintendent

Rev Susan Holmes

Ministers

Rev Pam Bolas

Rev Jane Hamblin

Rev Aphro McCullough

Rev Peter Sowler

Rev Joseph Suray

Our Circuit stretches from the heart of Leicester City to the M1 taking in villages beyond Fosse Park Shopping Mall and those skirting the western edge of Bradgate Country Park. We are 12 churches, including a Local Ecumenical Partnership at Leicester Forest East. Many of the churches have been updated in recent years and others are seeking innovative ways to develop both their buildings and their mission.

Lay Worker

Steve Wadsworth

Circuit Stewards

Jean Charlesworth

Les Kelland

Robina Kelland

Collins Okoh-Mensah

Andrew Paul

Roy Wilson

Give thanks for:

- the completed redevelopment at Huncote Methodist Church following the major fire
- all church members who are prepared to take on positions of responsibility in the church
- the openness to exploring new ways of worship in a number of the circuit churches

Please pray for:

- those taking part in the Growing Leaders Course; that they might grow into their appropriate role
- the mentors on the Growing Leaders Course

Patient God, as you are constant, may we also be constant.

Not blown about by every emotion, every doubt, by every new idea and by every pressure to change.

May we travel through each day with your light on our faces, your word in our hearts.

Amen.

Our circuit is proud to encompass Britain's smallest county, as well as one of Britain's most beautiful historic towns. Centred around Rutland Water, our local economy is based on farming and tourism with many residents travelling outside the area for work. Our nine churches working in partnership with other Christians, endeavour to maintain relevant worship and witness for residents and visitors alike. We are currently expanding our children's work and looking at ways in which we can support and equip individuals taking up ministry roles within the circuit.

Give thanks for:

- the wide range of overseas projects we are able to support
- new links with Christians in Indonesia
- the call of new local preachers
- the development of the ministry of worship leaders around the circuit
- new styles of worship being developed

Please pray for:

- those in training for ministry of all kinds
- new children's work starting up in many of our churches
- a clear vision for our congregations for the future
- nurture programmes being planned to promote individual growth of those already committed as well as those yet to come to faith
- a continuing development of the ministry of all believers

Superintendent

Rev Malcolm Peach

Minister

Rev Heather Walker

Supernumeraries

Rev John Ansley

Rev Neville Ashton

Rev Christopher Bamber

Rev Richard Baggott

Rev Barry Gent

Rev Maureen Jones

Rev Peter Lemmon

Rev Brian Newbold

Rev William Nicholas

Rev Leonard Oakley

Circuit Stewards

Margaret Abbott

Finance

Moyra Collins

Pat Hagan

Joyce Terrett

Holy God

accept our love and praise.

Forgiving God

accept our weaknesses and failings.

Demanding God

accept our response to your call.

Creating God

teach us and inspire us to work with you.

Amen.

Superintendent

Rev Jan Tate

Ministers

Rev William Booker

Without appointment

Rev Dave Haseldine

Rev Ian Houghton *AM**City-Centre Chaplain*

Rev Chris Moreton

Dcn Andy Packer

Rev David Parkes

*Hospital Chaplain*Rev Ian Pullinger *AM*

Rev Kerry Tankard

Lay-Worker

Paul Fleming

Supernumeraries

Rev John Barley

Rev Margaret Fleming

Rev Joseph Goodridge

Rev Brian Rogers

Dcn Eileen Rogers

Rev Graham Tooth

Circuit Stewards

Liz Dawson-Butterworth

Joyce Mabb

Janet Rich

Gaynor Stone

Brian Thornton

The Peterborough Circuit is a large and diverse Circuit of 19 churches, covering the centre of the city and much of the surrounding rural area. Peterborough has a population of 206,000 people and has aspirations to be a much larger and better-developed city. A major symptom of this development will be an increase in the building of new homes, likely to be somewhere in the region of 20,000. One of the major challenges for the city is to what extent it can learn to affirm and celebrate the ethnic diversity that is represented in the life of the city.

Give thanks for:

- the movements towards building a new church in the Hampton township
- the deep sense of trust and friendship that exists within the staff-team
- the opportunity to engage with the North Westgate Development in the middle of Peterborough
- the developing relationship with the Bourne Circuit and the creation of a new South Lincolnshire Circuit
- the Kids Plus Group at Southside Methodist Church
- the chance to respond to the Hope 2008 initiative

Please pray for:

- Rev Jan Tate, our new Superintendent Minister in the Circuit
- Dogsthorpe Methodist Church as they seek to respond creatively to problems in the structure of their building
- Local Preachers in training in the Circuit
- newly appointed Circuit Stewards
- the staff at Methodist Publishing House

O God our mystery,
You bring us to life,
Call us to freedom,
And move between us with love.
May we so participate,
In the dance of your trinity,
That our lives may resonate with you,
Now and forever, Amen.

Janet Morley, All Desires Known

Superintendent

Rev Adam Wells

Ministers

Rev David Bowler

Rev Jane Carter

Rev Kim Goh

Dcn Ellie Griffin

Rev John Marriott

Dcn Jan Sutton

Youth worker

Ben Webb

Supernumeraries

Rev David Blatherwick

Rev Hedley Cousin

Rev Denis Gardiner

Rev Brian Greet

Rev Douglas Maw

Rev Donald Wilkes

Circuit Stewards

Sue Collins

Nigel Cox

Margaret Folwell

Barbara Mitchell

The Circuit consists of 11 societies with a total of approximately 700 members. Two churches are located in Loughborough, the others in the surrounding small towns and villages. The church at Quorn is an Anglican/Methodist LEP. We currently have three presbyteral ministers and two diaconal ministers, and a lay Youth Worker. The Circuit manages an International Centre for overseas students. Some of our churches continue to be engaged in some exciting mission work. The circuit have also created a new diaconal appointment on a new housing development in Loughborough working with the local Anglican Church. The circuit have created Circuit Teams focusing on the areas of Our Calling.

Give thanks for:

- the vision and new ventures within the life of the circuit
- the growth and development in Ecumenical Relationships
- youth ministry within the circuit
- the work and Mission within South Loughborough
- Circuit teams

Please pray for:

- the circuit staff and stewards as we continue to seek God's will for future ministry (lay and ordained) within the circuit
- the circuit teams
- building projects within the circuit
- youth work within the circuit
- those feeling God's call

Blessed are you, Lord God, Creator of all.
You have called us out of darkness
Into your bright light,
Into Christ's light.
Let his presence guide us this day,
That we may share his light
And walk before you as children of light,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

David Adams

Superintendent
Rev Barbara Bircumshaw

Ministers
Rev Jerry Cook
Rev Barbara Fairburn
Rev Julie Minns

Lay Workers
Malcolm Lapper
Tim Lea

Supernumeraries
Rev Keith Ledson
Rev Tom White

Circuit Stewards
John Askew
Gwen Coley
John Cooke (*Finance*)
Hilary Fenby

Situated north west of the District, this Circuit comprises twelve churches ranging in membership from nine to three hundred, serving the communities of Stoney Stanton, Higham, Stapleton, Sharnford, Barlestone, Stoke Golding, Newbold Verdon, Sapcote, Barwell, Earl Shilton, Burbage and Hinckley. Special outreach ministry to the unchurched, The Bridge, is based at Hastings High School. Every church is experimenting with new expressions of prayer, mission and outreach and there are exciting signs of growing confidence in Christ as we work to develop the application of our Mission Statement.

Give thanks for:

- circuit staff, that they may quickly develop new relationships and establish effective patterns of co-operation and leadership
- guidance of the Holy Spirit as further change in staffing is imminent and searching questions have to be asked and have a response
- pastoral concerns, as the circuit seeks to develop more appropriate and adequate expressions of care and oversight for members and neighbours associated with every church
- the circuit development sub-committee as it works towards producing strategies for implementing the outcomes of the Circuit Review particularly with regard to mission and outreach
- every fresh expression of being church being developed at different levels

Please pray for:

- the successful implementation of cutting edge work among children and young people in several of our churches
- growing confidence in practical outreach experienced in several of our smaller churches
- discipling courses leading to conversions, commitment, and deepening of awareness and faith
- new cell groups and other smaller groups meeting for fellowship and activity
- the completion of the Sapcote scheme and its impact on the surrounding community
- fresh visions of local church development and growth being dynamically pursued and worked through
- faithful love, ministry and devotion, flavoured with the laughter of heaven already begun, being expressed across the whole circuit


The **Methodist Church**
Northampton District

**KEEP ON
PRAISING!**

The circuit of four churches, combined with the work of the local prison, HMP Gartree, has the market town of Market Harborough at its centre. The whole area is growing in population as new housing is springing up everywhere, and this in turn has provoked some opposition and also concerns about a possible lack of infrastructure to cope with this influx. There are obvious opportunities for our churches in this situation and we are attempting to address these ecumenically. At the same time there are endless openings for work amongst children and young people in schools, churches and communities.

Give thanks for:

- the ministry of our retiring minister John Harris
- the alternative worship at Kibworth Chapel called 'The Space' which is attracting young families
- the alternative worship called 'Ignite' at Market Harborough Church which is reaching the younger people in the church
- the two called to Local Preaching

Please pray for:

- our new minister and his family beginning their ministry in September
- our work among young people and children: for our youth worker Helen; for Matt at 'The Cube' and for our planning for the future of this work, both financial and personnel
- ecumenical projects in Kibworth especially its commitment to 24/7 prayer
- the planning of 'Messy Church' at Husbands Bosworth Chapel
- Naseby Chapel as it seeks to develop its youth club and housegroup
- the chaplaincy work undertaken at Gartree prison

Lord Jesus

At this time of change and new developments we put our trust in you who are unchanging and forever constant in your love and care of us.

We would walk with you and seek to serve you in all we do.

As from the old we travel to the new, keep us travelling along with you.

Amen

Superintendent
Rev Brian Kennard

Gartree Prison
Eileen Bromley
Methodist Chaplain
Rev Brian Kennard
Free Church Chaplain
Rev Peter Molcher
Co-ordinating Chaplain

Supernumeraries
Rev Stuart Cato
Rev Edward Lacy
Rev Brian Lewis

Youth Worker
Helen Bamber

Lay Pastoral Assistants
Beryl Jones
John Pearse

Circuit Stewards
Jean Molcher
Jeanne Moore
Ian Watson


The **Methodist Church**
Northampton District

Superintendent

Rev Margaret Eales

MinistersRev Jen Smith
Rev Martin Tanner *AM***Curates (Desborough)**Rev Neil Clarke *AM*
Rev Jan Leaver**Pastoral Coordinator**

Joan Gray

SupernumerariesRev Keith Bulcock
Rev Anthony Gledhill
Rev Geoffery Hawkrige
Rev Brian Jones
Rev David Moody**Circuit Stewards**Peter Candlin
Wendy Curtis
John Ownsworth
Don Spooner

The nine Circuit Churches, in partnership with others, wherever possible are committed:

- to proclaim and affirm their conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world
- to seek a growing awareness of God's presence and action in us, and through us, in the communities we seek to serve, and in the Church
- to utilise, in so far as is possible, the 'giftedness' of the whole people of God
- to prioritise training, through personal and corporate development, drawing on strengths within the Circuit, and beyond
- to nurture the potential for growth and regeneration by offering opportunities for togetherness

Give thanks for:

- the 'adventure of faith!'
- the sixteen Circuit worship leaders, and the preachers with whom they work
- the courage to go into clusters shaped for mission, to release the people of God
- growing congregations, and renewal in prayer life

Please pray for:

- abundant life for all the new migrants in our circuit area, and a sense of community in the new build estates
- older people isolated and facing anxiety for the future
- Margaret Eales, as we welcome her as Superintendent
- discernment and courage among those who may be called to become local preachers
- joy and simplicity in worship, our heart beat
- ecumenical work in all we do



The **Methodist Church**
Northampton District

And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' (Matthew 13.52)

God of our past and future, we pray for your kingdom. Fulfil the word of parable in our life together: make us salt, yeast, light and seed for your world. Amen.

We are a small but widespread circuit covering an area of 50 square miles in north-east Leicestershire. Our membership of less than 300 is split between two town churches and eleven village societies. Most are in good heart in spite of small numbers and we are increasingly sharing with our Anglican neighbours in worship and mission. Melton itself has an active "Churches Together" in which our two town churches participate. We are excited at the prospect of a Mission Partnership between our circuit and the Framland Deanery. Two of our supernumerary Ministers are helping with pastoral care of congregations so that our new presbyter, Andrew Barker, can spend part of his time helping us to look at how we might develop fresh expressions of church around the circuit.

Give thanks for:

- initiatives with children, young people and young families made possible by our Youth and Children's Worker, Kirsty Rowntree
- the contribution made to the circuit by our Supernumerary Ministers
- those who have developed their faith, discipleship and ministry through 'Faith and Worship', 'Disciple', 'Come as you are' and the Worship Leaders course
- the ongoing commitment of our village congregations
- the sense of corporate identity shared within our circuit as we worship and work together
- the response to our circuit project 'Mercy Ships' - £5000 raised!

Please pray for:

- Andrew Barker, as he comes to work with us, and particularly in his role of helping us to look at fresh expressions of church
- developing links between our circuit and the Framland Deanery
- our new circuit project - the Motor Neurones Disease Association - an opportunity for people to learn, to give and to enjoy fellowship through fund-raising initiatives
- our Circuit Leadership Team, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders & all in church leadership roles
- the communities we serve both in Melton Mowbray and the surrounding villages
- continuing and new work with children and young people

Loving and gracious God, source of all life and giver of every good gift, may our hearts and lives be continually open to the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may become all you intend us to be and faithfully play our part in the work of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Superintendent

Rev Philip Macdonald

Ministers

Rev Andrew Barker

SupernumerariesRev Douglas Dennis
Rev Ron Dyer
Rev David Key
Rev Eric Lott
Rev Jeff Ward
Rev Stanley Withers**Youth Worker**

Kirsty Rowntree

Circuit StewardsTerry Graveney
John Hanson
Jacky Speck**Circuit Treasurer**

Dennis Hurst



The **Methodist Church**
Northampton District

Superintendent

Rev Andy Brooks

Ministers

Dcn Maureen Spinks

Rev Martin Swan

Rev Phil Taylor

Rev Dave Tomlin

Rev Glayne Worgan

Other Ministers

Rev Margaret Goodall

MHA Chaplain

Rev Malcolm Oliver

School Chaplain

Rev Tim Woolley

*District Director of
Mission***Lay Workers**

John Brown

Heather Greenwood

Rebekah-Joy Spinks

Supernumeraries

Rev Alfred Baxter

Rev Malcolm Beech

Rev John Smith

Rev Brian Tebbutt

Circuit Stewards

Sue Bayliss

Keith Brooks

Bella Dean

Roy Littlecott



The Methodist Church
Northampton District

There are 11 Societies in the Circuit, with 14 local churches, four of them LEPs and one a Covenanted Church, with both town and village congregations. Some are thriving, some still looking for the best way forward. For some there is a strong sense of community whilst others are a product of the massive growth in Northampton over the last 20 years. There are Christian 'cells' in the new-build areas around which community is developing. Unity and circuit life are growing: we've put together a new policy document, from which a development plan has emerged. There is great potential for mission in the Circuit, but some churches are hampered by increasing demands of maintaining outworn and outmoded buildings.

Give thanks for:

- the faith of those who have held on through difficult times
- the vision and sense of purpose that have led churches to be involved in new ventures
- very strong children's work in many churches
- the financial and numerical strength of Circuit
- enthusiastic and innovative leadership, both lay and ordained
- wide-ranging chaplaincy work in education and the community

Please pray for:

- Deacon Maureen Spinks in her work in building community and helping us to find better ways to bring Christ to the new-build areas of the town
- plans which the circuit has for enhanced evangelistic youth and pastoral work
- churches challenged by the need to reach out to new people
- the work of chaplaincy with students on the various university campuses through out the circuit
- new experiments in worship and attempts to marry 'traditional' and 'contemporary' approaches to worship
- the communities we serve in town and village
- the work of ministers hosted by the Circuit, but who serve the Church beyond the narrow confines of itinerant ministry

Those who were not my people, I will call "my people"
Romans 8.25 (after Hosea)

Ecumenical work takes place in so many ways across our District. From large formal Churches Together groups or formally constituted LEP's, through local Churches coming together to meet a particular need or undertake a specific project, to individuals building relationships with Christians of other denominations, the ecumenical work of the Church is experienced. Whilst rejoicing in our Methodist heritage we are challenged to see how God is at work through the life of the wider Church and to commit ourselves to journey with our sisters and brothers in Christ as we seek to build God's kingdom.

Give thanks for:

- different denominations working together to respond to the challenges of serving the many new housing developments that are taking place across the District
- the rich variety of ways in which Christians are working together to share the Good News of Jesus with children and young people
- examples known to you of Christians working together to serve the needs of the local community

Please pray for:

- Churches Together in Buckinghamshire as it explores new ways of working to support the ecumenical mission and ministry in the county
- Revd Stephen Fisher (a URC minister), as he takes up his post as minister at Well Street, Buckingham, in November
- Churches Together Groups responding to the opportunities provided by Hope 08
- LEP's undergoing a review of their work, that it might be seen as an opportunity to learn and grow and share good practice with others

**Ecumenical Officer,
Churches Together in
Oxfordshire**

Bede Gerrard

**Ecumenical Officer,
Shire & Soke**

Teresa Brown

**Churches Officer in
New Communities,
Northamptonshire**

Bob Purser

**Ecumenical Officer,
Churches Together in
Leicestershire**

John Downing

**Ecumenical Officer,
Churches Together in
Buckinghamshire**

David Scott

**Ecumenical Moderator,
Milton Keynes
Christian Council**

Mary Cotes

**District Ecumenical
Officer**

Philip Taylor


**The Methodist Church
Northampton District**

Gracious God, it is in our relationships with one another that you teach us the true meaning of love. As we walk alongside our sisters and brothers in other denominations help us to listen to one another, learn from one another and build one another up so that, in your name, we might be better able to serve the communities in which we live. Amen

District World Church Committee:

Roger Ferne
 Rev Kim Goh
Secretary
 Mary Goh
 Brian Mansfield
 Stephen Thompson
Treasurer
 Gillian White
 Margaret Williams

In these days of easy access of communication and information around the world, we receive news of suffering, persecution and death at a click or flick of a switch. Therefore, it is imperative as Christians that we uphold situations and people in prayer especially followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. In our District Prayer Diary, Methodist Recorder and the Methodist Prayer Handbook we can find ample material for prayer, and encouragement to give and support the Fund for World Mission generously. Prayer is the life blood of all Christians and witnessing is The Lord's command to sow the 'Good News of Christ Jesus' in the world.



The **Methodist Church**
 Northampton District

Give thanks for:

- the life and work of all Methodist churches in the world with whom we are in contact
- World Church and Christians who pray, contribute and support the Fund for World Mission
- pray for all missionaries and their families who are serving The Lord in various parts of the world
- the members and supporters of our District World Church Committee

Please pray for:

- more folks in our District to be involved with the World Church
- provision of resources to meet the needs of the World Church
- the staff and work of the World Church Office that The Lord will guide them in all their decisions

God of all creation, we give to you our thanks and praises for your love for all peoples in the world. Your grace knows no boundary and your love has no limit. Heavenly Father, we pray for a refreshing of your Holy Spirit to unite us with all our Christian sisters and brothers in Christ to serve you and each other as one family in the world. Help us to listen to others and to build on differences as well as similarities. Most important help us to listen to you and to do your will, so that we can serve you by serving the world. Amen.

There are twelve churches in the Rugby and Daventry Circuit which embraces three towns: Rugby, Daventry and Lutterworth, with surrounding villages, and is in three counties: Warwickshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. Geographically, the Circuit is shaped a bit like a banana with Rugby in the middle but with minimal links between the three towns.

Give thanks for:

- the ordination of Rev John Anderson in Blackpool
- the appointment of the Superintendent minister, Rev Clive Fowle, to be based in Rugby
- the increasing work of Mother & Toddler Groups in many of our churches and the subsequent increase in the number of baptisms
- generous financial giving between circuit churches

Please pray for:

- ageing congregations in both towns and villages
- the churches' willingness to engage with change, evangelism and ecumenism
- the opportunities and challenges arising through proposed very large house-building schemes, particularly in Daventry

Superintendent

Rev Clive Fowle

Ministers

Rev John Anderson
 Rev Hugh Cade
 Rev Crawford Logan
 Rev Edward Lyons

Supernumeraries

Rev Christine Dybdahl
 Rev Margaret Hadfield
 Rev Kenneth Renouf
 Rev Tom Smith

Circuit Stewards

Peter Greenaway
 Alan Kirkham
 Jane Lewis

Circuit Administrator

Stan Bird

Circuit Treasurer

Andrew Lewis

Circuit Mtg Secretary

Joy Coling

The **Methodist Church**
 Northampton District



Make me a channel of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
 Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
 And where there's doubt, true faith in you:
 O Master, grant that I may never seek
 So much to be consoled as to console;
 To be understood as to understand;
 To be loved, as to love with all my soul.
Sebastian Temple

**District Local
Preachers' Secretary**
Jenny Whatley

**District Local
Preachers' Tutor**
Martin Stone

LWPT
Brian Thompson


**The Methodist Church
Northampton District**

The role of the Local Preacher is vital in enabling the services planned throughout the circuits in our District to take place. The increased numbers of Worship Leaders, taking up appointments within their local churches, working with preachers and presbyters, is very encouraging and both refreshing and enriching within acts of worship. Developing and sharing of ideas is productive, enjoyable and helpful in preparation of worship. In an ever changing and complex society, the challenges of mission to reach people with the Good News of Christ makes it expedient to seek new ways of worship and being Church to the community.

Give thanks for:

- all who serve in leading worship and preaching in our Churches
- those who support and tutor new Local Preachers, train Worship Leaders and contribute to Continuing Local Preachers Development
- the work of LWPT and all who serve in its branches and nationally
- Local Preachers who no longer actively preach but continue to provide inspiration to preachers

Please pray for:

- all those preparing worship that they might be guided by the Holy Spirit and supported and encouraged by Christian friendship
- that God may call more people to preach and lead worship and that they may be willing to test their call to this ministry
- those acting as Secretaries to the Local Preachers' Meeting, those who are tutors and those preparing Circuit plans, that they may fulfil the various needs of Circuits and local churches
- the LWPT, LWP Homes and all to whom they provide support and care
- those involved in the development and leadership of worship in different ways, in various venues and places, that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit to bring people together to worship

Lord Jesus, we pray for your blessing upon all those who lead worship and preach your word throughout our District. We ask that they may be inspired by your Holy Spirit; courageous in proclaiming your truth, with wisdom and in your love; so that those who hear, may be challenged, encouraged and committed in their service to you. Amen.

We continue to celebrate the variety of possibilities and cultures in this wide-ranging District. Last year the various Circuits were offered a twinning prayer partnership and received the jigsaw shape of their partner. You are invited to reflect in your praying on the similarities and differences you have noticed, or the ones that come to mind as you use this new Prayer Diary. As yet more changes emerge for the future, let us continue to commit our work into the hands of the God who invites us forward.

Give thanks for:

- new ventures of faith and new ideas in worship
- the ways in which people are nurtured by traditions they hold dear
- the faith, prayer, and hard work of so many who serve God by holding office locally and across the District

Please pray for:

- our new Director of Mission as he begins his work
- our TDO in this year of change and new beginnings
- all those who have agreed to take on new responsibilities this year
- the individuals and groups who make possible this District's service of God

Lord, guide me in all the decisions I will face today, large and small.

Help me to weigh the effects they will have on others; grant me courage in those which are difficult and I would rather avoid.

Give me time to think before I act.

In all that I say or think or do this day, inspire me with your love and lead me into your truth.

David Walton (Methodist Vice President Designate)

District Executive

Colin Bemrose
(Property Secretary)

Ruth Bemrose
(Executive Secretary)

Peter Candlin
(District Treasurer)

David Duxbury
(Synod representative)

Rev Martin Smithson
(Synod representative)

Paul Taylor
(District TDO)

Rev Phil Taylor
(Ecumenical Officer)

Rev Alison Tomlin
(Chair of District)

Rev Martin Wellings
(Synod Secretary)

Barry Wilford
(Methodist Council)

Rev Tim Woolley
(Director of Mission)

*Plus two more Synod
representatives*

District Chair's PA

Sheila Phillips


**The Methodist Church
Northampton District**